From the Head

Dear Friends of FLL,

We have completed another successful year in the department with very many accomplishments by our faculty and students. You will find some of them highlighted in this newsletter. Particularly I want to mention how pleased I am that four of our professors were promoted—two received tenure with promotion to associate professor and two were promoted to the rank of professor. Recent additions to our faculty enrich us all: Suzie Suriak, assistant professor in French, and Antonio Tillis, assistant professor in Spanish and African American Studies, and Howard Grabois, assistant professor in Spanish linguistics.

This spring we named Nicholas C. Vorhees as the first recipient of the Godeke Study Abroad Merit Scholarship. A German and management major, Nick will spend one year with our Junior Year Abroad program at the University of Freiburg, Germany. He embraces this opportunity with great enthusiasm and gratitude. In this newsletter, please read all about the new FLL Scholarship in Francophone Studies just established thanks to the very generous donations of Eric and Paul Benhamou. We are grateful indeed for this magnificent gesture.

The financial resources many of you are providing mean so much to our students. Your support makes a real difference in the lives of these talented and deserving individuals. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Two of our longtime colleagues have retired at the end of this academic year. Please join me in congratulating Ingeborg Hinderscheidt as she begins a new era as Professor Emerita of German and Leon Titche who now is Professor Emeritus of German. They both taught countless undergraduate and graduate students who will remember them fondly. Fortunately neither is leaving the community so we will continue to profit from their wisdom, as they drop by Stanley Coulter now and then.

Please let us hear from you. We really enjoy your letters, e-mail, and phone calls. And, of course, we so appreciate your continued support. Please return for a visit.

Christiane E. Keck

Christiane E. Keck, FLL Head
and Professor of German

Head ....................... Christiane E. Keck
Asst. Head ................. Allen G. Wood

Section Chairs:
Chinese & Japanese ........ Daniel Hsieh
Classics & Italian .......... Keith M. Dickson
French ...................... Allen G. Wood
German ................... Herbert Rowland
Spanish & Portuguese ... David A. Flory

Dr. Wei Hong, Honorable Ruixing Wei, Dr. Christiane E. Keck, and
Dr. Bo Jiang in Stanley Coulter Hall
Promotions

Our congratulations go to the following faculty members who received promotions effective August 2001:

To professor:
Robert Hammond, Spanish
Kazumi Hatasa, Japanese

To associate professor with tenure:
Maria Cooks, Spanish
Caroline Gracce, French

New Faculty

Three new faculty members joined us as assistant professors.

Howard B. Grabois (Spanish) received his PhD from Cornell University. His research interests include second language learning and pedagogy, sociocultural theory, and Spanish linguistics. (Photo not available)

Suzie Sarian (French) received her PhD in French studies from the University of Montreal, Canada. Her research interests include Francophone theater and literature(s), French theater, African studies, and film studies.

Antonio Tillia (Spanish and African American Studies) received his PhD from the University of Missouri-Columbia. His research interests include Latin American literature, Afro-Hispanic literature, Literature of the African Diaspora, and post-colonial theory.

Our Mission Statement

The intrinsic mission of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is to promote international understanding while ensuring students the best foreign language education we can provide. Ways our students will use their language skills:

- as teachers and translators of diverse languages
- as employees of multi-national companies
- as diplomatic and business leaders in international trade
- as scholars and researchers of foreign literatures and cultures in a worldwide academic network
- as vital workers in foreign aid service programs
- as volunteers in their communities, giving a voice to someone in need.

Their skills and cultural awareness will traverse boundaries and borders and help create a true global community for the future.

Awards, Scholarships & Special Appointments

Undergraduate Student Awards:

Dean's Scholars 2000–2001
Paul Butler, Spanish
Bryan Kelsey, German
Camille Leimann, Spanish

Purdue Junior Year Abroad program, Montpellier, France:
Raquel Bedimir
Kathryn Chandler

Association of Friends of French Awards for 2001–2002
Purdue Junior Year Abroad program, Montpellier, France:
Marcella Boynton
Mauro Cinotti
Tia Hardy
Elizabeth Weaver

Martinique summer program:
Tracey Calanda-Wilks

Godeke Study Abroad Merit Scholarship 2001
Nicholas C. Vorhees, who will study in Freiburg, Germany for the 2001–2002 academic year.

