

Department of World Languages and Cultures

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VALPO NEWS**Department Adopts New Name in 2019****World Languages and Cultures****Letter from the Chair**

Warm greetings to all from Valpo! As you can see in the title just above this letter, our department has a new name and new identity. Previously Foreign Languages and Literatures, we will henceforth be known as the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

This change came about in part as a response to our program review in 2017-2018. As our reviewer pointed out, a name that includes the word "foreign" carries an increasingly negative connotation. Though literature is still an important component of the work we do in all the languages, our discipline has become more open to cultural studies writ large. That is, we regularly include non-literary discourses as the basis for many of our courses (film, television, music, cookbooks, print media, social media, etc.). We hope you will join us in embracing this new name and new identity.

In the pages that follow, you will encounter many examples of success among our students and faculty. Again, we continue to lead the University in promoting Fulbright scholarship success among our students. Faculty in WLC have been active both in publications and conference attendance, as well as in outreach to the surrounding community. Prof. Malchow, from the German section, was elected to an important leadership position with the Indiana chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German. French professors Berrier and Duvick were recognized this past year with two significant teaching awards. Prof. Duvick was also promoted to the rank of "Officier" in the French Ordre des Palmes Académiques. Finally, the French section received an endowed chair in French Language and Culture through the support of Valpo alumni.

We hope you can join us at our Homecoming Open House to celebrate the many accomplishments of our faculty and students, while reminiscing about your own experiences in FLL. In the meantime, please stay in touch and let us know about all the wonderful things you are doing outside Valpo.

-- Sincerely, Timothy J. Tomasik

**This Fall, the Department Welcomes Giosuè Alagna**

We are happy to welcome Giosuè Alagna to the Department where he will serve as a Lecturer of Spanish for the 2019-2020 academic year. Prof. Alagna received his Master's in International Public Affairs and his M.A. in Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he is completing his Ph.D. His dissertation is entitled "Out of the Frame: Emblematic Memory Frameworks in Post Conflict Peru."

Prof. Alagna has ample experience teaching Spanish language and culture courses and enjoys helping students do their very best. His research interests include: 20th-century Latin American literature and theater; Andean studies; historical memory and human rights; ecocriticism and environmental humanities. This fall, he will be teaching two sections of Spanish 101 and one section of Spanish 203.

Fulbright Awards 2019-2020



Seven graduating seniors and recent alumni received Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards for the 2019–2020 academic year from the U.S. Department of State and the William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. The Department of World Languages and Cultures congratulates in particular these five language students who enriched their studies with a semester or year abroad.

- **Erin Brown '18**, English teaching assistantship to Colombia; Spanish and Global Service major, Theology minor; Studied abroad in Costa Rica
- **Lauren Clark '19**, study/research grant to France (pictured here);

Political Science major, French minor; Studied abroad in Paris, Boston College Program

- **Nathaniel Griewe '18**, English teaching assistantship to Germany; German/Secondary Education major; Studied abroad in Tübingen, Germany
- **Amy Klass '19**, English teaching assistantship to Germany; Mathematics & Secondary Education major, German minor; Studied abroad in Reutlingen, Germany
- **Kristen Morris '19**, English teaching assistantship to Brazil; Spanish and International Economics and Cultural Affairs major, French minor; Studied abroad in Costa Rica; Studied abroad in Brazil prior to Valpo as part of the Rotary Exchange Program

Chinese Spotlight

Chinese and Japanese Studies majors **Mikayla Higgins '20** and **Joshua Williams '20**, accompanied by Professor Yue Zhang, participated in the 2019 Midwest Chinese Bridge Speech Contest, held at Loyola University. Both Mikayla and Joshua won Third Place awards — *congratulations!*

Damia Garcia '19 Receives Prestigious State Award for Spanish

Damia Garcia '19 is the 2018 recipient of the Indiana Outstanding College Student Award by the Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP).

"This award serves as proof to me that I chose the right path, the right major," Garcia said. "It also means a lot to my family as a whole, specifically my parents because it is proof to them that all their efforts were worth the hardships. And I thank them that they made the choice to speak to me in Spanish at a young age so that I could be able to help others and grow both personally and professionally."

Nominated by Stacy Hoult-Saros, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish, Garcia received this prestigious state award based on her outstanding academic record and passion for culture and community service. In addition, the Valpo senior has studied abroad in Chile, giving her a better understanding of the Spanish language, culture and literature.

Garcia recently received her outstanding student award in Indianapolis during the AATSP Indiana Business Meeting as part of the program for Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association Conference.

valpo.edu/news/2018/12/13/valparaiso-university-senior-honored-with-indiana-outstanding-college-student-award/



French and Spanish Outreach at Local Elementary School

In January of 2019, the department launched a new outreach program, providing after-school language instruction at a local elementary school in nearby Portage, Indiana. One of the student instructors, María Camacho '21, Psychology major with a minor in Spanish, shares her experience here.

