



Newsletter of the Department of Foreign Languages at Millersville University

FEBRUARY 28, 2006

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

"An essential component of U.S. national security in the post-9/11 world is the ability to engage foreign governments and peoples, especially in critical regions, to encourage reform, promote understanding, convey respect for other cultures and provide an opportunity to learn more about our country and its citizens. To do this, we must be able to communicate in other languages, a challenge for which we are unprepared."

Briefing by Dina Powell, Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Cultural Affairs and Barry Lowenkron, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor

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

Message from the Chair

It is with great pleasure that I would like to introduce the second newsletter to be produced on a semester basis by the department of foreign languages. This newsletter is dedicated to Dr. Rosario Caminero who retired from Millersville University at the end of the fall semester after fifteen years of teaching.

In this second issue of *Polyglot*, you will learn about faculty and students' accomplishments which emphasize how committed MU is to teaching, research and service; you will read about some special projects which took place during the fall 2005 and finally, you will find out about an internship which German junior Josh Belice accepted at the Walt Disney World Resort.

Yours in cyberspace,
Christine Gaudry-Hudson

Goodbye, Dr Caminero!

Dr. Rosario Caminero was born in Havana, Cuba where she studied to be an English and music teacher. She even completed a first year in law school at the University of Havana! Before deciding to attend the University of Pittsburgh where she earned a Master's degree and then a Ph.D. in Hispanic Linguistics, Dr. Caminero lived in Vevey, Switzerland and Port Cartier, Quebec for an extended period of time. Dr. Caminero's work experience was quite varied before coming to MU: she was a freelance translator, an editorial assistant and her first official teaching position was at Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Caminero will be



remembered as a dedicated teacher who was very active professionally in her field publishing, attending and delivering papers, as well as being a consultant at various institutions. At MU, she took a major leadership role in the development of the Latino Studies Minor and her contributions as a member of the Board of Directors of SACA and the Lancaster Hispanic Council were greatly appreciated.

Dr. Caminero will be especially missed by graduate students from the Spanish Graduate Program which she directed for five years. We would like to wish Dr. Caminero, her husband Ralph, her three children Raphael, Martha, Mary Ann, and her two grandchildren, the best and hope that life in retirement will prove to be just as rich and full.

Past and Current Events:

On Friday and Saturday, October 28 and 29, 2005, the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center in Lancaster, PA was the site of the 2005 PSMLA/40th Annual Millersville University In-Service Conference. Over 150 attendees chose from 24 sessions over the two-day period. The conference theme, "World Languages: Promoting Peace for the Next Generation" was reflected in keynote speeches and several of the sessions. Friday's Keynote speaker, Mr. Bruce Heckman, founder of "Immerge," a company which works with individuals preparing to live and work in Arab countries, shared his experiences from the 20 years he spent living and raising his family in the Middle East. He emphasized the importance of becoming an insider in order to understand another person's worldview. Saturday's Keynote speaker, Dr. Kirsten Bookmiller, Director of International Affairs at Millersville University, reminded the audience of the importance of the work language teachers do in the classroom every day and emphasized the need for World Languages in the curriculum in order to develop well rounded students.

On September 22, 2005, MU faculty, students and members of the community had the rare opportunity to hear a live performance of the authentic, Celtic music of Brittany, France when Trouz Bras presented a concert featuring the region's traditional singing, dancing, and unique instruments.

The musicians were Ray Price, who plays veuze and English border bagpipes and has led dance workshops all over the world; Matt Brown, who plays bass and the flute; Mance Grady who plays various world percussions and Barry Hall who sings and plays the fiddle and the vielle. Trouz Bras had a special performance in the Ford Atrium at noon as part of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences noon time concert series. They conducted a special class for French majors at 2:30 p.m. where they discussed Breton culture and the importance of Fest Noz. They also met with members of the local American Association of Teachers of French as well as members of the French Club over dinner. The concert took place in Lehr Hall at 7:00 p.m. Approximately 85 people were in attendance and they were asked to dance in a circle, holding hands or linking elbows with the person on either side. The steps were simple and some of the dances lasted up to 15 or 20 minutes!



Students' Highlights:

In its mission statement, Millersville University pledges itself to "academic freedom [...] and to prepare students to engage in productive and contributive lives as professionals." Several of our former students have been professionally very active: In October 2005, Lauren Klein ('03) shared her ideas on how to 'Adopt an Escargot/Give a Gnome a Home' at the Pennsylvania Modern Language Association; Renée Zartman ('87) talked about Québécois Language and Literature at a local chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French in October as well; French certification student, Carolyn Amodio-Busque ('04) participated in a poster session with Dr. Gaudry-Hudson on service learning at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in November 2005. Spanish/French alumnus Allen Evanko ('05), French alumna ('05) Rebecca Valvano and Spanish alumna Meghan Kauffman ('05) presented at the Pennsylvania Communication Association 66th Annual Conference in a session which was chaired by Dr. Moine.

