



# Classical & Modern Languages Department

Volume 3

Spring 2016

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## This year in CML



Brian Santos and Dr. Carol Marshall at FLAM



Students of Mérida Program enjoy beach



Professor Óscar Sendón in Mexico

## Greetings from CML

Greetings once again, alumni and friends of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages. The year since our last newsletter has absolutely flown and could hardly have been busier. It was such a delight to hear from so many of you, though I think the most exciting letter must have come from John Sens, a German major from the class of 1966. As John noted, all of the professors he knew at Northeast Missouri State are now gone—but the very positive memories remain. Please see a quote from John’s letter in the “Alumni Notes” section.

This academic year was a time to welcome new colleagues in Classics, German and Spanish. I am very happy to say that 100% of our hiring decisions were exceptional, so please enjoy the articles on these outstanding new colleagues who are already putting their mark on our programs in very positive ways. The energy has been contagious! We have been busy interviewing again this year and will welcome new colleagues in the fall in Chinese, French, Italian, and Spanish. However, we are also saying good-bye

to Pat Lobert (French) and Becky Green (Spanish), who both officially retired at Christmas, and Julie Minn (Chinese), who retired this spring.

2015-2016 has truly been the year of alumni relationships! The Foreign Language Association of Missouri meeting in Kansas City in October was again a very special time to spend with our teaching alums. In addition to interesting sessions, an impressive CML display in the exhibit hall and the annual “CML Alumni and Friends” reception, two of our graduates were honored with FLAM’s highest awards. Dr. Carol Marshall, who retired last summer, was awarded the “Lifetime Achievement Award”, and Spanish alum Brian Santos won the “Distinguished Foreign Language Educator” award. It was an exciting weekend for Truman!

The department welcomed back to campus two very special graduates. Dr. Anastacia Reidel Kohl (1994, Spanish; 1996, MAE) of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill was a guest for our “Alumni Speakers Series”, sponsored by CML and

the School of Arts and Letters. It was wonderful to meet her family and see her kids’ reactions to her poster on every office door! Grant Berry (2010, Spanish/Math) also returned to campus this spring as the inaugural guest lecturer for Sigma Delta Pi’s “Distinguished Alumni Speakers Series”. Ever the “over-achiever”, Grant made several presentations on his research as a Ph.D. candidate in Spanish Linguistics and Language Science at Penn State University.

We hope you enjoy this sampling of people and events from the 2015-2016 academic year. Please let us hear from you! We would love to have you on campus to share an expertise with our students—or to savor a memory.

Sincerely,

*Lucy Lee*

Professor of Spanish and Chair, CML



## New Faculty Member in German: Dr. Jack Davis



Professor Jack Davis joined CML this fall as an Assistant Professor of German. Jack grew up in Minnesota, earning his undergraduate degree in German from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He then pursued M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in German Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, completing his studies in 2014. While a graduate student, he spent time doing research in Germany as a Fulbright Graduate Research Fellow. Jack's research and teaching interests include German theater and performance studies, as well as the theory and practice of literary translation.

An award-winning translator, Jack is currently working on the first English translation of plays performed by the German theater group, Rimini Protokoll. He has published several articles and book chapters on literary topics, as well as numerous translations and book reviews. Jack is also the newly-elected co-editor of *Communications of the International Brecht Society* and participated this spring in CML's first translation and interpretation "round-table" event.

The impressive quality of Truman students and the student-teacher ratio are the aspects that most attracted

Jack to Truman. This year he is teaching a 400-level course on Viennese Modernism in Literature, which includes discussion of music and art, as well as Introduction to German Literature and language courses.

When he isn't teaching or working on translation projects, Jack enjoys home brewing, cooking, and listening to German music. He is the proud father of a three-year-old son, Harry; he and his wife, Claire Davis, are expecting their second child in July! Claire is a professional German to English translator with clients in German government and industry. The entire family is very happy to have settled in Kirksville.

## The Romance Language House: A Unique Language Learning Environment



House resident Chiara Degenhardt, Spike, and Prof. Hammerstrand recruit for ROML House at a prospective student event

According to Prof. James Hammerstrand, Instructor of Spanish, Foreign language learning is best cultivated when students are able to experience language immersion, and the Romance Language House provides this unique opportunity right here on the Truman campus.

The RLH is comprised of two wings in Missouri Hall and is available to students who are interested in studying any Romance Language. Though residents are primarily speakers of Spanish and/or

French, some study Italian, Catalan or Portuguese and others are international students.