Outstanding Undergraduate Students 2000–2001

Outstanding Senior
Benjamin J. Hassler, majors in Spanish and forestry
Academic Excellence
Isabellia Lucier, major in French
Erica Nathan, major in Spanish secondary education

SLA Dean's Ambassadors, 2000–2001
Megan Finnerty (junior), major in journalism, minor in French
Christine Haskell (senior), majors in theater technology and English, minors in German and management
Brittany Henderson ( sophomore), major in psychology, minors in Spanish, and organizational leadership and supervision
Ruth Jewett (senior), major in history, minors in French and medieval studies
Rachel Wehspann (senior), major in journalism, minors in French, English, and history
Kathryn Zuck ( sophomore), major in Spanish

2nd Annual Purdue Study Abroad Essay Contest
1st place: Christine Haskell (senior), majors in theater technology and English, minors in German and management
2nd place: Amy Kallenger (senior), major in dietetic health/fitness/nutrition
3rd place: Erica Nathan (senior), major in Spanish secondary education

Thayer Scholarship 2001–2002
Kathryn D. Zuck, Spanish major

FLL Undergraduates elected to Phi Beta Kappa
Class of 2001, initiated in March 2000:
Negin Almasi, French and biology
Eric Brustad, French and biology
Benjamin Hassle, Spanish and forestry
Janell Harrington Jenson, Spanish
David Warner Knight, Spanish

Class of 2001, initiated in March 2001:
Christie Cunningham, Spanish teaching
Emily Harrington, Spanish teaching
Amanda Martin, Spanish teaching
Lindsay Morgan, French and psychology
Erica Nathan, Spanish teaching
Jerry Snellenberger, French and communication
Brooke Vesely, Spanish teaching

Graduate Student Awards:
FLL Excellence in Teaching Award/Teaching Assistant
Eduardo M. Valerio, Spanish

FLL Graduate Students/TAs Honored by Purdue University, 2000–2001
(sponsored by the Committee for the Education of Teaching Assistants)
Melissa A. Coburn, Italian
Isabel Jahn-Pontillo, Spanish
Anne M-J. Violin, French

Friends of French Awards 2000–2001
Matthew Chan Tsin, to present a paper at the International Congress for Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 4–6, 2001
Sulagna Mishra, to give a paper at the Annual Colloquium on Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Cincinnati, May 2001
Anne M-J. Violin, to attend the MLA in Washington, DC, December 2000, and to give a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Language Studies at the Universitad Laval, summer 2000
Juin Wang, to attend the 2001 summer program in Martinique
Activities in the Languages

Chinese and Japanese: Department of Education of China Gives Books to Purdue University

On behalf of China's Department of Education, the Honorable Ruixing Wei, Consul General of the People’s Republic of China in Chicago, presented more than 450 books and videotapes to Purdue University on December 6, 2009. The presentation took place in the Board of Trustees’ Room at the university. Attending the ceremony were Purdue's president, Dr. Martin C. Jischke, Emily R. Mobley, dean of Libraries, Dr. Christiane E. Keck, head of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, and Dr. Bo Jiang, Consul of the Educational Section of the Consulate and Chinese scholars.

This important and valuable collection contains some of China’s most contemporary publications, many of the books published for the first time. There are books on culture, history, politics, the economy, language teaching, as well as encyclopedic works. At the ceremony, Consul Wei and President Jischke both gave speeches. Consul Wei emphasized that Chinese history and culture, developed in the course of five thousand years, shaped Chinese lifestyles, values, and social developments. China’s rich culture and traditions belong to, and should be shared with, the rest of the world. Through these books, faculty, students, and other readers in the Purdue community will get a better understanding of China’s past, present, and future. Consul Wei added that more and more Chinese students and scholars are studying and working at Purdue, and that Purdue’s scholarly exchanges with Chinese higher institutions are steadily growing. Such exchanges greatly contribute to the healthy development of US-China relations. Consul Wei congratulated Dr. Jischke on his appointment as Purdue’s tenth president, and officially invited him to visit China.
German:
We will miss our longtime colleagues Ingeborg Hinderschiefl and Leon Titch, who retired recently as Professor Emeritus of German, and Professor Emeritus of German, respectively. They both taught a large number of undergraduate and graduate students, and they will join us, we know, in wishing both professors a long and happy retirement.

