Partially in response to higher standards for Michigan Foreign Language teachers, all of our language majors must now have a study-abroad experience and at least 30 hours of credit at the 300 level or above. Minors also are required to study abroad and earn 20 hours of credit at the 300 level or above. The State of Michigan requires that FL teacher candidates demonstrate speaking proficiency at the Advanced-Low level of the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages Proficiency Scale. Our pre-candidate teachers who have taken these Oral Proficiency Interviews over the phone have done very well, with more than 90% achieving at that level. Due to the increased level of proficiency required for teachers, however, our department has decided to eliminate all programs for teaching minors.

Degree Changes for Majors and Minors

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Central Michigan University

FLLC News

Éric Vincent in Concert

October 15, 2009

With the generous support of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures, College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Office of International Affairs, and in conjunction with the Alma College Foreign Language Department, French folk singer ÉRIC VINCENT will play in concert at the Park Library Auditorium on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 7 p.m. A reception will follow in the Baber Room Gallery. Vincent tours the world with his interactive, pedagogically oriented concerts and workshops.

The concert will be free for CMU and Alma College students; $5 for other guests. Seating is limited so contact Amy Ransom for reservations ranso1aj@cmich.edu.

Degree Changes for Majors and Minors

Partially in response to higher standards for Michigan Foreign Language teachers, all of our language majors must now have a study-abroad experience and at least 30 hours of credit at the 300 level or above. The State of Michigan requires that FL teacher candidates demonstrate speaking proficiency at the Advanced-Low level of the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages Proficiency Scale. Our pre-candidate teachers who have taken these Oral Proficiency Interviews over the phone have done very well, with more than 90% achieving at that level. Due to the increased level of proficiency required for teachers, however, our department has decided to eliminate all programs for teaching minors.
Greetings Alumni and Friends,

We decided that it was time to connect in more ways with our friends and alumni, and a newsletter seemed the best way to do so. While we see some of you at Homecoming, others at the Michigan World Language Association, and even some on third floor Pearce as you return for a visit, we do not see the majority of you, even though we may have email contact. Many of you have asked for updates, and hopefully this format, though novice in its beginnings, will help connect us all. If successful, we may continue on an annual basis.

We have had many changes in the past few years, one being that I replaced Jim Jones who did an exemplary job of chairing our department from 1998 to 2007. Although this will be my third year as chairperson, I continue to appreciate the dedication and support of our previous chairs and of our very dedicated and talented faculty. In addition to leadership, however, we have had many other personnel and curricular changes that you will find highlighted in various sections of the newsletter as well as news on recent faculty and student accomplishments. Please keep us updated on what you are doing so we may include you in next year’s newsletter, for what unites us all is not only our CMU experience, but our desire to create a better world though mutual understanding—the cornerstone of which is knowledge of diverse languages and cultures.

We hope to see you at Central’s homecoming October 10th in the CHSBS tent, at the Michigan World Language Conference in Lansing on October 15th and 16th, or on third floor Pearce if you care to stop by for a visit.

Sincerely,

Susan Knight

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**Message from the Chairperson**

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**Request for Information Form**

Please send us news on your accomplishments - job, marriage, and children, etc.

Name ____________________________________________

First   Middle   Last    Maiden

Address _________________________________________________________________

Street       City    State   Zip

Telephone (____)_____________ Email _______________________________________

Degree(s)/Major(s) you received______________ Year(s) you graduated _____________

News ___________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Please return this form to: CMU – Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures & Cultures, Pearce Hall, Room 305, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859 or you can email your updates to cottle1pk@cmich.edu. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.
French Club

Pi Delta Phi induction ceremony was held on April 15th. The new regular members are Lisa Bennett, Jessica Czyzewski, Christy Grusnick, Melissa Hughes, Alexander Pfaff and Keith Phillis. New honorary members are Richard Neil Mower and Robin Mower.

