



Fall
2008

Lingua Viva

valpo.edu/foreignlang

Letter from the Chair

As we begin the new academic year at VU, we are excited about many new beginnings. Several of them are highlighted in this newsletter: the Confucius Institute, two new exchange programs in France, a Spanish student literary magazine... and there are many more. Particularly exciting is the fact that so many of these global initiatives involve our department in partnership with many different groups across campus. And the news from you, our

alumni, shows that you have taken the knowledge and skills that you gained at VU—in our department and others—in a huge variety of directions. Please continue to keep us posted on what you are doing! And we hope to see you at one of the many events planned for 2008-09 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Valparaiso University. Bonne lecture!

— Randa J. Duvick, Chair

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Confucius Institute



A member of the Zhejiang Butterfly Performing Troupe which performed at the Opening Ceremony of the Confucius Institute

Photo provided by Cat Hoffman

February 13, 2008 marked the beginning of a new and exciting partnership with the establishment of VU's Confucius Institute. Valpo is the first faith-based university in the United States to host a Confucius Institute, a non-profit institute established and funded by the Chinese government to promote cultural, business, educational, artistic and governmental exchanges. In particular, the Institute will work to develop these exchanges between northern Indiana and Zhejiang - which became Indiana's sister province in 1989.

Prof. Jianyun Meng, lecturer in Chinese, serves as director of the Confucius Institute. "Our goal is to make Valparaiso's Confucius Institute an essential resource to help northern Indiana businesses, K-12 schools and the community at large develop relationships with China," Meng said. "Indiana and China will benefit greatly from stronger economic and cultural ties."

The Confucius Institute is headquartered in

the former Valparaiso International Student Association House on campus. Among the first initiatives of the Confucius Institute included hosting two Chinese language teachers in spring '08 to lead language courses for members of the campus and Northwest Indiana communities. Other programs will include:

- Offering Chinese classes in local school districts and bringing teachers from China to assist in the development of courses.
- Sponsoring workshops and guest speakers on Chinese policies and culture for businesses, government officials and other interest groups.
- Offering classes and events exploring Chinese traditions and arts, including calligraphy, painting, landscaping, film, music and traditional Chinese medicine.
- Sponsoring trips to China for various groups, including medical professionals, small business owners, educators, farmers and retirees.



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"Valparaíso University: An International Lutheran University"

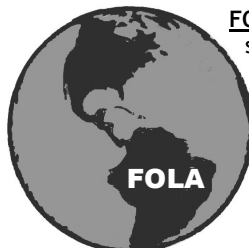
Over the summer a few faculty members noticed an addition to the web site tag line which heads Valpo's home page: "Valparaíso University - An International Lutheran University." The administration has recently raised international issues and values to the forefront of the university's Strategic Plan, and we couldn't be more pleased with this new focus!

The department has become increasingly visible on campus as we have been involved in many initiatives that highlight our fine students, dedicated faculty, and overall discipline. Department Chair Randa Duvick has in fact been working with the International Affairs Committee on a new web page that will be the entry point for all things international on campus. Below are events that the department is sponsoring or co-sponsoring over the coming year:

Third Annual International Film Festival This year's film festival will showcase films from Argentina, France, China, Austria, Russia and South Korea.

Janus Book Club A student-led book club exploring contemporary literature with classical themes. The group will kick off the

year by discussing Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides, Winner of the '03 Pulitzer Prize.



FOLA - Focus on Latin America A year-long series of events exploring Latin American history, culture and current events. Events include dance lessons led by Prof. Nelly Zamora Breckenridge, an Academic Quiz Bowl, performance and lectures, and a tour of the Brauer Museum's exhibition of Spanish and Latin American art, among others.

Encounters/Encuentros: Tradition and Innovation in the Art of Spain and Latin America In coordination with Hispanic Heritage Month, the VU Brauer Museum of Art launched an exhibit of works by Hispanic artists from the museum's permanent collection. The exhibit, which opened September 5th '08, is curated by Gloria Ruff and Prof. Rachel Rivers-Parroquin (Spanish) who created bilingual text for the pieces. Professors Hoult-Saros and Miguel-Pueyo will host a Coffee Hour at the museum in the fall to talk about the works.

