Ohio State graduates are teaching in France!

Nine recent Ohio State graduates with a major or minor in French have been chosen by the French government to teach English in elementary or secondary schools in France. This is one of the largest groups from any campus and the largest number from Ohio State in recent years.

Besides teaching English to elementary or secondary school students, participants in the program will have expanded opportunities to travel and learn about the various cultures in Europe. The French Embassy coordinates hiring for these positions, which include a stipend and health insurance.

Front row:
- Marlis Fischer: B.A., 2006 (French and German); M.Ed., 2007 (Foreign Language Education) – Montpellier
- Joanna Marshall: B.A., 2006 (French and International Studies); M.S. 2007 (Microbiology) – Clermont-Ferrand

Back row:
- Scott Pochatila: B.S., 2007 (Mechanical Engineering, minor in French) – Créteil

Not pictured:
- Charles Heinl: B.A., 2006 (German); M.A., 2007 (Foreign Language Education) – Bordeaux
- Rachel Landers: B.A., 2007 (French and International Studies) – Montpellier

Ohio State Students on the Move

First Annual Bocce Tournament

Event organizer Rosina Caponi, B.A., 2007 (Classics and Italian), throws out “the first bocce ball” in the first Annual Bocce Tournament sponsored by Ohio State’s Italian Club in spring 2007. A dozen three-member teams participated.

One of the best summer stories ever . . .

This September, when students returned to campus, Matt Jepsen had a good story to tell. “What did you do last summer?” elicited the response: “I worked at the American Embassy in Bern, Switzerland.”

Matt (Ohio State, 2009) was looking for a way to connect his interest in languages (French and German) with foreign service. Surfing the Internet, Matt found an application for an unpaid internship in Switzerland through the web site for the U.S. State Department, so he filled it out and sent it in.

Matt, a native of Powell, Ohio, then applied for and received a Huntington International Fellowship, which helped fund his internship in Switzerland. He stayed with a family that lives about 10 minutes away from the embassy (found on a real estate web site for Bern).

Matt may be well-known to those who listen to the Ohio State underground radio station, as he was one of the initial DJs to broadcast on the French program in spring quarter 2006, as well as during winter quarter 2007.
In last year’s newsletter we mentioned that more students are studying foreign languages and choosing to minor, if not major, in them. Your department has taken a very proactive approach to tailoring the content and focus of our undergraduate majors to appeal to a broader audience of students and to provide a curriculum that encourages students to combine a French or Italian major or minor with another discipline.

The number of double majors and minors in the department reflects its appeal to a broad and diverse set of students from other departments and colleges. French has 155 minors and 159 majors. Eighty-four of the majors are double majors representing the following areas: Arabic, Architecture, Art History, Biology, Biomedical Science, Communications, Comparative Studies, International Studies, Italian, Japanese, Linguistics, Logistics, Microbiology, Molecular Genetics, Nursing, Nutrition, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Russian, Spanish, and Textiles. Italian has 46 majors with 18 double majors in Art, Business, Communications, English, Exercise Science, French, Hospitality Management, International Studies, and Molecular Genetics. With an increased focus on getting the word out on the benefits of studying foreign languages, we hope to continue our growth in the Department of French and Italian.

We hope that you will want to support that growth by contributing to one of the department’s development funds described later in the newsletter. As we told you last year, we recently established two new funds, both of which support important departmental activities. The Transforming Learning through Technology Fund supports faculty and graduate students who use technology to enrich and transform their teaching. The French and Italian Lecture Fund allows us to bring to campus speakers who appeal not only to faculty and students in the department, but also to the larger university community and community at large. Professor Ronald Rosbottom’s (former chair of the department and now at Amherst College) spring quarter lecture, “Hitler’s Tour: Imagining Occupied Paris, 1940-44,” exemplifies that broad appeal.

And remember that every little bit counts—even if you can only contribute a small amount, your donation will help us move toward our goals of enriching the experience of our students and faculty.

