What’s in a name? Department changes name and moves

Greetings from the Department of Languages! Yes, we have changed our name and we are not so “foreign” anymore. I will confess that when we began to have discussions about a potential name change for the department, I wondered what the fuss was about. I’ve been teaching in departments of Foreign Languages since 1987! However, as we continued to talk about what we do and who we are, questions of identity came to the fore. A name does mean quite a bit. One can hardly call Spanish a foreign language anymore here in the United States given that nearly 40 million citizens speak it as their first language. Here in our department we also offer courses in Ojibwe, a native and not foreign language to Wisconsin and Minnesota. Beyond these two obvious examples, nonetheless, lies the more important point that fed our desire to change the name. Words do count, and for better or worse, “foreign” has a generally negative connotation. One of the definitions found in the 10th edition of the Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary reads as follows: “[A]lien in character: not connected or pertinent.”

We know that the study of languages and cultures is pertinent to our students’ studies and lives. We know that the study of languages and cultures connects with and enhances other disciplines across the board. In this world we live in, it behooves us to communicate with others not as “foreigners”, but as fellow citizens in an interconnected and global society. Indeed, this is central to our department’s mission that expresses, in part, our desire to graduate students who will serve as ambassadors for a diverse, peacefully interacting global society.

So, what’s in a name? A great deal, it seems. You will need to look for us now without the “foreign” when you visit our website. We’re excited about the change. And we are excited about our future.

Speaking of the future – we would like to invite you to an open house for the Department of Languages in our new space – Centennial Hall. Not only do we have a new name starting officially fall 2014, but we are also now moved into a new academic building – the first one built on campus since 1983! We extend an invitation to you to come visit us and to see our new space on Friday, October 3, from 3-5pm. Details will be sent out later.

As always, we hope you find this edition of the Polyglot interesting and informative. Please send us a little note to let us know where you are, what you are doing, and how your studies in languages and cultures have influenced your life.

Kind regards,
Carter Smith

White Rose exhibit

The White Rose: Resistance and Remembrance was on display at McIntyre Library from February 3 through February 19, 2014. The White Rose was a nonviolent student resistance movement, which distributed pamphlets calling for the overthrow of Hitler and his government. As a result of speaking out against the government, the core members of the group were beheaded. Their enduring legacy urges everyone, especially students like themselves, to speak out against oppression and to stand up for human rights.

In anticipation of the exhibit, a high school German teachers’ retreat was held on February 1st at UW-Eau Claire with teachers from several local and distant high schools sharing their ideas for teaching the Holocaust in the German classroom. On February 6th, Dr. Teresa Sanislo, professor of History, spoke at the official opening about the legacy of the White Rose and challenged our own courage to be activists. In the nearly three weeks of the exhibit’s visit to campus, hundreds of high school students came on class fieldtrips to view the exhibit and meet with members of the German section and our students.
Brandon Senger engages in service-learning abroad: Isard Cos mentoring opportunity

January 21, 2014 (UW-Eau Claire news release)

Brandon Senger, a political science major and French minor, at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, had the opportunity of experiencing his service-learning while studying abroad in Pau, France. “It was a great way to connect with the community I was living in and culturally absorb all that Pau had to offer.”

Brandon, along with Susan Fandre, a French major, and Elizabeth Ehrenberg, a French minor, had the privilege to get involved in service-learning through the nonprofit organization of Isard Cos (translated as Center of Education). The goal of Isard Cos is to assist refugee families by helping parents find occupational and residential assistance, as well as help children and students (ages 8-18) educationally and socially through mentoring programs.

Senger was able to mentor groups of students once a week in order to help these students further their French communication skills and societal involvement. As a French minor, this application of language was a direct benefit to the students he taught, as well as himself. Senger describes working with these students as a life changing experience.

“To put in a utilitarian perspective, I have never felt that my time was more ‘valuable’ than when I was helping students at Isard Cos.”

Although Senger describes the whole experience as phenomenal, he was remarkably touched when the refugees celebrated a festival in February. He shared that many gifts were donated to Isard Cos and the students’ enthusiastic reactions to this act of generosity was priceless.

Brandon encourages other students to consider engaging in service-learning while studying abroad. “It is the best opportunity to use some of the free time abroad and definitely the most rewarding way to do so.”