Department & Faculty News

Under the editorship of Prof. Miguel-Pueyo, the first number of the Literary Magazine Letras appeared in spring '08 in which the reader can find poems in Spanish written by former FLS 220 students and other upper-division classes. There will be an issue per semester and its purpose is to create a public space for VU advanced Spanish students' creative writing in Spanish.

The department is pleased that nine of its graduating majors were elected into VU's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society.

In summer '08 three VIEP-German students, Katie Krueger '08, Peter Krenzke '08, and Nate Leonard '08, traveled to Switzerland to one of the world's premier solar energy research institutes with Engineering Prof. Bob Palumbo to conduct research on a solar reactor they designed and built from scratch.

Professors Jennifer Bjornstad in German and Stacy Hoult-Saros in Spanish (pictured here) both enjoyed sabbaticals during '07-08 after having been awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor.

Prof. Jennifer Bjornstad's article, "From East Berlin to Hollywood: Literary Resistance in Jurek Becker's Jakob der Lügner," was accepted for publication by the Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association.

Prof. Randa Duvick (French) published "Exploring the French Heritage of the Midwest" in Central States Conference Review and presented it at the Central States Conference, continued as Regional Representative for AATF, and traveled to La Rochelle, France to negotiate exchange agreements with La Rochelle Business School ("Sup de Co La Rochelle") and EIGSI, an engineering school.



Professors Jennifer Bjornstad (German) and Stacy Hoult-Saros (Spanish), the newest department members to be awarded tenure.

Prof. Stacy Hoult-Saros presented "'This Is My Forest': New World Animals in Apocalypso" at the Popular Culture Association/American Cultural Association conference in San Francisco in March '08.

Dr. Tim Malchow's (German) essay "Indispensable, Inadequate Narratives: On Reading Grass's Oeuvre with Lacan" will appear in the volume Changing the Nation: Günter Grass in International Perspective, edited by Rebecca Braun and Frank Brunssen. Also, Dr. Malchow made two presentations on Günter Grass this year, at the Modern Language Association Convention and at an international conference in Liverpool, England.

Prof. Carlos Miguel-Pueyo's (Spanish) book titled El color del romanticismo: en busca de un arte total (The Color of Romanticism: in Search of a Total Art), published by Peter Lang Publishers, will come out at the end of '08.

Prof. Rachel Rivers-Parroquin (Spanish) successfully defended her dissertation in late July. Her dissertation is entitled "Integrated Curriculum and Service Learning: Impacting Pre-Service Teachers' Attitudes About Multiculturalism." Congratulations Professor Rivers-Parroquin!

Alumni News

Heather (Jager) Alejandro ('98, Spanish) I am currently teaching Spanish at Hinsdale South High School in Westmont, IL. Alex and I got married in July '07 and we honeymooned in the Riviera Maya, Mexico.

Cassie Alles ('07, French) taught in Bourges, France through April '07 and was planning to travel for a month before returning to the States. After France, she is considering the Peace Corps.

Dan Beirne ('07, Spanish, Theology) is working as a missionary via the ELCA in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Nancy Betuker Joyce ('93, German/IECA) I am currently working in Raleigh, NC at Blackbaud as an Educational Consultant.

Hella (Skrotzki) Brauc ('92, German) I'm currently working in Chicago as a travel coordinator for AHI International. I had twins in January '07 - Lukas Benjamin and Isabella Katerina Marie - both over 7 pounds. They are the best thing that ever happened to us!

Nataly Carrasco ('07, French) has recently moved to Chicago to be closer to her job at AXA Assistance.

Stan Chiu ('06, IECA) has been accepted to the London School of Economics.

Allison Clark ('07, French) I am in St. Louis working for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans as a Lutheran Community Services Specialist and do community relations and volunteer management. We have a big partnership with Habitat for Humanity called Thrivent Builds and I get to help coordinate volunteers for that. I still credit my Paris internship at *Enfants & Développement / Save the Children: France* for breaking me into the not-for-profit area. It's been a lot of fun starting the job and learning my way around

"I realize the difference my language studies have made whenever I evaluate a patient from a different cultural background. My experiences overseas have made me more aware and sensitive to cultural differences and how to effectively communicate despite them. It was very challenging and exciting. I loved my year in Tübingen, Germany and always look fondly back upon it."

