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A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR

Spring is a time for new beginnings, for renewal, and for change. This semester Dr. Sean McDaniel was reelected chair of the Department for another three year term and Dr. Dawn Smith-Sherwood was elected as his assistant chair.

We all work very hard in the department to continually improve our programs. The French and German faculty share their positive feedback on their successes.

Dr. Charles McCreary reports that *“We continue to enjoy strong interest in French in terms of enrollment and requests for courses beyond the Intermediate Level. Dr. Jean-Louis Dassier is piloting a new course focusing on his native Provence that is a direct tie-in to our new study abroad program in Aix-en-Provence. Starting next year, new courses will be offered and a new minor program will be introduced. We are also happy to see that interest in our French Club is growing with meetings every two weeks and a new Facebook group which we are inviting all of our students to join.”*

Dr. Heide Witthöft informs us that *“The German Club at IUP has about 15 members and is very active. This academic year, the club organized a film night, a book night, two game nights, a scavenger hunt and a celebration of Fasching (German carnival) for its members. The club is also looking forward to its annual picnic, an outing to the Hofbräuhaus in Pittsburgh, and several other activities. The Stammtisch, the German language table, organized by Dr. Joachim Noob has met bi-weekly this year. Students of all language levels and all proficiencies are welcome. Lastly, three students successfully completed the requirements for the German minor in Fall 2013. We congratulate Garrett Tanner, Andrew Trefny, and Gregory Walter for this accomplishment.”*

As the French and German would say: *“Bon progrès and Guter Fortschritt!”*

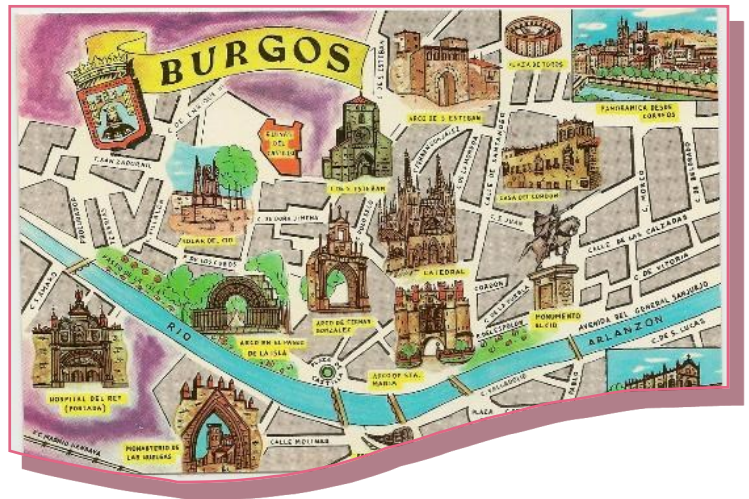
Summer is around the corner. Take the time to go out, explore, and use your language skills. Thank you for your interest and support of the Department of Foreign Languages!

Lydia Rodriguez

Our Students and Our Alumni

Chris Showers, a Spanish BSED major, graduated in Spring 2008. He went to Spain after finishing his degree at IUP to work as a conversation assistant. After he spent two years working under a grant, he decided to stay and complete a Master's degree in teaching ESL at the University of Burgos. Upon completing the Master's program, "I started a business here. I've had the business now for three years and things are going really well." Chris opened an English Academy, and he has become a little "famous" in Burgos because of "the communicative methodology that I use." Chris reports that parents begin enrolling their children into his academy as early as February or March for "the following school year and by June, I always have a waiting list...so I can't complain." If you'd like to learn more about his business, you can visit his web page:

<http://www.ameringles.com>



Our Students and Our Alumni

Jennifer Yasechko, a 2012 BSED graduate, and a Spanish teacher at Yough Intermediate Middle School conducted her first Skype lesson with her 7th grade students and a Spanish native, Pablo Gallego López, located in Valladolid, Spain. The importance of her lesson was to compare and contrast the daily life in Spain and the United States. Students had the opportunity to practice the Spanish they learned with a native-speaker, Pablo. Jennifer stated, “it was an exciting way to integrate technology into the classroom.” Students asked Pablo questions in both English and Spanish about life in Spain and he answered in both languages. Jennifer asserts that the students were challenged, but were not overwhelmed with the new experience of the language.

