

French and Italian

2008



2nd Annual Bocce Tournament

A beautiful evening in May 2008 provided the backdrop to the second annual bocce tournament held on Ohio State's Oval. The event was organized by Italian undergraduate students and GTAs and attracted a large crowd.

Top: Watching the ball roll.
Middle: Matt Daniels (2008) pitching a bocce ball.
Bottom: Justin Ginnetti waits while twin Josh (2010) takes his turn.

The best goaltender in U.S. professional hockey came to class one day...



Pascal Leclaire Visits French Class

In November 2007, Pascal Leclaire of the Columbus Blue Jackets spent a class period with students in French 104.03, answering questions, signing autographs, and sampling the French-Canadian cuisine prepared by Professor **Wynne Wong**.

Leclaire seemed to have a good time during the hour-long visit. "I wasn't sure what to expect. I didn't know [whether] I was going to teach a class or what," Leclaire said, according to the *Columbus Dispatch* blog of Michael Arace. Leclaire was "impressed" with the students' range of questions and their command of the French language.



This event was sponsored by the Foreign Language Center in cooperation with the Department of French and Italian.



Retiring professor, **Karlis Racevskis**, with PhD recipient **Laura Pondea Hetel** at Ohio State's spring commencement

INSIDE

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Bonjour tout le monde! Buongiorno a tutti!



As we prepare to start another academic year, we pause to remember our esteemed colleague, John Conteh-Morgan, professor of French and Francophone Literatures and editor of *Research in African Literatures*, who passed away earlier this year. (Please read our tribute to him given at a memorial service held in his honor on April 19, 2008, on page 5.)

In department news, our enrollments continue to be strong and healthy due to the quality of our teaching and to the increased importance that our students attach to the study of foreign languages. In the past, foreign languages were viewed as ancillary skills for non-majors. For today's students, proficiency in a foreign language is a necessary skill that will enable them to be successful in the global marketplace.

In last year's issue of this newsletter, we mentioned that more students are studying foreign languages and choosing to minor, if not major—or double major—in French or Italian. This trend continues. If you have a few minutes, read our undergraduate newsletters at frit.osu.edu/news_events to see the excitement and passion that our students have for French and Italian. And we are proud to note that one of our double majors (French and Physics), Jessica Hanzlik, was awarded a 2008 Rhodes Fellowship—one of only 32 awarded nationwide (85 worldwide).

At the graduate level, we have an enviable record of placing our graduate students: almost all of our graduates over the past five years are in academic positions, with most of the PhDs in tenure-track positions. We are proud of the quality of our graduate students and their accomplishments: papers presented at national conferences; our own FIGSA Conference now in its 14th year (see page 6); and the excellent teaching that they provide to our undergraduates.

Our faculty continues to offer innovative classes that inspire and motivate our undergraduate and graduate students. Some of these classes are described on page 7 of this newsletter. As varied as the research interests and accomplishments are of our faculty, we are justifiably proud of our colleague, Professor Judith Mayne, one of only 190 recipients of a 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship (see page 3). Three new faculty members—with interesting academic backgrounds—are joining the department.

Finally, I am delighted to have heard from so many of our alumni and to learn about what you are doing both professionally and personally. We have more than doubled the number of alumni updates and hope to hear from even more of you next year. These updates keep us in touch with you and allow our readers to realize the many different avenues open to those of us who study French and Italian. You can use the form in the newsletter or e-mail your updates to me at birckbichler.1@osu.edu.

We also invite you to donate to one of the departmental funds (described on page 10). Any amount—large or small—will help us enrich the experiences of our students and faculty. I can assure you that your donations will be put to good use.

Merci! Grazie!

Diane W. Birckbichler
Professor and Chair
Department of French and Italian
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Faculty Focus: Jennifer Willging

Current issues in France and the Francophone world are often explored by FRIT faculty. For example, associate professor Jennifer Willging's latest article, "Of GMOs, McDomination, and Foreign Fat: Contemporary Franco-American Food Fights" (*French Cultural Studies*, spring 2008), looks at recent changes in eating habits in France and the effects of these changes on both the French body and mind.

The article gives a taste of Willging's current project, a book-length manuscript that considers connections among new developments in France such as the proliferation of fastfood chains like McDonald's, the increase in obesity and eating disorders, and the over-consumption of antidepressants, mostly by women. Willging asks whether these changes can be attributed to continuing Americanization of French culture, or rather simply to internal forces and/or modernization. She also considers the ways in which these changes, whatever their causes, may be affecting French people's notions about their cultural identity and about the meaning of "Frenchness."

Faculty Updates

Congratulations to Professor **Judith Mayne**, winner of a 2008 fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. As one of 190 artists, scientists, and scholars from the United States and Canada, Mayne, a Humanities Distinguished Professor of French, was selected from more than 2,600 applicants. She will use her fellowship to write a book-length study of Continental Films, the Nazi-owned company that dominated feature film production in France during World War II.



Guggenheim Fellowships are granted on the basis of stellar achievement and exceptional promise for continued accomplishment. Mayne is the author of eight books, including *The Woman at the Keyhole*, *Cinema and Spectatorship*, and *Framed: Lesbians, Feminists, and Media Culture*. Her most recent books are studies of French film director Claire Denis (University of Illinois Press, 2005) and of the controversial French film, "Le Corbeau" (I.B. Tauris, 2007).