Le Cercle français

The French Circle has benefited from increased attendance at its two sponsored activities, L’Heure de conversation française (affectionately referred to as “La Convo”) and the Film Festivals offered each semester. This Fall we’re looking to the northeast, and showing a series of contemporary films from Québec. We welcome all local alums to join us for these events: French conversation every Monday from 5-6 at Café Kaya at the corner of Bellows and University. Contact Amy Ransom (ranso1aj@cmich.edu) for more information on the film festival.

French Faculty

In the past five years, Dr. Gilles Labrie and Joan Dollard have retired. Dr. Labrie, however, is often in Pearce Hall, but in different classrooms as he is beginning to learn German. Another colleague who came a few years ago, Jeanne Sarah de Larquier, has left to teach at another university. Dr. Keith Palka, we are pleased to announce, has only moved down the hall to another office. We have three terrific new hires in the past few years—Dr. Christi Brookes, Dr. Amy Ransom, and this past year, Dr. Kathleen Anderson. In addition to our tenure-track positions, Dr. Daniela Teodorescu is a full-time temporary.

French Alumni Updates

French student Mike Tyle II (’09) has been accepted to the French government’s assistantship program. He will be teaching English at a French high school in Versailles, France.

Brittany Yansak (’09) has been accepted as a recruit to the Peace Corps.

Derek Howell (’08) and Jamie Archer (’08) were assistants in France for the past year.

Jenna Gatske (’08) began a master’s program in Natural Resources at University of Wisconsin-Steven’s Point.

Mike Knight (’08) began a master’s program in Political Science at CMU.

Christopher Wiesman (’08) began a master’s program in French at Bowling Green University.

French Student Kudos

Spring 2009 SCREE (Student Creative Research Endeavor Exhibit) at CMU. Heather Shock presented her research from FRN 597 entitled, “Vive le Québec libre.”

Other Awards/Honors

Heather Shock was accepted into the French MA program at Bowling Green University.

Above: Dr. Kathleen Anderson (FRN) & Dr. Gilles Labrie (FRN retired)

Left: Dr. Amy Ransom (FRN), Dr. Christi Brookes (FRN) and Dr. Daniela Teodorescu (FRN)

Ms. Joan Dollard, FRN & Lab Director (retired)
Spanish Club

The Spanish Club, advised by Cristen Vernon, held meetings approximately every two weeks to discuss conversation hours and events. All meetings were conducted in Spanish.

Two students went to see Vicente Fox, the former President of Mexico, at Alma College in the Fall semester.

Students participated in a Day of the Dead celebration. Everyone constructed alters for loved ones that have passed away and ate traditional food that one would eat while celebrating this occasion in Mexico. Students learned of the traditions of the Day of the Dead and how it is celebrated in Mexico.

The Spanish club sold candy hearts for a Valentine’s Day fundraiser with half of the proceeds donated to the Wall of Hunger, which totaled $50.

Students participated in two Latin dance nights learning various Latin dances such as tango, merengue, salsa, and bachata.

Spanish club participated in an “Argentina Night” with Sigma Delta Pi. Some students who studied in Argentina came and danced the tango, shared some popular Argentina food along with the famous tea: yerba mate. It was a huge success.

Conversation Hours

The Spanish club organized conversation hours. Native speaker volunteers were recruited to practice Spanish with the students in most of the conversation hours. Activities included listening to songs in Spanish, playing various games in Spanish, and discussing important topics such as immigration and the environment.

Film nights

The Spanish club offered ten films in Spanish over the course of the year.

Sigma Delta Pi

Sigma Delta Pi initiated nine new members this spring: Mark Alberda, Will Cotton, Melissa Finley, Brianna Hecksel, Bryan Klein, Anna Pascoe, Matt Verlaque (President-elect), Andrew Walton and Professor Rafael Ponce-Cordero. Sigma Delta Pi started a campaign for the environment, called ‘Sigma Por El Planeta.’ They had green T-Shirts made and also made a bulletin board display of how college students can do their part to help the planet. The bulletin board showed examples of how other Spanish speaking countries were conserving energy and helping the planet. Sigma Delta Pi met bi-weekly for short meetings to discuss events and activities. Sigma members went out to eat at the authentic local favorite, Los Palominos, to enjoy food and practice their Spanish. Members of Sigma helped at conversation hours with Spanish Club, they put on the study abroad orientation for those students going to Argentina this fall and they even helped to put on an “Argentine Night” with the Spanish Club.