His involvement with Isard Cos made Brandon an applicable candidate for the Gale Crouse Scholarship, created for students who engage in service while studying abroad in a French-speaking country. This scholarship, along with numerous other scholarships, is available for students who are willing to serve while studying abroad. The University encourages students to take advantage of these available resources to lessen the financial burden.

Ultimately, Senger highlights the importance of getting involved and engaging with a community civically, whether it is your hometown or a city abroad. “This service-learning experience has expanded my understanding of civic responsibility; I know I can do so much good even as an undergraduate student.”

Acumera Adds Senior Director of Sales – Dennis Jensen

Acumera – the leader in Trusted Connection Services for convenience stores – recently announced the expansion of its sales team, hiring two new senior directors of sales, Tom Boldt and Dennis Jensen, who will help accommodate Acumera’s growing client base across the U.S.

Dennis Jensen, based in Minneapolis, Minn., will focus on supporting convenience store executives and their information technology (IT) teams in the northern U.S. with bringing key devices in their retail operations into a single, integrated platform that is compliant with stringent security standards.

According to Tom Yemington, vice president of sales and marketing at Acumera, the company is enjoying strong growth, and the addition of Boldt and Jensen will augment Acumera’s ability to connect with and serve more customers.

Jensen brings a strong communications and IT background to Acumera, working as a sales manager for several publishing companies across the U.S. and Europe, including Capital Cities/ABC Diversified Advertising GmbH, Chilton Publishing Chilton/Cahners Publishing and Penton Media. He acquired his technical experience as director of sales and marketing for Real Time Enterprises, focusing on Linux and open source solutions.

Jensen also worked with clients to solve key technical issues, which strengthens his ability to serve and support Acumera customers with strategic IT challenges.

Jensen has more than 17 years of diverse experience in areas including establishing partnerships, alliances and special corporate relationships, and influencing company pricing philosophy and marketing positioning.

Jensen received his Bachelor of Arts degree in French with a minor in advertising from University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire.

Making the Rounds 12/14/2011

Sacred Heart Hospital announces the following recent promotion:

Carol Isaksson has been named assistant director of surgery at the Eau Claire hospital. She started her new position on Nov. 27.

Isaksson has worked at Sacred Heart as a registered nurse in the OR, and most recently has worked with the hospital’s cardiovascular team.

She received her associate’s degree in nursing from Chippewa Valley Technical College and a bachelor’s degree in Nursing and French from UW-Eau Claire. She is certified in perioperative nursing.
UW-Fond du Lac professor receives teaching excellence award

adapted from Fond Du Lac Reporter

V alerie Mumm-Jansen, world languages professor at the University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac, has been awarded the 2013 UW Colleges Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching for Faculty.

Presented by UW Colleges Chancellor Ray Cross, the award recognizes Mumm-Jansen’s excellence in teaching, attention to scholarship, innovation in the classroom and leadership connecting students to service learning opportunities.

A member of the UW-Fond du Lac faculty since 2008, Mumm-Jansen has guided two UW Colleges study abroad courses and has been involved in many service-learning activities — both in the community and abroad. She is also the faculty adviser for the Multicultural Club.

She is passionate about traveling and completed coursework abroad during both of her degree programs, earning a master’s degree in Spanish language and Latin American literature from UW-Milwaukee and a bachelor’s degree in Spanish from UW-Eau Claire.

She recently traveled with students to Cuernavaca, Mexico, for a three-week Winterim program and to Lima and Cuzco, Peru, for a two-week summer program.

Mumm-Jansen’s study abroad courses focus on history, geography, literature, colloquialisms, politics, culinary traditions. The lesson can also be hands-on. In Peru, her students worked at a local school where they mixed concrete and hauled bricks to build a bathroom. They worked right alongside the school’s director and a teacher.

“The school was in dire need of an additional bathroom to provide the boys and girls separate facilities so that the school could be officially recognized and receive funding,” said Mumm-Jansen. “My students also led after-school tutoring, math games, literacy development opportunities and recreational activities.”

In her UW-Fond du Lac courses, students are encouraged to identify a need in the local community for their service-learning projects and have helped the Salvation Army at its holiday assistance sign-up event and the coat distribution day serving as interpreters for local families. They have also worked at the annual Fiesta Hispana event assisting kids with various crafts and games. Others have gone into elementary school through high school classrooms to share some of their linguistic and/or cultural knowledge.