Her work has been translated into Czech, Finnish, French, German, Korean, and Polish and has been reprinted in a wide range of anthologies. She has served on the editorial boards of film studies journals, such as *Cinema Journal* and *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*. She has also published articles on stardom, contemporary French cinema, French cinema in the 1950s, and women-in-prison films in books and journals including *Camera Obscura*, *Signs*, and *Studies in French Cinema*.

Janice M. Aski, associate professor of Italian/Romance linguistics and foreign language pedagogy, recently published the first-year textbook, *Avanti!*, which is currently being translated into Spanish and French. She has also published a variety of articles on various aspects of Italian pedagogy. Her research in Italian/Romance linguistics has focused on historical phonology, but her most recent project is a study of the development of possessive modifiers from Latin to the Romance languages.

Diane W. Birckbichler, professor of French, served on the Foreign Language Advisory Committee, a statewide committee charged with creating a plan for foreign languages for the State of Ohio. She is also a member of the Advisory Committee on Interpreter Services for the State of Ohio Supreme Court. She served on the Modern Language Association (MLA) Mildenerger & O'Shaunessey Awards Committee and presented a paper on The Ohio State University Foreign Language Technology Certificate Program at the 2007 MLA Annual Meeting.

Jerry L. Curtis, associate professor of French (Ohio State Newark), was the 2007-08 recipient of a scholarly accomplishment award in recognition of his many publications on Lucette Desvignes, a 20th-century "nouvelliste" from Burgundy whose work includes plays, novels, and poetry. Curtis has published two books and two articles and made three presentations at conferences on her work. Curtis' editing of Anthony Catalino's *Grandpa's Selective Memories of World War II* was accepted for publication by Merriam Press in 2007.

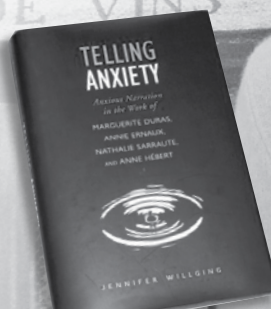
Linda Harlow, associate professor and associate provost of the University Honors & Scholars Center, has published the 6th edition of *Bravo! Communication, Grammaire, Culture et*

(continued on page 4)

Willging's last book project, *Telling Anxiety: Anxious Narration in the Works of Duras, Sarraute, Ernaux, and Hébert* (University of Toronto Press, 2007), had a more literary turn, focusing on expressions and representations of anxiety in contemporary women's writing in French.

Another interest of Willging's, literary and media representations of murder in 20th-century France, was the subject of a recent graduate seminar that she taught. Through their readings, students explored such topics as French attitudes toward real murders, homicide rates, women murderers, and capital punishment, as well as the media's treatment of murder cases. An article Willging wrote on the significance of murder and murderers in Marguerite Duras's novels will appear in the *French Review* in 2010.

On a lighter note, Willging also taught an undergraduate course on the history and geography of modern Paris since the Revolution. Topics such as Haussmann's 19th-century renovation of the city, the construction of the metro, and the 1920s' jazz craze were discussed.



(continued from page 3)

Littérature with coauthors Judith A. Muyskens, Michèle Vialet, and Jean-François Brière. She also made a presentation, "Getting Serious about Honors Academic Standards," at the National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting in October 2007.

Sarah-Grace Heller, associate professor of French, is developing a new book project, "A Geography of Medieval Fashion 500-1350." She gave a well-attended lecture for the Columbus Museum of Art exhibit, *Great Expectations*, explaining the textile details of the portraits to help viewers understand the aspirations of the societies in which such portraits were produced. Heller serves as a consultant to the British Museum on medieval French ring inscriptions. In a related project, Heller has developed a web site on Gothic Paris: people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/heller64/gothicparis_mrs215/.

Eugene Holland, professor of French, has just finished editing a volume of essays on Gilles Deleuze and completed a book manuscript on *Nomad Citizenship*. He sponsored UG French major, Renata Harrison, in a multimedia project comparing French and North American press coverage of the 2005 riots in France. The web site that resulted will be used in French 440. After teaching at the University of Cardiff in Wales this summer, Holland takes on the responsibilities of chair of the Department of Comparative Studies.

Charles Klopp, professor of Italian, has work forthcoming on *Pinocchio* and *Frankenstein*, and on religious themes in Tabucchi, and on Celati. *Bele Antiche Stòrie: Writing, Borders, and the Instability of Identity Trieste, 1719-2007*, which he edited, is due out shortly. In 2007, Árgus, in Budapest, published his *Trieszt, a papírváros? (Trieste, City of Paper?)*.

Christiane Laeufer, associate professor of French, is working on a comparison of the treatment of nasal vowels in French loanwords in standard, dialectal German with their treatment in regional, dialectal southern French. Her research on the phonological and prosodic treatment of French loanwords into German and Germanic dialects is being presented at the annual meetings of the European Linguistic Society (SLE) and published in European journals, including *Folia Linguistica*.

Albert N. Mancini, professor emeritus (Italian), was the organizer and the presider of a roundtable entitled "Annali d'Italianistica (1983-2007): Retrospectiva e Prospettive" at the American Association of Teachers in Italian (AATI) annual conference held in Washington, D.C., October 12–13, 2007. He also chaired and presented the report of the AATI Committee on Awards.

Danielle Marx-Scouras, professor of French, was awarded an Ohio State seed grant for Innovation in the Arts and Humanities for her book project, "Rock the Hexagon: Popular Music and Identity Politics in Contemporary France." As keynote speaker at the 2008 Annual French and Italian Graduate Student Conference on "Points of Contact" at the University of Texas, Austin, she spoke on "Zebda, Melting-Pot Rock?" At the 2007 MLA convention she presented: "Marseille au Noir: *Total Kheops, polar-aïoli ou roman engagé?*" and "Melting-Pot Rock: Zebda et la 'Douce France' des Années 80 et 90."