Spanish Faculty

Dr. Rebeca Torres-Rivera retired a few years ago. Dr. Vania Barraza-Toledo and Dr. Jim Courtad have taken jobs at other universities, and Dr. Dale Hartkemeyer has also relocated. Rafael Ponce-Cordero has been hired to teach cultural studies, and a new search will begin for Dr. Courtad’s position. We have many new full-time temporaries in Spanish-- Taryn Corrigan, Lorrie Murray, Cristen Vernon, and this year, Dr. Tony Puglisi, who will temporarily take Dr. Courtad’s courses. The familiar faces that still remain in our halls are Cindy Espinosa, Mary Gillingham, Dr. Marcela Hurtado, Dr. Mary-Garland Jackson, Dr. Kris Kulawik, Dr. Alejandra Rengifo, and Dr. Norma Richardson.

Sigma Dinner at Los Palominos

Day of the Dead

Attended presentation by Vicente Fox at Alma College

Sigma Delta Pi

Dr. Ed Roberts (SPN retired)

Dr. James Courtad left CMU in May 2009

Spanish News
Spanish M.A. Program

This program continues to be of interest to many for its unique aspects of summer study abroad and Saturday course offerings. This past summer 10 students went to Alicante, Spain. In the fall, in addition to the Saturday class, a hybrid course will be offered with most of the work and presentation done online. Dr. Rengifo is coordinator of the program and anyone interested in working on graduate hours or an MA in Spanish can contact her at rengi1a@cmich.edu.

Spanish Student Kudos

Spring 2009 SCREE (Student Creative Research Endeavor Exhibit) at CMU.
Caitlin Benalack: “Not Just an Indigenist: Clorinda Matto de Turner’s Ideas on Education as Found in Herencia”.
Ashley Hordos: “Students’ Attitudes Toward Foreign Language Usage”.

Other Awards/Honors
Brian Olovson, Spanish major, will be featured in CHSBS Under Discussion, Summer 2009, discussing his experiences teaching at summer migrant programs.
Steve Myers was a recipient of CHSBS Student Presentation Grants for his session at the Michigan World Language Association Conference in October, 2008.

Spanish Alumni Updates

Caitlin Benallack (’09) was accepted by Indiana U. to pursue an M.A. in Latin American Studies and a Masters of Library Science.
Samantha Bradley (’09) is teaching at KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) Aspire Academy in San Antonio, TX.
Andrea Thomas (’08) was recipient of Michigan World Language Association’s New Teacher Grant. She also presented a session at the conference in fall of 2008.
Steve Myers (’08) is teaching at Jorge Washington School in Cartagena, Columbia.
Katie Houston (’07) is still in Honduras with the Peace Corps.
Lindsey Graham (’07) is teaching Spanish II, III, and IV at De La Salle High School in Warren, MI for the 2008-09 school year.
Sandra Russo (’06) is starting her PhD at Arizona State University, did great in her MA.
Andrew Kent (’05) is in Honduras with the Peace Corps.
John (’04) & Cristin (McNamara) (’04) Heinbeck are in Abuja, Nigeria working at the US Embassy and had their first child in Dec. 2008.
Niki Battjes (’03) and Sean Hill (BA ’01, BS in Ed ’03, MA ’05) presented a session at Central States Conference in Chicago in March of 2009 entitled “How to Execute Your Own Trip to Puerto Rico.” Their presentation was then published in the Journal of Central States Conference.
John Sciberras (’03) is living in downtown Chicago and working for a bank.
Nicole Culver (’02) participated in the Ironman Coeur d’Alene in June, completing it in 15 hours, 23 minutes. She also is teaching Spanish to kindergartners in Arizona.
Faculty News

Dr. Gisela Moffit retired last year, and Dr. Daniela Richter was hired to take her place. Dr. Jim Jones has been teaching full time since stepping down as chair, as well as Janet Lein, who will be on sabbatical this upcoming fall. We have a part-time position that Dominik Wolff will fill this year.