And now I would like you to peruse our newsletter and enjoy the latest news from the Department of French and Italian. You will meet our new faculty members, Dana Renga, Michael O’Riley, Louisa Shea, and Ted Emery, senior lecturer in Italian. In addition to hearing about our undergraduates and graduate students, you will also have the opportunity to read about the latest accomplishments of our faculty who remain committed to excellence in teaching and to the development of innovative and intellectually rich research projects. We’ve also included updates from our alumni and hope to see your news in the next edition of the newsletter.

Au revoir! Arrivederci!

Diane W. Birckbichler
Professor and Chair
Department of French and Italian
birckbichler.1@osu.edu
Janice Aski, associate professor of Italian, and Heather Webb, assistant professor of Italian, have coauthored a paper describing Ohio State’s new content-based undergraduate Italian program. Professor Aski has also worked on a research project that examines the origins of the use of the definite article with possessive adjectives in Italian. This work was presented at the AAIS (American Association of Italian Studies) conference in May. The research links directly with the content of a new course, Italian 694: The Romance Languages—a course that will be taught in rotation with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Diane W. Birckbichler, professor of French, was a witness at a hearing held by the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia. The title of the hearing was *Lost in Translation: A Review of the Federal Government’s Efforts to Develop a Foreign Language Strategy*. The subcommittee is chaired by Senators Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) and George Voinovich (R-Ohio).


Professor Judith Mayne, professor of French, is a film studies scholar who has recently published two books on French cinema. In 2005 her book on contemporary film director Claire Denis, *Good Work (BeauTravail)* (1999), *Trouble Every Day* (2001), and *Friday Night* (2003), was published by the University of Illinois Press.

In 2006, I.B. Tauris published *Le Corbeau*, a study of Henri-Georges Clouzot’s emblematic 1943 film of the Occupation, in the series Ciné-files: French Film Guides. Clouzot, the screenwriter and then head of the screenwriting division of the Nazi-owned film company who directed his first film during the Occupation, retells the story of the Tulle affair that occurred at the end of World War I. The whodunit asks who signed his/her name “Le Corbeau” (“raven” or “stoolpigeon”) at the bottom of anonymous, poison pen letters. Was there a connection between the epidemic of letters that destroyed lives in the small town depicted in the film and the anonymous letters of denunciation employed by the Nazis? (*Le Corbeau* will be published in the United States in 2007 by the University of Illinois Press.)

Professor Mayne is continuing her research on the cinema of World War II in France. Her current research project is a study of the 30 films made by Continental, the studio that produced *Le Corbeau*.

Linda Harlow, associate provost and dean of the University Honors and Scholars Center, accompanied five Ohio State honors undergraduate researchers to an international UG symposium at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, where she explored cooperative research ventures. Back at Ohio State, Harlow led efforts to standardize honors requirements and oversaw the re-vamping of the university’s Maximus Competition, which awards merit scholarships to top incoming freshmen.

Sarah-Grace Heller, associate professor of French, has had her first book published, *Fashion in Medieval France* (Suffolk: Boydell & Brewer). She is currently at work on an *Illustrated History of Medieval Fashion*, serving as vice president of the Société Guirihem IX for the study of Occitan, and enjoying her new daughter, Lucie Myrtle (born April 18, 2006).


Charles Klopp, professor of Italian, is collaborating on the Italian translation of his book, *Sentences*, editing the proceedings of Ohio State’s conference on Trieste, and working on his book on writers Tabucchi, Celati, and Bufalino. Klopp presented papers at conferences in Genoa and at the Université Stendhal in Grenoble. He also published entries on Alberto Bevilacqua, Romano Bilenchi, Giovanni Boine, and Silvio Pellico in the *Encyclopedia of Italian Literary Studies*.

Christiane Laeufer, associate professor of French, received an Ohio State Arts and Humanities Seed Grant to do on-site research and data collection at the *Section des alsatiques* in the *Bibliothèque nationale universitaire* (Strasbourg). She is working on the phonological treatment in language of foreign loanwords, based on selected situations of prolonged and intense contact between Germanic and Romance languages.