Judith Mayne, professor of French, won a Guggenheim Fellowship (see page 3) and presented five invited lectures during the 2007-08 academic year on Nazi-owned Continental Films. The

New Faculty



Bernadette Höfer (PhD, French, 2005, Rutgers), assistant professor of French, came to Ohio State after 36 months as a Junior Fellow with the Harvard Society of Fellows. Her research focuses on the intersection of early modern philosophy, medicine, and literature, and the connections with contemporary neuroscience and psychoanalysis. Her book, *Psychosomatic Disorders in Seventeenth-Century Literature* (Ashgate Publishing), examines the mind/body question from a multidisciplinary perspective. She is currently working on a book-length study of dream perspectives, theories, and experience in the 16th and 17th centuries in French literature. Höfer speaks and has taught French, German, and Spanish.



Chris Reyns-Chikuma, visiting assistant professor of French, holds master's degrees in Romance Languages and Japanese, besides a doctorate in French from the University of Colorado, Boulder, 1999. He has taught at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and at Lafayette College (Pennsylvania). He published a book entitled *Neojaponisme en France et Ailleurs* (L'Harmattan, 2006), as well as articles on Blanchot, Butor, Malraux, Nothomb, and French, British, and Japanese cinema and comics. His current book project is entitled "Fiction d'affaires en France et ailleurs."



Stephanie Silvestre, visiting assistant professor of French, received her doctorate in French and Francophone Studies in 2008 from Northwestern University. Her dissertation was entitled *Mobile Islands: Home, Migrancy and Identity in French Caribbean Narratives*. Besides a master of arts from the University of Miami, she earned another *maîtrise* from the Université de Paris 7 and a *licence* from the Université de Cergy-Pontoise. Silvestre's research interests include contemporary French and Francophone literatures and cultures; French and Francophone cinema; Caribbean studies; black diaspora studies; post-colonial studies; creative writing; gender studies; and performing and visual arts.

talks were given at Amherst College, Harvard University, the University of Illinois, Vanderbilt University, and Yale University.

Dennis Minahen, associate professor of French, recently published "Irony and Violence in Baudelaire's 'À celle qui est trop gaie'" in *Symposium*. He also published "Gender Ambiguities, Conflicts, and Shifts in Rimbaud's 'Mémoire'" in *Dalhousie French Studies*. He presented a paper entitled "Gender Play in Rimbaud: 'Vierge folle' and 'L'Epoux infernal'" at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium, University of South Alabama, in October 2007. Minahen serves as chair of French Graduate Studies.

Michael O'Riley, assistant professor of French, published articles in *The French Review* and *Postcolonial Text* and completed a manuscript entitled, *Cinema in an Age of Terror: North Africa, Victimization, and Colonial History*. He also chaired three conference sessions at the American Association of Italian Studies and the MLA and served on the National Fulbright Selection Committee.

Karlis Racevskis, professor of French, published "The Decentered Subject of Christian Oster's Novels," as well as reviews of *Trois jours chez ma mère* by F. Weyergans, *L'amante* by Y. Queffélec, *Jeux de constructions: poétique de la géométrie dans le Nouveau Roman* by R. Yotova, and *A Survey of French Literature. Vol. III: The Eighteenth Century*. He also presented a paper on limits according to Michel Foucault at Georgetown University. Racevskis retired at the end of the 2007-08 academic year.

Dana Renga, assistant professor of Italian, has a contract from the University of Toronto Press for the edited volume, *Mafia Movies: A Reader*. She has published on French and Italian Holocaust cinema and on Wertmuller's *Love and Anarchy*. Conference presentations have been on Italian immigration cinema, mafia movies, and screening internal exile (*confino*) during fascism. Renga is the treasurer for the American Association for Italian Studies.

Louisa Shea, assistant professor of French, has put the final touches on her first book, *The Cynic Enlightenment, or Diogenes in the Salon*, which will appear with Johns Hopkins University Press in 2009. In spring 2008, she lectured on Cynicism at the University of Pennsylvania, and presented a paper on "Sade and Cinema" at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Heather Webb, assistant professor of Italian, has completed her manuscript entitled *The Medieval Heart*. She is currently working on an article on Catherine of Siena and a new project on Dante's notions of sexuality. She also published an essay in a volume entitled *Rethinking the Medieval Senses* and presented papers at a Dante colloquium at Stanford and at the annual meetings of the Renaissance Society of America and the American Association of Italian Studies.

Jennifer Willging, associate professor of French, recently published *Telling Anxiety* (Toronto, 2007), which examines anxious narration in the work of four women writers. Her current book project concerns contemporary constructions of "Frenchness" in the face of several recent and troubling changes in French society, such as rising obesity rates and the over-consumption



In Memoriam

In early March 2008, John Conteh-Morgan, professor of French and Francophone Literatures and editor of *Research in African Literatures*, passed away from an extended illness. Conteh-Morgan's keen intellect and encouragement inspired students to do their best. Among the faculty in the French and Italian department, Conteh-Morgan was regarded as a wonderful colleague, a consummate professional, and a good and loyal friend.

Conteh-Morgan's legacy to the department, its faculty, and its graduate students—both present and past—is enormous. With his colleague, Danielle Marx-Scouras, he built one of the earliest and now one of the best-known programs in Francophone Studies in the United States.

