

Newsletter of the Department of
French and Italian 2009



An American in Marseille



John Petrus

Ohio State alumna **Adrienne Barbo** (MA, French, 2008) sits with some of her students (Jonathan, Aurore, Justine, Maxime, Guillaume, and Audrie) at the Lycée Daumier in Marseille, France, where she taught English during the 2008-2009 academic year. Adrienne says, "I really miss them." Her impression of the French public school system was that it appeared to be "a bit more lax than the U.S.," with "days off due to teacher strikes, student strikes, metro/bus/tram strikes."

The English teaching assistantships in France have been popular with Ohio State graduates. This year four 2009 Ohio State grads have been accepted by the French Embassy to teach English in elementary or secondary schools: **Kathryn Novak** and **Erin Ralston** will teach in Nantes; **John Petrus** in Dijon; and **Caroline Sim** in Créteil, a suburb of Paris where alumnus **Scott Pochatila** (BA, 2007) taught two years ago.

FRIT Radio—Listen In!

Over the past decade students have become familiar with a variety of social media, "publishing" on blogs, keeping up with details on Twitter, and creating videos for class—or for YouTube. Few have used one of the most effective media for reaching large numbers of people: the radio. FRIT radio courses have offered this opportunity for three years through FR 293 and IT 293.

There have been over 40 broadcasts since the pilot broadcast in 2006. Several are available on the FRIT web site at frit.osu.edu/resources/frit_radio/default.cfm. Students who sign up for the course use a variety of skills.

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Juan Ruiz-Coll and **Chris Bazzoli**
 broadcast in Italian on May 20, 2009.

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Bonjour tout le monde! Buongiorno a tutti!

Fall is the time of year when our French students return from their summer study abroad programs in France (Dijon) and Quebec, and when our Italian students return from Italy (Lecce). Another group of students is getting ready for longer study abroad programs in France (Paris, Dijon, and Nantes) or Sienna in Italy.

Wherever our students go, they come back transformed by their study abroad experience. They have met new people, learned to get along and around on their own, and tested their strengths and weaknesses when dealing with unknown situations. They have learned about the cultures of the places where they visited. And, of course, they come back with improved language abilities! Talking (as the study abroad advisor for French) with these students both before and after they study abroad reminds me of my own transformative study abroad experience in France.

The department has always supported study abroad experiences for our students, and we encourage them to apply for departmental and university scholarships. But those funds are still not sufficient to send as many of our students abroad as we would like, and the funding is not as ample as we would like. For that reason, we have set up a new fund called: "Make their dreams come true," designed to provide support for undergraduate study abroad. I have had the pleasure of making the first contribution to that new fund and hope you will join me in making the dreams of our undergraduates come true by contributing to this fund. (Plus, you will receive a red, Ohio State mug with "Allez les Bucks" and "Forza Bucks" for any contribution over \$75 to any of the FRIT funds! See page 10 for details.)

Current expenses are also a concern of our students. Alumna Mary Galvin (page 11) enjoyed her time in the Department of French and Italian so much that she decided to give back. Mary has set up her own "Students First, Students Now" current scholarship account to support French and Italian majors. We are grateful to Mary for her leadership in this area. (She will be receiving one of the first mugs to be sent out!)

Finally, social networking has become such an integral part of our daily lives that we thought it was time for the department to join the Web 2.0 generation. To make that happen, we have set up a departmental Facebook page: **OSU Department of French and Italian**. You're invited to become a friend of FRIT, so we can share with you the latest news about our students, faculty, and departmental activities. In return, you can share your insights and memories of the department:



professors, study abroad experiences, classes that you particularly liked. Of course, we want to hear your latest news—both personal and professional—in words and in photos. We hope that our Facebook page will allow you to reconnect with the department and, perhaps, reconnect with fellow FRIT alumni in the process. So, join us on Facebook—and let the conversations begin!

Merci! Grazie!

Diane W. Birckbichler
Professor and Chair
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Become a FRIT Friend on Facebook!

We'd like to make it easier for all of us to share ideas. The Department of French and Italian has a new Facebook page, **OSU Department of French and Italian**. Please visit it for updates on department activities, discussions, and alumni.

Faculty Focus

Janice M. Aski

Associate Professor
Department of French
and Italian

A word that many people use when talking about Janice Aski, director of the Italian language program, is

"passionate."



Faculty Updates

Janice Aski, associate professor of Italian, has just finished the second edition of the first-year textbook, *Avanti!*, which she developed with Diane Musumeci (University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana). Aski's most recent research focuses on the development of possessive modifiers from Latin to Italian, with a detailed analysis of medieval Italian and Spanish usages.

Diane W. Birckbichler, professor of French and department chair, served on the Columbus City Schools' K-12 Immersion Planning Committee and serves on the Advisory Committee on Interpreter Services, State of Ohio Supreme Court. She is chair of the 2009 MLA Mildenerger Award Committee and is an external evaluator for U.S. Department of Education projects at Winthrop University and at the University of Texas-Pan American.

Jerry Curtis, associate professor of French at Ohio State Newark, recently published two issues of *Studies on Lucette Desvignes and Contemporary French Literature* and three volumes featuring English translations of *The Short Fiction of Lucette Desvignes* as part of a five-volume collection of her short stories and tales accepted for publication before the end of 2009. Curtis also published an article and made two presentations at conferences on her work.

