Greetings from the chair

I HAVE JUST received the welcome news that Portland Public Schools, working together with Portland State University and the Slavic Coalition of Oregon, have received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to create an immersion program in Russian. This program, which will be second one in the nation, is a triumph for all language educators and students in the Portland area, and it reminds me of how often our faculty and our students work together with other schools to assure quality language instruction for all.

Last summer, German professor William Fischer received a No Child Left Behind-University/School Partnership grant to provide training for K-12 teachers and PSU graduate students in adjusting teaching techniques and materials to individual learning styles. Also last summer, Spanish instructor Manya Wubbold took a group of high school educators and PSU students to visit schools in rural Guatemala as part of her "Connecting Educational Communities" project. During the academic year students in her "Applied Language in Service" class work on service learning projects in eight different schools.

All PSU undergraduates are required to complete a Senior Capstone. Faculty members DeLys Ostlund and Suwako Watanabe have created two Capstones—one in Spanish and one in Japanese—both in partnership with local schools. Swahili instructor Josphat Waruhiu will pilot a third Capstone in spring of 2007. His course, which stems from the Heritage Language Initiative, will provide mentoring for recently arrived high school students in the students' native languages. And the list goes on. At Portland State, students learn language and culture while working in the community.

Keep in touch,

Sandra Freels, Chair

THEY STARTED BY signing a pledge—all 48 of them. For five weeks the students would speak only German. They completed Deutsche Sommerschule am Pazifik (DSaP), now in its 4th year, at a ceremony in which Steven Fuller, director of the program, tore up the pledge—giving them license to celebrate—in their native tongue—a job well done.

Held at the Lewis & Clark campus, the program ran from June 21-July 27, drawing students from throughout the United States. The one prerequisite was that they had completed or had competence equal to two years of college-level German. One of four such programs in the country, the DSaP is positioned on the premise that total immersion is the way to achieve proficiency in a language. Short of living in a country where German is spoken, this Goethe Institut-endorsed program gives students the best possible German language experience.

The subjects studied at DSaP cover a wide variety of topics. For example, Ingo Klein, a university economics professor from Berlin who also teaches at Stanford University's Berlin program, taught one course on German film and another on Germany since the fall of the Berlin Wall. McKay was majoring in Public Health before attending DSaP but is switching to German with a minor in Public Health.

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The ministry awards a full scholarship to a student chosen by summer school teaching staff for a year of study at one of the universities in Baden-Württemberg. Morgan McKay, this year’s winner, is a junior at Oregon State University. McKay, who plans to use her scholarship at the University of Tübingen, admitted it was a “big shock” to come into the program and immediately speak German. Although she had taken two years of college German, they were not consecutive.

“The biggest surprise,” McKay says, “was being able to see just how big the German language really is. To hear the native speakers was difficult at first because they used more complex words and structures.”

Continued on page 3
News Briefs

PROMOTIONS
The following members of the department teaching staff have been promoted: Eva Núñez-Méndez, associate professor of Spanish; linguistics with indefinite tenure; Savawat Watanabe, professor of Japanese; Laurie Cosgriff, assistant professor of ancient Greek; and Merrille Balland, senior instructor of French.

RETURNED FROM ABROAD
Laurie Cosgriff, Greek, and Eva Núñez-Méndez, Spanish, taught students in Athens, Greece, and Oviedo, Spain in 2006. The program is run by the Northwest Council of Study Abroad (NCSA). As visiting professors, they accompanied students on excursions in addition to teaching courses. Typically, students participating in the one-semester program come from the 11 Northwest universities that comprise the council. Each site offers a broad base of courses from which students choose. Further information is available through the Department of International Education, in the Office of International Affairs.

Bon Voyage
Faculty and students bid adieu to Gina Green, Associate Professor of French, who is teaching at the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso for 2006-2007 through a Fulbright fellowship.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS
The following joined the department from abroad: Harem M.A. Mousa (Egypt), teaches Arabic; Vaibali Punjabi (India), teaches Hindi; Marjan Mosavi (Iran), teaches Persian; Elena Minokova (Russia), teaches Russian; and Aybuke Filiz (Turkey), teaches Turkish. Katy Lelbris (France) joins as an exchange instructor.

WELCOME
Cija Huntley (pronounced K'lya) joined the Foreign Languages and Literatures office staff in April, having previously worked in Registration and Records. She manages the department's Web page, and coordinates class scheduling and administrative details associated with graduate student administration.

IN THE NEWS
Manya Wubahold, instructor, Spanish, has been appointed Honorary Consul of Guatemala. She is organizing a lecture series, “Making Meaning through the eyes of immigrants,” provides background, vocabulary, and activities for students who are pursuing careers with recently arrived Spanish speakers. Jennifer Pernettler, assistant professor of French, edited a volume of essays from papers presented at the 39th annual Congress of the North American Society for Seventeenth-Century Literature. "Relationships and Responsibilities in Seventeenth-Century French Literature" was published in June by Narr Press, Tubingen.