“Professor Mumm-Jansen has been an extraordinary asset in creating an inclusive, caring environment, and in fostering community engagement for our campus,” said UW-Fond du Lac Dean and CEO John Short.

On campus, Mumm-Jansen is recognized for her mentorship and advising of students, both in and out of the classroom. The Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching for Faculty is awarded each year in UW Colleges.

“From Eau Claire to Cajun Country: What Connects Us?”

UW-Eau Claire hosted the presentation “From Eau Claire to Cajun Country: What Connects Us?” on Nov. 21, 2013.

Senior biochemistry/molecular biology major Mariah Dorner and sophomore French and psychology double major Carly Murray traveled to Louisiana last spring as a part of a domestic immersion program offered through the “Cajun Watershed” course.

The presentation traced the history of the Chippewa Valley and Louisiana, specifically focusing on French influence.

The students discussed why the culture of each area developed so differently and explore the connections of these two regions through the significance of their river systems.

For more information, contact Dr. Jessica Miller, associate professor of French, at 715-836-4267 or millerjs@uwec.edu.
communication situations such as:
• Initiating and ending a conversation
• Seeking and giving factual information
• Expressing gratitude, likes and dislikes
• Making requests and asking for permission and advice

With a strong emphasis on contemporary usage, all grammar points and functions are richly illustrated throughout with examples written both in Romanization and Japanese script (a mixture of hiragana, katakana, and kanji.)

Main features of the Grammar include:
• Clear, succinct and jargon-free explanations
• Extensive cross-referencing between the different sections
• Emphasis on areas of particular difficulty for learners of Japanese

Both as a reference grammar and as a practical usage manual, Modern Japanese Grammar: A Practical Guide is the ideal resource for learners of Japanese at all levels, from beginner to intermediate and advanced students. No prior knowledge of grammatical terminology or Japanese script is required and a glossary of grammatical terms is provided.

This Grammar is accompanied by the Modern Japanese Grammar Workbook (ISBN 978-0-415-27093-9) which features related exercises and activities.

“SONS ET SENS: LA PRONONCIATION DU FRANÇAIS EN CONTEXT,” PUBLISHED BY GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY PRESS

Dr. Jessica Miller, associate professor of languages at UW-Eau Claire, along with Anne Violin-Wigent (Michigan State University) and Frédérique Grim (Colorado State University). February 17, 2014 (UW-Eau Claire news release)

EAU CLAIRE — A University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire faculty member recently co-authored a textbook on French pronunciation.

Dr. Jessica Miller, associate professor of foreign languages at UW-Eau Claire, along with Anne Violin-Wigent (Michigan State University) and Frédérique Grim (Colorado State University) have had their textbook, “Sons et sens: La prononciation du français en context,” published by Georgetown University Press.

The book details second-language pronunciation acquisition through cultural topics such as the French education system, vernacular French and cooking in the francophone world.

“Linguistic concepts that could otherwise appear dry immediately become alive and relevant as learners see their direct application in authentic situations,” Miller said.

Growing up in France enabled Miller to learn several languages, she said. It was Miller’s interest in language pronunciation that inspired the textbook.

“While gaining experience as a teacher, I investigated questions related to the teaching and learning of French pronunciation. I found that available textbooks were not grounded on recent phonetic research nor did they utilize current demonstrated effective teaching practices,” Miller said, “Creating my own course pack became a necessary but exciting endeavor.”

The textbook aims to enhance students' pronunciation skills within the context of French and francophone culture. The authors’ approach derives from current research on second language acquisition and pedagogy as well as contemporary research on French linguistics.

Miller said the book draws attention to non-standard varieties of the French language — and she uses this as a teaching tool.

“Features of regional varieties as well as social varieties are described so that students can see how languages and dialects shape one’s cultural identity,” Miller said.

For more information on Miller’s book, contact her at Millerjs@uwec.edu or 715-836-4267, or visit http://press.georgetown.edu/book/languages/sons-et-sens#sthash.RU0xQ49.dpuf.

“ANCIENT PERSIA: A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE ACHAEMENID EMPIRE, 550-330 BCE,” PUBLISHED BY CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Dr. Matt Waters, professor of classics and ancient history at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. February 17, 2014 (UW-Eau Claire news release)


In this overview of Achaemenid Persia, Waters showcases a culture that left its mark in the folds of Greek, Middle Eastern and European history. The detailed narrative draws material from ancient Near Eastern and Greek texts as well as archaeological findings, while maintaining a Persian perspective.

