



Some Foreign Language Quotes...

Bulgarian

Човекът е толкова пъти човек, колкото езика знае
(Čovekăt e tolkova päti čovek, kolkoto ezika znae)
The more languages you know, the more you are a person

Czech

Kolik jazyků znáš, tolikrát jsi člověkem.
You live a new life for every new language you speak.
If you know only one language, you live only once.

German

Wer fremde Sprachen nicht kennt, weiß nichts von seiner eigenen.
Those who know no foreign language knows nothing of their mother tongue.
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/proverbs.htm>

Welcome to the seventh edition of *Polyglot*, a newsletter designed for foreign language majors at Millersville University and alumni!

Message from the Chair

In this seventh issue of *Polyglot*, you will meet Dr. Valentin-Marquez, a newly hired Spanish Linguistics professor who joined the department of foreign languages in the fall of 2008; you will learn about some very exciting faculty and students' accomplishments which took place this summer; Spanish major Heather Emery will talk about a travel trip course she took with Dr. Rivera-Hernández; finally you will find out about summer language camps thanks to '08 alumna Monique Wood who majored in French and is now getting ready to go back to France as an English Assistante for the French Ministry of Education.

Yours in cyberspace,

Christine Gaudry-Hudson

Welcome to the Department, Dr. Valentín-Marquez!

A native speaker of Spanish from Puerto Rico, Dr. Wilfredo Valentín-Márquez graduated from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico (San German, PR) with a B.A. in Spanish. He then attended Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI) where he received a Master's degree in Spanish. He completed his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI) in December 2007 specializing in sociolinguistics.



His dissertation constitutes one of the only investigations to date comparing Puerto Rican Spanish (PRS) in Puerto Rico with PRS in the continental United States.

Before accepting a position at Millersville University, Dr. Valentín-Márquez was a visiting Assistant Professor from 2004 until 2007 at Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI). He has had extensive experience working with Spanish-speaking immigrant communities and he plans to encourage his students at Millersville University to offer their services in bilingual communities.

A natural teacher, an engaging scholar, Dr. Valentín-Márquez is also an

accomplished poet who has published collections of original poetry. Please join me in welcoming Professor Valentín-Márquez as the latest addition to the FL department and don't forget to check out his profile on Facebook!

The Graduate Summer Institutes Are Alive and Well!

For the past forty-two years, the department of Foreign Languages has been offering intensive summer graduate institutes in French, German and Spanish. For five weeks, MU students abide by the no-English principle at all times; they not only pursue coursework but also participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities, recreation and excursions. Professors are native or near-native speakers from the department of Foreign Languages and from other universities in this country and abroad. This summer we were honored to have Dr.



Hermogenes Perdiguero from the University of Burgos, Spain, Dr. Clément Dili Palai from the University of Ngaoundéré, Cameroon, Dr. Josef Glowa from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Professor Zsuzsa Horvath from Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, IO.

Extracurricular activities included a field trip to Washington D.C. Spanish students visited the National Gallery of Art; French participants went to the Smithsonian to look at African art; and the

German graduate students had a choice between the Holocaust museum and a special exhibition on cinema effect. Also, students had an opportunity to participate in a theater production; German graduate students put together a collage which included works by famous German comedian Loriot, Brecht's Threepenny Opera, and sketches for the foreign language classroom. The French Graduate summer institute presented an evening of poetry reading as well as the adaptation of an African tale, *Ize-Gani*, a child with an unusual gift. Other



cultural events designed to allow students to practice what they are learning in authentic situations included poetry reading nights, cine-clubs, lunch and learn brown bags, picnics, etc. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the language if they are unable to go and study abroad; also qualified undergraduates can take classes which are not

offered during the regular school year and complete their degree in a timely manner. So consider joining us next summer!

“Two Weeks of Pure Excitement” by Spanish Major Heather Emery:



After waiting two years, I was finally able to study abroad in Chile. I didn't want to study abroad for a whole semester because I was too nervous, so I was very excited when I heard about the two week program in Chile. Dr. Rivera-Hernandez accompanied ten other students and me, and I must say it was an unforgettable experience filled with a lot of excitement. This was such an amazing time because we all were able to see how Chileans live, what they enjoy doing, and other things like their form of transportation.

Each student lived with a family, and my host family consisted of a mother and daughter. Waking up each day knowing I would interact with new people and try new foods was truly remarkable. In the beginning it was difficult to speak constant Spanish, but not having the ability to speak English with my host family really helped me to learn more. Of course I took a dictionary with me, so when I was lost I was able to find the unknown words making conversations a lot easier. My host family was also very good at clarifying words I didn't know, which was a relief.

While we were in Chile we had numerous opportunities to live the Chilean life and do activities I never would have done. Most days we attended class in the morning, and then for the evening we had excursions or workshops. We visited a lot of museums and saw many beautiful places, such as two houses that were once owned by the famous Chilean author, Pablo Neruda. During one of the workshops we went to the house of a Mapuche and listened to him talk about the Mapuche culture, which is indigenous to Chile. Afterwards, he demonstrated what the music is like at their ceremonies by using a kultrun, which is very similar to a drum. We were also able to weave headbands and taste food that the Mapuche people normally eat. It was interesting to hear and see what the Mapuche culture is like and I really enjoyed the music. All of us had a great time and I am so glad I was given this opportunity.