Jean-François Fourny, associate professor of French, has just had a book published, *Les Tourments de Samuel Peckinpah. Du Vieil Ouest à l'état de sécurité nationale*, by the Editions Séguier (Paris).

Linda Harlow, associate provost of the University Honors & Scholars Center and associate professor of French, completed the 6th edition of her intermediate college French textbook, *Bravo! Communication, Grammaire, Culture et Littérature*—and its ancillaries—with coauthors Judith Muyskens, Michèle Vialet, and Jean-François Brière in 2008. She also presented at the AATF Conference in Liège, Belgium, and published a book review in the *French Review*.

Sarah-Grace Heller, associate professor of French, also serves as associate director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. She is developing a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Medieval and Renaissance Studies and a study abroad tour for her Gothic Paris course. She is currently writing articles on the medieval Louvre, *Partonopeus de Blois*, and a book, *An Illustrated History of Medieval Fashion 500-1350*. She recently published an article on "Fairy Embroidery and the Ambiguous Vocabulary of Medieval Textile Decoration."

Bernadette Höfer, assistant professor of French, has a book forthcoming, *Psychosomatic Disorders in Seventeenth-Century French Literature*. She presented papers on mind/body questions in early modern medicine, philosophy, and literature at the American Comparative Literature Conference and the Northeast MLA. This past summer Höfer taught a course on Molière at the Institut d'Etudes Françaises d'Avignon under the auspices of Bryn Mawr College.

Eugene W. Holland, professor of French and chair of the department of Comparative Studies, just published an anthology, *Gilles Deleuze: Image and Text*, with essays drawn from a conference he helped organize in 2007. He also published essays on jazz improvisation and fascism, and is completing revisions on a book on citizenship to be published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2010.

Charles Klopp, professor of Italian, edited the proceedings of the 2006 Ohio State symposium on Trieste. The book was published in 2008 by Bordighera in New York with the title *Bele Antiche Storie*. In the past year, Klopp has given presentations at the University of Grenoble, at La Spezia, and at the University of Cagliari in Sardinia.

Christiane Laeufer has published an article in *Folia Linguistica* and has articles coming out in *Studia Neophilologica* and in *Word*. She has given papers at the annual meetings of Societas Linguistica Europaea, Linguistic Society of America, and the Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States. She is finishing a book-length study on the treatment of French loanwords in German language dialects.

Albert N. Mancini, professor emeritus, co-edited and wrote the "Introduction" to the volume *Seventeenth-Century Italian Poets and Dramatists. Dictionary of Literary Biography. No. 339*, and published the article "Annali d'Italiansica 1983-2007: Retrospectiva e prospettive." Mancini is contributing the article "Intorno alle traduzioni in Inglese di opere di Ferrante Pallavicino: *Il corriere svaligiato/ The post-boy rob'd of his mail*" to the upcoming special issue of *Esperienze letterarie*, in memory of Professor M. Scotti, University of Rome "La Sapienza."

"The passion and excitement that Professor Aski radiates as she enters the classroom is incomparable to any other professor or instructor I have experienced in my four years at Ohio State," a student said. "I can honestly say that she opened my mind to new disciplines, ideas, and theories in her field."

Not only is Aski a respected and dynamic teacher, but she is caring and responsive to her students both in and out of the classroom. Students write of her compassion as they encountered personal difficulties and her willingness to go above and beyond her responsibilities to ensure their success in her courses. Her commitment to student learning was recognized in 2004 when she was named Colleges of the Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teacher. In 2009 Aski was recognized with the prestigious Alumni Teaching Award.

Aski has been shaping the landscape of Italian studies at Ohio State since 2000, working to transform the Italian major into a nationally known program and creating an entirely new course on Romance languages that helped launch the new Romance linguistics major.

"Janice has been a mover and a shaker in the department, especially in the area of curriculum," said Professor Diane W. Birckbichler, chair of the Department of French and Italian. "And she is considered to be one of our very best teachers, whether at the beginning level where she has taught Italian language or in advanced-level graduate courses."

Aski received her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin and a master's in linguistics at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom.

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Danielle Marx-Scouras, professor of French, gave a paper titled “*Voyager dans la musique: Les Femmouzes T... de Toulouse*” at an international conference on “*Rovesciare Babele: economia ed ecologia delle lingue regionali e minoritarie*” held at the University of Teramo and Faeto, Italy, this past May. As part of her Ohio State Seed Grant for Innovation in the Arts and Humanities, she interviewed such musical groups as Les Femmouzes T..., Massilia Sound System, Oaistar, Moussu Te lei Jovents, and IAM.

Judith Mayne, professor of French, was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and she has been on leave in 2009. She is working on her manuscript on Continental Films, the Nazi-owned company that dominated feature film production in France during World War II. She is also editing a special issue of *Studies in French Cinema* on French film studies in the United States.