In the words of his colleague, Karlis Racevskis, "John's personality and intellect shone through all our encounters with him, and his unassuming yet warm and always considerate demeanor endeared him to all who knew him. Those of us who were privileged to work more closely with John—on research projects or student exams and dissertations—also discovered that behind the congenial countenance there was an elegant thinker of profound wisdom, endowed with an acute critical acumen. In losing a colleague who was dear to us, we also grieve over the loss of an admirable scholar and humanist."

A colleague from England commended Conteh-Morgan's editorship since 2003 of *Research in African Literatures*. He believes that Conteh-Morgan's work with the journal "guaranteed the confirmation and consolidation of that publication as the leading international forum for research and scholarship in the African literary field." Scholars in the field were also lavish in their praise of his two books, *Theatre and Drama in Francophone Africa: A Critical Introduction* and *Theatres of Delegation: Performance, Politics, and Transgression in Postcolonial Francophone Drama*.

Due to Conteh-Morgan's modesty, few knew that he had been named in 1990 as a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques, or that he had been named Fellow at the prestigious W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research at Harvard University.

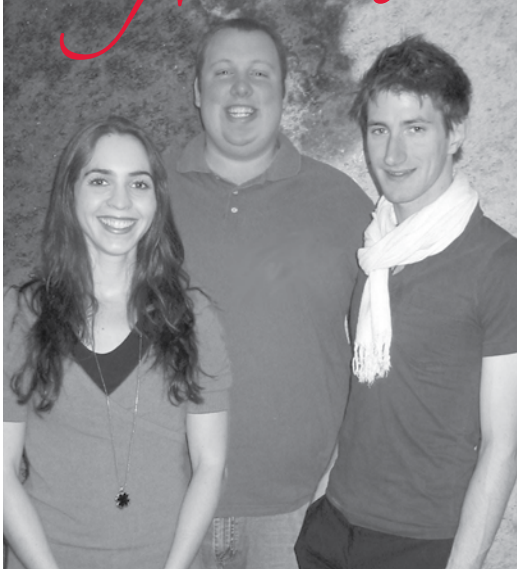
As many have said in speaking simply and eloquently of Conteh-Morgan: He was a gentleman and a scholar. May he rest in peace.

Taken from a tribute given by Professor Diane Birckbichler on behalf of the Department of French and Italian on the occasion of Conteh-Morgan's memorial service, April 19, 2008.

of antidepressants. An essay on the first topic was recently published in *French Cultural Studies*, and another on the second is forthcoming in *Contemporary French Civilization*.

Wynne Wong, associate professor of French, was awarded a faculty professional leave to work on an elementary French textbook inspired by research on input processing. She gave invited talks at Iowa State University and at the University of Ottawa's inaugural colloquium *Bilingualism in a Plurilingual Canada*. Wong is in her second term as managing editor of the *French Review*.

Teaching Abroad



Four Ohio State graduates, including **Adrienne Barbo** (BA, 2006, MA, 2008), **Derron Borders** (BA, 2008) and **Jaime Lewis** (BA, 2008), have been chosen by the French Embassy for teaching assistantships in France. **Kate Riestenberg** (BA, 2007, not pictured) will also teach in France. They will spend six to eight months teaching English to elementary and high school students starting next fall.

French and Italian Graduate Student Association Conference

"Memory and Trauma" was the theme of the 14th Annual French and Italian Graduate Student Association Conference, held April 18–19, 2008, and dedicated to the memory of Professor John Conteh-Morgan. Time frames ranged from that of the Vendéen royalist, Renée Bourdureau, to trafficking and sex slavery in modern Italy. Film, literature, language, and art were also addressed. Seven of the nine presenters were from Ohio State; the others represented Rutgers and Bucknell (Heidi Brown, incoming GTA). FRIT graduate students **Andrew Anderson**, **Ivano Fulgaro**, **Nadia Lucchin**, **Joyce Miller**, **Anais Wise**, and **Camilla Zamboni** presented papers. Professor Laura Wittman of Stanford University gave the keynote address, "The Unknown Soldier Memorial, Trauma, and Solidarity: Italy and France, 1916-22."



Conference organizers Adela Lechintan, Camilla Zamboni, Todd Donahue, Kelly O'Reilly, and Brianna Byers.

Una Serata Petrarca



Heather Webb's Italian 622 class (Boccaccio and Petrarch) put on a public performance of Petrarch's poetry on February 22, 2008, at the Italian Cultural Center in Italian Village. Graduate and undergraduate students sang and performed dramatic readings of some of Petrarch's most famous sonnets. The performance was very well attended despite the inclement weather (snow, sleet, and freezing rain), with at least 120 audience members from the community and university.

Humberto Gonzalez performing



Author Ted Stanger Talks with Undergraduates About his Books

Students who read *Sacrés Français: un Américain nous regarde* (2003) as part of the French 603 course enjoyed the opportunity to discuss author Ted Stanger's ideas over lunch. **Uzma Khan** (French, 2009, left) said, "It's not everyday you read a book and sit down with the author to discuss how you felt about the book." Stanger, author of multiple books and a frequent contributor to French television, received his MA in journalism from Ohio State. Also pictured are Megan Burke (BA, 2007, right), professor Danielle Marx-Scouras, and department secretary Jodi Obert (rear).