We say goodbye and best wishes also to Jay Rosellini, professor of German, who retired from Purdue, but will be teaching at Suffolk University in Boston, and Suzanne Itzes, assistant professor of German, who has taken a new position at the University of Texas in Austin.

Ozlem Ogut, who received her PhD in Comparative Literature (August 1999) with emphasis on German, received an offer from the renowned Bosphorus University in Turkey, and Soheila Ghassay, who also received a doctorate in Comparative Literature (May 2001) with German as one of her languages, is now teaching at the Baltimore Institute College of Art, in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dean's Freshman Scholar Bryan Kelsey declared his major as German and thus joins the other 16 majors.

In the spring, the German section hosted German filmmaker Ulla Stöckl for two very informative and provocative presentations, including the showing of two of her award-winning films.

The German Club has been particularly active this year with weekly programs for undergraduate and graduate students.

Russian:
Russian minors have doubled over the year due to the faculty’s recruitment efforts for Russian 101, and helping students to combine a Russian minor with their major or even pursue a double major. These new enthusiastic and energetic students are creating a “Russian” presence on campus. They have reinvigorated the Russian Club, which now boasts 40 members and has 50 names on its list server. The club meets every two weeks, and this April saw the return of the traditional annual Russian Lanquet, which always draws a large gathering of students, friends, and parents.

Today’s students of Russian are as varied and motivated as ever. Below, some of the students presently enrolled in Russian give their reasons for choosing to study the language:

I study Russian because I want to work with the space program one day. Right now, English and Russian are the languages of space.

Lindsay TRAWICK (RUSS 202)

I enrolled in Russian because I have never taken a foreign language and being at Purdue I had this opportunity. This turned out to be a most practical, useful and yes, fun class. It is now my favorite. To top it all off, my grandma said that now I will know what Putin is saying when he is on TV. All right!

John SHELTON (RUSS 102)

I am taking Russian because I’ve always been interested in Russia and its people. To me the language is beautiful, and I’m very happy to finally be in a Russian class.

Sarah HAMILTON (RUSS 102)

I became interested in Russian after reading books by Tom Clancy. I found that Karamo in February 2004 was easier than I thought it would be. The small classes definitely helped me learn better. I enjoy Russian.

David JOHNSON (RUSS 202)

I decided to study Russian because I am interested in Russian literature. I hope to be able to read and write about Russian literature in Russian.

Cindy KONRAD (RUSS 202)

I feel that my Russian studies have exposed me to a fascinating culture, and sparked an interest in a language, which will become increasingly important in the 21st century.

Anton VANDER ZEE (RUSS 342)

Spanish and Portuguese:
Foreign Language Education graduate student Marcela Rodriguez de van Olphen presented her work with WebCT software at the Computer Assisted Language Instruction Conference in Orlando, FL on March 17, 2001. She made another similar presentation for the local chapter of the Florida Delta State University.

Mary Hu ALTMAN (PhD 1999), who was recently named Minority Recruitment Director at Ivy Technical College in Lafayette, IN.
Floyd Merrell had four books published during the past year, and taught a graduate seminar in Brazil again this summer, as he has for the past decade.

In Portugal, Paul Dixon recently finished teaching an intensive summer course on the short stories of Machado de Assis at the Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The course involved three hours of class for ten days, and there were 23 students.

**FLL Abroad**

Becky Brown (French) served as resident director of the CIC 2000 summer program in Quebec, Canada.

Alan Garfinkel (Spanish) visited the School of English Language Communication, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing P.R. China, as a foreign expert, March through May 2000 (see below).

John Kirby (Classics) taught Classical Mythology (CLCS 335 O) and directed Purdue’s SA program at Oriel College, Oxford, summer 2000.

Patrice Rankine (Classics) taught Classical Mythology (CLCS 335 C) at Cambridge University, summer 2000.

Eiji Sekine (Japanese) taught an intensive graduate seminar on US-Japan Comparative Literature, at Josai International University, Tokyo, July, 2000.