Terror: Colonial History and Cartographies of Victimization. Francophone Cinema in an Age of Francophone cinema titled, "Sade and the Cynic Tradition" and is completing a book manuscript on the history of Cynicism, titled "Diogenes in the Salon: Cynicism and Enlightenment." Professor Shea holds a joint appointment with the Department of French and Italian and the Department of Comparative Studies.

Jennifer Willging, associate professor of French, published Telling Anxiety with the University of Toronto Press in spring 2007. Her current scholarly interests lie in trade conflicts over food between the United States and France as part of a larger project on contemporary Franco-American relations.

Ted Emery (Ph.D., Brown University—1985; M.A., Brown; B.A., Trinity College), senior lecturer, has taught at Dickinson College, Boston University, University of Puerto Rico, and New York University. He is the author of a monograph on the operas libretti of Carlo Goldoni (Peter Lang, 1991) and has published extensively in scholarly journals on Goldoni, Carlo Gozzi, Pietro Chiari, and Giacomo Casanova. He has appeared as a commentator on Casanova on The History Channel and on The Arts and Entertainment Network. Professor Emery is currently working on a book on Venetian autobiographers of the 18th century.

Dana Renga (Ph.D., UCLA—2001; B.A., M.A., UCLA), assistant professor, specializes in Italian film and 20th-century Italian literature and cultural studies. Her book project, Gender, Culture and History in Italian Cinema from Casanova to Berlusconi, focuses on gender and cultural identity in Italian cinema. She has published on Italo Calvino, Federico Fellini, Elsa Morante, Andrea Zanzotto, French and Italian Holocaust Cinema, and Italian Cinema under Fascism. She has articles forthcoming on directors Roberto Benigni, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Marco Belloccio, and Lina Wertmuller. She also wrote the introduction and head notes for a new anthology of modern Italian poetry that is forthcoming from the MLA Texts and Translations Series. Professor Renga previously taught at Colorado College.


Karlis Racevskis, professor of French, has published “The Decentered Subject of Christian Oster’s Novels” in A Living Legacy: CCNY Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures Undergraduate Alumni Conference, edited by Bettina Lerner and Juan Carlos Mercado. He has also published a review of Le Nouveau Roman en questions 5: Une Nouvelle autobiographie (ed., Roger-Michel Allemand et Christian Milat), and of Trois jours chez ma mère of François Weyergans in The French Review (2007).

Heather Webb, assistant professor of Italian, received the 2007 Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching. She is currently putting the finishing touches on her book, The Medieval Heart: Circulation before William Harvey, and has articles on Dante’s Paradiso and medieval ideas of sense perception forthcoming. In winter and spring of 2007, she presented on medieval political ideas and on Catherine of Siena’s doctrine of tears at three international conferences.

Jennifer Willging, associate professor of French, published Telling Anxiety with the University of Toronto Press in spring 2007. Her current scholarly interests lie in trade conflicts over food between the United States and France as part of a larger project on contemporary Franco-American relations.

Wynne Wong, associate professor of French, was awarded a Seed Grant by Ohio State’s College of Humanities to conduct an experiment in second language acquisition using eye tracking. Enhancing the Learner’s Attention: An Online Study of Textual Enhancement. She is the new managing editor of The French Review. Professor Wong presented a workshop in February 2007 for the Northeast Ohio Language Alliance titled “Drawing Learners’ Attention to Grammatical Form.”

Michael O’Riley (Ph.D., University of Oregon—1998; M.A., Université de Tours; B.A., Saint Lawrence University), assistant professor, previously taught at Colorado College. He is the author of Postcolonial Haunting and Victimization: Assia Djebar’s New Novels (2007), and Francophone Culture and the Postcolonial Fascination with Ethnic Crimes and Colonial Aura (2005), as well as numerous articles on postcolonial theory and literature. He was a recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship for his work on cultural memory. His main interests are postcolonial cinema, North African Literature, and postcolonial comparative studies. Currently he is completing a book on Francophone cinema titled, Francophone Cinema in an Age of Terror: Colonial History and Cartographies of Victimization.