Residents engage in a variety of activities to use the target language actively in an informal setting, including salsa dance lessons, cultural presentations, movies in the lounge, and cooking foods from various cultures. Residents also interact with international students in the House at weekly conversation tables in the private Chariton Dining Room.

Professor Hammerstrand has just completed his first year as faculty liaison for the Romance Language House, but has been involved with the program in some capacity since his arrival at Truman in 2009. He works closely with other ROML committee members, including Dr. Lucy Lee and Ron Manning, to ensure that students are provided with a successful experience in learning another language. The Romance Language House was formerly called Casa Hispánica and can be visited at [casa.truman.edu](http://casa.truman.edu).

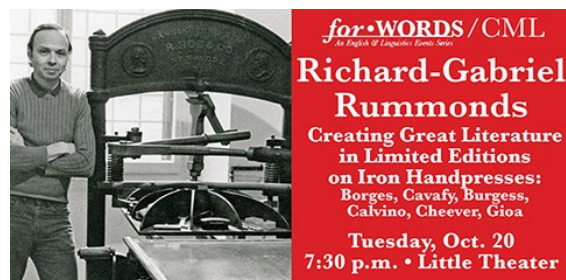
## Richard-Gabriel Rummonds: Printing by Cast Iron Hand Press

Professor Richard-Gabriel Rummonds visited Truman and CML in October and gave a fascinating talk about his experiences with printing limited editions of literature with the cast iron hand press. Prof. Rummonds began printing seriously with this type of hand press in the 1960's and 70's and served for ten years as founding director of the Master of Fine Arts in Book Arts at the University of Alabama. During his time as a printer, he worked with some of the most influential figures of the 20th century, including Jorge Luis Borges, Anthony

Burgess, and Italo Calvino while living in Italy, New York, California, and Argentina.

In addition to printing the works of other writers in various languages, Professor Rummonds has authored poetry, short stories, and full-length books, including his memoir titled *Fantasies and Hard Knocks: My Life as a Printer*, published in 2015. Printing with the iron hand press provides a unique way to preserve literature as it creates clear impressions in beautiful fonts, maintains original illustrations,

uses handmade paper, and allows for more control during the printing process. Although fine printing is becoming a rarity, Prof. Rummonds enjoys sharing the knowledge and unique experiences gained as a result of his time as an accomplished master of iron hand press printing.



## New Faculty Spotlight in Spanish: Prof. Óscar Sendón

This fall Classical and Modern Languages welcomed Dr. Óscar Sendón to the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Spanish. A native of A Coruña, Spain, Óscar earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Hispanic Philology at the University of Santiago de Compostela, a Certificate in Pedagogy at the University of A Coruña, and did graduate study in Applied Linguistics (Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language) at the University of Antonio de Nebrija in Madrid. He then spent a year teaching Spanish at the Académie de la Réunion in France before coming to the United States, where he taught Spanish on the secondary level in

the Omaha Public Schools system for eight years. During this time, he also earned endorsements in bilingual education and English as a Second Language. Óscar completed his Ph.D. in Spanish Literature at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in May of 2015. Quite an impressive educational record!

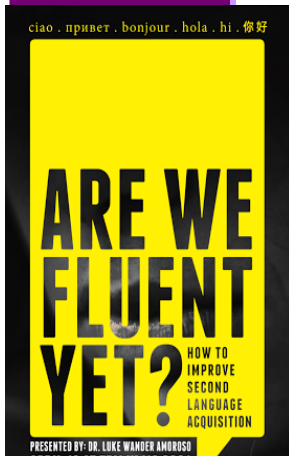
In addition to teaching, Óscar studies the role of soldiers in Spanish literature and is conducting research that draws connections between modern soldiers and those in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. He has already published several journal articles in leading publications, such as *Hispania* and

the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*. Óscar has been very actively involved this year in CML's new pre-professional organization for pre-MAE and MAE students, *LinguaProfs*. He is also responsible for bringing the first exhibit of Spanish art to Truman, *Welcome to the World: An Exhibition of Works by Spanish Artist Miguel Brieva*, which was on display for a month this spring under CML sponsorship.

Óscar explains that he was drawn to Truman largely because of its excellent reputation and has enjoyed becoming a part of the uni-

versity community. In his free time, he spends as much time as possible with his wife and lovely 8-year-old daughter, Moira. He also enjoys reading, watching movies, and taking walks in Thousand Hills State Park. While in college, he spent a month hiking the entire Camino de Santiago across northern Spain!