In my opinion, this experience was a lot different than studying abroad for a whole semester for many reasons. I feel like I went to Chile knowing I didn't have much time to practice my Spanish or learn about the Chilean culture. Knowing I only had two weeks in Chile made me want to see and learn as much as I could in that time. I knew when I got back to school that I wouldn't have

the opportunity to speak much Spanish, so I took advantage of every opportunity to practice. The workshops we attended and the trips we went on were not planned for the students studying abroad for a whole semester. I think most of them probably missed out on what we experienced and learned from them because I know if I studied abroad, I would not have thought to visit those places.

This trip was also a lot less expensive than staying for the whole semester, and I had to miss less time off of work. Girls from the group also liked the fact that they didn't have to miss their normal activities like cheerleading or volleyball for a long period of time. Since we were only gone for two weeks, we didn't get very homesick, which enabled us to focus more on learning. Spending time in a fully fluent environment really helped me to learn the language, and while I am not completely fluent, it did help a lot. Studying in another country, no matter how long, is a great idea. This kind of trip is also fantastic for people who are short on money or who have jobs and other activities that would be impossible to get away from for an entire semester.



Some Faculty Highlights:

Dr. Marco Antolín made a presentation on "Garcia Lorca Variations on the Poetry of Jerome Rothenbert" in Córdoba, Spain in the XXVIII Asamblea General de ALDEEU (Asociación de Licenciados y Doctores Españoles en los Estados Unidos) July 1-5.

Dr. Christine Gaudry-Hudson attended the annual convention of the American Association of Teachers of French in Liège, Belgium, where she chaired a session on Walloon literature and presented a paper on "Enseigner la littérature à travers les bandes dessinées" July 16-19.

Dr. Leroy Hopkins was invited to participate in an American Association of Teachers of German workshop, "Alle Lernen Deutsch", at the University of Illinois in Chicago, IL, July 9-12 where he talked about "Spiritual Fatherland: African Americans and Germany."

Dr. Wilfredo Valentin-Marquez taught a graduate course titled Advanced Spanish Grammar at the Antillean Adventist University in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico June 23-July 10.

“What I Did Last Summer... (An amazing way to put my skills into practice in a very realistic setting)” by French major Monique Wood:



Sometimes, as any typical college student will do, we stop and wonder why we are actually here, what we plan to gain from our education. We go to classes to discover new knowledge in our particular areas of interest, have our questions answered, and engage in stimulating discussions. We also expect to benefit from experience, such as attending club meetings, making use of materials in the language lab, and carrying on conversations with foreign exchange students. There is one thing, though, that beats all the rest, and that is going directly into the workplace. For education majors, that means a first-hand opportunity to work with younger students. I was so fortunate to have such an experience assisting at the French camp last summer, an option which was both rewarding and unforgettable, and I would like to take a moment and share a little bit about that with you now.

To begin, I had the honor and pleasure of working with Madame Kimberly Marucci who was the French teacher at Lancaster McCaskey High School before receiving her recent promotion. Together with Sarah May, Katie Johnston, and Stefan Piscitelli, to whom we were most grateful for having come to our rescue at the last minute, we embarked on our great adventure! We had nearly 40 students in attendance, which nearly rivaled the Spanish camp and personally made me very happy. After arriving and enjoying dinner, introductions, and a tour of campus, we headed back to Gaige Hall to get better acquainted, prepare for the upcoming week's activities, and get some much-needed rest.

During the following week, we had a very efficient schedule for grammar lessons, group work on a culminating dramatic presentation, conversation hour,

and creating their own unique fairy tales. Meals were eaten all together in Gordinier, and students were required to speak French anywhere outside of their dorm room. The evenings were more a time for social activities, such as watching a French film, playing an intriguing version of Bingo *en français*, and eating crêpes. I would say the major highlights of the week for us all included our face-off against the "Spaniards" in soccer, a special dramatic performance by the graduate students, and a trip to Philadelphia by big yellow bus to see the exhibits at the Philadelphia Museum of Art as well as the Rodin Museum. Friday must have been the most exciting of all, however, because that was the night of the *Spectacle de Variétés*. We really appreciated the formal banquet before the closing performance, and it was a pleasure to have Dr. Gaudry-Hudson, the FL camp director, join us and help congratulate the students on their achievements.

As I reflect back on the experience now, I can easily recall the butterflies I had standing in front of the entire group and teaching verb forms and pronunciation. Madame Marucci's pre-camp preparation really helped keep each session rolling, organized, and fun, and I truly appreciate seeing the way she managed and interacted with the students. I am grateful to the Foreign Language Department and its professors for hosting the camps, and most of all I thank them for choosing me to be a part of it. To all other foreign language majors, I would strongly encourage you to give this more than a little consideration. It will certainly be a highlight of my résumé, but above all it was an amazing way to put my skills into practice in a very realistic setting with students who truly made it worthwhile.