Dr. Jim Jones received CMU's 2008 Faculty Distinguished Service Award, which honors faculty with a record of sustained service to the university and/or profession.

Club News

The German honorary, Delta Phi Alpha, has two new members: Rachel O'Hara and Nicole Shackelford.

The weekly conversation hour, Stammtisch, is led by our three German exchange students and our three returning CMU students. Students at the intermediate and advanced levels attend.

The German Club, advised by Dr. Daniela Richter, had another successful albeit challenging year. Under a new president and vice president, the German Club organized various social as well as academically oriented events throughout the fall and spring. To combat relatively low attendance (about 10 students per meeting) the club organized social events, such as bowling night at the SAC, a movie night showing a recent German movie and game nights where students played German board games. Another event featured American students who had been studying or doing an internship in Germany as well as German students who are currently studying at CMU. These speakers presented their experiences in Germany, gave information on how to organize and plan for a study abroad or internship experience in Germany. This event was extremely well received and will become a regular feature of German Club in the future.

The German Club also reached out to a fellow German Club at MSU to join them in a trip to Uncle John’s Cider Mill, in October. This event featured time for both clubs to hang out, enjoy hot cider and a hay ride through the orchard. In addition another alliance was forged with Alma College’s German Club, whose theatrical performance members of CMU’s German Club attended in March, 2009. Hopefully future collaborations will result from this.

In Memoriam

With a heavy heart, I want to share with you the sad news of Bettina Giese-Medhikhanian’s death. Bettina had been diagnosed with breast cancer and responded well to chemo and radiation treatments. Her colleagues and friends were shocked when she died suddenly on May 22, 2009 in Bielefeld.

We are deeply indebted to Bettina as she was one of the first teachers for our study abroad program in Bielefeld. Since 1990, she planned and organized the programs for our students in Germany, taught them when they got there, and accompanied them on field trips and fun outings. Die “große” Bettina as she was affectionately called was a combination of friend, mother, and pal to whom our students could turn with all of their questions, concerns, and worries. She always knew what to do. Her zest for life and her good sense of humor were contagious and contributed greatly to our students’ successful study abroad experience.

We all will miss her greatly.

Frau Moffit

If you wish to send condolences to Kerstin and die “kleine” Bettina, you can reach them at Tandem Bielefeld (addresses below).

Nikolaus-Dürkopp-Str. 11
33602 Bielefeld
Tel.: 0521-6 92 63
Fax: 0521 - 6 91 19
Bürozeiten:
Mo - Fr: 10.00 - 13.00 Uhr
Di: 15.00 - 18.00 Uhr

www.tandem-bielefeld.deinfo@tandem-bielefeld.de
German Student Kudos

Spring 2009 SCREE (Student Creative Research Endeavor Exhibit) at CMU.

Julianna Lovik, German major, presented her Honor’s project entitled “American Sign Language as a Foreign Language: Analyzing the Status of ASL at CMU.”

Other Awards/Honors

Jared Maul, a German teaching major for secondary education, was admitted to the AAATG’s (American Association of Teachers of German) MUTPED seminar in Leipzig, June 28-July 26, 2008. This seminar focuses on developing students’ oral competency in German on the K-12 level as well as giving the participating instructors the tools for assessing, teaching and practicing oral competency in the classroom. The application process was highly competitive and it was a great achievement for Jared to get accepted.

Adam Orange was selected to participate in the same program at the University of Leipzig from June 13-July 11, 2009.

German Alumni Updates and Kudos

Daniel Nikolits, a past German major, was awarded a prestigious Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals Scholarship for study and an internship in Germany next year. Almost five hundred people applied and only seventy-five were selected for this very competitive scholarship.

Sara Kuehlhorn is an English instructor with the University of California, Riverside, Yongin Center in South Korea.

Gisela Moffit receives national award

Retired foreign language professor Gisela Moffit has received national recognition for her efforts in teaching German.