## Dr. Luke Amoroso: Are We Fluent Yet?

During the Spring semester, Classical and Modern Languages co-sponsored a live presentation by Luke Amoroso, Assistant Professor of Linguistics, on second language acquisition and how to maximize oral proficiency among second language learners. His work as a consultant for Rosetta Stone and for the FBI, along with his experience in

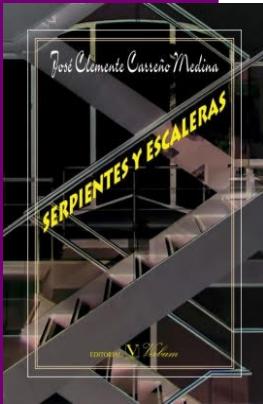
tests, has given him great insight into the dynamics of learning another language.

In his talk Professor Amoroso explained that vocabulary is very important for the attainment of advanced proficiency and that the best way to learn it is not through taking tests or memorizing vocabulary lists, but rather through reading, conversation, and hands-on experiences. He

encouraged all second language learners to read extensively and engage in conversations with native speakers as often as possible.

This is Dr. Amoroso's first year at Truman. He speaks both Spanish and Chinese, and lived and studied in China before coming to Truman.

## Dr. José Carreño-Medina: *Serpientes y escaleras*



Dr. José Carreño, Assistant Professor of Spanish, has had a busy year! In addition to teaching Spanish language and literature classes, he organized and led the inaugural trip of the Mérida Study Abroad program during the winter break. Prof. Carreno also served as faculty advisor for the service learning organization, Hablantes

Unidos, and presented a research paper at the XVII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica in Mexico this spring.

Despite these curricular and co-curricular commitments, José found time to publish his second volume of poetry as a CML faculty member,

*Serpientes y escaleras*. This collection includes themes that we can all relate to, including love, death, the writing process, and poetry itself: “poesía/fiesta de sonidos/carnaval de voces/música de palabras/danza del habla. . . .”



## Dr. Antonio Scuderi Examines Theater Culture in Italy

This past summer, Italian professor Dr. Antonio Scuderi spent a month in Italy studying the country's rich art, theater, and opera culture as recipient of a School of Arts and Letters International Travel Grant. While in Italy, Dr. Scuderi toured several major opera

theaters such as the Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi in Trieste and La Scala in Milan, where he learned more about their histories and the famous composers whose works were performed there. Dr. Scuderi also purchased books and viewed art exhibits to enrich his

newly developed *Topics in Italian Theater* course. Professor Scuderi points out that understanding the people and cultural context of a language is an essential element in its mastery. As a result of the travel grant, Dr. Scuderi is now able to share his unique first-hand experiences with his students.

## Grant Berry Returns to Truman: Sigma Delta Pi's "Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series"

In April Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, sponsored a series of presentations by alumnus Grant Berry in which he spoke about his graduate research and how Truman helped prepare him for graduate school. Grant graduated from Truman in 2010 with a BA in Spanish, a BS in Mathematics, and a minor in International Studies. After graduation he spent eight months in Argentina with the Fulbright program and then pursued a Master's

degree at Penn State University. He is currently doing research to complete his PhD in Spanish and Language Science.

During his time at Truman Grant served as president of Sigma Delta Pi and studied abroad in Costa Rica and Murcia, Spain. He also worked as Spanish Writing Consultant in the Writing Center. Grant noted that the mental processes developed as a Math major greatly contributed to his abilities as a linguist, familiarizing him with areas important for

social science research, such as quantitative analysis and statistics. He added that Truman excels in developing critical thinking and writing skills and that the opportunities that Truman provides for interdisciplinary learning help students to think in non-traditional ways and come up with creative solutions to problems. In his talks he explained that this combination of factors helped prepare him for graduate research and coursework. We hope that all of those students in the audience were taking notes!



## CML Alumni Speaker Series Features Dr.

### Anastacia Kohl: An Educator's Journey

Truman graduate Dr. Anastacia Kohl returned to campus in March to share her experiences in the field of education. Though her original plan upon entering Truman was to be a high school English teacher, she decided to declare a Spanish major after working as a peer tutor in Spanish and experiencing the thrill of helping others become as excited about foreign language study as she was. Tacia completed her undergraduate studies in 1994 with a BA in English and Spanish and then went on to earn an MAE in Spanish at Truman in 1996.