Andrea (Caldwell) Minnich ('92, German, Humanities)

"Working within a diverse population always makes me appreciate my foreign language studies. It's either easier to communicate with the client, or it gives me a point of conversation. I also find that I can relate better to people from other cultures because of my foreign language education. I loved the VU language program. Dr. Falkenstein and Dr. Nordling were excellent professors, especially. They really inspired us to learn and dig deeper - not just learn enough to pass an exam."

Dawn Millsap ('99, German, English)

St. Louis. I can picture myself here for years!

Rose Clearfield ('06, Classics, Elementary Education) I moved to the Iowa City area in July with my husband who's attending the Carver College of Medicine. I'm teaching K-4 special education. I'm so glad that I had the chance to participate in Valpo's classics program during my time at the university and would recommend it to any current students.

Mary (Fitting) Detwiler ('64, Spanish, French minor) After teaching in the classroom and raising 3 children, I have finally settled into library work. I work in a high school library, and LOVE it! I am well past the retirement age but can't seem to want to leave. I don't work in my languages, but I always try to speak Spanish or French to our language teachers. A "Bonjour!" here and a "Buenos dias" there!!

Sarah Etters ('04, French, Elementary Education) I'm in my third year of teaching first grade in a rural community west of Tucson, about 60 miles from the Arizona/Mexico border. I deal with my students learning English as a second language (or their parents).

Marie Gangler ('05, German/IECA) I recently began working as a legal assistant with Thiedmann & Edler, a law firm in downtown Chicago that provides services to mostly German and Austrian corporations.

Erica Giljohann ('05, Spanish) completed her service with the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic and will be in Milwaukee with a non-profit organization that works with low income Hispanics, serving as the youth development coordinator designing all of the youth programs for 12 to 20 year olds.

Jill Guzman ('92, Spanish, IECA) works as Inter-

national Employment Manager for North Carolina State U., where she is responsible for the nonimmigrant and immigrant visa process for faculty and staff at the university, using her law degree and many years of experience at a global immigration law firm in Chicago.

Amy Jahn ('05, Spanish, Theology) married Gonzalo Torres-Rojas, from Nicaragua, whom she met on a deaconess internship. She currently works in Allentown, PA, where work as outreach director involves using her Spanish with immigrant families.

Katie Jajtner ('07, Spanish/IECA) was accepted by the Peace Corps and placed in Mauritania to serve in a small business development/enterprise.

Tezra Jennings ('08, Spanish, Psychology) I am working with an organization in Honduras called *Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos* (Our Little Brothers and Sisters), which has a number of orphanages throughout Latin America/the Caribbean. I am teaching English to preschool-3rd graders and I'll be there for at least the next 13 months. There are over 500 kids at this home in Honduras and I will be joining a number of other volunteers from the US/Europe as we support the national staff in raising these kids. If you want to join me on the adventure I will be blogging at www.tezra.blogspot.com.

Sean Kerr ('07, Spanish) works in Tucson AZ for the "Young Adult Volunteer Program" with the Presbyterian Church; he is involved in immigration issues through this group and also with the organization Borderlinks.

Stephanie (Hessler) Lankhorst ('00, German, Int'l Service) I am currently an Associate Attorney at Wegman, Hessler & Vanderburg. I had planned on my German language skills, international studies, and travel abroad experiences acquired during my time at Valparaiso University to assist me in my professional career and prepare me for the world; I had not planned on drawing from these educational pursuits in my every day married life! It has been about one year and I am speaking fluent "Genglish" at home with my husband, Dietz. He is from Neuenhaus, Germany, but

Homecoming 2008 October 9 – 12

If you plan to be on campus and are interested in meeting with a former professor, please contact us by e-mail so we can make arrangements with you!

For contact information:
valpo.edu/foreignlang

Alumni News (continued)

lived the last ten years in Köln. He is an engineer and works in the US and abroad coordinating international engineering products and production. Alles geht gut!

Erin Maloney ('07, French, Philosophy) is at Ohio U. pursuing a master's degree in linguistics.

Dawn Millsap ('99, German, English) I have moved to Connecticut to pursue a career in sales for Liberty Mutual Group. I handle personal lines of insurance - auto, home, and life insurance. I have won several awards, and I'm very proud of my accomplishments and the company I represent.

"Studying a language has made me respect all cultures... I will always remember Mme. Baepler and was saddened to hear of her death. Her classes were a great experience, especially when I answered a question in Spanish!! I don't think I ever did that again!"