“Most studies of the Achaemenid Persian Empire (c. 550-330 BCE) are written for specialists, cover the entire range of Persian history or have been subsumed to the history of Classical Greece,” Waters said.

“There has been a need for a detailed, introductory text focusing solely on the Achaemenid period, one of the most frequently referenced

(continued on next page)
New Bilingual Beginnings language camps to be offered this summer  
May 5, 2014 (UW-Eau Claire news release)

EAU CLAIRE — This summer the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Department of Languages will offer its new Bilingual Beginnings language immersion camps at the university's Children's Nature Academy at The Priory.

Bilingual Beginnings will offer classes in French, German and Spanish. Five two-week camps, offered from June 16-Aug. 22, will be available to students entering grades 1 and 2. Participants may choose between morning (8:15 a.m.-noon) and afternoon (12:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m.) sessions.

Dr. Carter Smith, professor of Spanish and chair of the department of languages, said one of the goals of the program is to maintain a language immersion format with a nature theme.

"A number of us thought about the possibility of summer immersion language camps that would have a curricula focused on nature. We also thought it was important to create camps that would introduce the study of languages and cultures to the area children since they are at the perfect age to begin to learn a second language, and in this way we could create some important outreach to Eau Claire and surrounding communities," Smith said.

The proposal for a Bilingual Beginnings program began in fall 2012, when results from a university survey regarding projects relating to The Priory revealed a desire for camps combining nature and language immersion. By last May, the department of languages received critical funding from the Chancellor's Office that helped put the plan into motion.

The majority of Bilingual Beginnings teachers are UW-Eau Claire language education majors with study abroad experience as well as practice working with elementary-aged children. During the spring 2014 semester, Dr. Paul Hoff, professor of Spanish, has trained the teachers in the pedagogy of immersion instruction and foreign languages.

Publications by professors (continued from previous page)

Near/Middle Eastern civilizations before the advent of Islam. It was a formative period for both Middle Eastern and European history."

Waters has been interested in ancient history since he was an undergraduate student and since then has delved much more deeply into the subject.

"I've been interested in ancient history for a long time, especially understanding how we got from there to here," Waters said. "My undergraduate studies focused on a traditional, Classical-oriented view of Mediterranean history. It was clear that there was much more out there, and I became very interested in the history of the civilizations of the Middle East — especially the interchange between various cultures therein — and how critical this period was for understanding east-west relations and the study of empire, among other things."

Waters has been honored with fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies, the Loeb Classical Library Foundation and the UW-Madison Institute for Research in the Humanities.

Waters' new book was featured during a book-signing event in March as part of UW-Eau Claire's Priory Speaker Series.

For more information about "Ancient Persia: A Concise History of the Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BCE," contact Dr. Matt Waters at 715-836-5163 or watersmw@uwec.edu.

The Eau Claire Area School District will partner with the department of languages to cover camp costs. Dr. Anne Hlas, associate professor of Spanish, recognizes the value of the collective support of the district and university.

"The Eau Claire Area School District and the university have a collaborative partnership because both recognize the potential of learning a language at a young age. Research shows that exposing children to another language improves flexibility in thinking, listening skills and understanding of native language. It also helps children gain an appreciation of other cultures," Hlas said.

In the future, the department of languages hopes to expand the program to include students through grade six as well as classes in additional languages.

The camp registration fee is $25 — and $200 per two-week session. The Eau Claire Area School District will cover the $200 fee for any student who resides within the district. The registration deadline is May 30.

To register a child for the camp, visit https://uweauclair.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9ZxHNKhDajBY9.

For more information about the camps, contact Barbara Aronson at 715-836-2178 or aronsoba@uwec.edu.

Meet Mafumi Omura

Mafumi Omura was born and raised in Osaka, the second largest city in Japan. She received a B.A. in English from Kansai Gaidai (Kansai University of Foreign Studies). Through Kansai Gaidai, she studied abroad twice: the university's Hawaii campus and the University of Northern Iowa. At UNI, she took courses in anthropology, psychology and sociology. She quickly found how challenging and rewarding it was to take classes in English. At UNI, she also tutored American students to learn Japanese. This was her first time teaching Japanese as a foreign language.