After leaving Truman, Tacia began graduate study at the

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where she earned a Doctorate in Education in 2005. That same year, she accepted a position in the Spanish department at UNC, where she is a lecturer. In addition to teaching 100 and 200 level Spanish courses, she coordinates all 50 sections of UNC's Intermediate Spanish I course. She has also taught English as a Second Language and has helped develop textbooks and testing programs.

While on campus Tacia was a guest in Professor Luke Amorosó's *Principles of Second Language Teaching* class, where she spoke about teaching literature in lower level foreign

language classes. She also gave two insightful lectures open to the entire university community. In the first she shared her journey as an educator, including both the path she took and alternative paths she could have taken. Her second talk focused on best practices for online language teaching, as well as the pros and cons of this approach.

Anastacia explained that her enthusiasm for languages was influenced by her Greek-American background, as she spoke Greek at home as a child and later learned that pronunciation is similar be-

tween Greek and Spanish. She spoke very highly of Truman's MAE program and believes that it thoroughly prepared her for her current career as a Spanish language educator.



## CML Festival Welcomes Largest Group Ever



Spanish Professor Sergio Escobar teaches students how to Salsa.

In November Truman hosted its annual Classical and Modern Languages Festival, which enjoyed an even greater participation than in previous years. 338 high school students from 12 schools came to campus for a morning of exploration in 9 different languages!

Through the 27 sessions they offered, Truman students and faculty sought to cultivate appreciation for a variety of cultures and help those in attendance to understand that learning a language is much more than just reading, writing, and grammar. Each student could participate in four sessions, which ranged from flamenco dancing, to writing

in Arabic, to a planetarium extravaganza in multiple languages. A highlight of the event was President Troy



Paino's presentation of the CML Festival "Educator of the Year" award to Luis Méndez of Knox County R-1 High School.

Spanish professor James Hammerstrand, who served as Festival Committee chair, stated that the most challeng-

ing aspect of planning the festival this year was logistics. As registrations began to come in—and kept coming—it became necessary to think about space in creative ways. (Fortunately, a planetarium can hold a lot of students!) Although it was a huge task in the midst of the semester, James' favorite aspect of the experience was the uniqueness of faculty and student presentations. Everything went smoothly, despite the challenges, and the department received very positive feedback from the teachers in attendance. Several suggested that two festivals be offered next year, one each semester!

## CML Students Attend Catalan Language, Literature and Culture Conference



Antonio Blake Gómez (right) with presenters at Catalán conference.

On April 15, Professor Tom Capuano accompanied a group of Truman students to the Catalan Language, Literature, and Culture conference at the University of Missouri. This was the second year in a row that a CML group has attended, funded by CML Foundation Funds!

The conference featured presentations by students and professors from MU,

Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois on topics such as the politics of Catalonia, the legal obstacles of the Catalan independence movement, and the effect of the immigration crisis on Catalonia. A special moment in the event was Truman student Antonio Blake Gómez' performance of a Catalan protest song, which he sang and played on guitar.

This is the seventh annual conference hosted at MU by Prof. Monica Marcos-Llinás. The conference provides a unique way for students and professors to learn more about the Catalan language and culture. Truman students in attendance were Taylor Libert, alumnus Jacob Fling, and Antonio Blake Gómez, all of whom studied Catalan last spring semester at Truman.

## Interpretation and Translation Event Draws Crowd

As part of the CML Enrichment Series, Classical and Modern Languages welcomed guest speakers Sam Davis and Don Smith for two days of presentations on the world of professional interpretation and translation. The event included lectures and a round table session featuring the guest speakers, as well as CML and Linguistics faculty with professional experience in interpretation and translation.

Sam Davis, a conference interpreter in both German and Russian, specializes in simultaneous and consecutive interpretation. On the first day of the event he spoke to a capacity audience about his personal journey in the field of in-

terpretation and the various paths that can be taken: “Two Ears, One Microphone and No Safety Net: The World of Interpreting”. On the second day, Don Smith, who currently works as a language testing consultant for the FBI, presented a lecture titled “Adventures with Foreign Language: From the Cold War Era to Domestic Peace” in which he highlighted his experiences as a translator and language training specialist.

This informative event was organized by Russian and French professor Faith Beane, who was inspired to host by

her personal interest in interpreting and her desire to expose students to a variety of career paths. Participating in the round table discussion were CML and Linguistics faculty members Juan Carlos Valencia, Luke Amoroso, Jack Davis, Greg Richter, and Faith Beane, in addition to the guest speakers.