She was presented with the Certificate of Merit award from the American Association of Teachers of German and the Goethe-Institut New York during the AATG’s annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas in November. The award recognizes educators for outstanding achievement in furthering the teaching of German in schools in the United States. To be eligible for the award, recipients must be nominated by their state AATG chapter or by AATG members.

"It is a great honor to be chosen for this national award," Moffit said. "I was delighted."

Her many accomplishments at CMU include founding the German Club, hosting monthly German film nights, creating a German newspaper written and produced by students and sent to high school teachers throughout the state, and establishing a study abroad program in her hometown of Bielefeld. "As a teacher she held high expectations for her students, but was always there helping them to succeed, including inventing mnemonic devices for grammar rules that she had students sing to themes from German composers," said Sue Knight, a CMU Spanish professor and chair of the foreign languages, literatures and cultures department. "Outside of class she took students to see plays, visit museums, and attend estivals, and and she invited them to her home to learn German Christmas carols and prepare German recipes," Knight said.

Other honors include the Barbara Ort-Smith Award for Lifetime Achievement-the Michigan Foreign Language Association's highest award-and the Best Article of the Year (1998) by die Unterrichtspraxis for "Oya? - O ja! Ein Plädoyer für Jugendliteratur," which focused on teaching young adult literature in the German classroom. She has presented at more than 40 state and national workshops over the past 10 years.

Moffit began teaching German at CMU in 1975 and retired after more than 30 years of service.
Alpena High School German teacher earns national honor!

The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) and the Goethe-Institut New York will present their annual Certificate of Merit Award to Judy Cooper of Alpena High School. She is one of five recipients of the 2009 award for outstanding achievement in furthering the teaching of German in schools of the United States. This award has been presented annually since 1978 and Cooper, a CMU alum, is only the third Michigan teacher to be so honored. This is Cooper’s second major recognition this year. Her first was the State of Michigan AATG Chapter’s honor, the Dusden award for outstanding effort and achievement in German language instruction.

Grandparents U: Program grows in second year

For the past two years our department has been part of Grandparents U, a few days in June when Grandparents can bring their grandchildren to campus, live and eat in the dorms and take exciting classes geared to the 8-12 year-old interest level. A year ago Mary Gillingham and Lorrie Murray organized a Spanish session entitled “Mexican Fiestas y Festividades”. This past summer, Daniela Richter and Cristen Vernon offered two sessions of their class “Pretzels and Piñatas,” in which participants learned about the origin of the pretzel and the piñata and got to try them both out along with learning basic phrases in both languages. The sessions each year have received superlative comments.

2009 Grandparents U

2008 Grandparents U

Other Language Offerings

New Additions......

Arabic & Chinese

Beginning Arabic and Chinese offerings were both added this past academic year.—two Arabic 101 classes in the fall and one Chinese; and one section of 102 in each language in the spring. Enrollments for the fall were 39 in Arabic and 27 in Chinese; for spring they were 14 and 7 respectively. We are offering two sections of 101 in each language this upcoming fall, and one of 102 in the spring. Ghada Sharaf Eldin Ibrahim teaches the Arabic courses and Lily Kalantar, the Chinese.

Japanese

This continues to be a strong, two-year program. Thirty-three students were enrolled in JPN 101 in the fall and 23 in JPN 102 in the spring. Offering for 2009-2010 will be 201 and 202. Dr. Roger Hammer was on sabbatical last year, but will be returning. In his absence, Maiko Bronson took his place.
Scholarships

Three new scholarships have been added in the past few years:

- The **Gilles Labrie Scholarship** was established by John Labrie in honor of his father. It is given annually to a signed French major.

- The **Eric Kadler Scholarship** is awarded annually to students with a major in French, German or Spanish and a major or minor in another foreign language. Dr. Kadler was also a long-time professor of French and also a previous chair of the department.

- Esther Moreno Kulhavi, a CMU alumnus who majored in Spanish and French, created a new scholarship this year in honor of her parents, the **Reverend Albert and Trinidad Moreno**. The scholarship will benefit students interested in studying in Latin America.