**Madrid, Spain**

Patricia Hart (Spanish) recently returned from Madrid, following a "triple-header" stint of directing study abroad programs. The first group of fifty-nine students studied for the entire academic year at Universidad Complutense de Madrid and included people from Purdue, Indiana University, and the University of Wisconsin. New students arrived in January, bringing the number to seventy-five. Just as grades were submitted for those students, more arrived for the first-ever Purdue-Madrid summer program. Seven Purdue students extensively visited sites of historical, archaeological, and artistic importance throughout southern Spain while polishing their spoken and written Spanish. High points for the summer group included seeing the Mexican rock group Mana live; attending a miracle play performed in the courtyard of the fifteenth-century Universidad de Alcalá de Henares (having had coffee with the director), viewing flamenco and theater, and even accompanying Patricia Hart when she participated in the Spanish version of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? (¿Quiéres Ser Millionario?). Although Hart didn’t win any money, the students enjoyed seeing the Telecinco studios, cheering from the studio audience, and meeting the Spanish “Regis,” Carlos Sobera, in person.

**Our Students Abroad**

Peter Sandrian plans to graduate in December 2003 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering.

As an eleven year old entering the sixth grade, I had a pretty narrow view of the world. My knowledge and understanding of global affairs has increased and changed dramatically, partly because of increased maturity, but mainly because I studied a foreign language. My French teacher from sixth through eighth grade was a fascinating woman named Mme. Rich, a French woman who grew up in a town close to the German border. Mme. Rich taught our class on the rules of French speech and grammar. She amazed us with occasional stories of her flight from the Nazis, and more frequent tales of her youthful days on the ski slopes of the Alps. Our ears perk ed up when Mme. Rich informed us that French youths are not expected to have jobs, and that Europeans take much more vacation time than Americans generally do. She explained to us how gestures naturally occurred, and sparked my interest in speaking to people from other countries about their cultures.

All of my foreign language teachers have been serious about instilling a sense of pride and a love of the culture of their students.

During my freshman year at Purdue, and for the first semester of my sophomore year, I was always seeing fliers and hearing about study abroad, but never thought that I could actually do it. It would really take some guts to do something like that, I thought. Well, somewhere in those semesters before my junior year, I found some guts and applied. I decided to study abroad at Guadalajara, Mexico, as I had heard some great things about the city and knew that wasn’t far from Puerto Vallarta, where I had vacationed before. It was the best experience of my life. I met so many amazing people I’m still in touch with.

One of the best things to come out of my Guadalajara experience was the canine love of my life, Bert. A friend gave him to me. I didn’t really want him at first...he was sly and very muddy and stinky. But, after a few hours and a bath, he became inseparable. He went everywhere with me, in taxis, on buses, all over the place. All of my neighbors knew us and loved to play with him. Once our traveling around the city together did not prepare for us the trip home from Mexico. It was too hot for Bert to fly home with me so we had to take a bus. It was the longest ride of my life. We left Guadalajara on Friday evening and finally got to Chicago Sunday night. It was the longest weekend of my life. Still, we made it and I would do it over again. I miss that little guy with the help of a few puppy transmitters), and is loving life as an immigrant.

The other great benefit of my Mexican experience was the incredible amount of things I learned there about the culture and language. I left here very unsure of my Spanish speaking abilities and still thinking in English. Now I dream in Spanish sometimes and even catch myself taking notes in
Spanish in some of my classes. I have to warn people that my notes are in Spanish if they ask to borrow them. I love being able to speak Spanish. It makes me stand out. One of the people who really encouraged me to continue studying Spanish and to go abroad was Dr. Alan Garfinkel. He really believed that I could do it and helped me believe the same.

I am applying for Officer Training School for the United States Air Force, in either Intelligence or Public Affairs. Living in Mexico gave me a taste for traveling and I think the Air Force is a great way to do that and get paid for it.

Some Highlights from the Past Year

Undergraduate Majors:
From May 2000 to May 2001, 32 students graduated with an FLL major. Thirty-nine were FLL single majors; 7 were double FLL majors (i.e., a FLL major plus one or two other Liberal Arts majors = 1 BA), and 6 earned dual degrees (i.e., a BA with FLL major plus a BS with another major, like engineering or computer science). Thirty-six of these graduates participated in study abroad programs.

