



A NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDIES

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In this issue...

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- [Comments by the Chair](#)
- [Feature: Laurie Corbin](#)
- [French Faculty](#)
- [German Faculty](#)
- [Spanish Faculty](#)
- [Student News](#)
- [Alumni News](#)
- [About You](#)
- [Study Abroad Scholarship Donations](#)

## Comments by the Chair

By David Oberstar



**Oberstar**

With the approval of the Purdue Board of Trustees at the end of September, we are now officially the Department of International Language and Culture Studies! With our new name and the ongoing implementation of new directions and initiatives that grew out of the program review process, the department has begun to carry forth its transformation in the 21st century. New hires, retirements, and impending retirements are rapidly changing the face of the department. Jason Summers, who was with us as a visiting assistant professor of Spanish during 2003-04, is now a tenure-track member of the faculty. We are still searching for a specialist in Spanish and second language acquisition to fill the

vacancy left by Fred Jehle's retirement. We also hope to hire an assistant professor of German studies to replace Professor Richard Johnson, who will retire at the end of spring semester. Next year we expect to search for a replacement for Professor Stephen Harroff also in German, who retires in December 2005. During the 2006-07 academic year we will hire two faculty in Spanish in anticipation of my retirement and that of Professor Linda Fox. So as the 2007-08 academic year begins, our French faculty members, Professors Laurie Corbin and Nancy Virtue, who began here in 1993, will be the most senior members of the department.

Keeping with the theme of change, this will be my last year as chair of the department. Except for a hiatus of three years, I have been chair since 1987. It has been a privilege to serve the department in this capacity these many years and I am very fortunate to have had the help and support of great colleagues during that time. I will always remember the experience fondly. Laurie Corbin will be taking over the leadership of ILCS in July.

This year also marked the realization of another goal that we have discussed for years. The department has established a Study Abroad Scholarship Fund to help students participate in summer, semester, and yearlong study programs in French-, German- or Spanish-speaking countries. Our first scholarship awards are announced elsewhere in this newsletter.

You should have received information mailed in November about the scholarship fund and details about how you can support it. Please give careful consideration to contributing.

As always, we welcome your comments and personal news. Please keep in touch.

## **Feature: *Laurie Corbin***



**Corbin**

**Laurie Corbin** has completed a two-year appointment as a fellow in the Office of Academic Affairs. As a member of the staff of Susan Hannah, the vice chancellor for academic affairs, she was responsible for a wide variety of projects. One of these was a campus-wide initiative to increase the use of service learning at IPFW. Service learning is the incorporation into a course of an activity outside of the classroom that is connected to the course content. One example of this could be a translation class that required students to spend a certain number of hours during the semester working as translators in community organizations that provide services for people who are not fluent in English. Service learning is increasingly being used in almost every discipline in the United States, and Professor Corbin was very happy to take part in promoting its use at IPFW.

She was also responsible for the promotion of international activities at IPFW, another campus-wide initiative. Through meetings, workshops, and a symposium on international topics, she brought together faculty who are from other countries or involved in

internationally oriented research, students—either international or involved in foreign language study or international studies—, and university staff who work with international students. These events were both exciting and fruitful in that they are leading to greater communication between the various groups at IPFW who are involved in international topics and greater promotion of their activities and interests. As codirector of the International Studies Certificate, Professor Corbin will continue with this work and hopes to soon compile a directory of people at IPFW who are involved in international research and activities.

The opportunity to work in Academic Affairs was a wonderful education in how the university works. Professor Corbin attended several national conferences, one national summit on service learning, and the annual convention of the American Association of Higher Education and greatly enjoyed the chance to speak to people from across the country and from other countries about the major questions, challenges, and successes in higher education at this time. While she is happy to be back in the department full time, she is very appreciative of the greater understanding that she has acquired of how the work of international language and culture studies fits into a wider university mission.

## French Faculty

**Nancy Virtue** received a PRF International Travel Grant in 2004 to present the paper “Le voile et la caméra: l'hégémonie européenne exposée dans *La bataille d'Alger*” at the Congrès du Conseil International d'Études Francophones, June 19-27, 2004 in Liège, Belgium. She has been working with **Brigitte Martin** on a second-year French grammar textbook called *Mise en scène: langage en contexte*, to be published by Prentice Hall.

**Ingrid Widenhorn-Smith** and **Brigitte Martin** continued with us this fall, teaching most of the classes for first- and second-year French.