*Mary (Fitting) Detwiler
('64, Spanish, French minor)*

Andrea (Caldwell) Minnich ('92, German, Humanities) I am still working as an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry in Los Angeles, CA and continue to work with HIV/AIDS patients. If all

goes well, we will soon welcome a baby daughter.

Megan Nelson ('06, Spanish) is completing a master's degree in Costa Rica in Human Rights and Peace Education. She spent one year beginning that course of study on a Rotary Fellowship.

Tobin Nelson ('03, Spanish, Int'l Business) Currently in Guatemala, working with an NGO in rural development.

Jane Optie ('03, Spanish, English) In May '07, I graduated from the U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with Master's Degree in Library and Information Science. And in Fall '07 I student taught to obtain my School Library Media certification.

Michelle (Sloan) Pavasars ('93, Spanish/IECA) Our son, Ethan, was born in November '06. Although I am still working at Christ Lutheran Church in Diamond Bar, CA, I have new responsibilities with our Christian Education ministries. I use Spanish to communicate with families who come to our church, people I meet in the community, or have the opportunity to travel to Mexico for servant events with church.

Kat Peters ('06, Spanish) will be doing a year-long deaconess internship in Costa Rica with 2 congregations in San Jose (under the supervision of VU alumna deaconess/pastor Heidi Michelson), and with an organization called Int'l Service Learning.

Jennifer Plaskota ('07, Spanish, English, Humanities) I am working in the grant-writing

"Working within a diverse population always makes me appreciate my foreign language studies. It's either easier to communicate with the client, or it gives me a point of conversation. I also find that I can relate better to people from other cultures because of my foreign language education. I loved the VU language program. Dr. Falkenstein and Dr. Nordling were excellent professors, especially. They really inspired us to learn and dig deeper - not just learn enough to pass an exam."

Dawn Millsap ('99, German, English)

department at the Ministry of Caring in Wilmington, DE through the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. Wilmington has a growing Hispanic community, so I've been able to get involved at a local neighborhood center tutoring kids -- both those learning Spanish and those learning English. I've also had the opportunity to participate in worship services for Hispanic migrant workers at Delaware's race track.

Marko Punda ('01) I am currently working for Black Diamond Capital Management, a hedge fund in Lake Forest, IL. Black Diamond Capital Management manages 4 CLOs, private equity fund, and a hedge fund made of TRS (total return swap) facilities.

Barbara (Hilt) Schmidt ('68, German, Theology) I retired last year from teaching German at Hampton Roads Academy in VA. Now, as a volunteer, I teach German at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Yorktown, VA. I also serve there at Church Council. I'm looking forward to my first grandchild of my daughter Andrea (Schmidt) Herold, '95.

John Sundquist ('89, German, English) I am an Associate Professor of German at Purdue U. I teach German and linguistics, and my research deals with the history of the Germanic languages.

Jason Unger ('07, French) begins law school in fall '08.

Ryan Waxenberg ('98, French/IECA) In '03 I founded the company Formula Werks, a clothing label based in Chicago with a satellite office in Amsterdam, Netherlands. I currently act as chief designer and president.

Anastasia Wilson ('07, French) is working at National City Bank in Indianapolis, IN.

Technology Highlights

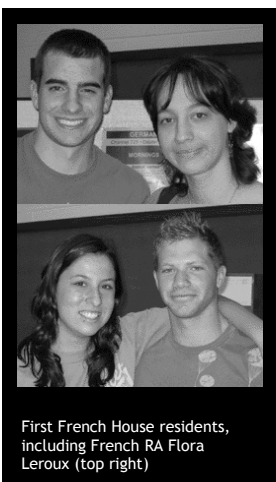
The department continues to expand its use of technology throughout the curriculum. IT's on-line newsletter, the SummIT, highlighted department initiatives no fewer than four times in '07-08. New projects and resources include:

Prof. Randa Duvick designed a semester-long video project for her French 306 students which was the culminating focus of this popular course on Contemporary French Language and Communication. Using iMovie, students created videos for a French audience, namely students at our new exchange partner l'Université Cergy-Pontoise. You can view the student-produced videos at <http://blogs.valpo.edu/flf306>.

Students across campus can now access Chinese, French, German, Japanese and Spanish international satellite programming in all residence hall lounges and in the Language Resource Center, a hot-spot for students pursuing a master's degree in the new Chinese Studies graduate program.

