Beginning in the fall of 1976 it was my good fortune to become a member of the Spanish faculty at what was known then as Mankato State University and whose academic year was divided into quarters, rather than semesters. One of the determining factors in my obtaining the position was my willingness to accept the responsibilities of a Study Abroad program in Mexico.

My predecessor, Dr. Paul Waldorf, had been a professor at Minnesota State University for nearly three decades. He had often accompanied groups of students to Mexico during the summers. In 1973 he initiated a Winter Quarter in Mexico program. That was the program that I inherited.
THIRTY YEARS OF SPANISH STUDY ABROAD FOR MSU CONTINUED:

I had directed summer programs in Mexico for my previous employer, Albion College (Michigan). Since I had three children ages 1, 3, and 5 when I joined MSU, it would have never occurred to me to be in Mexico during the school year. Nonetheless, that was the program that I inherited.

The first year my wife and small children accompanied me. After that year, as the children began to enter school, our family determined that it would be too disruptive for everybody to uproot to Mexico. We also felt that the program in Mexico was of such importance as a service to MSU students that we made the decision that I would leave my family for the winter quarter. Most years, my family would join me for a week in Mexico or I would return home during a short mid-quarter break.

During the ensuing years the program evolved. The first five years I worked with a Mexican colleague who had been a visiting professor at Albion College and with whom I had worked in Mexico prior to joining MSU. He and I, with the occasional assistance of adjunct staff, would teach the courses and share in handling logistical matters. Although my Mexican friend was from Guanajuato, since my predecessor had conducted his program in Guadalajara, we continued there for the first five years. After that, we relocated to Guanajuato. We were there until my friend neared retirement five years later. At that point, I learned that the University of Guadalajara had revised and modernized its Centro de Estudios para Extranjeros. The program then used the U. de G. as its focus. In order to have our sessions in Mexico coordinate with MSU’s academic calendar, we also had three-week sessions with a language institute in Mazatlán, either before or after the sessions in Guadalajara. Seventeen years later, the U. de G. offered super-intensive two-week sessions that would coordinate with their regular intensive 5-week sessions, and the Mazatlán component was phased out.

Another Mexican colleague from Guanajuato, who had worked for MSU as an adjunct faculty member when our program was there, started his own language institute in 1985, the Academia Falcón. That school has grown to become a well-known and respected institution. For the past several years, MSU, M students have been able to study there as an alternative location in Mexico.

During a sabbatical leave in 1984 I had spent 5 weeks in Madrid, Spain, with the highly respected Estudio Sampere language institute. With the availability of modern electronic communication, it became feasible to coordinate Study Abroad activities for our students in a variety of locations, including our continuing program in Guadalajara, Mexico. The Estudio Sampere had expanded from having one school in Madrid to adding schools in Alicante, Salamanca, and El Puerto de Santa María. They also have a school in Cuenca, Ecuador, and in 2005 affiliated with the Academia Tica in Costa Rica.

I have visited every school mentioned above, and have become acquainted with their primary personnel. MSU, M students now have the option of study in four locations in Spain, in Ecuador, in Costa Rica, as well as in two locations in Mexico. Our study abroad programs are now available during the summer and the fall, as well as the spring. Up to this point, more than 1,000 MSU, M students have participated in our Spanish Study Abroad programs.

Dr. Karl H. Heise
Upcoming Events in the Department of Modern Languages

Don Quixote Across the Disciplines: Unraveling Myth(s)
A conference in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the publication of Cervantes’ masterpiece

Minnesota State University, Mankato
October 13 & 14, 2005

Full conference information is available at http://www.mnsu.edu/modernlang/quixote/DQC/home.htm

DON QUIXOTE POETRY RECITAL

Tuesday, October 11, 2005, 2:00 p.m.
ML 45 (casual learning lab in the lower level of the library)

All faculty and students are invited to attend and participate in the Don Quixote Poetry Recital that will take place on October 11, as part of the Don Quixote Conference. We are especially encouraging faculty and students from other countries to recite poems from Don Quixote or inspired by the novel in their language. If you are interested in participating, please e-mail Enrique Torner at enrique.torner@mnsu.edu the following information:

1) The poem and the chapter in which it is found (if from the Quixote. (if it is not in English, please provide the English translation of the first line)
2) Your name, country of origin, and language in which you will be reciting

Please e-mail your poem by Friday, September 30. If there is any poem duplication, you might be asked to change your selection.
Welcome to the Department of Modern Languages!

The Department of Modern Languages would like to welcome two new faculty members: Dr. Maria-Claudia Tomany, who is Assistant Professor and Director of the Program in Scandinavian Studies & Ms. Silvia Roca-Martinez, a very recent graduate from our Department, who completed her MA in Spanish over the summer. Both are very enthusiastic and energetic colleagues and we are glad to have you in the Department.