Graduate Degrees Awarded:
May 2000:
Heidi Bostic PhD French
Martina Donnermair MA German
Samuel Francis MA Spanish
Sarah Hines MA Spanish
Claudia Pimental MA Spanish
Joseph Rockeblaw MA German
Julien Simon MA Spanish
Matthieu Chau Tin MA French
Soccuro Zarzosa MA Spanish
August 2000:
Patrick Kiley PhD Comparative Literature

December 2000:
Rachel Bauer MA Spanish
Elizabeth Birkinhaw MA Spanish
James Bukari MA French
Maryca Castelloes MA Spanish
Yolanda Gamboa PhD Spanish
Maria Kossidou PhD Comparative Literature
Youngmi Lee MA Comparative Literature
Celina Manintha MA Comparative Literature
Char Prieto PhD Spanish
Julie Schiefer MA German
Mei Zhu MA Comparative Literature

May 2001:
Dolores Alcado-Ramirez MA Spanish
Jennifer Blau Haan MA German
Silvia Boero MA Comparative Literature
Rosa Maria Boisset MA Spanish
Charles Butler MA Spanish
Isabel Castelao MA Comparative Literature
Soheila Ghassay PhD Comparative Literature
Frédérique Grim MA French
Lei Jin MA Comparative Literature
Catherine Kranner MA Spanish
Silvia Mayayo PhD Spanish
Menica Morales PhD Spanish
Paul Streufert PhD Comparative Literature
Lucero Tenorio-Gavin PhD Spanish
Richard Vitiis i de Puig MA Spanish
Shunzu Wang PhD Comparative Literature

August 2001:
Kristi Hislepe PhD Spanish
Anne M-J. Violin PhD French
Laura L. Wilson PhD German
Chengya Wang MA German

2000–2001 FLL PhD Graduates’ Academic Job Positions After Graduating:
Yolanda Gamboa (Spanish, Florida Atlantic University)
Bonnie Gasior (Spanish, California State University–Long Beach)
Kristi Hislepe (Spanish, North Georgia College & State University, Dahlonega, Georgia)
Monica Morales (Spanish, Butler University)
Char Prieto (Spanish, Valparaiso University)
Lucero Tenorio-Gavin (Spanish, Oklahoma State University)
Anne M-J. Violin (French, Michigan State University)

FLL Homecoming
An FLL Open House was held in Stanley Coulter Hall on Saturday, September 23, 2000, as part of Purdue’s Homecoming Celebrations.

FLL Majors and Minor Party
The annual dinner for FLL majors and minors, sponsored by the Undergraduate Committee, was well attended on September 24, 2000. The event in the Walter Staakes Lounge in SC brought FLL majors, minors, and other prospective students together with faculty and instructors for fun, food, and prizes.

Soirée Crêpes
The French Club held a popular crêpes evening on October 28, 2000, with over fifty people attending. Club president Frédérique Grim prepared the crêpes in advance, and she and other members of the French Club worked hard to make the evening a great success.

Faculty Publications 2000–2001
In the past year our faculty published 7 CD-ROMs, videos and software, and 14 books, had another 8 books accepted for publication, produced 27 book chapters, authored 69 refereed articles, wrote 23 reviews, and gave 91 conference presentations. For titles to books, book chapters, and articles, see “Recent Faculty Publications” on our FLL web site at: http://www.sla.purdue.edu/FL

PSRL Book Wins Prize
Constructing the “Cradle”: Archive: Subjects of Knowledge in the “Biblioteca Mexicana” and the “Biblioteca Mexicana,” by Anthony Higgins (West Lafayette, IN: Purdue UP, 2000), volume 21 in the Purdue Studies in Romance Literatures series, was awarded the A. B. Thomas Award for the best scholarly book for the year 2000 by the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies.

Two Weddings
Professor Mariko Moroschi (Japanese) married Dr. Alexander Wei, a professor in the Department of Chemistry, on June 10, 2001, in Malibu, California. Mariko changed her name to Dr. Mariko M. Wei after her marriage. Several faculty members who attended the wedding commented on how beautiful the ceremony was.