Staying Current in French and Italian

Whether it's a general course or a graduate seminar, FRIT faculty are finding interesting and innovative ways to present French and Italian topics. Studying the classics remains a cornerstone of language studies at The Ohio State University. However, Ohio State's French and Italian faculty enrich students' understanding by focusing on topics with interesting visual and intellectual possibilities. For instance, would you be more interested in a class in Italian film if it focused on presentations of the mafia? Or sex and politics? Here are some recent course offerings:

- The Renaissance was examined from both sides of the Alps. The first joint French and Italian graduate seminar looked at literary representations of the body to understand attitudes in 16th-century Italy and France. (Heather Webb—Italian 732).



- Whether Italian or Italian-American, the *piovra* or "octopus," otherwise known as the mafia, has its tentacles in many aspects of history, politics, and social relations. Film provides a medium for understanding its myth and reality (Dana Renga—Italian 613).

- All language varies in time and space as well as according to the speaker and the situation. Italy is unique in that a variety of different dialects are spoken throughout the

peninsula. This fall, the social and geographical variations of Italian will be examined (Janice Aski—Italian 730). French language structures were contrasted with English patterns last year (Christiane Laeufer—French 710).

- Graduate students studied the relationship between Paris and the cinema and created a web site to illustrate their research (Judith Mayne—French 870).
- Medieval Occitan was a springboard to the study of poetic innovation in the royal courts of Aquitaine, Albi, Toulouse, and Castille (Sarah-Grace Heller—French 716.02), while music, film, and videos were used to link popular French music to current identity politics in France (Danielle Marx-Scouras—French 792).

- Contemporary gender theory posits the masculine and feminine as relative, variable identities. French 655 looks at how gender was configured in 19th-century literary representations of desire (Dennis Minahen).



"George Sand en homme"
by Delacroix

- An Italian theater workshop will start with an overview, then move into an intensive study of Carlo Goldoni's *Gl'Innamorati* (*The Lovers*). The play will be adapted, directed, and performed in Italian at the end of the quarter (Ted Emery—Italian 450).

Congratulations

to our
Departmental Award Winners!

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

The following French and Italian majors were recognized at the Thirteenth Annual Undergraduate Research Colloquium and Scholarship Recognition Reception, May 7, 2008.

Poster Presentations:

Emily Fink

"Tales of the French Salons:
Madame de Murat's Critique of Society"

Tessa Gurney

"Purity from Chaos:
An Analysis of Virgilio Giotti's Life and Work"

Meredith Lammers

"The Culture of Adoption in France
and Belgium as Compared to the United States"

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Edmund M. Kagay Scholarship

Judith Gregory Thomas Schleichert

The Humanities Alumni Scholarship

Megan Patton Adriana LaMonte

The Robert & Mary Reusché Scholarship

Patricia Long

The Virginia S. Hull Scholarship

Ashley Westbury

Arthur C. and Lura Bell Chamblin Jahn Scholarship

Anthony Rienzi Jennifer Mastro

William S. and Marguerite C. Price Scholarship Award
(short-term study abroad)

Hannah Becker Megan Patton Victoria Schunemann Sika Dedo

William S. and Marguerite C. Price Scholarship Award
(year-long study abroad)

Melanie Luken Lisa Miyake

Huntington International Fellowship

Judith Gregory Timothy Hoffine

Wolfe Study Abroad Scholarships were awarded to **Grace Fry, Judith Gregory, Sean Ivery, Charles Murman II, and Cara Ricci** in a separate recognition luncheon on May 1, 2008.

Alumni Updates

Oniankpo Akindjo, PhD French, 2007, has accepted a position as assistant professor of French at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.

Khadar Bashir-Ali, MA Romance Languages (Italian), 1988; PhD Education, 2004, teaches at the Abu Dhabi Women's College in the United Arab Emirates. "I enjoy training these young pre-service teachers. I also take every opportunity to infuse a good dose of women's rights ideas." Katia received a Fulbright Scholarship to research integration of immigrants (principally Chinese) into Italian public schools and is working on publishing her dissertation as well as articles for Italian journals.

Nicoleta Bazgan, PhD French, 2008, has taken a position as assistant professor of French at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Her dissertation topic was "Iresistibly French: Female Stardom and Frenchness."

Megan Beck, BA French, 2007, was accepted into the master's program in Communication, Culture, and Technology at Georgetown University and will begin fall 2008. She will continue in her full-time position as program administrator for the Gervase Programs, a satellite office of the provost that focuses on enhancing intellectual life on the Georgetown campus.

Susan Carpenter Binkley, PhD French, 1999, associate professor of French at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, resides in Thousand Oaks with her husband, Mark, and daughter, Emeline. Wildfires, landslides, and paparazzi make sure there is never a dull moment teaching in Malibu. Susan has also been busy working with a new Pepperdine program in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Douglas Boudreau, PhD French, 1999, leads the French program for the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pennsylvania. He has been an associate professor since spring 2007. He serves on the organizing committee for the Mercyhurst Colloquium on the Americas and was recently appointed director of the Honors Program.

Drew Bunker, BA History, International Studies, French, 2007, enjoyed a nine-month English teaching assistantship in elementary schools in the small town of St. Gilles Croix de Vie on the Atlantic coast, just south of Nantes in the Vendée. In August 2008, Drew started law school at The Ohio State University. He "highly recommend[s] the [teaching assistant] program as a great way to get some experience and a break after undergrad."

Matt Daniels, BA Italian and International Studies, 2008, has taken a position with the Ohio State football team. He intends to get a master's degree in education, and then find a job teaching Italian and coaching high school football.