25 Years of the Study Abroad Program in France at MSU!

During the summer of 2005, the Summer Study in France Program celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. Seventeen individuals, twelve of whom spent the entire six weeks in France, participated. Anyone interested in next summer’s program should see Dr. Janc at john.janc@mnsu.edu in his office in AH 218N.

A feature article of the Study Abroad Program in France will appear in the next edition of the Polyglot!

Norwegian Exchange Program:

We are currently working on creating an exchange program with a Norwegian university. A representative of the Telemarken College IPO office is going to visit MSU on October 7 for exploratory discussions, and in the beginning of November, a delegation from TC will come to talk about the details. Telemarken College offers a wide range of classes in the arts and humanities, among others in American immigrant literature, but also in sports, health, and environmental sciences, and should open some exciting new options for MSU students from many programs. Situated in one of the most scenic areas of Norway, Telemarken College is only a one-hour train ride away from Oslo and might thus open up interesting faculty exchange options as well. Our heartfelt thanks go to Caryn Dardeli from the IPO office and Lori Lahlum from the History Department who have both been working hard so that we can bring this agreement about. Many thanks also to my colleagues in Modern Languages who have given me much valuable advice already.—Maria-Claudia Tomany

New Courses in Scandinavian Studies:

In the future, the Scandinavian Studies section will offer not only language but also topics courses and thus broaden the number of classes that are available for Scandinavian Studies majors and minors. In the spring semester, we will offer one topics course on the Vikings and their cultural and linguistic heritage in Scandinavia and the British Isles, and one on Scandinavian film. Please tell interested students about these offerings.

Recruitment of Supportive Faculty for Scandinavian Studies:

And another favor: The Scandinavian Studies Program is currently “rounding up” old and new faculty members all across campus with research or teaching interests in Scandinavia-related areas, as well as faculty members who have worked or studied in Scandinavia, or have other Scandinavian connections or interests. Please tell
Department news continued:

colleagues and friends about our initiative so that we will be able to offer the best and broadest selection of courses to our new students.

Scandinavian Newsletter

Last but not least, we have started putting together a Scandinavian newsletter that we plan to send out by email and that will contain information about the section, the club, and Scandinavia-related events in and around Mankato. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter - or know anyone who might be, regardless of MSU affiliation - please send a little note to Maria-Claudia.Tomany@mnsu.edu.

Tusen takk - tack så mycket - thank you all!
Maria-Claudia Tomany

Partnership enhances Spanish teaching in the classroom

By Edell Fiedler; Public Information, Mankato Area Schools' Jefferson Elementary

“Hola,” María Dolores Cardenas-Olave said to a room full of students at Mankato Area Public Schools’ Jefferson Elementary. “Hola,” the students replied. The Spanish lesson had begun. Cardonas-Olave, a Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU) student, is part of the joint effort between MSU’s Department of Modern Languages and Jefferson Elementary to bring a fluent Spanish speaker into the classroom.

“Our goal is to have students learning Spanish all year,” teacher Kathy Sallstrom said. “This partnership has the potential to help us achieve this. And with a $1,000 Educare grant, we’re able to provide the classroom materials the interns need. Educare has been very supportive.”

Sallstrom said offering Spanish to younger students is important. Research shows they process the information differently than older students and adults do, which helps them learn more quickly and retain the information better. Learning another language also helps students do well in other areas. According to an article in “Curriculum Update,” “children who study foreign languages statistically outperform non-language students in language, math, science and social studies.”

Offering Spanish to students isn’t new at Jefferson Elementary. The school’s Parent Teacher Organization had sponsored a candidate through an exchange program to serve as a Spanish teacher. However, the school needed a long-term solution. Principal Linda Kilander worked with MSU to form the partnership that would benefit everyone involved.

“The collaboration we have with MSU helps us realize our goal that Jefferson Elementary will be able to better prepare its students for their participation in a diverse global society,” Sallstrom said.

For more information contact Principal Linda Kilander or teacher Kathy Sallstrom at Mankato Area Public Schools’ Jefferson Elementary at 388-5480.
Language Club News

French Club Activities:
The Club Français met for the first time on September 14. The following officers were elected: presidents Carla Jensen and Josh Rising, vice-president Tim Kirk, secretary Carlie Sauter, treasurer Marcus Hudson and publicity Douha Abd El-Fatah. The first social gathering was held on Thursday, September 22. Students who had spent the summer in France shared their pictures and experiences.

