A New Home in the “ASB”

It has been a season of exciting new beginnings for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. This past spring the faculty bid farewell to Meier Hall, the longtime home of Valpo’s language program. Packing countless boxes over the course of several weeks, professors prepared for the transition to a new home just barely completed in March: the College of Arts and Sciences building, or the “ASB.”

The beautiful new building is at the heart of campus and is connected to the Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources. Department faculty are enjoying the central location of their new offices, already admiring how easy it is to grab a cup of coffee at Grinder’s or pick up a stack of books ordered through Interlibrary Loan.

Also refreshing is our new proximity to faculty from other disciplines in Arts and Sciences as colleagues in Economics, English, CORE, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and Theology also moved into the building in early summer. Though we will miss thinking of Meier Hall as “our home” (shared with our dear colleagues in Economics) where we had the privilege of teaching in the same building as our offices, we’ve embraced the opportunity to more regularly connect with our colleagues from across the college.

Join us for our Homecoming Open House!

Saturday, October 6, 2012
9:30 – 11:00 am
Language Resource Center
Arts & Sciences building, room 240

When the University announced the construction of the new building in the spring of 2010, most of us were thrilled at the prospect of sparkling new offices. We soon learned that architects would also be on the case to design a new Language Resource Center, known to many of you who were on campus prior to 2006 as the “Language Lab.” Two years of visioning and planning have at last led to the launch of Valpo’s new Language Resource Center, situated in a prime location on the main level of the ASB, down the hall from the Dean’s suite and twenty steps from our department’s faculty office wing. Though
nearly identical in square footage to our former Meier Hall facility, the new LRC is an open, welcoming space full of windows and light with inviting study spaces and an internationally-focused setting. **For those who plan to come to campus for Homecoming 2012, we invite you to see for yourself the gorgeous new LRC during our department’s Open House on Saturday, October 6 from 9:30 – 11:00 am.** We hope to see you there!

**Valpo Ranked Among the Top 10 Most Innovative Colleges for Foreign Language Study**

This past summer the Department was delighted to learn that Valpo has been ranked as a “Top 10” college for foreign language study. Visit [www.thebestcolleges.org](http://www.thebestcolleges.org) to read more!

**Faculty Highlights**

Professor Sarah DeMaris was honored to be selected as the German Teacher of the Year (2012) by Indiana’s Chapter of AATG. And much to her surprise she was also selected overall Foreign Language Teacher of the Year for the state of Indiana (across all levels and languages).

Timothy Tomasik, Associate Professor of French, has been named to the Richard P. Baepler Distinguished Professorship in the Humanities at Valparaiso University. The four-year professorship is a rotating appointment honoring outstanding teachers and aimed at advancing interdisciplinary and integrative study of the humanities. The Baepler Professor promotes interdisciplinary teaching, course development, and scholarship. Professor Tomasik’s proposal is titled “The Digital Renaissance: Visual Culture, Media Aesthetics, and the Humanities in the 21st Century” and seeks to address the growing emergence of Internet media and technologies and their importance to education.

**German Program Designated a “Center of Excellence”**

Another highlight of 2012 came early when we learned that the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG), the primary professional organization of German instructors in the U.S., designated Valpo’s German Program a "Center of Excellence." This came as a special honor because AATG began the "Center of Excellence" recognition only this year: Valparaiso University and Emory University (Atlanta) are the first universities with the designation.

AATG executive director, Keith Cothrun, referenced the growth of the program; its strong support from administration, alumni, and students; and exemplary faculty. He drew special attention to the program’s curriculum, which includes a clear, articulated sequence of instructional programming that is standards-based and reflects current methods in teaching.

**Light Screen Marks Entrance to the College of Arts and Sciences**

The College of Arts and Sciences is located in a beautiful new building whose entrance highlights Valparaiso University’s commitment to language learning. Valpo’s motto, “In Luce Tua Videmus Lucem,” (“In Thy Light, We See Light”) grounds the innovative light screen that marks the entrance to the “ASB.” Surrounding the Latin motto are 39 different words for "light," representing 43 languages, including those taught at Valpo. For more details on the ASB light screen, visit [valpo.edu/foreignlanguages/lrc/lightscreen.php](http://valpo.edu/foreignlanguages/lrc/lightscreen.php)