Warm greetings to all from Valpo! As the new year unfolds, we find ourselves in a moment of significant transition. In taking over as department chair of FLL this year, I hasten to thank our outgoing chair, Prof. Stacy Hoult-Saros, for her many years of service and dedication to the department. We wish her well as she redirects her focus to the Spanish section. Our deepest gratitude also goes out to our dear colleague, Prof. Sarah DeMaris, as she retires after 35 years of devotion to the German section, the department, and the university. *Mille fois merci, Sarah!*

While long-time faculty members shift roles and take on new responsibilities, we are also thrilled to welcome three new colleagues to our ranks: Assistant Profs. Katrin Fuchs in German, Allannah Karas in Classics, and Alberto López Martín in Spanish. You can read more about their backgrounds and interests in the following pages.

We look forward to all the energy and innovation that they will bring to the department and to our students.

As you peruse the rest of *Lingua Viva*, you’ll see that our department continues to excel at generating rich learning experiences for our students and sterling scholarship in our various disciplines. The French section was recognized this year by the American Association of Teachers of French for its excellent program. Two faculty members, Prof. Debra Ames from Spanish and Prof. Jennifer Bjornstad from German, are recent recipients of prestigious teaching awards. Our students are also no strangers to awards and honors as they make their way towards careers using their backgrounds in foreign languages and literatures.

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*

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**French Program Receives National Award**

This past spring, Valpo’s French program was recognized by the American Association of Teachers of French as an Exemplary Program with Honors. This award, which parallels the German program’s award as a Center for Excellence, provides not only recognition for the French program among their peers across the country, but also national recognition for the quality of academic programs at Valpo. This award validates the work and dedication of the French section over the last several years and renews their commitment to offering a rigorous and innovative curriculum to their students. They are thrilled to have received this honor from AATF, and are excited to continue to work closely with Valpo’s community of students, to provide them with the best possible education and prepare them—as the University’s Mission Statement puts it—“to lead and serve” in the future.

Learn more about the French program at: valpo.edu/foreign-languages-and-literatures/french/
Last fall, students from senior seminars in French, German, and Spanish met to share the research projects they produced in these capstone courses for each major. German students in Prof. DeMaris’s seminar presented on medieval Totentanz or “dance of death” texts and exhibited modern versions of these allegorical works which they made as a class project. Renaissance cookbooks formed the basis for the French senior seminar in which Prof. Tomasik’s students produced a digital scholarly edition of a 16th century French cookbook, the Livre de cuysine. Prof. Hoult-Saros’s Spanish students presented their final papers, which focused on Latin American short stories, particularly characters’ relationships with their families and nature, physical and mental illnesses, as well as death and magical realism. After the formal presentations, students chatted with each other about their projects over food and drink inspired by each of the seminars. We very much hope that such sharing of scholarship will become a new tradition in the department.

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In Prof. Tomasik’s French Senior Seminar course, two French majors set out to learn some of the basics of Renaissance cuisine and the history of its cookbooks, Prof. Tomasik’s primary scholarly expertise. The goal was to produce a digital scholarly edition. The students needed to learn about print culture and the history of the book so as to understand the format of a Renaissance printed book. At the end of the semester, a Renaissance banquet was organized, centered around dishes included in the cookbook. French students and faculty were invited to this convivial event, which included a presentation by the seniors as well as a formal, four-course banquet that both challenged and (pleasantly) surprised those in attendance. View highlights here: valpo.edu/foreign-languages-and-literatures/french/class-project-cookbook

New Faculty Faces in Foreign Languages

Prof. Katrin Fuchs
Professor Fuchs is completing her Ph.D. in Germanic Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation examines linguistic changes in orthography of German court records from the 16th and 17th century and asks for the reasons behind these changes. Other academic interests include Language Variation (Dialects, German Speech Islands), Standardization and Language Ideology, Historical Sociolinguistics, and Medieval and Early Modern German Language and Literature. Along with several language classes, Prof. Fuchs will be teaching the German Senior Seminar this fall.

Prof. Allannah Karas
Professor Karas recently earned her Ph.D. from The Graduate Center, The City University of New York. Her dissertation, entitled “Aeschylean Drama and the History of Rhetoric,” analyzes Aeschylus’ use of τεῖθος in the Oresteia. Her research interests include Greek Tragedy and the History of Rhetoric, the Social History of Ancient Greece and Rome, and Ancient Language Pedagogy and its History. Prof. Karas will welcome a fresh new class of first semester Greek students this fall, as well as students of Greek civilization.

Prof. Alberto López Martín
Professor López Martín received his Ph.D. from Florida State University after earning his M.A.T., M.A., and B.A. in Spain. Within the context of the current financial crisis, his research explores the affective mechanisms whereby certain contemporary Spanish and Portuguese poetry can contribute to generating political mobilization. Other research interests include Spanish Comics/Graphic Novels, Latin American Contemporary Literature, Social Activism and Cultural Production, and Ecocriticism. Students enrolled in “Selected Readings in Hispanic Literature” will welcome Prof. López Martín to the Valpo classroom this fall.

Senior Seminar Collaboration & Celebrations

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Faculty Awards, Publications, and More

Debra Ames (pictured left) was honored at the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association conference by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Indiana Chapter as the Teacher of the Year, University Level. As the speaker for the AATSP plenary session at the conference, she presented “Same Moon, Different Approaches: Strategies for Teaching La misma luna” and also shared experiences from her sabbatical research trip to Santiago in the session “Chile’s Memory Sites: the Presence of the Disappeared Today.”