Dennis Minahen, associate professor of French, recently published “*Je(u d’) équivoque et dysphorie du genre dans Poésies de Rimbaud*” in a special issue of *Parade Sauvage*. He also presented the annual FRIT Faculty Forum Lecture, “*Con/textual Shock: Irony and Violence in Baudelaire’s ‘À celle qui est trop gaie’*” at Ohio State, as well as a paper titled “*Revolutionary Verlaine: Unmasking the Erotics of Gender*” at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium, Vanderbilt University.

Karlis Racevskis, professor of French, presented “*Michel Foucault et l’ordre de l’impensé: pour une approche neuroscientifique*” at the 20th- and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, University of Minnesota; and “*La fin de l’homme et de l’exception humaine*” at a symposium on Michel Foucault at the University of Ottawa. The papers represent stages of a larger project aiming to reexamine Foucault’s thought in light of recent advances in the study of the brain.

Dana Renga, assistant professor of Italian, is working on a book, *Screening the Mafia: Gender, Representation and Unfinished Mourning* and is completing the edited volume *Mafia Movies*:

A Reader. She recently published on modern Italian poetry and Pierpaolo Pasolini and presented on Kinsey in Sicily, marketing the mob, screening homosexuality and mafia women. Renga organized the meeting of the American Association for Italian Studies (for which she is treasurer.)

Louisa Shea, assistant professor of French, has written a book, *The Cynic Enlightenment*, scheduled to appear this fall from Johns Hopkins University Press. Her current project looks at “world literature” as an emerging classificatory category in literary studies, and asks how the idea of a “littérature-monde en français” challenges the way we think about French and Francophone literary histories. She will spend the fall carrying out research in Morocco.

Heather Webb, assistant professor of Italian, has completed her manuscript, *The Medieval Heart*, with an expected publication in 2010 by Yale University Press. She has won a fellowship at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities at Cambridge University for autumn term 2009, where she will be working on her second book project, tentatively titled *Beginnings and Ends of Life in Medieval Italy*.

Jennifer Willging, associate professor of French, specializes in 20th- and 21st-century French literature and culture with particular interests in Second World War France, postwar narrative, and contemporary French-American cultural relations. She is currently working on a book manuscript provisionally titled *Bodies on Burgers, Minds on Meds: Changing Food and Drug Consumption in Contemporary France and Its Challenge to French Cultural Identity*.

Wynne Wong, associate professor of French, is producing a French movie and writing an elementary French textbook (based on the movie) using an approach informed by research on input processing. Coauthors are Stacey Weber-Fève, Edward Ousselin, and Bill Van-Patten. This project, tentatively titled “*Liaisons*,” will be published by Heinle-Cengage in 2010. Wong is in her third term as managing editor of the *French Review*.

New Faculty



Cheikh Thiam

The department’s newest faculty member, Cheikh Thiam, comes to Ohio State from a position at Linfield College in Oregon. His publications focus on Léopold Sédar Senghor’s works and shifting concepts of *négritude* and *métissage*. Professor Thiam’s educational background extends over three continents. A native of Senegal (and, thereby, fluent in both French and Wolof), he completed his undergraduate studies at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal. He holds a doctorate from S.U.N.Y. Binghamton in comparative literature, and master’s degrees from that university and from the University of Provence, Aix-en-Provence, where he wrote on Rabelais’ view of folly as well as new directions in African thought. Professor Thiam holds a joint appointment with the department of African and African American Studies. His wife, Professor Monika Brodnicka, comes to Ohio State with a joint appointment in AAAS and Comparative Studies.

French and Italian...Springboards to a Career in Law

What can you do with a degree in French or Italian? Several French and Italian alumni are using their degrees as a springboard to legal careers. The University of Cincinnati served Melany Stinson Newby's interests in a career in law, and now Claire Bushorn's and Rosina Caponi's.



Melany Stinson Newby (BA, French, 1971) has retired from her position as vice chancellor for Legal & Executive Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a position she held for 17 years. Prior to that, she was general counsel at the University of Cincinnati for 11 years. Melany was honored to receive a Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Cincinnati Law School. She also received a Life Mem-

ber Award from the National Association of College & University Attorneys, for her career-long service to that organization. She is on the board of visitors at the law school and expects to meet fellow Ohio State FRIT grads Rosina Caponi and Claire Bushorn in November when she is in Cincinnati for a meeting.

Claire Bushorn (BA, French and International Studies, 2006) is in her third year of law studies at the University of Cincinnati. Claire was featured in a 2006 article on study abroad programs (she went to Senegal) in the French and Italian department newsletter. Claire worked in an adult ESL program through Americorps after graduation from Ohio State and was moved by immigrants' stories. Her legal focus is on human rights abuses by multinational corporations. She notes, "My education at The Ohio State University has played an integral role in my future career plans as both my French language classes and study abroad experience in Senegal have . . . served as a foundation upon which my interest in international human rights is based."



Rosina Caponi (BA, Italian and Classics, 2007) is also in her third year of law school at the University of Cincinnati. Rosina was invited to join the staff of the *Law Review*, a quarterly publication, and to serve as the articles editor. This is a prestigious (and demanding) position for which students are chosen based on grades. Rosina plans to work in the corporate law area. She is on the Dean's Honors list and spent summer 2008 working at the Supreme Court of Ohio for Hon. Evelyn Lundberg Stratton. This past summer she worked in the legal department for Akron General Hospital and Health Systems. Rosina also points out, "On a less serious note, I was captain of the UC Law intramural flag football team, which was undefeated and won the intramural championship for the entire university!" (Not surprising for the person who set up the first annual bocce tournament while here at Ohio State!)