"This year we had the opportunity to go to Aylesworth Elementary School to teach second graders Spanish and French. It was the first year Valparaiso University had the opportunity to make this possible. A few different students, including myself, were able to go to the elementary school in Portage for 45 minutes, twice a week, and teach some of the best kids I have ever met, either Spanish or French. I had the opportunity to be part of the Spanish team and it was truly amazing. My partner and I would meet up every week to make lesson plans for the kids. We had the chance to teach them all sorts of different things like the alphabet,

numbers, colors, animals, and even some of the body parts in Spanish! We had the opportunity to be as creative as we wanted to be with the lesson plans. After a couple of days with the kids, we realized they loved coloring and games, and that definitely motivated them to learn more. They were always excited to learn this whole new language and it was amazing to watch. Kids honestly have some of the best memories and attitudes to learn, especially a new language. It is well known that by just being bilingual, so many more doors are opened, so I think this program is such an amazing idea. We need to start teaching our younger generations how important it is

to learn a new language. It can open up so many more opportunities in both our personal lives and our professional lives.

I personally do not think this program is supposed to teach the second graders how to be fluent in a foreign language, but instead, spark in interest in their lives. It is supposed to expose them to these whole different cultures that exist in our lives. We cannot expect our future generations to accept people who are different if we do not make any effort to teach them. This program is definitely a step in the right direction. I really hope it continues for years because it honestly is making this world a little better. "

Faculty News and Publications

Debra Ames presented the paper "Operacion Hamlet: To Avenge or not to Avenge, that is the Question" at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese conference in Salamanca, Spain and "Teaching Picasso's Guernica and its Legacy" at the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association conference.

Karen Berrier was named Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association Secondary level Teacher of the Year (2018-2019). She had previously received the same honor in 2008. She also completed a book review on Intercultural Communication requested by Oxford University Press (May 2019).

Randa Duvick was promoted to *Officier* in the *Ordre des Palmes académiques* (details on the right). She was also winner of the American Association of Teachers of French Dorothy S. Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Award, presented to her in July at the AATF national convention.

Stacy Hoult-Saros has a chapter in the forthcoming book *Our Animals/Ourselves: The Blurred Line between Human and Animal in Popular Culture* (Praeger, anticipated late 2019): "Beautiful Cockroaches and Featherless Birds: Anthropomorphism in Books for Latinx Children." She presented "Consuming Animals in the Poetry of Naomi Ayala" at the Midwest Modern Language Association conference in November 2018. Finally, she served as Coordinator for the Conrad Scholars Program, a four-year mentoring program that provides scholarship funding, programming and retention support for 20 Valpo students.

Fontaine Lien presented at the Literature/Film Association Annual Conference (2018) and the South-Atlantic Modern Language Association Annual Conference (2018), and attended the Princeton Conference on Chinese Language Instruction (2019). She also published an article in *Pacific Coast Philology* titled "Defying Death: Stigmas and Rewards of Immortality in Taoist and Gothic Literary Traditions."

Alberto López Martín published three articles: "*Emplazando afectos: activismo y colectividad en las poéticas españolas y saharauis recientes*" [*Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies*, 2019], "*Cartografías afectivas para tiempos de crisis. Emocionalidad textual en la poesía española reciente*" [*The Coastal Review*, 2019] and "*Afecciones de lo real-precario en ready, de María Salgado*" [*Cincinnati Romance Review*, 2018]. He presented two papers: "*En este país, el pasado nunca muere. Superhéroes y Cultura de la Transición en ¡García!*" at the 50th NeMLA Convention, March 2019, and "*Ecopoesía y literatura sostenible. Una exploración de El común de los mortales, de Jorge Riechmann*" at the International Conference on Environmental Humanities; Madrid (Spain), July 2018. He also presented on inclusive activities for heritage learners of Spanish during the session "Approaches to Including Students from Lower-income Backgrounds" at the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association conference, November 2018.

Timothy Malchow was elected to a six-year term on the Executive Council of the Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German. He will serve for consecutive, two-year periods as the chapter's Vice-President, President, and Past President. In April, he presented a new paper on the author Günter Grass at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference at the University of Kentucky.

Carlos Miguel-Pueyo was promoted to Full Professor this academic year. Last summer, he presented a paper at the *XXII Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos* in Granada. He was invited to present his book *Oyendo a Bécquer*, in his hometown, followed by a recital of his own poetry at an event called *Aragón poético*. Last fall, he presented his paper "*Soñando caminos en soledad: hacia una poética metafísica del poeta moderno*" at the *VIII Coloquio El pensamiento y la literatura del siglo XIX desde los siglos XX y XXI*, at the University of Barcelona. This year, he published the book chapter titled "*'Cuadros sinfónicos' en cuerpo de letra: una lectura neuro-estética de la literatura romántica.*" In July, he presented a paper at the *XX Congreso de la Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas*, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Timothy Tomasik, in collaboration with Nick Rosasco from the Department of Computing and Information Sciences, received a CHIP grant from the Institute for Leadership and Service. This grant will fund software and conference travel for students enrolled in his fall French senior seminar the final project of which will be an electronic edition of a Renaissance cookbook.