After studying at UNI for one academic year, Mafumi returned to Japan and started working in a Japanese company in Osaka. While working in Japan for a few years, she didn't forget about the pleasant challenge she had when taking classes in the U.S. university and the happy times tutoring Japanese. She went back to Iowa and received a M.A. in Teaching Japanese as a foreign language from the University of Iowa.

Before coming to UWEC, Mafumi taught at Coe College, Iowa and Linfield College in Oregon. She understands the importance of studying/traveling abroad to one's life, thus she encourages her students to study abroad.

Mafumi enjoys reading including manga and watching Japanese T.V. and loves dogs and snow.

Dominique Thévenin to retire

Dr. Dominique Thévenin will be retiring from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire at the end of this semester. Since coming to UW-Eau Claire, Dr. Thévenin has worked with passion and dedication to support her students' learning of French language, film, and culture. Please look for a full article on Dr. Thévenin in the fall edition of the Polyglot.
ALUMNI NEWS — Where in the World are our Grads

FRENCH
Jessica Birschbach, Julie Rozanski, and Taylor Shyne, all recent graduates of our French program, have been accepted to the Teaching Assistant Program in France (www.tapif.org). They will be teaching English in French schools during the 2014/2015 academic year.

GERMAN
Lisa Ann Kraus (through a FaceBook message)
Hi Everyone—
I graduated from UW-Eau Claire in December of 1992 with a German major (grades 7-12) and a TESOL minor (grades Pre-K-12).
I studied abroad for one year in Graz, Austria and I received several awards for excellence in German as well as a scholarship for $1,000 from the Viennese Ball committee.
Shortly after graduating from UW-Eau Claire I applied for (and got) a Fulbright scholarship to study English back in Graz.
Two weeks before I was due to leave for Austria, I received a full time teaching position in Sheboygan. As teaching jobs were hard to come by at that time, I gave up the Fulbright to begin my teaching career in Sheboygan.
I have been fortunate enough to be teaching in BOTH areas of my certification for the past 21 years in the Sheboygan Area School District. My time spent at UW-Eau Claire was some of the best times of my life. I haven’t visited Eau Claire since 1996 (believe it or not), but I hope to return with my 14 year old son this summer so he can see the campus and see where I went to school. I imagine a lot has changed in the last 17 years. I am interested in finding how many German majors there are now (there were only 11 of us back in the day) and how the department has grown and changed over time. I am also very interested in learning how the exchange programs have changed and students’ experiences studying abroad today vs. 20+ years ago.

Support Your Department of Languages

The Department of Languages welcomes and invites your support. Private gifts to the Department of Languages Advancement Fund enable us to address needs that cannot be met by the state-assisted operating budget. This fund provides resources to endow existing or create new student scholarships, to schedule extracurricular events such as conferences with invited guest speakers, or to enhance the learning environment for our students.

Your contribution to the Department of Languages Advancement Fund will be gratefully accepted by the UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Inc. You will receive a receipt for tax purposes. Most important, your gift will enable the department to continue to build upon its reputation for excellence and to provide future generations the same quality education you received and more.

Please use this form to send in your contribution and know that you are making a difference in the future of our department. You may also simply go to www.uwec.edu/fndn/giving.htm where you will find easy instructions for online donations.
Thank you!

UW-Eau Claire Foundation Inc.
105 Garfield Ave.
P.O. Box 4004
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004

I would like my contribution to be added to the Department of Languages Advancement Fund.

Name ___________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________
City _____________________________ State _______ Zip___________
Telephone ________________________________
Email ____________________________________________
Enclosed, please find my contribution of $ ____________ to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation.
or
Credit card gift: VISA MasterCard Discover American Express
Number ________________________________ Exp. Date ___________
Signature __________________________________________

Our fall newsletter is published online and in print. Our spring newsletter is published online only. To receive electronic notifications, please add your email address to the Alumni files by going to www.uwec.edu/alumni/index.htm and Update your information.
To view our latest newsletters, go to: www.uwec.edu/flang/news/newsletters.htm

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

What have you been doing since graduation? We would like to hear what’s happened to our language graduates. So please send updates to Judy Ramsey via email (ramseyj@uwec.edu) or the mail address below.

Department of Languages
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004

Phone: 715-836-4287
Fax: 715-836-2922

Please visit us on the web at www.uwec.edu/flang or join us on Facebook.

Conference Presentations and Publications

See the many and varied accomplishments of our instructors. Visit http://www.uwec.edu/Flang/research/faculty.htm.