FLF graduate student Alan Taylor (French) married Mary Ade, a Purdue undergraduate student in biochemistry, on December 21, 2000, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Alan says that Mary, whom he describes as very optimistic and fun loving, hopes to graduate in May 2002. Alan, whose research specialty is glossing and reading comprehension, hopes to complete his studies at the same time.

Alumni News
We would love to hear from you and share your news with our readers. Here are some highlights from our alumni:

Distinguished Alumna for 2001
The SLA Alumni Board named Barbara Watts (BA with distinction, French, 1968) one of Purdue University’s School of Liberal Arts 2001 Distinguished Alumna. Dr. Watts received the MFA degree in Guidance and Counseling in 1969 from the University of Cincinnati. In 1978, she received a JD from the University of Cincinnati’s College of Law, where she now serves as the associate dean for academic affairs. Specializing in women’s issues, she was the chief architect of the nation’s first joint juris doctorate and master of women’s studies program in 1995. Winner of many awards for her contributions to the study of sex discrimination and the law and legal drafting, Dr. Watts is active in many community services for children, seniors, and meditation. At Purdue, she was a member of Mortar Board, president of Poesis, and received the Flora Roberts Award for Most Outstanding Woman in her graduating class.

We heard from:
Judy Cochley Birkel, who graduated from Purdue with a BSM from Kranert and a minor in German. Judy told us that she went on the Humboldt Study Abroad Program during her junior year, then returned to Purdue in 1980–82 to get the courses necessary for her German teaching credential. She has taught German at Heritage Christian High School in Indianapolis, IN, for eight years, and for six of those years has also taught math. She took student groups to Germany in 1998 and 2000, but this summer went to Germany with her husband to celebrate their twentieth wedding anniversary (June 6), and to do a little scouting for future trips.

“OUR trip this summer was wonderful. Berlin has changed so much since I was there in 1978 on the Humboldt program. We drove south, visiting Wittenberg and the Buchenwald. On the way to Munich, in Alpine Germany, where we hiked, visited castles, and Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest in Berchtesgaden. A one-night stop in Wesslingen on Lake Constance was a highlight on the way to a friend’s house in Hessen. Then it was on to the Rhine where we were off to London. We had a very relaxing and great time together.”

Cynthia Hahn, PhD in French Literature, 1985
Currently chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and associate professor of French at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL, Dr. Hahn was recently
elected secretary for the Chicago Area Translator’s Association (CHICATA), and has published two translations of Francophone novels: Working Words: A Woman’s Journal in Tunisia, by Evelyne Accad (Heinemann, 1997); and The Last Song of a Rediscovered Country, by Neuriddin Abdu, published in bilingual format by L’Harmattan (Paris, 1999).

Dr. Hahn has also been an avid historic motorcycle racer for the past six years, taking third place in last season’s national American Historic Racing Motorcycle Association (AHMRA) series in the “Masters of the Midwest” 20 Grand Prix Class. See her web page: www.ill.edu/academics/languages/hahn.html for photos.

Christy Korsh Kehoe, BA in LA/Management, 1992. After reading the piece from Carmel High School German teacher Genevieve Kambis in FLL’s 2000 newsletter, Christy sent us the following information:

I live in Texas now, and news from “home” is always good. I learned about the Purdue/Hamburg exchange program from Geenie Kambis, my German teacher at Carmel High School in 1988, and stayed at the same Wohleim as she had earlier, when I went on the program in the Purdue 1990/91 academic year. My German improved greatly overseas, although I was a little afraid of making errors so did not take full advantage of my time there with “the natives.” Nevertheless, my language skills and study abroad have come into good use.

My dual degree and experience abroad gave me the edge in getting my first job at USF&G. I was lucky to find such a good position a few months after graduation as the job market was not very good at the time. I received higher starting pay than others in my training class because of my credentials.

Now I work for the Swiss company Winterthur International (Credit Suisse) as a property/casualty underwriter. We specialize in multi-national companies and heavy products liability. My time abroad and language skills again were a real asset in getting this position. Our company’s official language is English, but we do receive correspondence in German. It is an exciting career and I enjoy the international flavor.