Sam Davis (Left) and Don Smith (Right)

## Dr. Amy Norgard: New Faculty Member in Classics

Classical and Modern Languages was excited to have Dr. Amy Norgard join the faculty this fall as an Assistant Professor of Classics. Originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, she completed her undergraduate degree at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she studied History and Classics. She then earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Classical Philology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Amy holds teaching certification in Latin for grades K-12 and taught high school Latin for two years in Illinois. She is currently exploring options for establishing an MAE degree in Latin!

Amy has been delighted to discover that Truman students truly care about learning and have a strong desire to be here, which creates an ideal situation for a university professor. This year at Truman Amy taught Roman Civilization and an advanced Latin Literature course on Roman prose satire, as well as elementary Latin language. She also developed a project that combined her love of Classics and Science Fiction, presenting her findings at a conference in November. She developed yet another paper on the satire of Horace and Lucilius for presentation at the Classical Association of the Middle West and

South, for which she currently serves as State Vice-President for Missouri. In April she presented a colloquium talk on Greco-Roman gods in television and film at the Missouri Junior Classical League for an audience of high school Latin students from across the state. Amy particularly enjoys working closely with Truman students as co-sponsor of the Classics Club.

In her free time, Amy enjoys reading English Victorian literature, such as Thomas Hardy, hiking, cycling, and watching Star Trek.



# New Faculty-Led Study Abroad

## Program: New Year's in the Yucatán Peninsula

For two weeks during the winter interim (December-January), a group of 11 Truman students traveled to Mérida, capital of the Mexican state of Yucatán, for an intense immersion experience in Spanish language and Mexican/Mayan culture. Participants enjoyed homestays with individual host families, but came together as a group for interactive classes and exciting excursions throughout the region. Limited to advanced students of Spanish, the program provided an opportunity for Spanish majors and minors, as well as Romance Language majors, to earn 3 hours of credit through enrollment in a Spanish Conversation course with native speakers or a Mayan Culture course taught by Truman Professor José Carreño-Medina. Coursework con-

sisted of daily presentations and journal writing related to the local news and excursions, class discussion and lectures, and a final composition.

In addition to time spent in the classroom, students participated in guided excursions that enabled them to experience first-hand numerous aspects of Mexican and Mayan history and culture. Among the highlights were visits to the ancient Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Tulum and xenotes (natural wells). For next year's program, Professor Carreño plans to add excursions to the towns of Izamal

and Celestún. These activities gave students an opportunity to master Spanish language skills and increase cultural competence in a beautiful and memorable setting. The Mérida Study Abroad program provides a great option for majors and minors who are unable to study abroad during the summer or regular semester, but still want a taste of full language immersion.



## Eta Sigma Phi Attends National Conference

Truman's chapter of the Classics Honor Society, Eta Sigma Phi, attended the organization's national conference at Monmouth College in Illinois in March. The chapter's four student officers, as well as faculty advisors Amy Norgard and Bridget Thomas, made the trip. During the conference, participants networked with other chapters, benefited from research presentations, and competed in events such as Certaman, a Classics quiz bowl. There were also breakout sessions, including a Greek and Roman armor and warfare session featuring a mock battle, and a visit to the archaeology lab at Monmouth.

Eta Sigma Phi made Truman proud by winning the *Outreach Award for Clas-*

*sics* for its sponsorship of a video contest for high school students in Missouri and neighboring states during the spring semester. Congratulations to member Joe Slama, who took first place in the conference's intermediate Greek translation contest! Co-sponsor Amy Norgard noted that the conference is a fantastic opportunity for students from chapters across the country to interact and share the experience of studying Classics in a university setting.

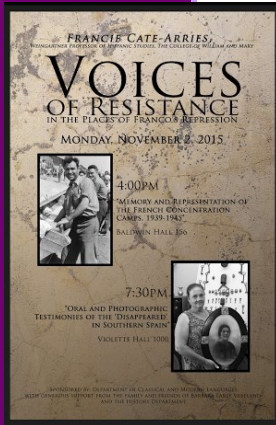
Eta Sigma Phi collaborated with Truman's Classics Club throughout the year to organize events such as movie nights, service learning opportunities, and a dinner and movie night at Thou-

sand Hills State Park. Eta Sigma Phi was led this year by president Jordan Nolan, a junior Classics major. Classics professor Amy Norgard has enjoyed being faculty co-advisor during her first year at Truman and is excited to see the group continue to sponsor and attend activities that get students excited about the study of Classics.