Closer to home is **Drew Bunker** (BA, French, History, International Studies, 2007). Through Ohio State's Moritz College of Law, Drew's summer job was working for the Office of General Counsel of the United States Sentencing Commission, a government agency that formulates the guidelines federal judges use in sentencing criminals. In the coming academic year, Drew will be a staff member of the *Ohio State Law Journal* and working as a professor's research assistant while taking a full load of law classes.

Scott Pochatila (BS, Mechanical Engineering, French, 2007) is enjoying his classes in patent and intellectual property law at Case Western Reserve University. He is considering a thesis on the issues surrounding international tech transfer and patent procurement. His summer internship was with a northeastern Ohio manufacturer, Nordson Corp, that does 72% of its sales outside the United States.

15th Annual FIGSA Conference

The French and Italian Graduate Student Association once again hosted an excellent conference, "Crossing Borders/Breaking Boundaries" in April 2009. Topics included "Cultures and Languages," "Representations of Trauma," "Medieval and Renaissance," and "Inside the Hexagon and Beyond." Presenters included Ohio State's GTAs **Beth Bishop, Michele Gerring, Kelly Campbell, Heidi Brown, Kelly Lombardo, Audrey Martinko, Clare Balombin, Lisa Bevevino, Anaïs Wise, Jennifer Branlat, and Jacob Schott**. Two students from New York University and one from Rutgers joined the Ohio State presenters. The planners were **Lisa Bevevino, Bruce Kalb, Jacob Schott, and Camilla Zamboni**, all officers of FIGSA.



Viva l'italiano!



Classic drama—re-imagined by undergraduate students

Undergraduates **Stefanie Fram** (*Flaminia*) and **Nicholas Conley** (*Fulgenzio*) try to help **Samantha Werner** (*Eugenia*) in a dramatic moment from their class's adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's *Gl'Innamorati* in autumn quarter 2008. Professor **Ted Emery** directed his Italian 450 class to read Goldoni's script, decide what was and wasn't important, edit the script, add new lines (in Italian), and design sets. All work was conducted while speaking Italian! Period furniture and costumes were borrowed from the Ohio State's theatre department.



(l to r) Claudia, Carla, Cleonice; and **Alessia Colarossi** (MA, Italian, 2004; PhD, Education, 2009)

Italian cinema

Professor **Dana Renga's** winter 2009 course, Italian 694, looked at how the Holocaust has been imagined by filmmakers in France and Italy. Graduate and undergraduate students put on a special event called "Imagining the Holocaust" that was co-sponsored by the department and by the Melton Center for Jewish Studies. Capping off Italian film discussions was visiting professor Alan O'Leary of the University of Leeds, who spoke in May on "Tragedy Italian Style: Italian Cinema and Italian Terrorisms."

Seminar on Italian futurism

During spring quarter 2009, the Department of French and Italian was pleased to host Professor Pierpaolo Antonello (senior lecturer in Italian at the University of Cambridge) for two weeks, thanks to the sponsorship of the Arts and Sciences and the department. Professor Antonello offered a very successful two-week graduate seminar on the topic of postmodern *impegno*, or "commitment," in the Italian context. This seminar covered approaches to ethics and socio-political commitment in contemporary Italian culture. Antonello also gave two campus-wide talks, one on the Italian artist and designer Bruno Munari titled "Beyond Futurism: Bruno Munari's Useless Machines" and another called "Out of Touch: Marinetti's Manifesto del tattilismo and the Futurist Critique of Separation." Professor Dana Renga, who planned these events, called them "a wonderful way to celebrate 100 years of futurism."

FRIT—2009 GOAL event

Students in **Carla Onorato's** Italian 104 class got a chance to try out

their language skills on native speakers without leaving the classroom this spring. **Cleonice Renzetti** and **Claudia Wurzel**, members of Ohio State's women's rowing team, came to the classroom through the GOAL (Go Local, Go Global) program that is sponsored by the university's Foreign Language Center. They described their home cities (Rome and Como, Italy) and interests and answered questions before enjoying an Italian lunch. Claudia is majoring in international studies, and Cleonice is a health sciences major.

FRIT Radio (continued from page 1)

They plan their programs, research topics that interest them, build the content, and script the broadcast. Popular subjects include political spoofs, scripted conversations, film reviews, music, trivia, riddles, and interviews with native speakers via Skype.