New to the Department

Dana Renga (Ph.D., UCLA—2001; B.A., M.A., UCLA), assistant professor, specializes in Italian film and 20th-century Italian literature and cultural studies. Her book project, Gender, Culture and History in Italian Cinema from Casanova to Berlusconi, focuses on gender and cultural identity in Italian cinema. She has published on Italo Calvino, Federico Fellini, Elsa Morante, Andrea Zanzotto, French and Italian Holocaust Cinema, and Italian Cinema under Fascism. She has articles forthcoming on directors Roberto Benigni, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Marco Belloccio, and Lina Wertmuller. She also wrote the introduction and head notes for a new anthology of modern Italian poetry that is forthcoming from the MLA Texts and Translations Series. Professor Renga previously taught at Colorado College.

Louisa Shea (Ph.D., Harvard University—2003; M.A., Cambridge U.; A.B., Smith College) is a native of Canada and comes to Ohio State from Rice University where she taught courses on topics in 18-century French literature, as well as film and critical theory. She recently published an article on “Sade and the Cynic Tradition” and is completing a book manuscript on the history of Cynicism, titled Diogenes in the Salon: Cynicism and Enlightenment. Professor Shea holds a joint appointment with the Department of French and Italian and the Department of Comparative Studies.
French Connection

For more than 10 years, the department has enjoyed an exchange program with the Université de Rennes. During the past academic year, while MaryLaura Papalas (Ph.D. candidate) taught at the Université de Rennes, France, Quitterie Gondellon joined the ranks of French graduate teaching associates. Quitterie holds a master’s degree in European law and is certified to teach business, marketing, and law in France. She enjoyed the breadth of courses available at Ohio State, including photography and translation.

The 2007-2008 Ohio State “delegate” to the University of Rennes is Jacob Schott, a doctoral candidate in French. Taking his place as a GTA is Maël Loubard. Maël “loves” foreign languages and began his acquaintance with their speakers via the Internet. With a degree in business economics, Maël decided to broaden his education at Ohio State to support his interest in managing an international, entrepreneurial business in the future.

The French and Italian Graduate Students Association

The 13th Annual FIGSA Conference was held this year on April 27 and 28 and chose to examine the various ways in which literary concepts and personalities are “framed,” or, how they are represented. Graduate students Julie Parson, Jennifer Branlat, Todd Donahue, Alexandra Salmeron, and Jacob Schott organized the conference and presented papers. Christina Benedetti, Sean de Louche, Alessia Colarossi, Sarah Parrott, Adela Lechintan, Harrington Laufman, and Andrew Anderson from Ohio State and Monica Ladig from Indiana-Purdue University in Fort Wayne also presented papers. Professor Nancy Virtue, also from I.U.-P.U., presented the keynote address.
Students with a Worldwide Outlook

Undergraduates as well as graduates can find interesting ways to help overseas. Jaclyn Janis, a recent graduate with a B.S. in environmental sciences (and a French minor) worked part-time and saved so that she could apply her knowledge of dams and their environmental effects to communities in Togo starting in late August 2007. As a volunteer with Jeunes Volontaires pour l’environnement, Jaclyn plans to study the effects of small dams on Togolese public health and society. She started her work while finishing her undergraduate degree by doing administrative work and translations via the Internet for the agency director. Jaclyn must pay for both her travel and living expenses while in Togo. She considers this coming year “like a fifth year of college, though now my teachers will be mostly Togolese and my textbooks will be dams and villages.” At the end of her “gap year,” Jaclyn plans to study for a master’s degree in public and environmental health at the University of North Carolina and then look at medical school.

Josh Walden, Arabic major, with minors in French and International Studies (2009), volunteered in summer 2006 to work with Emmaüs in Montalban, France (near Toulouse). The Emmaüs organization recycles clothes and refurbishes other goods to support their work providing housing, financial and legal assistance, and literacy initiatives to those who are disadvantaged in society. Josh stayed in a community house with other volunteers from Japan, Poland, Finland, and Algeria. They worked on repairing bikes and electrical tools for resale. This summer Josh worked with Emmaüs Spain near Murcia. At the end of the two-month program, he stayed in Spain for an additional two weeks to teach French and English.