AWARDS

Hannah Frishberg, a double-major in Asian Studies and International Studies, received the Chinese Government scholarship to study in China for the 2014-2015 academic year. This scholarship is awarded through the Chinese Embassy and by the Chinese Ministry of Education. The awardee is selected by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The scholarship will cover Hannah’s tuition, room and board, health insurance, and travel/conference allowance/fees.



**The Polyglot
Team**

Communications Manager: Laurel Liu
Technical Director: Leanne Lentz

Chief Editor: Lydia Rodríguez
Editors: Liu, Lentz, Rodríguez

THE POLYGLOT

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Our Students and Our Alumni

Also, Hannah was hired in the summer of 2013 as a teaching assistant in her local school district to help young children learn Chinese. Her teaching assistantship is a federally sponsored STARTALK program. The STARTALK is a Presidential initiative to fund summer programs in critical languages including Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Persian, Turkish, Swahili and Urdu.

Gretchen Heine, a double major honor student in Spanish and History, and a student in the Robert E. Cook Honors College, was recently named a finalist for the PASSHE-wide Ali-Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence. Gretchen was first selected as IU-P's sole representative via a competitive review of applications. Subsequently, she was named one of two runner-up finalists at the state level. Gretchen, along with the Ali-Zaidi winner and the second finalist, will attend the Board of Governors' meeting in Harrisburg in April to receive her recognition.



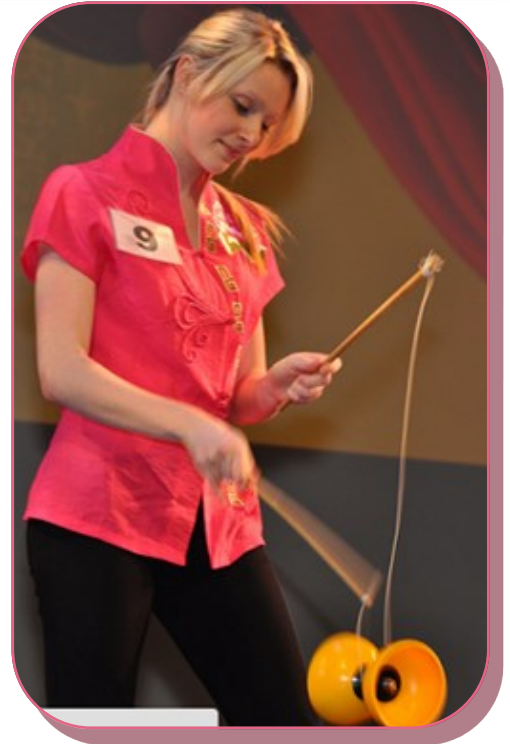
Sierra Sailor, a junior studying Chinese, attended the 5th "Chinese Bridge" East USA Chinese Proficiency Competition for College Students, held in New York City, on March 30, 2014. Sierra won the senior level honorary prize.

We wish much success to all our students and alumni!

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Our Students and Our Alumni

Twenty-five students from different states attended the competition. Sierra gave a speech titled "My Chinese Dream." Besides giving a short Chinese speech, each participant was also required to perform in the Chinese culture related talent show. Sierra performed the Yoyo for the Chinese culture talent competition which was highly commended by Hong Kong's Sing Pao Daily newspaper. They reported, "一身唐裝的來自賓州印第安納大學的司雅樂則以流暢動感的抖空竹表演征服了所有觀眾/ The whole audience was captivated by the dynamic and fluent Yoyo performance given by Sierra from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in a beautiful Chinese dress."



We wish much success to all our students and alumni!

DEPARTMENT NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS DECEMBER 2013 GRADUATES!