Last fall, my husband and I visited our former au pair’s family in the Black Forest in Triergarten, near Oberkirch in Germany. The family grows fruit for the local fruit co-op, and grapes for the Oberkirch wine label. Then we took a train up the Rhine to Cologne to visit a friend who participated in the Hamburg program the same year I did. Our final destination on this trip was Switzerland, where I went to Winterthur for a few days of business. I spoke German quite a lot on this trip but found Swiss German difficult.

I’ve started my children, Aidan (5) and Moira (3), on the Muzzy German tapes, hopefully with better results. This couple had lost interest in language for them. I finally found Kuby’s, a German restaurant and deli near Southern Methodist University, that makes fabulous wurst, and imports grocerie-

ies and sweets.

Thank you for the warm memories of the Old Gold and Black.

Heather M. Shoemaker received her BA in May 1999, with majors in German and political science. She moved to Washington, DC, as a staff assistant to Indian congressman Steve Buyer. In July 2000, Heather moved to Austin, TX to work on the Bush campaign. The following December she returned to Washington to work on the Presidential Inaugural Committee. Since January she has been at the Department of Defense, working in Air Force Legislative Affairs, and is now working on a White House Commission as a detailee from the Defense Department.

She told her former advisor, Dr. Marianne Gupta, FLL’s academic advisor: “I just wanted you to know that even your most terrified advisees are able to find some time. The future really isn’t as scary on this side. You are welcome to message with any of your students who are beginning to panic about an upcoming graduation. It does all work out one way or another. Thank you for all your wise words and encouragement.

Heather would like to work more with her German major and is very interested in pursuing a master’s degree in Linguistics.

Theresa Vollmer Spurgeon graduated with a BA in German in 1971, and an MA in German in 1974. After graduation, Theresa went to Germany by herself on a one-way ticket and stayed for a year, taking classes at Hamburg University and working. She returned to Purdue and FLL to get her MA, then taught German and English for twelve years in Indianapolis. Since 1987, she has been teaching German at Spanish River Community High School in Boca Raton, FL. She has taught all levels of German, and has never had a student take the AP German exam who didn’t pass.

“Your and my professors in German at Purdue,” she told Christiane Keck, FLL’s head, and professor of German, “gave me an opportunity which I have always appreciated. I was also do my best to preserve and to spread the German language and culture. I read the FLL News and Views and see that there are exciting things happening in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.”

Linda Montandon Weaver works for the law firm of Clauses Miller PC in Chicago, IL. She earned a BA in Social Studies Education with a minor in Spanish from Purdue in 1974, an MA in Spanish Literature from Purdue in 1981, and a JD from Notre Dame in 1987.

My Spanish degrees were recently put to the test. Last year, the Midwest Immigration and Human Rights Center here in Chicago asked me to represent a young couple from Colombia in a political asylum case. The couple had fled their homeland after persecution by paramilitary groups. They had owned a small grocery store in Tulua, and were falsely accused by the paramilitaries of being guerrilla sympathizers. The paramilitaries maintained the wife’s aunt and uncle who worked part-time in their store, as a warning to the young couple that they had better disappear or else. The wife was five months pregnant, and the couple left their five-year-old daughter with relatives in another city, as they had almost no money and could not afford the airfare.

They spoke no English when they arrived in the USA, so I dusted off my 25-year-old Spanish degree. I was actually able to communicate quite well with them during the next year as we interviewed them, and gathered the documents we needed to prepare our case for trial. I did extensive research on the Internet, that included reading the Colombian newspapers in Spanish to find out the current activity of the paramilitaries in the couple’s area of Colombia and throughout the country. In order for the couple to be granted asylum, we had to prove that they could not relocate safely to another part of Colombia.

I worked with official translators only occasionally, and during the crucial preparation immediately before trial, the translator did not show up so I had to act as a simultaneous translator while my partner practiced the courtroom examination of our clients. My Spanish was also useful during the trial, as I was able to correct the official court translator whose translation was not always perfect. When the judge announced that our clients were granted asylum, we all cried. It was a nerve-wracking, but wonderful experience.

We went through a lot with our clients—from the birth of their daughter in Chicago, to witnessing their civil marriage here in Cook County which formalized their Colombian common law marriage.