Professor of French, Randa J. Duvick, Ph.D., was honored in a ceremony on September 20, 2018 as she was awarded the rank *Officier* in the *Ordre des Palmes académiques*. The Order of Academic Palms is a French order of chivalry created to honor educators and others for "*services rendus à la culture française*" (service rendered to French culture). The award was first given by Napoléon I in 1808. Professor Duvick was awarded the first level, *Chevalier*, in 2010. Representing the French Republic was Guillaume Lacroix of the Consulate of France in Chicago, pictured here to the right of Professor Duvick, along with President Hecker



French Endowed Chair Established

Valparaiso University alumni Phyllis Buehner '54 Duesenberg '04H and Richard Duesenberg '51, '53 J.D., '01H have generously committed to establish the Phyllis and Richard Duesenberg Endowed Chair in French Language and Culture. The endowment will provide permanent resources to ensure the teaching and learning of French language and culture at Valpo continues in perpetuity.

"The study of foreign languages is at the very heart of Valpo's liberal arts curriculum and reflects our mission to prepare graduates for the opportunities and challenges of today's global environment," said Mark A. Heckler, Ph.D., president of Valparaiso University. "Phyllis and Dick Duesenberg are among Valpo's most generous alumni. Simply stated, the University would not be the same without them. Their dedicated support of the humanities reflects their personal interests and belief in the importance of a well-rounded education. The entire Valpo family has benefited from their support — and for that, we are deeply grateful."



Phyllis earned a bachelor of arts in French, minored in philosophy and was awarded an honorary doctor of arts. She was a co-founder of the Bach Institute at Valparaiso University and researched and acquired significant works of 19th-century art for the Brauer Museum of Art. Further related activities include serving on the board and as program chair for *Alliance-Française de St. Louis*. Dick graduated with a bachelor of arts in government and law, a law degree and was awarded an honorary doctor of law. He also earned a master of laws from Yale University. Dick is an emeritus member of the Valparaiso University Board of Directors, serving from 1977 to 2006. Their strong family connection to Valpo includes three sons who attended the University.

"The generosity of Phyllis and Dick Duesenberg has made a profound impact on the College of Arts and Sciences and is a key factor in Valpo being ranked in the top 10 for foreign language learning," said Jon Kilpinen '88, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "The new endowed chair in French will secure the College's commitment to educating students in French language and culture. It will also provide permanent resources to recognize faculty and allow them to take their teaching and scholarship to the next level. They will, in turn, affect generations of Valpo students."

valpo.edu/forevervalpo/2018/12/12/valpo-alumni-establish-endowed-chair-in-french/

Alumni Highlights

- **Maia Moore '18** (Chinese and Japanese Studies) is wrapping up her Fulbright Teaching Assistantship year in Taiwan; she has received a Blakemore-Freeman Fellowship to continue her Chinese language studies in 19-20 at the International Chinese Language Program of National Taiwan University (NTU), a prestigious opportunity offered by Taiwan's top university.
- **Elisabeth Noland '19** (Spanish, Psychology) was recognized with a 2019 Student Affairs Senior Outstanding Leadership and Service Award.
- **Taylor Steinbruegge '08** (French, Communication) is completing her MFS degree at UW-Madison, after two internships in France during 18-19, one with Off-Courts, a short-film festival in Trouville-sur-Mer, the other with the production company Federation Entertainment in Paris.
- **Benjamin Burnett '14** (Spanish, ICEA) is at Loyola Medical School, using his Spanish to interpret at a free clinic and teaching Spanish for medical professionals to fellow students.
- **Jack Hoeniges '18** (VIEP Engineering, French) completed his first year of graduate studies in engineering at UCLA.
- **Claire Johnson '14** (German, IECA) is a Senior International Admission Counselor and DSO at Illinois Institute of Technology.
- **Makenna Fiedler '18** (Spanish, Psychology) started graduate school in Fall 2018 at Roosevelt University, pursuing a master's degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.
- **Tyler Ingersoll '17** (German, International Business) is a Buyer /Aftermarket and Service Analyst at Mahle Industries, Inc., a German Tier I automotive supplier.
- **Taylor Adams '18** (Spanish, Meteorology) is pursuing a master's degree in atmospheric science while researching mesoscale meteorology at Texas Tech University.
- **David Nelson '00** (Classics, Meteorology) is a Latin Teacher at Andean High School in Portage, IN.
- **Ann (Bougher) Loeffler '91** (Spanish) is a Spanish Teacher/LOTE Department Co-chair in Plano, TX.

Alumni Updates

We invite you to send us your update at
valpo.edu/world-languages-and-cultures/alumni