## Voices of Resistance: Dr. Cate-Arries Presents Oral Testimonies of Franco's Repression



The Department of Classical and Modern Languages welcomed Dr. Francie Cate-Arries to campus in November as part of the CML Enrichment Series. Professor Cate-Arries, Weingartner Professor of Hispanic Studies at the College of William and Mary, is a highly-regarded specialist on the culture and literature of the Spanish Civil War and the Spanish exile that followed. As has been stated in reference to her book *Spanish Culture behind Barbed Wire*, “the intriguing story of Spanish exile in the concentration camps in France is a powerful piece of

cultural history and memory”.

Dr. Cate-Arries gave two presentations on the topics of memory and post-memory (trauma) as they relate to the Spanish Civil War, the Francoist dictatorship, and the demands for justice in today’s democratic Spain. In “Memory and Representation of the French Concentration Camps, 1939-1945”, she focused on the oral and written testimonies of Spanish exiles who lived in inhuman conditions, forgotten for years in the concentration camps of southern France. Photographic and oral testimonies of the families of Republicans who

lost the Spanish Civil War and suffered the consequences through imprisonment and execution were examined in “Oral and Photographic Testimonies of the ‘Disappeared’ in Southern Spain”.

The CML Enrichment Series offers an extraordinary opportunity for Truman students and faculty across interdisciplinary boundaries to interact with noted scholars on a variety of topics. Dr. Cate Arries’ visit also received support from the History Department’s Family and Friends of Barbara Early Vreeland fund.

## Welcome to the World: CML Sponsors Exhibition of Works by Spanish Artist Miguel Brieva



The Department of Classical and Modern Languages sponsored its first art exhibit this spring, thanks to the efforts of Spanish professor Óscar Sendón. This traveling exhibit, *Welcome to the World*, was on loan from Carleton College and featured the work of Spanish graphic artist Miguel Brieva, who curated the exposition in collaboration with Prof. Palmar Álvarez-Blanco of Carleton College.

Brieva’s work combines text and image in a variety of gen-

res, including comics, animation, illustration, visual poetry and graphic humor. His art seeks to raise awareness of current political, social and economic issues in Spain and in society at large with a thought-provoking examination of topics such as materialism, globalization, capitalism and dehumanization as they relate to contemporary society. Brieva’s work has been featured in numerous magazines and newspapers in Spain and abroad, includ-

ing *El País*, *La Vanguardia*, and *Rolling Stone*.

*Welcome to the World* provided students with the opportunity for an interdisciplinary experience in a new genre. Professor Sendón opened the month-long exhibit held in the gallery area of the Pickler Memorial Library with a guided tour and reception. Given the success of this inaugural artistic event for CML, Professor Sendón hopes to organize similar events in the future.

# Spanish Immersion Weekend at Jo-Ota

Sixteen Spanish majors and minors spent the weekend of April 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> at Camp Jo-Ota in Clarence, Missouri, speaking, playing, eating and dreaming in Spanish! The annual Immersion Weekend allows Spanish students who have completed Spanish 202 or higher the opportunity to get a taste of what it is like to spend time in a Spanish-speaking country, as well as earn one hour of academic credit. To participate in the weekend's activities, students must sign a contract promising that they will speak only Spanish for 36 hours.

The participants took part in a variety of activities that helped them get to know each other and practice their Spanish, including sports, hiking, and playing games in Spanish, such as Pic-

tionary and Scategories. In addition to some friendly competition, they were able to sample typical foods from Spain and Mexico. By the end of the weekend, students realized that they really were capable of enjoying a weekend without speaking English. For many, this experience gave them the confidence they need to pursue study abroad opportunities in the future.

This year's Spanish Immersion weekend was organized and directed by professors Carmen Pérez-Muñoz and José Carreño Medina, with on-site assistance from professors James Ham-

merstrand and Juan Carlos Valencia. Feedback from the students confirmed that the Immersion Weekend was a huge success!



## Celebrating Success

Congratulations to the following students and faculty for their exceptional achievements this academic year!