If you would like to see the complete list of scholarship opportunities, check out our website at [http://www.chsbs.cmich.edu/FLLC/MAIN/fllc_scholarships/FLLCscholarships.htm](http://www.chsbs.cmich.edu/FLLC/MAIN/fllc_scholarships/FLLCscholarships.htm).

If you would like to contribute to an existing scholarship, please fill out the form on the last page.

Study Abroad

Since we have added a required study-abroad component for majors and minors in all languages, our numbers have increased. There are a total of 94 students in our 3 major/minor languages going abroad in 2009 compared to 75 in 2008. We are encouraging students to go on longer programs (i.e., semester rather than just summer) in order to gain proficiency and cultural knowledge. Additionally, students come to our department to study abroad in countries with less commonly taught languages, many of which are not offered at CMU. This past year there were 25 in this category.
Chinese Painting Demonstration

Artist Louise Chan demonstrated traditional Chinese painting for students in Lily Kalantar’s Elementary Chinese II course. Chan explained the techniques and equipment used to create Chinese brush paintings. The artists paint with continuous brushstrokes of various lengths and widths and strive for creating harmony in their artwork.

Her brushes are made of bamboo handles with animal hair tips. She mixed water with a small glob of black ink to paint two bamboo stalks—one dominant and one in the background—blowing in the wind. A single “lonely” stalk or two equal stalks would disrupt the harmony of the painting. She created different shades of black and gray by increasing and decreasing the amount of water in the ink mixture. She finished the painting by adding white ink to create a snowy scene.

One lucky student, Keith Phillis who correctly answered a question about Chan’s painting, went home with the artwork.

Foreign Language Day 2009

Foreign Language Day 2009 was another success. This year was our 37th annual and just over 1300 high school students visited CMU’s campus, that number remains constant from 2008. Some travel from as far away as three hours to attend each year. Patti Cotter, the director, did an excellent job and is planning April 30 as the 2010 Foreign Language Day.

For information and pictures about this past Foreign Language Day or the upcoming, please click on Foreign Language Day on the department website.
Many Thanks for Your Support

Merci Beaucoup  Danke, Grazie, Muchísimas gracias  to all of the friends, alumni and faculty who have made generous contributions this past year. Your gifts are used for many purposes—from sending students abroad either by creating new scholarships or funding existing ones to supporting our department by helping us purchase instructional materials or fund other educational activities. Tuition increases and higher study abroad cost coupled with the poor Michigan economy have made your support and generosity even more appreciated. For those of you who would like to make a contribution, please fill out the tear-off form and return it with your check.

The following are accounts within the Department of Foreign Languages in need of on-going support:

Scholarships:

- **Eric H. Kadler Award for Study Abroad** (#66766): Scholarship to study abroad awarded to students with a major in French, German or Spanish and a major or minor in another foreign language.
- **Jacques E. and Helen M. (Baer) Perry Scholarship** (#66410): Scholarship awarded to students majoring in French, German or Spanish.
- **Edana DuGuay Scholarship for French Study Abroad** (#66385): Scholarship awarded to students majoring in French to study abroad in France or Quebec.
- **Gilles Labrie Scholarship in French Studies** (#66747): Scholarship awarded to student who have signed a major in French.
- **Charlotte B. Evans Scholarship for German Study Abroad** (#66398): Scholarship awarded to students with a major or minor in German to study abroad.
- **Elizabeth Etnire Scholarship for Spanish Study Abroad** (#66396): Scholarship awarded to Spanish education students to study Spanish abroad.
- **Nancy and Ted Kortes Spanish Award** (#66493): Scholarship awarded to students with a major or minor in Spanish to study Spanish in Spain or Latin America.

**General Department Fund** (#9100016)

Please send your contributions to: Central Michigan University, Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures & Cultures, Pearce Hall, Room 305, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

Account # donating to _______________ Amount of contribution $ _______________ Payment: □ Check enclosed □ Credit card
Name on Card ___________________________ Number ___________________________ Expiration Date _______________