Research in Second Language Acquisition

Eye Movements Reveal How Students Process L2 Input

Associate Professor Wynne Wong is finishing up a study of how second language learners process targeted grammatical forms. Using eye tracking as an online measure of attention, the study examines whether textual enhancement, as well as sentence and discourse level input, might have an impact on French learners’ early stage acquisition of the prepositions à and en used with geographical locations in French.

In order to complete her studies, Professor Wong received funding to purchase the Eyelink II EyeTracking System. This equipment measures participants’ eye movements as they process written input on a computer screen.

Professor Wong will present preliminary results of the data at conferences in 2007 and 2008.

Searching for Information on Careers Using Foreign Languages?

Both undergraduate and graduate students are often interested in employment opportunities that allow them to use their foreign language skills. To respond to that interest, the Foreign Language Center has launched a new web site, Careers in Foreign Languages: Put Your Language to Work (flc.osu.edu). This site is designed for foreign language students who are interested in the many career opportunities available for students with proficiency in a foreign language. The site features language career options and resources in different fields and profiles of Ohio State alums who are using their foreign language expertise in a variety of careers.
Alumni Updates

Carleton W. Carroll, B.A., French, 1961, writes that he has retired from Oregon State University in 2001 after teaching French language and literature for 27 years. He continues research in medieval French literature, recently finishing a critical edition of Jean de Brie’s Le Bon Berger (1379). A critical edition of Erec et Enide, the first Arthurian romance (Chrétien de Troyes, 12th century), is in the works. Any help identifying a publisher would be appreciated!

Alessia Colarossi, M.A., Italian, 2002, is now a Ph.D. student in Foreign and Second Language Education and has been teaching Italian. Alessia appreciated the opportunity to be a GTA, and, therefore, to experience practically what her studies explain theoretically. She writes: “The achievements at personal, professional, and educational levels have been priceless. My special thanks go to the supportive faculty members.”

Kelly Costner, Ph.D., Math. Ed., 2002; M.A., French, 1995, spent the past six years at Wingate University (NC) and is now the director of Student Academic Services for the College of Education at Winthrop College (SC). He is also co-director of Teaching Teachers to Work with English Language Learners, funded through a $700,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of English Language Acquisition. He is married to fellow Ohio State Ph.D., Beth Greene.


Justin Ehrenberg, B.A., Italian, 2000; M.A., Italian, 2003, just finished a year supervising FRIT’s Individualized Instruction. He is moving to Torrington, CT, to teach French and Italian at Torrington High School.

Paul Geiniman, M.A. French, 1968, retired early (1984) from a “brilliant career” in the investment field to live in his “beloved Florida where I sleep all day and party all night.” Paul calls himself the “l’enfant terrible du département dans les années soixante” who is very happy now.

Stephen Hedge, M.A., French, 1992, writes that he has been teaching French at Grandview Heights High School since 2002 and was recognized as the district’s “Teacher of the Year” in 2006. With help from Professor Wynne Wong, Stephen published three reviews of secondary materials in The French Review.

Garett Heysel, Ph.D., French, 1997, coauthored with Tove Dahl, Donna Clementi, and Allison Spenader “Start with a Good Idea and Give it a World: Preparing Young People to be Lifelong Language Learners and Users” in Identity and Second Language Learning: Culture, Inquiry and Dialogic Activity in Educational Contexts. Garrett is now at Ohio State where he serves as associate director for Scholars’ Programs in the university’s Honors and Scholars Center.

Ester Hoogstaden, Ph.D., French, 2001, worked at the Katz Graduate School at the University of Pittsburgh administering two international Executive MBA programs offsite in Prague and Sao Paulo. Then Ester took a year off to be home with her son Diederik. In August 2003 she started working as senior adjunct instructor at Washington & Jefferson College, a small liberal arts college in Washington, PA, where she enjoys teaching French. Her daughter Froukje was born in 2005.