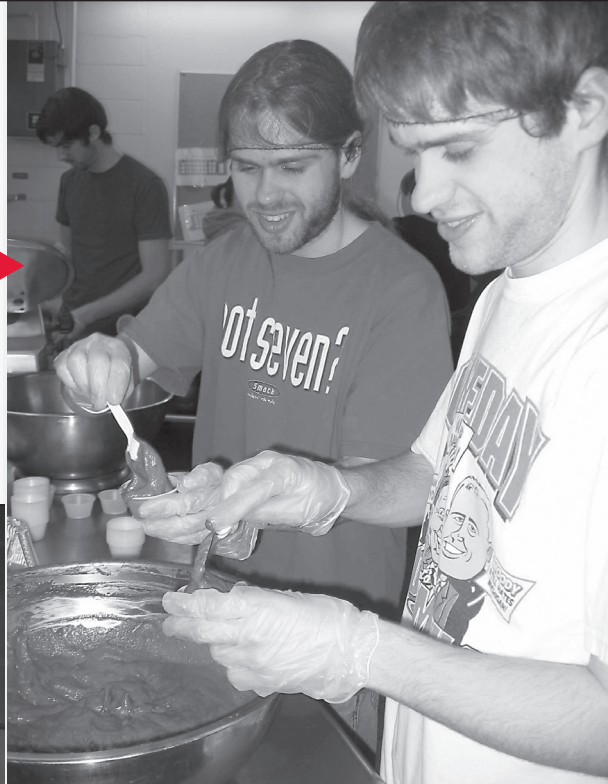
Matteo Amburgy (BA, Italian, 2009) remarked on how much he learned about Italy when broadcasting in spring 2007: "...from the very serious topics, such as the problem of bullying and school violence in Italy, to the funny stories about cows being on display in Milan for a large art exhibition." According to **Carolyn Hersch** (BA, Communications and French, 2007), "My French speaking skills grew tremendously. As I grew more comfortable with the script and radio, I felt freer to ad-lib. This helped me, because I had to think of verb tenses, vocabulary, and other phrases off the top of my head... a lot of it came out naturally."

The radio format presents special challenges to students accustomed to "thinking" visually. But, as program director Dr. **Rebecca Bias** said, "They go beyond my expectations every time."

Vive le français!

French students enjoyed many extracurricular activities organized by the Cercle français during the 2008-2009 academic year. Many activities centered around food, either prepared by the students (right) or in a restaurant (below right)

French students also sold food to raise money for Cercle français activities at the Taste of OSU international festival. Among the activities sponsored were several French film nights. (After all, the first films were made by the Lumière Brothers in 1895.)



Above: Twins **Eric and Scott Suchyta** cook up something special. Far left: **Rebekah McBride** and **Fariba Massah** at Taste of OSU.



About 30 French students danced and drummed at the Dabakh Senegalese restaurant in Columbus.

French students impress at the Denman Forum

Several French students participated in Ohio State's prestigious Denman Forum that recognizes the scholarship and research of undergraduate students. Besides **Caroline Sim** (page 9), three other French students participated. **Jenny Adams's** project was "Authenticating the Melusine Myth: *Melusine* and the Sons of Lusignan." **John Petrus** (page 1) presented "Exodus from Quisqueya: New Identities in Haitian and Dominican Immigrants," and **Heather Bump** presented "Methodology and Grave Goods: 'Women' Clothing in the Transition Period" (6th-7th century C.E.). Bump and Adams were advised by FRIT Professor **Sarah-Grace Heller**. For more information on these research topics, click on denman.osu.edu/a_abstracts.aspx?ca=Humanities.



Caroline Sim (right) and **Jenny Adams** (below).

Alumni Updates

David Aldstadt (PhD, French, 2002), an assistant professor at Southern Methodist University, has published a text with Jean-Louis Hippolyte called *Septième Art*. It is described as a “culturally authentic chronological journey through French cinema.”

Jim Anderson (BA, French, 2004; MBA, Labor & Human Resources, 2006) works in Grenoble, France, for Schneider Electric as an internal communications specialist.

Sue Nussbaum Averill (BA, French, 1979; MA, French, 1981) accepted a position as associate provost for Faculty Affairs at Kent State University at the end of 2008.

Brian Belland (MA, French, 2001) earned a PhD in educational technology from Purdue University in May 2008 and is now assistant professor of instructional technology and learning sciences at Utah State University, in the mountains of northern Utah. He conducts research and teaches how to use technology to help people learn.

Anna Bianco (BA, Political Science with Italian and English, 2007; Master's in Public Administration, John Glenn School, 2009) is moving to the Dominican Republic for a year to work for a nonprofit (missionemanuel.org) with schools, a clinic, and a water treatment facility. She will handle international development work, such as donor relations, and HR (job descriptions, job outcomes). Anna will also be teaching English, assisting with various ministries, and starting some programs for young women in the community. She notes, “My Italian has really helped me with learning Spanish and conversing in the country.”

Mike Bierschenk (BA, French and Linguistics, 2004) received a Master's in Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Ohio State this June. This is his second master's degree. He enjoys teaching, writing poems, and translating from French, Old English, and Occitan. He is a founding member of Minstrelsy, a medieval and renaissance performance troupe.

Joanne Harris Briggs (BA, French, 1981) practices ophthalmology in the Akron, Ohio, area. She received her MD from Case Western Reserve University in 1991.

Brianna Byers (MA, Italian, 2008) works at Abercrombie & Fitch's home office in New Albany as the translation coordinator. As A&F plans to open stores in Italy and France (and Germany and Japan), Brianna has been busy translating store operations manuals and documents into Italian and French.



Nelson Carson (BA, French and International Studies, 2006) followed graduation with a six-month volunteer position teaching English in Peru, then went to France to teach English in Montpellier during the 2007-2008 academic year on a teaching assistantship. Nelson is now working for the Peace Corps as a middle and high school teacher in the Cape Verde Islands off the west coast of Africa.