Spanish Bachelor of Arts

Sarah Marie Licardié

Silvina Monica Orsatti

Victoria Lynn Shelton

*Jessica Monk

Spanish Education Bachelor of Science in Education

*Jessica Monk

Spanish for International Trade

Casey William Zyniewicz

***double major**

Spanish Minor

Jacqueline Elizabeth Caddy

Amelia Jean Barlow Crocker

Alicia Marie Gerarge

Bryan Michael Jones

French Minor

Candis Joelle Warren

German Minor

Garrett F. Tanner

Andrew John Trefny

Gregory James Walter



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Dept. of Foreign Languages Welcomes New Faculty Member

Dr. Vicente Gomis-Izquierdo, Assistant Professor of Spanish, is originally from Alicante, Spain, where he earned his B.A. in English as well as a teaching certificate from the Universidad de Alicante. Afterwards, he pursued graduate work in Kansas, earning an M.A. in Hispanic literature and culture from Kansas State University and a Ph.D. in Hispanic literature and culture from The University of Kansas.

His areas of specialization are XIX century Spanish and Spanish American literature and culture, with an emphasis on gender issues, representations of history and modernity in literature, and transatlantic relations and history.

Dr. Gomis-Izquierdo's publications can be found in *Hispanófila*, *Siglo XIX* and *Hispanic Journal* among others. Currently, he is working on an article length project about the Spanish-Cuban relationship as presented in the Cuban novel *Mi tío el empleado* by Ramón Meza.

As a self-proclaimed *geek*, he lives in Indiana with his lovely girlfriend, and enjoys traveling, movies, and his soccer team Athletic Club de Bilbao.



Department News

CHINESE

Dr. Shijuan “Laurel” Liu invited guest speakers Drs. Hua Li and Philip Williams, from Montana State University to give presentations. Dr. Li spoke on the works of Mo Yan the 2012 Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature. Dr. Williams spoke on the issue of Chinese Internet censorship. Drs. Li and Williams shared Chinese language learning strategies and tips to the Chinese language students. Additionally, they donated their books to the IUP library.



From left to right: Dr. Hua Li, Mr. Luis González (IUP Dean of Stapleton Library), Dr. Philip Williams



From left to right: Drs. Philip Williams, Hua Li, and Chinese language students

Department News

GERMAN

The German club hosted a table at the International Unity Day. President Stephenie Rockwell, Vice President Brendan Saunders, and Secretary Hanna Andrussier prepared German specialties consisting of Käse-Spätzle (a noodle dish), Bratwurst (fried sausage), and Sauerkraut. German cookies and Gummi Bears were also offered. The table was very well attended and helped increase the visibility of German on campus and in the Indiana community.



From left to right: Stephenie Rockwell, Hanna Andrussier, and Brendan Saunders

Department News

SPANISH

Sigma Delta Pi, Iota Mu Chapter inducted 8 new members in the fall of 2013. New inductees included: Kevin Buynack, Chelsea Cherry, Sarah Licardié, Amy Oplinger, Aysia Pierce, Victoria Shelton, Danielle Simchick, and Ella Tessari. Preceding the spiritual ceremony, guest speaker Dr. Lydia Rodríguez spoke about her experience meeting Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Rigoberta Menchú Tum tying into the Mayan theme of spirituality. As a national celebration event, the new inductees decorated cakes to enter a Facebook contest held by the National Sigma Delta Pi Organization.



Department News

SPANISH

Dr. Christina Huhn has been selected to serve in a one-year, Member at Large position on the PSMLA executive council for 2014.

Dr. Eileen Glisan and her co-authors held a book signing for their newly published book entitled *Implementing the Integrated Performance Assessment* on November 22nd at the 2013 ACTFL conference held in Orlando, FL.