Keith Davis, MA Italian, 2007, lives in Syracuse, New York, working as program specialist for the France and Italy programs in the Office of International Education at SUNY (State University of New York) at Oswego. "I deal with everything from recruiting and advising to program budget management and travel/visa logistics. My experience with Turkish (which I studied at Ohio State) has proven to be a valuable asset as we are forming a program in Turkey this year!"

Meaghan Emery, PhD French, 2001, is up for tenure at the University of Vermont. Her forthcoming articles are "Jean Giono: The Personal Ethics of an Author Writing Under the Occupation" (*Journal of European Studies*) and "Sarkozy's Historical and Political Transgressions: au service de la République?" (*Contemporary French Civilization*).

Jennifer Hall, PhD French, 1999, is an associate professor of French at Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio, where she has been teaching for the past eight years. In her free time, she enjoys international travel with husband, Glenn, and their two daughters, Sophia and Isabelle.

Jessica Hanzlik, BA French and Physics, 2008, was named a Rhodes Scholar, the first woman from Ohio State to receive this honor. Jessica will spend the next two years at the University of Oxford, studying physics. Her honors thesis was on the role of French women in science. Jessica was also named one of two outstanding undergraduate students in the Humanities for 2008.



Meaghan Kahler, BA International Studies and French, 2008, took a job in New York City with TransPerfect Translations (www.transperfect.com), a "family of companies providing global business services in over 100 languages." She will start out as a marketing and communications coordinator.



Jaclyn Janis Koucoi, BA Environmental Studies and French, 2006, finished an African internship with a Canadian NGO, IDID (*Initiatives pour un développement intégré durable*) in Porto Novo, Benin. She turned in a report on malaria and climate change. "Climate change is not a debatable topic in Benin [because] . . . the reality of the shorter, late, early, or weaker rainy seasons in Benin is apparent." Jaclyn plans to return to Ohio State to finish pre-med courses after working in Cleveland for several months.

Anne Lair, PhD French, 2003, is in charge of the graduate program at the University of Northern Iowa and directs the Summer Institute in Angers, France. Anne presented on the "Triplets de Belleville" in October 2007 at Iowa World Language Association, and on "The Food Court of Napoleon III" at the European Social Science and History conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in February 2007.

Meredith Lammers, BA French and International Studies, 2007, successfully defended her undergraduate honors thesis, "The Culture of Adoption in the United States as Compared to France and Belgium," after receiving grants from the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences to fund her research abroad. She interned at the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption this summer and will attend the University of Colorado law school this fall.

Dominique Lamoureux, MA French, 1975, plans to retire soon from teaching in Chartres and St. Malo for which she has organized student exchanges with the United States. In her free time, she enjoys creative writing (workshop with Ernest Gaines) when not traveling to "far away countries in the summer" with her husband, a contemporary artist (painter).

Rachel Landers, BA French and International Studies, 2007, finished a six-month assistantship teaching English in a technical high school



in Montpellier, France to kids ranging from 15 to 23 years old. "France was wonderful! . . . The kids made it worth it, and I was really pleasantly surprised at how willing they were to listen to me and to learn . . ." Rachel plans to teach English in Madrid, Spain, in the 2008-09 academic year.

Hannah Lindsey, BA French and International Studies, 2007, taught English outside of Bordeaux (Langon) for eight months until June 2008. She now works in Washington, D.C., as a research assistant for a nonprofit, The Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa. "I get to use my French skills every now and then because we work a lot with French-speaking African nations and their embassies."

Susan Jahn Mancini, MA Italian, 1966, will start her ninth year of teaching first- and second-year courses of Italian at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. She previously taught courses in Italian and French at Ohio State and at St. Francis DeSales High School.

Joanna Marshall, BA French and International Studies, 2006, MS Microbiology, 2007, spent four months as an English teaching assistant in a small town in eastern France, then decided to volunteer in Africa: first, in an AIDS clinic in South Africa for two months, and then teaching in an orphanage in Tanzania. Joanna came back to Ohio State to study for a PhD in biomedical science and work at Nationwide Children's Hospital doing research on pediatric infectious diseases. "The time I spent working with HIV/AIDS patients and getting to know them really touched me, and so I think that I'd eventually love to work with the World Health Organization at some point in the future."



Dorothee Mertz-Weigel, PhD French 2005, is an assistant professor of French at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia. Apart from teaching and doing research on melancholy in medieval texts, she started a virtual linguistic exchange at all levels with her students and French speakers all over the world.

Sarah Parrott, MA, Italian, 2007, spent last year substitute teaching in Bexley schools and taking graduate courses at Trinity Evangelical Seminary. Sarah plans to start PhD studies in research traditions and rituals in western religion.

Jessica Pino, MA Italian, 2007, worked as an instructor of Italian at Oberlin College for several months, then took a position as resident director of the CET Academic Program, a study abroad program in Catania, Sicily.

Scott Pochatila, BS Mechanical Engineering and French, 2007, lived in Paris last year and taught English at a middle and high school in a suburb called Villepinte, about a half-hour train ride toward Charles de Gaulle Airport. He has just started law school at Case Western Reserve University with a concentration in patent/intellectual property law and international law. "I figure that my experience living overseas and my fluency in French can only be an asset when it comes time to search for jobs."



Randi Polk, PhD French, 1995, is currently working as an assistant professor of French at Millikin University. She is in charge of the French program as well as summer immersion courses in Paris. She is "enjoying the challenges of building a solid program in French and creating activities for students of French."

(continued on page 10)

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Department of French and Italian

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(continued from page 9)

Vincent Porretta, BA Italian, 2004; MA Italian, 2006, received a master's in foreign and second language education from Ohio State after completing studies in the Department of French and Italian. He is currently a high school foreign language teacher in central Ohio, and says, "My GTA teaching experience helped me with the core skills for language teaching at any level."