### *National Awards:*

*Katrina Goosey*, German major: Fulbright Fellowship to Germany  
*Margaret Wilcox*, French minor: Critical Language Scholarship to Tanzania  
*Luke Bishop*, Romance Language major: Critical Language Scholarship to Azerbaijan  
*Derek Benjamin*: Premio Gabriela Mistral (Sigma Delta Pi, Student leadership)

### *CML "Outstanding Student Awards"*

French: Lauren Schultz  
 German: Dana Megargle  
 Spanish: Derek Benjamin

### *Faculty Notables:*

*Prof. Alex Tetlak* (Classics): Named Truman "Educator of the Year", 2015-2016  
*Dr. Bridget Thomas* (Classics): Appointed Director of Interdisciplinary Studies  
*Dr. Lucy Lee* (Spanish): Re-elected, National President, National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society (Sigma

### Delta Pi)

*Dr. José Carreño Medina* (Spanish): Published *Serpientes y escaleras*, Verbum Editorial, Mexico.  
*Dr. Gregory Richter* (German/Linguistics): Published translation of Sigmund Freud's *Civilization and its Discontents*. Edited by Todd Dufresne. Calgary: Broadview.  
*Dr. Amy Norgard* (Classics): Elected State Vice-President for Missouri of The Classical Association of the Middle West and South.  
*Dr. Jack Davis* (German): Named co-editor of *Communications of the International Brecht Society*



CML faculty celebrate the end of the semester with party at Jackson Stables!

## CML Scholarships and Funds

*If you would like to direct your Truman giving to a specific area related to your Truman major, please consider the following options to help ensure the future success of CML programs and students:*

**Classical & Modern Language Department Foundation Fund:** Used to support opportunities for students: travel and participation in conferences, guest speakers, student plays, Romance Language House, etc.

**The Vera Piper Endowment Fund:** Scholarship support for study abroad in Costa Rica

**The Dr. Maren Partenheimer Memorial Annual Fund:** Scholarship support for study abroad

**The Dr. Maren Partenheimer Memorial Endowed Fund:** Scholarship support for CML students

**The German Club Fund:** Scholarship support for study aboard

**The Max Kade Fund:** Scholarship support for students in German Studies

**The John and Denise Teal Classical and Modern Languages Fund:** Scholarship support for French and Spanish majors

**The Donna Crawford Fund:** Scholarship support for French majors



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Want to be featured in our next newsletter?

Send us updates about what is new with you— career changes, further educational opportunities, family additions— we love to hear where you are today!

Entries can be sent to:  
Dr. Lucy F. Lee  
Chair, Dept. of Classical and Modern Languages  
McClain 310  
Truman State University  
Kirksville, MO 63501

# Alumni Notes

**John D. Sens** (1966, German) is now retired from law practice in Minnesota and Iowa. He notes that he fondly remembers his time as a German major and his study abroad experience in Germany-- and that he still reads German books and newspapers!

John writes : “In the past couple of decades, many colleges and universities have promoted themselves as a species of vocational schools . . . rather than as providers of education for life . . . . Your newsletter shows that your department has not fallen into that trap.”

**Ken Fleak** (1972, Spanish) received his MA and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Missouri and then spent many years teaching at the University of South Carolina. He now lives in Columbia, MO, and has taught Spanish at the University of Missouri since 2006.

**Peter Lebron** (1982, Spanish) is completing his thirteenth year as a Spanish teacher at Central High School in Camp Point, IL. He has also taught night classes at the Moberly Area Community College-Hannibal campus since 2005, where he received the *Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award* for 2014-2015. He notes that Dr. Jack Magruder got the same award for the Kirksville campus, so he is in good company!

**David Gregory** (1983, Spanish) has been teaching Spanish at Smiths Station High School in Smiths, AL, for 9 years. He lives in Opelika, AL, with his wife and three children.

**Anastacia Reidel Kohl** (1994, Spanish; 1996, MAE) currently supervises Graduate Teaching Fellows at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where she earned her Ed.D. in Spanish Curriculum and Instruction in 2005. It was great to meet your family, Tacia!

**Jennifer Miller** (1996, Spanish; 1998, MAE) is department chair of World Languages at Francis Howell Central. She notes that they have expanded their offerings to Mandarin this year—and one of her special seniors began studying Spanish at Truman this past fall. Please keep up the recruitment of excellent students, Jennifer!

**Dorothy Jamieson** (1997, Spanish) has been teaching Spanish for 16 years and is currently at Lindbergh High School in St. Louis. She is married and the mother of a 2 year old daughter, Caitlyn.