Faculty Highlights

Dr. Frank B. Brooks was invited to present a 3-hour workshop entitled “Transforming Classroom Discourse with Instructional Conversation” to a group of 30 foreign language teachers at State College Area School District on Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

Dr. Eileen W. Glisan recently co-authored the text, *Implementing Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA)*, which was released at the 2013 Convention of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) in Orlando. She also co-presented a full-day pre-conference workshop at the 2013 ACTFL Convention: "Using Integrated Performance Assessment to Improve Learning and Instruction." Dr. Glisan co-presented the session, "Prioritizing Communities: Planning from the Outside In," at the 2014 Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, held in Boston in March. She also conducted a three-hour workshop for world language faculty in the Pittsburgh Public Schools dealing with the topic of rating the Pittsburgh Public Schools ORALS (Oral Ratings Assessment for Language Students).

Drs. Christina Huhn, Jean-Louis Dassier, and Shijuan “Laurel” Liu presented the results of their research on student technology use at the annual convention of the American Council on the Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) in Orlando, FL, November 22-24. The presentation was entitled “Personalized Learning: Realities of Technology in Foreign Language Courses.”

Dr. Christina Huhn and Professor Leanne Lentz won the 2014 Content Pedagogy Award from the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) of IUP. The Award recognizes course design which is especially effective in teaching content within a particular discipline.

Dr. Shijuan “Laurel” Liu presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Chinese Language Teachers' Association (CLTA) held together with ACTFL in Orlando, Florida, November 22-24, 2013. The title of her presentation was “Examining the Tablet Technology for Chinese Language Teaching and Learning.” In addition, Liu received a mini-grant from the Center for Teaching Excellence for a cross-disciplinary teaching circle that she initiated on teaching and learning with tablet technology at IUP.

Additionally, Dr. Liu won the 2014 Living Learning Award from the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) of IUP. The Award recognizes outstanding faculty contributions to IUP’s living-learning program.

Dr. Heide Witthöft presented a paper on "Jean-Baptiste Grenouille’s Identity Formation: Sameness, Selfhood, Scent" as part of the special session on *Aberrations of the Human Mind: German Literature from Thomas Mann to Patrick Süskind* at the 2014 Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, February 20-22, in Louisville, KY.

Other Events and Happenings...

Dr. Shijuan “Laurel” Liu organized the 2014 Chinese New Year Celebration. The event was sponsored by Asian Studies, Office of International Education and Office of Housing, Residential Living and Dining with collaboration of the Chinese Student Association and Southwestern University of Finance and Economics (SWUFE) exchange students. The celebration included a performance by Chinese language students in Chinese and a skit performed by local community children in English based on the legend of 12 Chinese zodiac animals. Also, a professional Pittsburgh dance group performed the lion dance at the event.



Elementary Chinese students sang two Chinese New Year's songs and advanced Chinese students performed a skit in Chinese based on the Legend of Nian. The video recording of the skit is available at:

<http://youtu.be/NYBginmTWr0>

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Announcements!

**The IUP Spring
Methodology
Conference on For-
eign Language Teach-
ing will celebrate its
40th anniversary in
2015, having begun
in 1974!!**

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Tell Us About You...

You've read all of our news; we would like to hear some of yours! Please fill out the following questionnaire and return it to the Attn: *Polyglot Team*, Department of Foreign Languages, 455 Sutton Hall, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA, 15705. If you would prefer to respond by email, send your information to polyglot.iup@gmail.com. Be sure to include —Polyglot in the subject line of your email. Thank you.

Name: _____

First Maiden Last Language Degree/Year

Address: _____

Street City State Zip Country

Email Address: _____

Language(s) Studied at IUP: _____

Study Abroad Program(s) (Country/Year): _____

UPDATE:

- Any news about yourself?**
- Are you still using your language skills?**
- Do you have any special memories of your language experiences that you would like to share?**
- Do you know the addresses of any other alumni?**

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The Polyglot Spring 2014

The Polyglot Team



Leanne



Lydia



Shijuan

“Like” us on Facebook

Indiana University of PA
Polyglot Newsletter

**Happy Spring from
the Polyglot team!**

“Laurel”

The Polyglot Team

Chief Editor: Lydia Rodríguez

Communications Manager: Laurel Liu

Technical Director: Leanne Lentz

Team Editors: Rodríguez, Lentz, Liu