Julia Praud, PhD French, 2005, has spent the last three years researching autism to help her now five-year-old son, Maximilien. With a good prognosis in hand, Julie's research has shifted back to French and Francophone literature. Julie taught part-time as guest professor at Wheaton College (Illinois) in the spring and will continue teaching there in fall 2008.

Barbara Romanczuk, MA French, 1983; PhD French, 2002, teaches upper-level French at Bexley High School after 23 years in the middle school. She regularly sponsors trips to France for students. "Last year, we were able to investigate the Dordogne region and Lascaux II. I am also a Francophile activist fighting to preserve French in our high schools. It consumes a lot of my time!"

Jeffrey St. Clair, MA French, 1967; PhD Romance Languages, 1976; MBA 1982, has embarked on his third career: director of communications and marketing at the Ohio Environmental Council. He worked previously as a French instructor at Cleveland State University, then strategy director at Retail Planning Associates (Columbus) and Allen International Consulting Group (London, U.K.). Jeffrey lives in Columbus with wife, **Faith** (MA Italian, 1977).



Salome Wekisa Fouts, PhD French, 2004, senior lecturer in Ohio State's Department of African American and African Studies, at the Somali language and culture table at the fall 2007 Langfest on the Oval.

Thibault Schilt, PhD French, 2005, is in his second year as assistant professor of French at the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, Massachusetts), where he teaches language and cinema courses. He is currently working on a monograph on French filmmaker François Ozon, forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press as part of its "Contemporary Film Directors" series.

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Michael Sherokee, MA Italian, 2007, has been working and living in Gallarate, Italy, as a lecturer of English in Italian high schools. "It's been a great experience thus far, and the school has . . . invited me to stay on for another year since they were very pleased with my performance, so I said, 'Why not?'"

Faye Mervis Sholiton, MA French, 1972, has had three careers in the past 35 years: teaching French, working as a journalist, and writing plays—developing them at the Cleveland Play House since 1996. "Some of my work is collected in the Lawrence & Lee Theatre Archive at Ohio State. . . . In 2005, I was a visiting artist in [the Ohio State theatre] department." Faye also raised two children with her husband, David, and has two grandchildren.

Donald Spinelli, PhD Romance Languages—French, 1971, has retired from Wayne State University where he taught French (36 years) and served as associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (13 years). He intends to work on Beaumarchais's correspondence, a project he began years ago. His wife, **Emily**, also an Ohio State PhD (Romance Languages—Spanish, 1971), retired from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and is now executive director of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Stéphane Spoiden, PhD French, 1996, director of International Studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, has been promoted to professor of French. He is currently working on a book on the failing construction of a political European Union. This summer he participated in a week-long colloquium on the question of social cohesion at the Fondation Les Treilles in France.

Florian Vauleon, PhD French, 2008, will start his job as assistant professor of French at Stetson University in Orlando, Florida, in September 2008.

Sylvia Phillips Vance, PhD French, 1980, retired from teaching at Otterbein College (Westerville, Ohio). Her book, *The Memoirs of the Cardinal de Retz*, was published in 2005, by Gunter Narr Verlag, Tübingen, in its Biblio 17 series.



Jessica Wagoner, BA Italian and Molecular Genetics, 2008, spent the summer after graduation working in a lab for Dr. Anita Hopper as well as in the Biological Sciences and Pharmacy Library. This fall, she will start graduate school at Cornell University to pursue a doctorate in genetics.

Stacey Weber-Fève, PhD French, 2006, assistant professor of French at Iowa State University (Ames), has written an article on Raja Amari, a French-Tunisian filmmaker. It will be published next year in the *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*. Stacey is currently completing her monograph on women's filmmaking and life writing in France, Algeria, and Tunisia (contracted by Lexington Books).

Jennifer Wolter, MA French, 1995; PhD Brown University, 2003, is a visiting assistant professor of French at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. Jennifer has published articles on Émile Zola, Guy de Maupassant, and the film adaptations of Zola's *Au Bonheur des Dames* and *Gervaise*. Her most recent essay on the Médan Group's campaign of naturalism will appear in *Models of Collaboration in Nineteenth-Century French Literature: Several Authors, One Pen*.

Spotlight on Alumni

Although **Santa Casciani** (MA Italian, 1989, The Ohio State University; PhD Italian, 1994, University of Wisconsin-Madison) has lived in the United States for 40 years, she loves her roots in Abruzzo. For the past four years, she has divided her time equally between America and Italy, where she directs the "very successful" John Carroll University at Vatican City Study Abroad Program that she began in 2005.

Santa is associate professor of Italian at John Carroll University and director (for the past nine years) of the Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Program in undergraduate Italian American Studies. Students examine Italian and Italian American history, culture, literature, philosophy, and religion through an interdisciplinary approach. Students are encouraged to respect the legacy of Italian culture and its spiritual tradition, while working together to transmit its values to future generations.

Santa has published numerous articles on Italian and Italian American literature, medieval literature, and pedagogy. She

Santa Casciani
(MA, Italian, 1989
PhD, 1994)



is co-translator and co-editor of *The Fiore and Detto d'Amore: a*

Late 13th Century Italian Translation of the Roman de la Rose; second-editor of a collection of essays called *Word, Image, Number: Communications in the Middle Ages*; and editor of *Dante and the Franciscans*.