Anne Lair, Ph.D., French, 2003, is in her fifth year at the University of Northern Iowa where she teaches beginning French, stylistics, and culture and civilization. As a graduate advisor, Anne organizes “La semaine du français” every fall and, in the spring, Tête-à-Tête, a workshop for Iowa teachers of French. During the summers Anne teaches and co-directs an institute for French teachers in Angers, France, that’s been running for 40 years. When not working, Anne wears her “Dr. Cooking” jacket to make elaborate dishes.

Jennifer Marin, M.A., French, 2006, gives French lessons in her home in the evening. Her day job is that of an assistant account manager at Northlich, a public relations firm in Columbus.

Nicolas Medevielle, Ph.D., French, 2006, and his wife, Sara Davis-Medevielle, currently reside in Gambier, OH. Nicolas is beginning his second year as a visiting assistant professor of French at Kenyon College. His teaching focuses mainly on 16th- and 17th-century literature. Sara will be a visiting instructor of French at Kenyon during the 2007-08 school year, teaching language and conversation classes.

Dorothée Mertz-Weigel, Ph.D., French, 2005, has been a visiting assistant professor of French at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. She starts a tenure-track position as assistant professor of French at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, GA, in August 2007.

Candice Nicolas, Ph.D., French, 2006, is enjoying her position as visiting assistant professor of French at Earlham College in Richmond, IN, where she teaches advanced conversation and grammar. In addition, she is the director of a study program in France. She will live in Paris for the entire fall semester (until January 2008) teaching French Literature through Screen and Stage advanced Theater and Film Studies.

Thibaut Schilt, Ph.D., French, 2005, has just taken a position as an assistant professor of French at the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA). He will be teaching French language and cinema courses. Thibaut’s current research focuses on the French-language road movie genre. His article titled “Hybrid Strains in Ducastel and Martineau’s Drôle de Félix (2000)” came out this summer in Contemporary French and Francophone Studies/SITES.

Amanda Miller Sperdel, B.A., French, 2004; M.A., Foreign Language Ed., 2005, now in her third year of teaching high school French at Churubusco High School, delights in “seeing my students progress from one year to the next!” She led a group of 20 students and eight parents on an eight-day trip to France in June.

(continued on page 8)
For any of you who have had the opportunity to reconnect with fellow students from your undergraduate or graduate years at Ohio State, you know that much of the conversation is filled with shared recollections of the people you knew, the professors who taught and influenced you, and the events that transpired while you were on campus. We hope to tap into those memories by inviting you to share yours with us for publication in our next newsletter.

So even if we can’t reconnect in person, we can reconnect through these shared memories!

Send your anecdotes to Dr. Diane Birckbichler at birckbichler.1@osu.edu and we will share them with fellow alums in our next newsletter and/or on our web site.

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**Marie-Madeleine Stey**, Ph.D., French, 1997, recently presented a paper, “Saint Guinefort, a people’s hero” at the 8th conference of the Jungian Society for Scholarly Studies in Boston, MA. St. Guinefort was a greyhound venerated as a child-healer in the Dombes area north of Lyon, France, from the 1300s until around 1940.

**Stacey Weber-Fève**, Ph.D., French, 2006, joined the faculty of Iowa State University (Ames) as assistant professor of French. Besides teaching advanced composition, literature, business, culture, and film, she is the faculty facilitator for the French Book Club and the French program, Languages and Cultures for the Professions. She has an article in *The French Review* in which she uses Assia Djebar’s recent works to shed insights onto postcolonial North African women’s filmmaking.

**Judy Young**, M.A., French, 1989, has taught French and Spanish for 23 years and is currently a lecturer in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Ohio State. She notes that she was greatly influenced by Professors Birckbichler, Bonin, Astier, Cottrell, and Laeuffer.

**Dennis Salerno** has relied on his language skills throughout a 25-year military career and now as a NATO international civilian living and working in Verona, Italy.

Upon commissioning in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, Dennis was sent to Vicenza, Italy, where his fluency in Italian enabled him to assist in security matters with the Italian *carabinieri* as well as in negotiations with local landowners for military exercises. He later served on an international NATO staff working to integrate American and Italian armed forces in Cold War European defense plans and peacekeeping operations in the Balkans.