Santa Casciani (MA, Italian, 1989) survived the massive earthquake in central Italy this spring. In Italy to direct John Carroll University's study abroad program at Vatican City, Santa

was spending a few days with her mother, who also survived, although her house was destroyed.

Jennifer Cochran-Mosquera (BA, French, Education, 1983) spent the past year in Colombia at the Gimnasio La Arboleda on a Fulbright Teaching Exchange. She works as a middle school Spanish teacher in Granville, Ohio.

Cynthia Cole (BA, French, 1978; MBA, 1989) is the global trade development manager in the Global Markets Division of the Development Department of the State of Ohio. She has had the opportunity to meet other French or Italian language majors when asked by Ohio State to speak on a career panel, or when an intern from Ohio State international studies works in her office.

Robert Crawford (BA, French; BS Biology, 2002) just received a PhD from Ohio State in the Integrated Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program. He will be moving to the University of California, Davis, for postdoctoral training in a laboratory investigating the innate immune response to Salmonella infections. Between undergrad and grad studies, he spent time in Japan teaching English at a local YMCA. He says, “The most direct fruits of the [French] degree came during the courtship of my wife—she is from Toronto and attended French immersion schools her whole life. We immediately had something great in common upon meeting.”

Allison Woodward Crémet (BA, French, 1995) has lived in or near Rouen, France, for the past 12 years with her husband (from Dieppe). She works as a planning coordinator for Inlingua, a language teaching company, after starting out as a TEFL trainer there in 2000, then a pedagogical coordinator. She also works for French in Normandy, the sister company created about three years ago for foreigners who come to France to learn French. She notes, “Needless to say, I use my French skills everyday! Voili, voilou. I really miss Ohio State and hope all of you are well.”



Rachel Dufresne (BA, French, 2005) completed two study abroad programs, meeting her husband on the first one! They've been married for nearly two years and live in Los Angeles. They own a production company called International Artist's Mob. They write, film, and edit independent international projects in English, French, and Spanish.

Christopher Eldridge (BA, French, 1981) works as a psychologist in Manhattan.

Marlis Fischer (BA, French and Psychology, 2005; MA, Education, 2006) completed an English teaching assistantship in Nimes in 2007-2008 and is now working as a German and French teacher at Upper Arlington High School.



Humberto Gonzalez (MA, Italian, 2009) has been appointed adjunct faculty in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of North Texas, Denton.

Linda Tuomala Grey (BA, French, 1974) lives in Lewis Center with her husband Tom and their two middle school children, Adam and Erica. She works at the Customer Service Center for the Huntington Bank.

Steve Hedge (MA, French, 1992) has been teaching French at Grandview High School for eight years. Check out his French program's Facebook page (GHHS French) to see videos made by his French students to the music of popular French songs. Steve teaches French at OU-Zanesville and has accepted a second term as president of the Grandview Heights Education Association.

Alexandra Salmeron Hesson (MA, French, 2008) works as a technical recruiter in Reno, Nevada, for Aerotek, the largest privately held staffing firm in the world. She places engineers with civil engineering and energy firms in northern Nevada. Her husband is working on a software engineering degree at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Brigid Reynolds Kharoufeh (PhD, French, 2004) lives in Pittsburgh with her husband, two-year old daughter, Anna, and new son, Ethan. She is excited, not only about her family, but also with the possibility of having a book published from her dissertation, *Mixed messages: the problematic pursuit of individuality in novels by Maupassant, the Goncourt, and Flaubert*.

Gwyn Londeree (BA, French, 1981) is a dermatologist and an educational spokeswoman for the Skin Cancer Foundation. Quoted in the *Columbus Dispatch*, she advised caution in the sun even with the use of sun-protective fabrics.

Mike Lucid (MA, French, 1978) has worked as an IT manager for the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation for several years, managing staff responsible for process improvement teams.

Jennifer Marin (MA, French, 2006) has taken a position as an internal marketing communications consultant to the Nuclear Pharmacy Division of Cardinal Health in Dublin, Ohio. In her free time she teaches marketing at Franklin University.

Audrey Martinko (MA, Italian, 2009) is looking forward to spending the next two years in Rome, Italy, as the resident director for St. John's University's (Queens, N.Y.) Italian program. She notes that it's a position that combines her Ohio State experience as a residence hall and study abroad coordinator with, "obviously, my Italian skills. I will be in charge of everything that has to do with student housing as well as student affairs and even some event planning around Rome. I am so excited!"

Nicolas Medevielle (PhD, French, 2006) moved to Williamsburg, VA, with his wife Sara and their son Oen to take a position as an assistant professor at the College of William and Mary.

Dorothee Mertz-Weigel (PhD, French, 2005) is in her third year at Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah, Georgia. This past year Dorothee organized a very successful Francophone Film Festival with a Tournées Festival grant from FACE. Dorothee also organized her first study abroad (two weeks) program that was such a success that none of the students wanted to come back home! Dorothee and husband Paul welcomed baby daughter Clémentine on August 26, 2009.