While at Ohio State, Santa "loved" her professors and students and remembers in particular how much Ohio State's students loved Italian. "They were the best two years of my life. I had come to Ohio State as an older student wanting to change careers, and my students gave me the courage to do so with rigor and integrity."



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EditorClare Balombin
Faculty Advisor.....Professor Diane Birckbichler
Design University Marketing
Communications

With a master's degree in French and a desire to find a new chosen space, **Todd Bureau** (MA, French, 1986) headed up to Alaska for a summer vacation. The "Last Frontier" was appealing with its "ineffable atmosphere of unwritten possibility."

At first, Todd taught French and waited tables ("significantly more profitable"), then became part of the physical, then corporate effort to clean up the environmental mess left by the Exxon Valdez. As that effort wound down, Todd started his own tour business, a dream job that

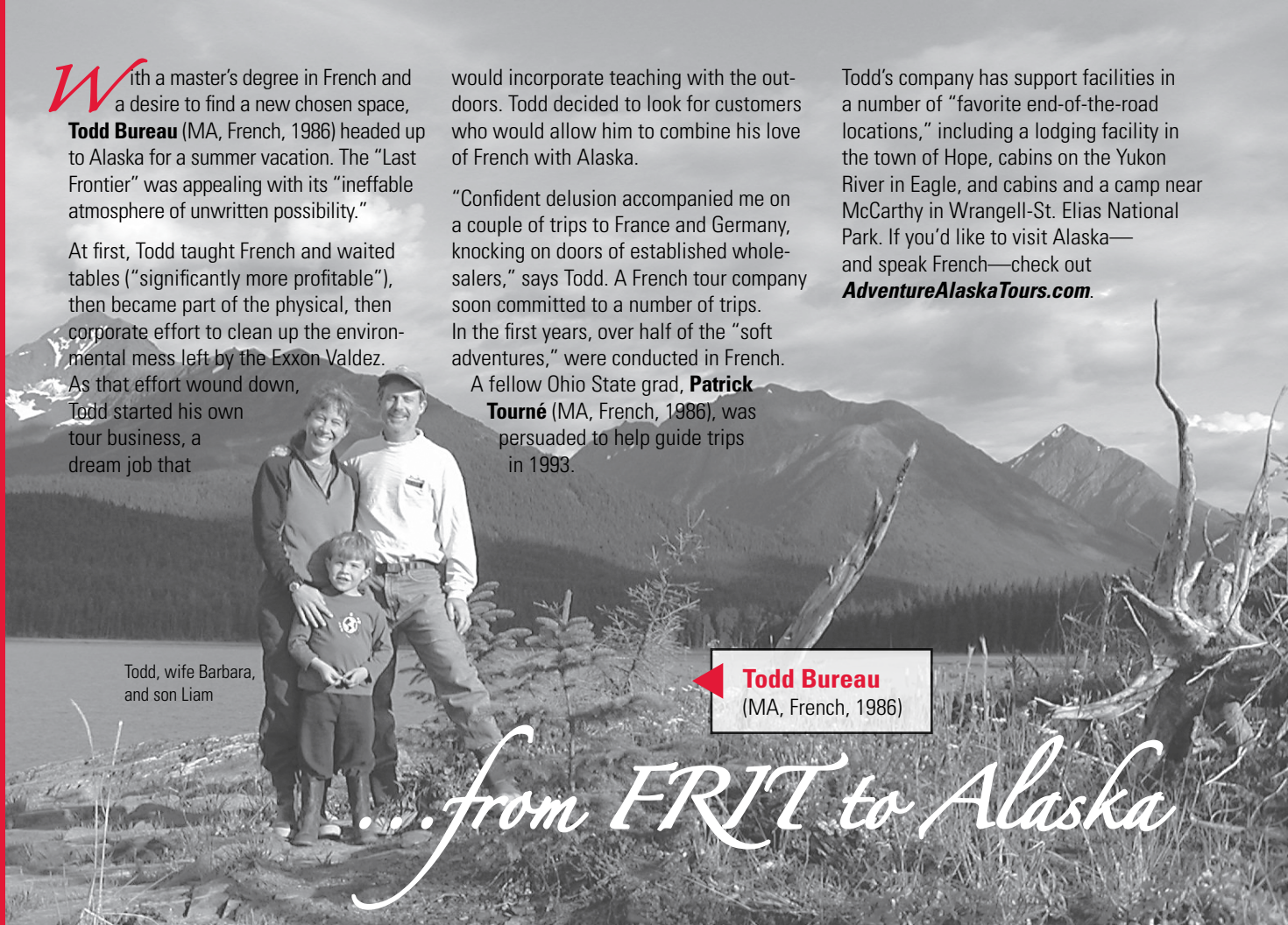
would incorporate teaching with the outdoors. Todd decided to look for customers who would allow him to combine his love of French with Alaska.

"Confident delusion accompanied me on a couple of trips to France and Germany, knocking on doors of established wholesalers," says Todd. A French tour company soon committed to a number of trips.

In the first years, over half of the "soft adventures," were conducted in French.

A fellow Ohio State grad, **Patrick Tourné** (MA, French, 1986), was persuaded to help guide trips in 1993.

Todd's company has support facilities in a number of "favorite end-of-the-road locations," including a lodging facility in the town of Hope, cabins on the Yukon River in Eagle, and cabins and a camp near McCarthy in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. If you'd like to visit Alaska—and speak French—check out **AdventureAlaskaTours.com**.



Todd, wife Barbara, and son Liam

Todd Bureau
(MA, French, 1986)

...from ERIT to Alaska