**Brian Fish** (2001, Spanish; 2002, MAE) teaches Spanish at Lafayette High School in Eureka, Missouri, and is National Board Certified!

**Mary Gustin** (2001, French) returned to Missouri after earning her Master’s from Minnesota State University in 2013. She now teaches English, French, and ESL in a rural private school.

**Ryan Kennedy** (2001, Russian) is a tenured associate professor in the Political Science department at the University of Houston.

**Aaron Gurlly** (2002, French/ English/ Linguistics) completed his Ph.D. in Communications at the University of California, San Diego, in 2014 and is currently on a teaching fellowship at Beloit College where he teaches media studies and media production courses.

**Micah McKay** (2004, Spanish) completed a MA in Spanish to English Translation at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a MA in Hispanic Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is pursuing a doctorate in Hispanic Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Micah has also worked as a medical interpreter and served in the Peace Corps in Peru.

**Brian Santos** (2005, Spanish/Psychology; 2006, MAE) teaches Spanish at Francis Howell North. He was named the *Francis Howell School District Teacher of the Year* and also won the *Distinguished Foreign Language Educator* award from the Foreign Language Association of Missouri this past fall! Brian is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

**Lauren Huber Kowalik** (2005, Spanish) lives in St. Charles, MO, with her husband and new baby Claire and is working as a registered dental hygienist. Lauren notes that she always looks back fondly on her time at Truman and in the department!

**Lauren Barth Breite** (2006, French; 2007, MAE) has been a Spanish teacher at Francis Howell Central for seven years, but just took off a year following the birth of her first child, James. We enjoy Lauren's alumni video , shown on prospective student visit days each month!

**Claire Maryniak** (2006, French) wrote that it was great to hear news from her old department.

**Suzanne Beitling** (2006, Spanish) is currently teaching English to business professionals in Germany after having taught Spanish for five years in Missouri. She and her husband welcomed their third child in October. Life is good!

**Lisa Rubenthaler** (2007, Spanish) earned her Master's in Education and then received a Fulbright Grant to Madrid. She spent three years there, where she worked as an English immersion teacher . She now teaches 4<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish immersion in Washington, D.C.

**Hana Schneider** (2007, Spanish; 2013, MAE) wrote to express her appreciation for Professor Carol Marshall upon her recent retirement from Truman.

**Patrick Bommarito** (2008, Spanish) is a Spanish teacher at Webster Groves High School in St. Louis where he lives with his wife and new baby.

**Andrea Montgomery** (2009, Spanish) teaches Spanish at a private K-12 school in Kansas City and is also staying busy as a mom! Andrea, please send your married name.

**Elizabeth Bonanno** (2009, Spanish/Political Science) earned a law degree from the University of Colorado-Boulder in 2012 and now practices family law in Denver where she was recently named an "Up-and-Coming Young Attorney" for the state of Colorado and finalist for Colorado Young Attorney of the Year. Elizabeth looks forward to marrying Ken Bradtke on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Grant Berry** (2010, Spanish/Math) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Spanish Linguistics and Language Science at Pennsylvania State University. He returned to Truman this spring as the inaugural guest lecturer for Sigma Delta Pi's "Distinguished Alumni Speakers Series". Thanks for coming, Grant. It was fun!

**Kelly Ponte** (2010, Spanish) lives in Wilmington, Delaware with her husband and teaches Spanish at Ursuline Academy, a private Catholic all-girls school.

**Michelle Hanlon** (2012, French) is working in Human Resources as a Credentials Specialist at a portrait photography company in St. Charles, MO. She has worked with many companies to help them accomplish short and long-term goals and develop their company brand.

**Melanie Kubayko** (2012, French) recently completed her Master's in Education from Rockhurst University and began teaching French at Antioch Middle School in North Kansas City this past fall.

**Plamena Koseva** (2013, Romance Languages) has been pursuing her MA in Communications at St. Louis University.

**Emily Akers** (2014, Spanish) recently worked in El Salvador as a youth development volunteer. She has been accepted to Masters of Social Work programs at both the University of Missouri and Washington University—and is trying to decide which to attend!

**Lauren Chapman** (2014, Spanish; 2015, MAE) is completing her first year as a Spanish teacher at Park Hill High School in Kansas City, MO. She is featured in an awesome alumni video on the Truman website. Thanks, Lauren!

**Alejandro Domínguez** (2014, Spanish) has been pursuing a graduate degree in Student Affairs at Iowa State University. Serving as SA of the Romance Language House prepared him well!