Lino Mioni (MA, Italian, 2005) has returned to the United States and now teaches beginning and intermediate levels of Italian at the University of Georgia, Athens, after three years as a lecturer at the University of Coimbra, Portugal.

Kelly O'Reilly (MA, French, 2009) is thrilled to be starting a job teaching beginning level French classes (French I and II) at Dublin Jerome High School—"one of the best high schools in Ohio," she notes.

Edward Ousselin (PhD, French, 1999) has been teaching at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA, and working on a first-year French language textbook program with Ohio State faculty member Wynne Wong and fellow Ohio State alumna Stacey Weber-Fève. His book *The Invention of Europe in French Literature and Film* was published this year.

Michelle Pizzurro (BA, Italian, 2002) moved to New York as soon as she graduated in 2002. She goes to Italy "when I can," as she works in public relations for the designer Norma Kamali. Michelle is involved with a group that helps earthquake survivors from L'Aquila, Italy.

Kim Edwards Ratcliff (BA, French, 1991; MA, Public Administration, 1995) is a vice president in the public relations and advertising firm Paul Werth Associates in Columbus.

Caroline Sim (BA, French and English, 2009) took second place in the Humanities category of the 2009 Denman Forum for Undergraduate Research for her project "The Dance of Death in England and France." Her research took her to the Bibliothèque nationale in Paris to look at late medieval and early modern manuscripts, to chapels in Brittany to study wall paintings, and to England.

Brian Smith (MA, French, 1997) continues his work as senior systems manager in Ohio State's Department of Statistics. At a meeting in the spring, he said that studying French was "a lot harder than programming."

Jennifer Teramano-Hall (BA, French, 1993) has taught French for over 10 years at Hudson Middle School in Hudson, Ohio. She has made presentations at the Ohio Foreign Language Conference and lives in Stow, Ohio, with her husband, fellow Ohio State alum Damon Hall.

Stacey Weber-Fève (PhD, French, 2006) successfully passed her formal preliminary tenure review at Iowa State University (Ames). Her article on integrating the teaching of language and literature will appear in the fall 2009 issue of *Foreign Language Annals*, with a conference version to be presented at the upcoming MLA convention. Stacy will also present a paper on French/Iranian Marjane Satrapi's animated film and graphic novel *Persepolis*, and its use of cinematic and comic strip frames. Stacey is coauthoring a first-year French language textbook program with Ohio State faculty member Wynne Wong and fellow Ohio State alumnus Edward Ousselin.

Kelly Wright (MA, French, 2007) is teaching French to high school students in the Westerville City Schools and enjoying her baby boy.

Camilla Zamboni (MA, Italian, 2009) has begun work on a PhD in Italian this fall at UCLA.

...From OSU to OSU

Keith Davis has found a ready answer to the question, “What can I do with my language degree?” He’s helping other students learn and enjoy the cultures associated with foreign languages. As coordinator for French, Italian, and Turkish exchange programs at Oswego State University (part of the State University of New York), he’s not just a travel agent speaking French, Italian, and Turkish with partners abroad. Besides making all the travel and educational arrangements, Keith promotes the programs on campus and coordinates with the professors teaching in five programs: two in France (Nice and Paris), two in Italy (Florence and Rome), and one in Turkey (Istanbul).

Keith found that Ohio State offered him all the tools he needed to start his career in management of international studies. His undergraduate major in Italian provided him the opportunity to be a resident director in Ohio State’s Lecce, Italy, summer program. This position helped Keith realize that he really “enjoyed working with students and seeing their transformation.” His association with staff in the Office of International Affairs gave him the leads and contacts he needed to find his new position.

A minor in French enabled Keith to participate in the exchange program in Benin offered by his new “OSU”—Project Smart. Oswego professors work with Benin school inspectors

Keith Davis in Rome, Italy



Keith Davis
(MA, Italian, 2007)

to improve education in that small West African country. Last January Keith traveled to Benin (and Paris) with an Oswego study group that observed classes in Benin and made presentations in English in schools in Versailles, outside Paris. Their focus was on how culture affects teaching, comparing educational systems in France to the post-colonial system in Benin. When the Benin inspectors came to Oswego in May, Keith served as a translator.

When asked how he liked a smaller university (8,000 students) and a smaller town, Keith said that he met the president of the university the first day and felt that he had more freedom to bring ideas to the table: “If you have a good idea, do it.”

While Keith loves his job, he has an interest in working with international students, too, recruiting and planning for their experiences in the United States. In that way, he could expand his efforts to help students “become global citizens.”

Funds supporting the Department of French and Italian

The Added Advantage: French and Italian Department Support Fund (309086)

Provides support for activities and programs for students and faculty of the Department of French and Italian

French Lectures on Literature, Language, and Culture (312143)

Supports lectures on historical and contemporary topics relating to French and Italian with the purpose of enhancing the intellectual life of students, faculty, staff, and the general public

Italian Support Fund (308148)

Provides support for activities and programs for Italian students and faculty

“Make Their Dreams Come True” Scholarship Fund (313186)

Provides funding for students studying abroad to enhance their French or Italian skills and knowledge

Students First, Students Now French Scholarship (312991)

Provides a scholarship(s) to a student(s), sophomore or above, with a minimum grade point average of 2.75 and majoring in French

Transforming Learning Through Technology (312142)

Facilitates faculty and GTA use of the latest in technology to transform the teaching and learning of French and Italian

Your gifts will offset the high costs of study abroad...