Incoming students have been using online placement exams in French, German and Spanish for several years. New exams in French and Spanish were recently created in-house and published on the web through extensive collaboration with IT staff.

The department began using a wiki last year to collaborate on various projects. Faculty in French and German have also incorporated wikis into some courses.



First French House residents, including French RA Flora Leroux (top right)

French Program Blossoms

The French section—faculty and students—is excited about several new initiatives that have been developed over the past year. We are looking forward to a second year of the French House, with more than twice the number of residents than we had during the first year. Our RA is Sophie Germain, a master's student from our first French exchange partner, the University of Cergy-Pontoise. And 2008-2009 marks the inaugural year of two new exchange programs with French institutions. Both are in the Atlantic Coast city of

La Rochelle. The first, with an engineering school called EIGSI, allows us to extend the VIEP (Valparaiso International Engineering Program) program to France after its very successful debut in Germany. And the second exchange is with a school of business called the La Rochelle International Business School (Groupe Sup de Co). It will allow VU students to take business-related courses in France. In both cases, we will welcome French students here in addition to sending VU students to France.

IECA: Looking Forward, Looking Back

Students who graduate with a degree in IECA leave VU to enter a wide variety of fields. As we say goodbye to our majors each May, we take pleasure in looking forward to their promising future plans. This past spring we recognized **Blain Keller ('08, Chinese and Japanese Studies/IECA)** as the IECA Outstanding Senior. Blain will be attending the U. of California, San Diego's School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, with a regional concentration on Japan. Other IECA graduates will be serving in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Atlanta (**Anni Metz '08, Spanish/IECA**), law school at the U. of Iowa (**Ali Ramsdell '08, Spanish/IECA**), and serving in the Teach for America program on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Da-

kota (**Jenni Gulley '08, Spanish/IECA**).

While looking ahead to the plans of recent grads, the IECA program is also looking back in our efforts to gather more detailed information from our alumni.



Blain Keller '08, IECA Outstanding Senior

Often we have job titles, but this does not always give us a real sense of what your position entails. As our current

majors look toward the future and consider different career paths, it would be very helpful and inspiring to them if they could see the wide range of interesting and re-

warding jobs that former IECA majors have secured. **Please help us by going to the IECA home page (valpo.edu/ieca) and clicking on the "IECA alumni job questionnaire" link to access the questionnaire.** We will then post profiles on our website for our students to look at (using your name or anonymously, if you prefer). Feel free to include any additional news about your post-VU years—we also enjoy hearing of personal milestones, travel, etc. Many thanks in advance for your help!

— Prof. Debra Ames, Chair, IECA Program

2008 Grads Look Ahead

Tezra Jennings ('08, Spanish, Psychology) will be working with *Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos* in Honduras.

Katherine Krueger ('08, German, Mech. Engineering) has been awarded a fellowship to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the U. of Minnesota.

Barrett Ludy ('08 French, Spanish) will leave for Amiens, France on a teaching assistantship.

Emily Peters ('08, French, Biology) will spend the year '08-09 in France on a teach-

ing assistantship before heading to Loyola U. School of Medicine in fall '09.

Molly Scruta ('08, Spanish, Humanities) was awarded a Fulbright assistantship and will teach English at a primary school in the Madrid, Spain metropolitan area.

Taylor Steinbrugge ('08, French, Communications) will teach English in France through a French Embassy assistantship.

Holly Vanderwal ('08, Spanish, Theology) will pursue a Master's Degree in Spanish at



And your news?

Return the form on the back or go online to fill out the Alumni update form at

valpo.edu/foreignlang

the Universidad de Alcala (Spain).

Kelly Veltema ('08, German) will teach English through a Fulbright assistantship at three high schools near the Austrian city of Graz.

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Alumni Response Form

Online form at: valpo.edu/foreignlang



Mail to: Valparaiso University
Dept. of Foreign
Languages & Literatures
1800 Chapel Drive
Valparaiso, IN 46383

- First name:
- Last name:
- Maiden name:
- Year of graduation:
- Major(s) at VU:
- Current e-mail address:
- Current mailing address:
- Current position / title / employer:
- Your latest news:

- “I realize the difference my foreign language studies have made whenever...”

- Please provide any feedback (positive or negative) about your experiences in a VU language program.

- May we post your update on the Alumni section of the department’s web page? yes / no
- Do you want your name and position / title / employer posted on the web page? yes / no