Faculty Highlights:

Dr. Marco Antolín presented a paper at the XXXIst Annual Congress of Hispanic Literatures at Indiana University in October; Dr. Börger-Greco was invited to take part in the Cela Foundation summer seminar at Santiago De Compostera, Spain in September; she also presented a paper at the Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers in November; Dr. Gaudry-Hudson was invited by the Institute of International Education to serve again on a national screening committee to assist in the selection of candidates for Fulbright and foreign-sponsored awards; she also presented a poster session on service learning at the Annual Convention of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Baltimore, MD; German professors Drs. Hopkins and Nimmrichter were present at the ACTFL conference as well where they delivered a talk. Dr. Nimmrichter attended a Goethe Institut workshop in New York City back in September. Dr. Moine presented a paper at the International Pragmatics Association in Riva Del Garda, Italy last summer; he also chaired a session at the Pennsylvania Communication Association 66th Annual Conference in October. Finally, Dr. Norma Rivera-Hernández went to Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, for a partnership visit to the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez in October.

Study Abroad Special Opportunities:

Welcome back to Erin Breon, Mary Myers and Lauren Geigus who spent the fall semester at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile and to Carlos Muñoz who was at Foro Europeo School of Business in Pamplona, Spain! Best wishes to Clinton Martin and Shallon Statts who are spending a whole year studying at Philipps-Universität, in Marburg, Germany! They have been joined by Josh Belice, Matthew Gross, Rachael Kauffman, Amanda Koplitz, Elizabeth Reichard, Ashley Roccamo and Laura Moyer for the spring semester! We have French majors studying at the Université de Caen Basse Normandie: Meghan Bogharde, Christina Duell, Mary Myers, Kelly Weinholt and Monique Wood; four students are currently at the Universidad de Burgós, Spain: Kelly Bond, Angela Golazeski, Jennifer Irmen and Nathan Saxton. Katee Battiste, Evan Gentry and Deanne Horst are just getting ready to leave because the spring semester does not start until March at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile! Last but not least, Dan Ellis is residing in Valencia, Spain whereas Lauren Wisniewski has chosen Granada, Spain.

Alumni Section:

Mery Soto Punil who received her BA in Spanish as well as her MBA in May '05 got married in September and is currently teaching at MU as a Spanish instructor. Spanish alumni Nick Shiffgens ('05) has accepted a position at Harriton and Lower Merion HS of Lower Merion School District and is planning a September wedding with MU alumna Kristina Saylor. German alumnus Kevin Kreiser accepted a position working for VerEFI Technology and he is planning to go to graduate school in the fall of 2006.

'When you wish upon a star' by German major Josh Belice:

When you wish upon a star...foreign languages can take you far! Everyone knows the real words that Jiminy Cricket sang to us all as children after Pinocchio became a "real boy", and in fact, if you are like most Americans, you grew up on Disney movies. From the Little Mermaid to Aladdin, the Lion King, Toy Story, and many more, we not only know every word and song to the movies, we've been to their homes, either in Orlando or Anaheim. Have you ever been to Disneyland or Disney World? Do you go every year with your family? Well, I recently finished

the semester of a lifetime at Mickey Mouse and Cinderella's home in the Magic Kingdom...that's right, I've been to Disney World 183 times, and let me tell you, I had no idea how much of a critical role foreign languages were going to play for such a huge company when I first began back in June of 2005.

First, for those of you who don't know me, my name is Joshua Belice (or Yosh or Monsieur Poulet, depending on what classes you have with me!) and I am currently a Junior German BA Major with an emphasis on International Relations at the 'Ville. I have taken German 202 through 352, French 101-202, and Italian 101 and 102 and ever since High School, when the kids called me Hans, I've really loved foreign languages.

Starting college, I knew I didn't have the patience my fellow classmates had with children and could never become a teacher, but I was also realistic and knew the chances of becoming an interpreter in the UN or Washington was slim-to-none. After two semesters my freshman year of wondering what to do with myself after college, I began to put myself out in the field where foreign languages were needed-in big American companies. Since this article is about Disney World, let me get right to it.

My internship with the Walt Disney World Resort was in the Magic Kingdom, more specifically in the Food and Beverage Department. I spent my days observing and learning the mechanics of how a huge company like Disney feeds not only thousands and thousands of people a day (I could tell you the real numbers, but that information is sensitive!), but also the problems that arise when guests from other countries come to visit, the largest of which are language.