Hot Off the Press
Chair Sandra Freels published her third Russian textbook, Russian in Use: An Interactive Approach to Advanced Communicative Competence (Yale University Press). Like her previous texts, Focus on Russian (1991) and The Golden Age (1996), the recently published text comes out of Freels’ teaching experience and is geared to students in Portland State’s Russian program. Russian in Use, for fourth-level students, focuses on improving oral and written proficiency in high frequency topics-politics, the environment, etc. The final chapter, “America and the eyes of immigrants,” provides background, vocabulary, and activities for students who are pursuing careers with recently arrived Russian speakers. Jennifer Pernettler, assistant professor of French, edited a volume of essays from papers presented at the 39th annual Congress of the North American Society for Seventeenth-Century Literature. "Relationships and Responsibilities in Seventeenth-Century French Literature" was published in June by Narr Press, Tubingen.

Building Connections for Global Education
STEPHANIE OLIVER, INSTRUCTOR, SPANISH
IN AN ERA of globalization, how do foreign language curricula connect with other disciplines at the university level? The more than 80 attendees at the Oct. 11-13 conference on Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum (C/LAC) considered this and other issues connected with internationalization and building “New Connections,” held at the Portland Hilton hotel. German instructor Kathie Godfrey chaired the conference. "C/LAC is a movement," said Robert Sanders, assistant professor of Spanish, who attended an initial consortium in 2005 and was instrumental in bringing the conference to Portland. "Universities have the goal of creating global citizens," he said. "To do that, language departments need to be collaborative. We need to move beyond our broad but shallow general educational mission and our deep but narrow focus on linguistics and literature specializations."
College and university professors and administrators at the Portland conference heard papers from a variety of speakers, among whom was Sharon Carstens, professor of Anthropology. Carstens presented a paper comparing how Chinese culture is taught in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Alberta, and San Francisco. The participants heard about the University of Oregon/Portland Public Schools K-16 Chinese Flagship program and visited eight Portland schools with content-based immersion programs for Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, and Spanish. Zafreen Jaffery, Anoushka Sidighi, Linda Godson, and Patricia Wetzler presented a panel, “Parlez Vous Urdu?”, presenting the department’s Heritage Language Initiative. Portland State received a $7,500 mini-grant from the American Council on Education Internationalization Collaborative for costs associated with hosting the meeting.

Continued from page 1
In addition to the undergraduate program, DSAP offers a business German course that attracts eight to ten students as well as a German teaching methods course for teachers of German. The program is promoted through its PSU Web page, word of mouth from former participants, advertising in professional journals, and a hefty direct mail campaign that gets 600 postcards and 6,000 brochures placed on campuses that offer at least an Associate Degree in German. All members of the American Association of Teachers of German receive notice. Kathie Godfrey manages the program, taking charge of the year-round “tours and holzs,” communication with prospective participants. “I correspond with them all year round,” she says. “It’s wonderful when I finally get to meet them.” Kristen Vaughn, a student at Webster College in St. Louis, Missouri, had this to say about her experiences. “I was surprised at how fast most of us were able to become friends since we did not know each other and most of us have different pasts and interests,” she writes. Vaughn currently studies in Vienna, Austria, where she says her summer in Portland helped with the transition. “It seems like second nature to hear and speak German day in and day out,” she writes. “It made it very easy to come here, and it was wonderful to have a program during the summer to keep me on my toes.”

Fernando Fabio Sánchez
Assistant Professor of Spanish

PERSONALS: age 33; wife, Ana Rocío; daughter, Jennifer, 13
CREDENTIALS: Ph.D., Spring 2006, University of Colorado, Boulder
THESIS TOPIC: “Murder as Post National Art in Modern Mexican Literature and Film
SPECIALIZATION: 20th and 21st century Latin American literature, culture, and film
HOBBIES: editing and producing videos, squash/racquetball and jogging— he runs the Nike campus track near his home
FAVORITE FOOD: Mole de Puebla
FAVORITE BOOK: One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez
Also, Pedro Platero by Juan Raúl
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INTRODUCING
FALL 2006
I N T R O D U C I N G
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IN THE NEWS


SEE YOU AT THE MOVIES

Organizers Robert Sanders, Oscar Fernández, Eva Núñez-Méndez, and Fernando Fabio Sánchez, members of the department’s Spanish section, are previewing and reviewing films and proposals for presentations at Cine Lat IV, an international conference on Hispanic film and fiction. The conference will be held at PSU, Feb. 21-24, 2007, in coordination with the Northwest Film Center’s International Film Festival. Guy Wood of Oregon State University also is working on the project. Call for papers and volunteer opportunities are available at www.flfl.pdx.edu.

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FAVORITE BOOK: Mastering Chinese by Xiangyu and others
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