Dennis retired from the military in August 2000 and now works as a senior telecommunications engineer for NATO at a remote satellite communications site near Verona. He and his wife Patricia (Holmes)—also an Ohio State graduate—purchased, restored, and live in an old farmhouse in the Valpolicella wine district north of Verona. Patricia teaches 4th-grade Italian for the Department of Defense in Vicenza. Named the DOD-DEA Teacher of the year in 2006, Patricia was honored at a White House reception.
We’d like to hear from you!
Department of French and Italian

Please take a moment to fill out this form and return it to us so that we can share your news in an upcoming issue of our newsletter. Mail to: Department of French and Italian, The Ohio State University, 200 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Road, Columbus, OH 43210.

Name ________________________________________________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________________________

Degree _______________________________________________________________________________________

Year of graduation ____________________ Daytime phone _______________________________________________

E-mail ________________________________________________________________________________________

Tell us your news (professional and personal):
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We’d like to hear from you!
Department of French and Italian

Congratulations to our
Departmental Scholarship Winners!

UNDERGRADUATE:

Arthur C. and Lura Bell Chamblin Jahn Memorial Scholarship
Justin Gibbs
Sarah Wegener

Price Traveling Scholarship (year)
Peter Carlson
Maria Vega

Price Traveling Scholarship (summer)
Katelyn Bednar
Jessica Braun
Elizabeth Burns
Lauren Lever
Michelle Western

GRADUATE:

Pierre Astier Research Grant
Nicoleta Bazgan
Laura Pondoa Hetel

Richard Bjornson Research Grant
Virginia Donovan

Jenine Larrabee (M.A., French, 2005)

Jenine Larrabee started a career with the U.S. Foreign Service in Antananarivo, Madagascar, immediately after graduation from Ohio State. She spent 15 months working in Antsiranana on the northern coast of Madagascar building an English department at the local university.

As part of her duties, Jenine ran the department, led faculty meetings, made curriculum and policy decisions, and consulted with the Malagasy Ministry of Education. In addition, she developed an 80-hour teacher training course based in the communicative method for qualified fourth-year students, in the hopes of creating a much-needed pool of qualified English teachers. Jenine’s teacher training efforts also took her to South Africa where she trained over 160 South African teachers in communicative methodology and vocabulary building at the annual U.S. Embassy-sponsored English Language Fellow Conference for Sub-Saharan Africa.

She is very proud of her role in creating the Association de Femmes Etudiantes, the first female student association ever to exist on a Malagasy campus. Jenine helped students set up the association, elect officers, and run the meetings, as well as plan a calendar of events for the school year. The 15 founding young women participated as a visible presence in the local International Women’s Day activities, which witnessed the growing strength of women’s movements in Madagascar and throughout Africa.
Yes, I want to support the Department of French and Italian
(Fund # _______________ from list below)
through an annual pledge of:
- $50
- $100
- $500
- $2,500* Presidents Club
- Other $________ for ______ years
Bill me:  ○ Monthly  ○ Quarterly  ○ Annually

Payment options:
To make a gift or pledge to the Department of French and Italian, please complete and return this card.
- ○ This is a one-time gift of $________.
  Enclosed is my payment in full.
- ○ Check payable to The Ohio State University
- ○ Credit card payment
  Acct. # __/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/___/
  Discover  ○ MasterCard  ○ VISA  Exp. Date ________
  Signature _______________________________________
- ○ My employer will match my gift.
  Name of employer __________________________________________
  Phone ______________________________________________________

For more information or to speak with a development officer, contact: Margo Wolanin, Program Coordinator,
(614) 292-9200, wolanin.2@osu.edu.