Jennifer Bjornstad (pictured right) was honored to receive the Valparaiso University Excellence in Teaching Award in recognition of her work in the pedagogy category. She was nominated for the award by her colleague Stacy Hoult-Saros. In his letter of support, Douglas Tougaw, professor of electrical and computer engineering and a student in Jennifer’s beginning German class, wrote that his experience in Jennifer’s class has extended beyond his German language skills. “She demonstrated several innovative pedagogical methods that I have "borrowed" for my own classes.”

Randa Duvick completed a term as President of the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association in 2016, and presented on Advocacy for French Programs at the AATF national convention in Austin, Texas, in July 2016.

Carol Goss, LRC Director, participated in a panel presentation “Language Center Roles in Changing Times” at the International Association of Language Learning and Technology Conference at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, in June 2017.


Timothy Malchow, Associate Professor of German, contributed the chapter “Ibrahim and Ismail, Abraham and Isaac: Turkish-German Relations and Sacrifice in Fatih Akin’s Auf der anderen Seite” to the edited volume Making Sacrifices: Visions of Sacrifice in European and American Cultures. Opfer bringen: Opfervorstellungen in europäischen und amerikanischen Kulturen, edited by Nicholas Brooks and Gregor Thuswaldner and published by New Academic Press in Vienna in 2016. The chapter explores the functions of allusions to the Bible and the Qur’an in Akin’s acclaimed 2007 film about Turks and Germans encountering one another.

Carlos Miguel-Pueyo’s book titled Oyendo a Bécquer: el ‘color’ de la música del poeta romántico, will be released in fall 2017. He authored two chapters of a Spanish Higher Education first-year textbook created in digital format and designed following the communicative approach. He also had a paper titled “La Historia como viaje,” in the book La Historia en la Literatura española del siglo XIX (Barcelona, 2017). In July 2016, he presented his paper “‘Cuadros sinfónicos’ en cuerpo de letra: una lectura neuro-estética de la literatura romántica” at the 19th Conference of the Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas, at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster (Germany). This fall, he will take on the coordination of the Spanish Program as Head of the Spanish Section.


Student Highlights

Leena Aljobeh ’17 (Spanish, Chemistry) will be attending Indiana University School of Medicine.

Bridgette McGowen ’17 (German, Geography) will be working at the International Office of the Hochschule Reutlingen in Reutlingen, Germany.

Avery Davis ’16 (Chinese, Music) was appointed Executive Manager at Concordia College-New York.

Nathaniel Greiwe ’18 (German and Secondary Education) has been awarded an illustrious German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarship. Out of roughly 150 applicants this year, Greiwe was one of 30 students chosen to receive this award.

Caroline Trawick (Chinese and Japanese Studies) won a silver medal in the “Chinese Bridge” U.S. Midwest Speech Contest for College Students at University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Two students-- Angelys Torres and Amanda McCormick-- were honored this spring as co-recipients of the Judith Peters Aprender ayudando award for their outstanding commitment to using their Spanish to serve others.
Professor Sarah DeMaris Retires from Teaching

After 35 years of teaching at Valparaiso University, Prof. Sarah DeMaris has retired. She came to Valpo in 1982 after completing her Ph.D. at Princeton University. Previously she studied at the University of Illinois (B.A.) and at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg as a Fulbright Scholarship recipient.

During her years at Valpo she served as chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and of the IECA program, and also served for two years as director of the university’s Study Abroad Center in Reutlingen, Germany. She was instrumental in fund-raising and planning for the Kade-Duesenberg German House and Cultural Center, which she directed for ten years after its opening in 2000. She additionally played a leadership role in the multi-year process of applying for and eventually sheltering a chapter of The Phi Beta Kappa Society. She is currently chair of the team that is preparing the university for its once-per-decade accreditation review by the Higher Learning Commission; the site visit will take place on November 13-14, 2017, after which point she actually will be retired!

Prof. DeMaris has been appointed to the rank of Senior Research Professor, meaning that she will continue research in her field of late medieval writings for, by, and about members of religious orders. She is currently working on illustrated manuscripts that include the Benedictine Rule, the Augustinian Rule, and Pope Urban IV’s Rule for the Order of St. Clare. She has been invited to attend a session of the Constance Working Group for Medieval History (Konstanzer Arbeitskreis für mittelalterliche Geschichte) in October 2017 on the Reichenau Island; the topic is “Between Claustration and the World: Autonomy and Interaction in Late Medieval Women’s Religious Communities.”

Members of the department feted Prof. DeMaris with a retirement party at Prof. Randa Duvick’s home in May. Along with champagne toasts and speeches, the department surprised her with old videos of Air Band performances (were you here in the ’80s?). But the biggest surprise of all was a box of letters from dozens and dozens of former students. Prof. DeMaris said that she could not have had a better send-off than to have heard from her former students.

Alumni Updates
We invite you to send us your update at valpo.edu/foreign-languages-and-literatures/alumni

• First name:
• Last name (Maiden name):

• Year of graduation:
• Major(s) at VU:

• Current E-mail address:
• Current position / title / employer:

• Current mailing address:

• Your latest news:

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

• In the future I prefer to receive the Lingua Viva newsletter in the following format: Paper E-mail

• May we post information you provide on the department website? Yes / No