Disney guests visit from literally all over the world, and with French, German, and Italian working under my belt, I was able to be a big help to my fellow American Cast Members when a problem with language arose. On multiple instances, we would get guests from France, Canada, Italy, and also Spanish-speaking countries (I was also able to pick up Spanish during my time in Florida) who were embarrassed to speak English or just plain couldn't. The best times I had as well as the most fun, were with the guests who were embarrassed to speak English. For those of you who know me, you know I'm not shy and quite outgoing, especially in another language, so when it came time to use a language I didn't speak well, the guest understood the mistakes I made and I didn't have to feel embarrassed practicing because I was at least making the effort. I specifically remember a family of French coming up, a mother and two teenage daughters, who just wanted to order a hamburger and fries, but with all the pointing and frustrated sounds coming off their lips after trying to order in English, I had to give in and say, "Je parle français." After the sighs of relief, the first daughter ordered. "Je prends un hamburger avec des frites et un cola." "How simple!" I thought. "These poor people were toasting their brains (French toast?) trying to order in English, when they could have just asked if I spoke French and saved themselves all the stress!". I do understand where they are coming from, though. As sad as it is, we (Americans) are not well known for our deft ability to speak multiple languages, which is why I say it's time to change that! "Don't you speak English?" I asked the youngest daughter, about 14, in French.

"Oui, mais très mal", she answered. Well there you have it. Just embarrassed to make mistakes and look stupid. My best advice if you are trying to learn a foreign language is don't be afraid to make mistakes...even elementary mistakes because making mistakes is the best way to learn. More often in the restaurants the question of the day was ¿Hablas Español?, to which I would answer Si. ¿Tienes una pregunta? German didn't come in as handy, because the Germans for the most part like to speak English, but I had some luck because my girlfriend

(from Germany) and I met one day when she came in to where I was working and saw my nametag which had a German flag on it (to show I could speak German). She asked me "Bist du aus Deutschland?" and was totally shocked that an American could speak German, especially after I answered, "Nee, Amerikaner. Spreche aber fließend Deutsch". See, foreign languages do lead to good things!

Not only are the guests international, but the staff, too! In the restaurants, people from Russia, South Africa, Argentina, Haiti, Mexico, Brazil, and Holland all worked together to help create a unique, international mix, and it was truly a great thing. Sometimes the language would simply get in the way and totally throw everyone off. Gabriella from Mexico asked me one day where her stocker for the counter was, only when she said "stocker", with her accent it sounded like "stalker". I have to admit, I've been asked some strange questions while working for Disney, but when someone starts asking for their stalker I know they are either really lonely or something is terribly wrong. We spent about a minute and a half trying to understand each other, but when we finally did it ended up in the kind of laughing that makes your stomach hurt.

If you have ever been to Disney World, especially as a foreign language major, you know about EPCOT (which stands for Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow). EPCOT is the park where the theme is technology and the countries of the world. Around the Seven Seas Lagoon in EPCOT are 12 countries, or at least as seen by Walt Disney, and each country is staffed by actual internationals from the countries they work in. I have to say after working for Disney, I now have tons of friends from around the world, and nearly all of the 80 Germans working in the German Pavilion know me. It was really great going to EPCOT on my days off to visit friends especially in Germany because I could tell them how "cool" I thought their Lederhosen costumes were in German right in front of other people and knew the other guests had no idea what the heck we were talking about (not to worry, though-it wasn't just me who used my foreign language powers for evil because on more than one occasion they came in and told me how I looked in my Cowboy costume).

Speaking of using foreign language for evil, I can't even begin to describe how cool it is being able to speak (well...understand) multiple languages. Disney Cast Members from EPCOT would all have to take a certain bus home from the park to the apartment complex where Disney housed them, and sometimes I would travel on the bus for fun to meet people and try to pick up new words. Well, one day was particularly hot (as it can be in Orlando), and when you have a lot of young people who are hot and tired standing waiting for a bus, you hear some words come out in French, Spanish, Italian, and you name it that are so sharp you can't help to turn your head and look at who said them. When the internationals spoke their own language, they assumed no one else understood, especially an American (the white socks usually gave it away), but when I started cracking up because German guys were talking about how cute they thought some Latina girls were, and the Latina girls were saying how gross the German guys were, I knew the poor Germans had no chance! Once again, learning a foreign language is important for potential relationships! Once while on the bus a French girl was talking about a guy she had seen and didn't think he was too bright, because she said he was "fini au pipi", which was a useful expression in slang, I learned that day.

The biggest lesson I learned from this internship with the Walt Disney Resort is something serious that I want to pass along to all of my fellow foreign language majors, and those of you considering becoming one: If you love foreign languages and want to become a teacher, great! There are great opportunities to teach young minds about foreign languages all over the country, and as each of you know, we need to teach and share languages with our

children as much and as young as possible. However, if you love foreign languages and don't want to be a teacher, there is still hope. Several companies, not just Disney, need our help in acting as a bridge with clients and guests. We have to work especially hard because we are losing resources every day (unfortunately our bridges with the Russian language at Millersville are crumbling, which is an extremely sad thing) and simply being part of an Anglophone country make learning extremely important languages like Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic nearly impossible. And so, if you keep your eyes open for opportunities not only to share your language, but have other languages shared with you it may lead you to a new career, new friends, and new laughs. I am extremely thankful for the chance I had to work with everyone at Walt Disney World and for the chance to share some of my experiences with you. Keep learning and sharing and you are sure to go "To Infinity and Beyond!".