Department of French and Italian Funds

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- ○ I would like more information about naming opportunities.
- ○ I would like more information about estate and planned giving.
  Phone me at: (_____) ________________

April Reed (M.A., French, 2006) and Benjamin Hirt (Ph. D. candidate, French) worked for TASIS (The American School in Switzerland) in Château d’Oex this summer. They taught French to international middle and high school students from around the world. They also gave lessons on cooking and film and took students on excursions, hikes, and other mountain sports. This is April’s first year with TASIS and Ben’s fourth.
When asked why he continues to take Italian classes, Kenn Buckley responded that he thought, “It would be nice to learn one language well.” He had taken introductory courses in several languages to prepare for overseas travel. After small amounts of French, Spanish, German, and Russian, Kenn decided that he really liked Italian, so he dived into it, even taking a winter quarter class on Romance linguistics (with Professor Janice Aski) to learn why certain words are spelled differently in various languages, even though they have similar roots. Kenn’s position at Ohio State is that of a researcher in plant molecular biology (RNA silencing at the Plant Biotechnology Centre).

Doug Roberts works as a top-rated personal injury lawyer in his professional life. He also spends a lot of time on his passion: learning French. Besides taking classes at Ohio State (now on the 400 level), Doug volunteers at Ecole Kenwood, Columbus’s French immersion public school.

When asked why he makes a point of squeezing French activities into a busy life, he responded that he sees it as a way to balance his work life and increase his circle of friends. Doug really enjoys working with the students (K-8) at Kenwood and learning more about the language and culture of France.

John Ryan, a 2004 graduate of Ohio State’s Knowlton School of Architecture, has continued to take French classes since he took an architecture tour in 2003 and found that he enjoyed the sound of French while in Paris and Nice. As a result of this exposure, he volunteered with the Peace Corps in Senegal after graduation. In 2006 John spent his summer vacation as a volunteer with “Chantiers sociaux” at a social services complex in Sefrou, Morocco (close to Fez), where he met “real” Moroccans, as well as volunteers from several other countries. For two weeks they scraped, painted, and cleaned up the buildings and grounds of the combination clinic, elementary, and orphanage. What he experienced was the beauty of a country that was just experiencing the conflicts and tension between liberal western ideas and traditional conservative Islam as it moves into the modern marketplace.

When asked why he continues to take Italian classes, Kenn Buckley responded that he thought, “It would be nice to learn one language well.” He had taken introductory courses in several languages to prepare for overseas travel. After small amounts of French, Spanish, German, and Russian, Kenn decided that he really liked Italian, so he dived into it, even taking a winter quarter class on Romance linguistics (with Professor Janice Aski) to learn why certain words are spelled differently in various languages, even though they have similar roots. Kenn’s position at Ohio State is that of a researcher in plant molecular biology (RNA silencing at the Plant Biotechnology Centre).

Doug Roberts reads to a group of children at Ecole Kenwood.
Individualized Instruction: An Alternative to the Classroom

Nontraditional students who work full time or students who need a flexible schedule often find the French individualized instruction (I.I.) program (frit.osu.edu/students/undergraduates/ii/default.cfm) offered through the AT&T Individualized Language Learning Center to be an attractive alternative to the classroom setting. This individualized option is particularly attractive for self-motivated, organized, and self-disciplined students who want to complete language requirements outside of the traditional classroom.

I.I.’s flexible scheduling, self-paced curriculum, and variable credit options are a boon to those with tight schedules, whether at school or at work. Among those non-undergraduate students continuing their education here is Judy Hild, a laboratory manager at Ohio State’s Student Health Center. She has been taking advantage of the flexible schedule of individualized instruction to meet with a French instructor over her lunch break. She signed a contract for three hours, instead of the typical five hours of credit. Her reason? Judy wants to be able to talk with her French son-in-law and his family.

In a similar vein, Jessica Mercerhill, director of Special Interdisciplinary Programs at Ohio State, also appreciates the flexibility of I.I. As her husband is Canadian, Jessica’s goal is to have a bi-lingual household that will benefit her two-year-old daughter.

Peyman Haghighat, a clinical fellow in hematology and oncology at the James Cancer Hospital, is taking French in I.I. in order to communicate better with his wife and her French family.

In addition to French, individualized instruction is also available in Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Russian.

From top: Peyman Haghighat, Jessica Mercerhill, and Judy Hild study French in the Individualized Instruction area in their free time.