**Christine Mouawad Azzi** joined our department this fall. She is teaching beginning classes in both French and Arabic.

## German Faculty

**Jeanette Clausen**, still in the Office of Academic Affairs as an associate vice chancellor, continues her responsibilities for faculty development, chair/dean development, diversity initiatives, and other uphill battles. A highlight of the past year was chairing a successful search for a new director of IPFW's Center for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT). Conference presentations took her to Chicago, Milwaukee, and Brooklyn (N.Y.). She also made several trips to Manhattan to visit her daughter, Airen. Jeanette was the university supervisor for two student teachers, Lisa Aschliman at Norwell in fall 2003 and Carolyn Walker at Northrop in spring 2004. In the community, she was active on the Cinema Center Board and the Diversity Cabinet of United Way. Despite turning 64 in July, she did not retire. Her new motto is: “Noch zwei Jahre, dann sehen wir weiter!” (“Two more years, then we'll see.”)

**Stephen Harroff** has been on sabbatical leave during the fall 2004 semester, developing teaching materials in German about the Old Order Amish.

**Richard Johnson** will retire from teaching German and peace studies in July 2005.

Professor Johnson joined the faculty at IPFW in 1974 after having taught for six years at IU Bloomington. We will miss him. Good luck, Richard!

**Barbara Weber** continued as an associate faculty member in German, joined this fall by **Jim Wehner**, who retired several years ago from Homestead High School, but seemingly couldn't stay away from teaching!

## Spanish Faculty

**Ana Benito** successfully defended her dissertation in October of this year and is now Ana Benito, Ph.D. Congratulations!

**Linda Fox** continues to direct the Women's Studies Program, which now has about 20 B.A. graduates, a few of whom have gone on to graduate school or law school. She also continues to teach mainly Spanish courses, with an occasional offering in women's studies with the topic of Latin American women. She was the recipient of the Jack Ulmer Award in October 2003 for service to minority and/or disabled students, and IPSGA presented her a plaque in appreciation of her efforts in behalf of students, faculty, and staff at IPFW during 2003-04. Over the course of this past academic year, she cofacilitated the Women's Studies Diversity Initiative and presented a paper and organized a panel on this initiative at the National Women's Studies Association meeting in June in Milwaukee. She was an invited convocation speaker to the entire student body of Manchester College in November 2004 and spoke on her research and teaching area of Spanish/Latin American/Latina women. Linda also became a first-time abuelita (grandmother) in September.

**Jason Summers** has had five encyclopedia entries accepted for the *Encyclopedia of Literature and Politics*. The entries are "Isabel Allende," "Gabriel García Márquez," "Latina/o writing," "Magical Realism," and "Prison writing." He also started a Spanish-language literary journal called *Soleado*. Professors Ana Benito, Linda Fox, and David Oberstar serve as the advisory board, and the first issue of the journal is available at <http://users.ipfw.edu/summersj/soleportada.htm>. Submissions for the second volume are invited from anyone who is writing in Spanish as well as Spanglish texts that deal with problems of being bilingual and/or bicultural. Deadline is April 15, 2005. He hopes to publish a print version next year that will combine the best works of 2004 and 2005. Anyone, students up through professionals, is encouraged to submit their works.

**Christine Huhn**, Ph.D., came to IPFW to teach Spanish this fall as a visiting assistant professor. She formerly taught at the University of Toledo in Ohio.

**Maria Conforti**, who joined the department as a continuing lecturer two years ago, continues to be a wonderful colleague and an absolutely exceptional cook!

**Edna McEntire** continued teaching the first-year Spanish courses and was joined this fall by **Beverly Kitto**, who came to IPFW from Taylor University Fort Wayne.

**Nance Heimann** (in Warsaw) and **Tertuliano (Terry) Giraldo** (in Auburn) are still teaching Spanish courses for our department through Continuing Studies' Off-Campus Credit and Distance Learning Program.

## Student News

**Ranya Al-Abboud** (political science and French) spent the year in Aix-en-Provence studying French through Indiana University's overseas study program. **Seth Drayer** (French teaching) received a Youth and Sports Grant from the French government to travel in the Burgundy region of France this summer. This award is designated for future teachers of French and will help Seth cover expenses when he studies in Paris next year,

**María Fernanda Acosta Viveros** (French teaching and Spanish teaching), **Amy Howell** (French/International Studies Certificate/political science minor), **Dustin Miller** (Spanish), and **Maria Ragon** (Spanish) received the Excellence in Foreign Language awards at the advanced level this year.