German Club Activities:
The German Club elected new officers for the 2005-06 year during spring semester ’05: Andrew Thompson, president, Lucas Brun, vice president; Tysen Dauer, secretary; Amanda Knapton, treasurer. Following the footsteps of the outgoing enthusiastic German Club officers Jerry Schmidt & Grete Laingen, and returning officer Andrew Thompson, the club has been busy by participating in the RSO fair in August, holding a social evening of pizza and bowling in the CSU and a pretzel sale fundraiser in September and weekly conversation meetings. German conversation is every Tuesday from 5 – 6:30 pm in the comfortable atmosphere of the upstairs space in the Hub Café (especially reserved for the Club during that time). If you are interested in German Club activities, write to kontaktete_1@yahoo.com and join the German Club email list and visit the German Club website: http://oit.mnsu.edu/germanweb/GC/GCHome.htm

L-R: Amanda, Andrew, Lucas, Tyson, Jerry, Grete

Scandinavian Club Activities:
The Scandinavian Club has been reregistered as a recognized student organization. Kai-Rune Engstroem is president, James Livermont vice president, and Tyler Bock treasurer. Please have a look at our new notice board in the hallway, next to AH 2211 Our first activity will be an outing to the ‘Nordic Roots Music Festival’ at the Cedar Cultural Center in Minneapolis on October 1, 2005. And on October 18, 2005, some of us will go to see The Norwegian Opera perform Peer Gynt together with Vocal Essence at the Ordway Center in St Paul as part of the Norwegian centenary celebrations. Everyone is welcome! If you are interested in joining us, please contact: kai-rune.engstroem@mnsu.edu or james.livermont@mnsu.edu

Spanish Club Activities:
The Spanish Club elected the following officers for this year: Olga Trevino, president (olga.trevion@mnsu.edu); Joshua Warren, vice president (joshua.warren@mnsu.edu), Jennifer Schwartz, secretary (Jennifer.schwartz@mnsu.edu); Tanya Lauer, treasurer (Tanya.lauer@mnsu.edu). The Spanish Club meets regularly on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in room CSU 202. At this time the Spanish Club is trying to build a stronger relationship between Spanish Club and the Chicano Latin American Student Association (CLASA,) “Therefore, we haven’t put into stone any upcoming events,” writes Olga Trevino, Spanish club president.
Faculty News

Dr. Kimberly Contag and Dr. Jim Grabowska spent 2 weeks in May and early June 2005 studying with Ecuadorian playwright, poet and author Professor Jorge Dávila. The three met daily at the University of Cuenca, Ecuador to survey Ecuadorian literature from colonial times to the present, focusing on marginalized voices and in particular indigenous voices in the 20th century. The intensive course included poetry, novel, and short story and both Dr. Contag and Dr. Grabowska were invited to return in November for an international conference on Ecuadorian literature where they would have the opportunity to meet and discuss topics with many contemporary poets, playwrights and authors.

Dr. Jim Grabowska was the commencement speaker for the graduation ceremony held by UMOS, United Migrant Opportunity Services, on September 2. 26 adults completed more than a year of study and successfully took the GED test in order to earn their high school equivalency. Grabowska's address was titled "Uds. son los elegidos", and was delivered in Spanish. The graduation ceremony was held on the campus of MSU.

Dr. Kimberly Contag and Dr. Jim Grabowska spoke to the New Ulm Lions club on September 8th about Latino issues in the US and in Minnesota.

Dr. Kimberly Contag and Dr. Jim Grabowska will be addressing the New Ulm Young Pioneers in October about German-Ecuadorian internment during WWII.

Dr. Evelyn Meyer met on several occasions with her German colleague at Chaska High school over the summer to establish the new second year curriculum that is being taught for the first time at MSU during Fall Semester and then also at Chaska High School during Spring Semester as part of the concurrent enrollment collaboration between MSU and Chaska High School.

Dr. Pat Wilcox Peterson spent two weeks in Berlin, Germany this summer. She participated in a course with the Goethe Institute in Berlin, designed for teachers to refresh their language, learn about the city, and pick up new teaching methods. It ran from July 15-31. The course emphasized drama, role play, and poetry in the classroom. There were only nine participants, teachers from Eastern Europe, Russia, Italy, Monaco, and the U.S.

Student News

Rachel Goodloe, a major in Spanish and French Education, has an article published in the Undergraduate Research Journal. Her article is called “The Differences Between the Public and Private School Systems in Cuenca, Ecuador” and can be downloaded from this website: http://www.mnsu.edu/research/URC/OnlinePublications/onlinejournal.htm Congratulations, Rachell!

Natalie Erickson Former Spanish Teaching Assistant gave birth to a baby boy on August 11, 2005. The baby is called Ethan Thomas Erickson. Congratulations Natalie!

Jinnie Hindershelt, a recent graduate of the French Program, left for Beauvais, France, where she will be spending the academic year teaching English.