A message from the chair

Bonjour! Guten Tag! ¡Hola! Konnichiwa! Ni hao! This spring, we are launching our very first departmental e-newsletter, which will allow us to keep in touch with all Modern Language students past, present and future. There’s a lot going on inside and outside the department: new instructors; new courses; exciting student research, internships and study abroad; a new department website design; and more. This newsletter will give us the opportunity to touch base with you once a year and let you know what’s going on in and around KFA.

But we don’t want this communication to be one-sided. We hope you’ll do your part to let us know about what you and other UWRF Modern Language students -- and especially alums -- are doing. We’d love to share your stories and help others know what you’re up to! And since this e-newsletter is a work in progress, we’d love to have your ideas on the kinds of features you’d like to see in upcoming years. Just drop me an email at kristine.butler@uwrf.edu with your news, ideas, and comments.

French major studies “Gypsy Jazz” in Paris

Student of French Megan Carter traveled to France during Fall 2010 through the Semester Abroad: Europe program. Megan recounts her experience here: "I was able to choose anywhere in Europe that I wanted to live and conduct independent research. I spent the fall semester in Paris studying gypsy jazz as well as the current situation with the Roma in France. The research was completely independent; there were no classes, no assignments, nothing. It was a great opportunity to create my own deadlines and experience what it is like to conduct my own research. I used my language skills to make professional contacts, and interview musicians and citizens alike.

“Being alone really forced me to be outgoing and to use only French which improved immensely. I am now working on a 40-60 page research paper, which, though it sounds daunting, will really help me with my graduate studies. In fact, many Europeans were surprised that I was still an undergraduate and conducting research in a foreign country. I would not trade this experience for anything; it has shaped who I am today and who I will become. This type of experience cannot possibly be had in the classroom.”

Kaishan Kong Brings China to KFA

This past fall, the Modern Language Department welcomed Kaishan Kong as our new instructor of Mandarin Chinese. Kaishan holds a Master of Arts Degree in Intercultural Communication from the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom, and a Bachelor of Arts in English Education from Zhanjiang University in China. She specializes in second language acquisition, cultural integration in proficiency-oriented Mandarin instruction, and intercultural communication.

Kaishan taught English at Zhanjiang University and Sun Yat-Sen University in China for five years, and was chair of the Department of Business Communication at Sun Yat-Sen University. After coming to the United States in July 2009, she taught as a Chinese Specialist for Minnesota Independent School District 196. She enjoys traveling, Chinese papercutting, and playing volleyball.

The Modern Language Department would like to congratulate the following students:

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SPRING 2011**

- French Club: Laura Pochardt
- Spanish Club: Katherine Nibbe
- Margarita Hendrickson Scholarship: Mark Reis
- German Club: Jamie Hying

**SENIOR ACADEMIC MERIT**

Megan Carter
Instructor Christelle Curilli joins the French équipe

Christelle Curilli has been teaching French since 1999 in various colleges and campuses, such as the University of Minnesota, the Institute for American Universities in Avignon, France, and the College of Southern Nevada. At UWRF, she teaches five levels of French classes.

Christelle grew up in Bethune, France, and moved to the United States when she was 18. She holds a master’s degree in French Literature from the University of Minnesota. Her interests include travel, cinema, and Italian. She has spent time living in Italy, studying Italian and enjoying the culture.

Christelle was recently selected to receive UWRF's Fourth Annual Compass Award. The Compass Award is given to individuals who demonstrate the values that we as an institution stand for in our everyday work. Award recipients take it upon themselves to guide new students through their first year with genuine commitment and endless support. Compass Award nominees stand out. They motivate others to perform at their best and lead first year students toward ultimate success. Please join our department in welcoming Christelle and commending her fantastic work this year!

Would you like to make an impact on education at UWRF?

The Modern Language Department currently has five scholarships that are awarded each year to very dedicated and deserving students. If you would like to support the highest priorities of the Modern Language Department with an unrestricted donation, please direct your gift to the department. Make your gift online today by following this link.

http://www.uwrf.edu/UniversityAdvancement/WaysToGive.cfm

to learn additional ways to contribute to UW-River Falls.

Peter and Monika Johansson Retire After More Than Three Decades

Peter Johansson, Professor of German, and Monika Johansson, Instructor of German, are retiring this year after more than thirty years of service to UWRF.

Peter Johansson, Professor of German, has taught at URF for thirty-four years. He served for 14 years as chair of the Modern Language Department, 12 years on Faculty Senate, and 9 years on the Academic Policy and Program Committee. Dr. Johansson has taught all levels of German language, literature, civilization, German cinema, and business German.

Monika worked for the first two years of her employment at UWRF in the Computer Center as a liaison to high schools throughout Wisconsin. Since 1979, she has taught first and second year German, first year French, and German and French phonetics.

CONGRATULATIONS, MONIKA AND PETER!
UWRF Experiences the Japanese Tea Ceremony

On Wednesday, May 4, the UWRF campus experienced a traditional Japanese tea ceremony with students of Japanese 102 and 202. Macha-green tea along with the traditional Japanese sweets were served. Faculty, students, and staff attended the ceremony in the Alumni Room/South Hall. The students observed and appreciated the 4 important principles of the tea ceremony; wa (=harmony), kei (=respect), sei (=purity), jaku (=tranquility). They also learned about the historical background of the tea ceremony, how to be a guest, and how to make a tea.

The custom of drinking tea was brought to Japan from China. The tea master, Sen-no-Rikyu made it an art in the sixteenth century. The tea ceremony is a ritual way of preparing and drinking tea. The custom has been strongly influenced by Zen Buddhism. The simple and tranquil atmosphere of the tea ceremony provides spiritual training.

Study Abroad Profile: Denae Krause

I am currently in Queretaro, Mexico studying at the Tecnologico de Monterrey since August. It is a safe town in the center of Mexico which gives me plenty of opportunities to travel to all parts of the country. The school is similar to River Falls and about the same size, just minus the cold and snow. At the school they offer both English and Spanish classes. Taking all Spanish classes this year has really helped me to improve my Spanish, although I think that traveling and being outside of school is where I have learned the most.

This past year I have been traveling a lot and learning about the culture here in Mexico. Actually, I have traveled more places here than I have in the U.S. The latest place being Chiapas, which was amazing. There they offer several attractions for tourists such as waterfalls, ruins, and a ton of other things that I wasn't able to get to in the one week that I had there. Studying abroad here has also allowed me to travel even further down south to Nicaragua and Costa Rica. It has been a year that I would encourage anyone to do.

Denae Krause is a Modern Language-Spanish Major and International Studies Minor from Oakdale, Minnesota.

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http://www.redcross.org/JapanEarthquake