As part of an International Student Leadership grant, **María Fernanda Acosta Viveros** (an IPFW Ambassador) made several excellent presentations around campus about Ecuador, her country of origin. Fernanda also has been selected for an undergraduate teaching assistant position for spring 2005. She will be assisting Professor Ana Benito in SPAN S317 Spanish Conversation and Diction.

**Amy Howell** was also awarded a David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship through the National Security Education Program (NSEP) to study Arabic in 2004-2005 at Al-Akhawayn University in Morocco. Amy competed with over 800 students nationwide for this award.

**Ed Ramsey** is the first student from IPFW to participate in a newly established exchange program between IPFW and the Institut d'Études Politiques in Strasbourg, France. He is spending this year in Strasbourg studying political science and French.

**Marjolein "Jo" Florquin** (Spanish/ French) and **Seth Drayer** (French) have been awarded IPFW Study Abroad Scholarships of \$750 each for spring 2005. Jo has been accepted at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú to study Spanish, and Seth has been accepted to the IES Program in Paris.

The **International Studies Certificate program** was proud to see four students, who had completed the certificate, graduate this year. There are approximately 20 students currently working on the certificate. The codirectors, Laurie Corbin and Nancy Virtue, are beginning to explore the possibility of a major in international studies in the next several years. The program cosponsored a performance at Notre Dame of a renowned artist from Côte d'Ivoire, Werewere Liking. Liking and her troupe are musicians and dancers. They visited approximately 10 universities during the spring semester. Professors Corbin and Virtue, who were able to give some financial help to this complicated and costly project with grant money from the Office of International Programs at IU Bloomington, attended the performance with a group of students. The program was also responsible for the creation of International Student Leadership Stipends: four international students were awarded \$400 for doing a variety of tasks around campus —mentoring other international students, giving presentations on other countries to classes or groups, and assisting in the Office of International Services. These stipends are important for several reasons: they give a little financial help to students who are not allowed to work off campus, and they help to integrate students into the life of the campus community. The program will be continued this year with the support of the Offices of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.

## Alumni News

Congratulations to this spring's French graduates: **Janna Orlikowski, Leslie Perry, Dan Scheie, Sebastiana Simao, and Erin Stewart.**

**Janna Orlikowski** (B.A. '04, French) has been hired as the events coordinator in the Graduate Admissions Office at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill. As part of her work there, Janna has been able to use her French translating transcripts from Switzerland, Canada, Africa, and other countries.

French graduate **Julie Parson** (B.A. '02, French) began graduate studies in French this fall at Ohio State University, Julie has received a teaching assistantship and is teaching a beginning French class at OSU.

**Anne M. Roberts** (B.A. '95, history, Hanover, and French student at IPFW 1998-99) graduated in May 2004 from Purdue University with a master's degree in foreign language and literature, specializing in second language acquisition. She is now working at IPFW in the School of Education as an education specialist. She also teaches a class.

Our 2004 German graduate was **Kelly Harris**. She spent a year abroad at the university in Freiburg, Germany.

**Kris Kallmeyer** (B.A. '90, German/Spanish) left Northrop High School to begin a graduate program at Ball State University. He and his wife Sylvia became the proud parents of a daughter, Emilia, on Oct. 27, 2004,

**Elissa Magsamen** (B.A. '03, political science, B.A. '04, German) is an administrative assistant at Endress & Hauser Wetzler Division USA, an international company that produces process instrumentation. Based in Indianapolis, Elissa travels to Germany on business several times a year.

**Tina Voors** (B.A. '92, German; M.S.Ed. '99) was nominated by her German students at DeKalb High School for the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year in the Auburn area. She received a \$1,000 grant that she used to improve her classroom, In July, Tina took a group of students on a tour through Austria, southern Germany, and Switzerland.

Spanish graduates in 2004 were **Matthew Fehskens, Vasile Malutan, and Maria Ragon**. Matthew Fehskens (B.A. '04, Spanish) began master's degree work at Bowling Green State University, Ohio, His first year is being spent in Alcalá de Henares near Madrid.

## About You

We would love to publish news about you! Please let us know what you are doing! Write to the department ([IPFW International Language and Culture Studies](#)) 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499, or e-mail [douglasm@ipfw.edu](mailto:douglasm@ipfw.edu).

### Study Abroad Scholarship

If you did not receive your letter about the scholarship and would like to make a donation, you may cut out this information and mail it to: Indiana-Purdue Foundation, Re: IPFW Study Abroad Scholarship, IPFW Office of Development, 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499

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*Thank you!*