A summer in Lecce, Italy, or Quebec, Canada:
Ohio State tuition, plus a \$1,350 program fee.

A 15-week semester in Dijon, France:
Ohio State tuition, plus a \$2,851 program fee.

Make an undergraduate’s dream come true!

Among the wishes of our undergraduates studying French and/or Italian is one of visiting and studying in France, Italy, or a Francophone country (e.g., Senegal or Quebec) for a summer quarter or for a year. Alumni of foreign language programs know that the overseas experience can change a person for a lifetime.

For that reason, the department would like to make the dream of foreign study more of a reality for as many students as possible. If you’d like to help fund overseas study for undergraduates (or another fund), consider a donation to the “Make Their Dream Come True” Fund (309086)—or create your own fund, as Mary Galvin (see page 11) did to support undergraduate studies in French and Italian as part of the “Students First” campaign. (Visit frit.osu.edu/aboutUs/funds.cfm.)

For your contribution of \$75, we will send you a 17-oz. red mug with the Ohio State logo and “Allez les Bucks” and “Forza Bucks.” For a donation of \$125, you’ll receive a set of two—one for home, one for the office. (We always welcome larger donations, too!) How better to celebrate the experience and knowledge gained from attending The Ohio State University and the Department of French and Italian!

FRIT *Benefactor*

Mary Galvin
(BA, French, 1977)



“Go Bucks!” is one of the most likely phrases anyone will hear from **Mary Galvin**. As scarlet and gray are two of her favorite colors to wear, Mary became known as the “Buckeye on the elevator” at work for many years. Such a moniker is especially interesting now, as Mary has taken over principle fund-raising activities for the University of Toledo’s (the “Rockets”—who played Ohio State in Cleveland on September 19, 2009) College of Arts & Sciences. With a diplomatic smile, Mary admitted that her enthusiasm for all-things Ohio State has been successfully negotiated with her new employer.

After graduating with a BA in French from Ohio State in 1977, Mary spent the next 24 years in banking, finishing that career as the human resources manager for a major bank credit card operation in the Toledo area. Along the way she volunteered for United Way, focusing on development of services for women. This provided an occasion to invite then-Ohio State President Karen Holbrook to speak at the United Way’s Women’s Initiative celebration, a successful event with many Toledo-area Buckeye alumnae attending.

Mary believes that a background in the humanities has served her well in many instances—corporate life, nonprofits, and volunteer activities. “It makes you a more balanced person,” she says. And she tells all who will listen that she “has wonderful memories” of Ohio State and that she “found a home in Cunz Hall” (former home of the French and Italian department).

For those reasons, Mary created a “Students First, Students Now” French and Italian Scholarship in March 2009. It will provide financial support to selected students who are sophomores or above with a minimum grade point average of 2.75. This scholarship is the first of its kind for French and Italian majors and a wonderful way to share Mary’s love for Ohio State.

To find out more about our French and Italian department and ways to make a difference in the lives of our students, please contact Professor Diane Birckbichler, Department Chair, at birckbichler.1@osu.edu or (614) 292-4938, or Margo Wolanin, Director of Development, at wolanin.2@osu.edu or (614) 292-9200.

Give a gift to support the teaching and learning of French and Italian languages and cultures

Our funds are listed (left) in alphabetical order. Choose the one that interests you. You may clip out and send in a contribution directly to the department at 1775 College Road, Columbus, OH 43210.

If you access the funds page on the FRIT web site (frit.osu.edu/aboutUs/funds.cfm), and a page on Ohio State’s I-Give web site for the fund exists, you may make your contribution to that fund through a secure, online connection.

- Please send me the Ohio State/FRIT 17-oz. red coffee mug for a \$75 contribution to support FRIT students and learning.
- Please send me the set of two Ohio State/FRIT 17-oz. coffee mugs for a \$125 contribution to support FRIT students and learning.



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- My employer will match my gift.

Name of employer _____

Employer phone _____

For more information on funding and naming opportunities, please contact Margo J. Wolanin, Director of Development, (614) 292-9200 or wolanin.2@osu.edu.





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

We'd like to hear from you ...



We'd like to let you know what's happening with other alumni and with the department, but it doesn't need to be on paper!

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter—or any interim updates—via e-mail, please indicate so on the form below, and send it in—or e-mail your preference and updates to Clare Balombin at balombin.1@osu.edu. With your consent, we will discontinue sending a paper copy of this newsletter and will let you know when it is uploaded onto our FRIT web site for easy viewing. We will also let you know about upcoming events and nuggets of French and Italian information—no more than once a month.

Name _____

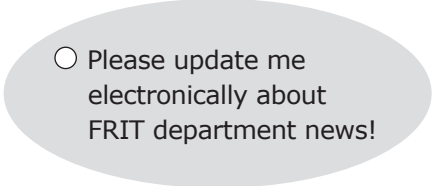
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Degree _____

Year of graduation _____ Daytime phone _____

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What's new? (professionally and personally): _____



Please update me electronically about FRIT department news!