Was I happy I had a Spanish degree? You bet. My ability to speak Spanish was invaluable. This isn’t the only time I’ve used it in the past three years. I have sought out ways to use it and served on the Board of the Office of Hispanic Ministries for the Diocese of Gary for a couple of years, and last February visited an educational living facility in Queretaro, Mexico, with my cousin, the bishop of Juneau, AK. We went there to check out the program since it had applied for funding from the bishops. I came back and raised $10,000 to pay for it. If any FLL students are interested in a wonderful volunteer experience for the summer, or for a week or two, I would be glad to send information.

While at Purdue, I participated in the Junior Year Abroad program in Spain and found that experience valuable for my resume, and for giving me a broader perspective in the business world. I felt the experience was so valuable that I insisted that my daughter, Sara, who graduated last year, study abroad too, although she went to Oxford with the Business/Management school.

Linda can be contacted by e-mail at: lweaver@clausenlaw.com

John M. Zyczk, Jr., MA in Spanish linguistics, 1999. John started last fall as a new assistant professor of Hu-

manities at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, just west of St. Louis. He is currently teaching Spanish 101-202, and is busy creating at least one course in Spanish Linguistics. You can reach him at: jyczk@lindenwood.edu

Viva la Música
Elise Carr Sumner, who earned her BA in Spanish Education from Purdue in 1971, has produced a 28-song CD, Viva la Música, to help people learn Spanish. She wrote and sang the songs. Included is a booklet with lyrics in Spanish and English. The CD is available from Elise’s web site: www.elsesumner.com. Elise teaches adult Spanish classes at the Anderson YWCA and private lessons, and can be contacted on e-mail at sumner@teachers.org or elise@elsesumner.com.

In Memoriam
Mary E. (Betsy) Brooks, aged 76, in Madison, WI, March 31, 2001. Dr. Brooks had served as department chairperson for Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Wisconsin. She received her BA from Purdue, and MA and PhD from the University of New Mexico. She held a pilot’s license and was involved in many professional activities.

Special Thanks
With this newsletter, we say good-bye to Rita Rad, who has been the writer/editor of this newsletter since the 1996 issue. She compiled the text for this issue, but left to complete her MFA degree.

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New FLL Scholarship in Francophone Studies

The Juliette S. Benhamou Memorial Scholarship for Francophone Studies

This new and important scholarship for Francophone studies at Purdue University has been instigated and endowed by the late Juliette S. Benhamou's son and grandson, in her memory. It will be awarded to an outstanding student, with a genuine interest in Francophone studies, accepted or enrolled in a graduate program in French within the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. The award of at least $5000 will be provided in addition to a graduate assistantship that includes full tuition remission.

Juliette Siccia Benhamou (1903-1979) was born to a Sephardic Jewish family in Immecen, Algeria. She married Albert Benhamou in 1928. Her husband passed away in 1938, leaving her to support their three sons (Guy, Georges, and Paul). She showed extraordinary devotion to her children, engaging in a variety of humble occupations, from seamstress to boudoir, to ensure that they were well fed, clothed, and schooled during the difficult years of World War II. As each of her children graduated from high school, she encouraged them to go on to college, even though this required leaving home for France. All did so, and all returned to Algeria.

"During our childhood, my mother was our primary teacher and spiritual guide, and she gave us a solid foundation for our intellectual and moral development."

—Paul Benhamou

When Algeria became independent, Juliette Benhamou gave her household items to her Arab neighbors and, like French citizens throughout Algeria, left the country of her birth for the mainland she had never seen. In 1962, she settled in Grenoble, France, to be near her oldest son and the family that included her firstand child, Eric Benhamou.

"My grandmother Juliette Benhamou, or Manie, as I always called her, helped me raise while my young parents worked to establish their first household in Algeria; and I was in almost daily contact with her until I came to the United States in 1976. She took pride in her family, her hometown, and her origins; and she believed that through hard work, love, and merit, we can, and should, improve our own condition and that of others.

Eric A. Benhamou, chairman and CEO of 3COM Corporation, is the principal benefactor of the Juliette S. Benhamou Scholarship. Paul Benhamou, associate professor of French, joined the Purdue faculty in 1970. Both were born in Algeria.

For further information about the scholarship and its application procedure, please call (765) 496-3841, or visit the French program Web page which can be found at www.sla.purdue.edu/fll/French.
Please visit our web site at: http://www.sla.purdue.edu/fll

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