

LANGUAGE LINKS

Spring 2016



Matthew Kuna, BSEd Spanish, Commencement Speaker

Matthew Kuna, BSEd Spanish, addressed attendees at the spring 2016 commencement ceremony with inspirational remarks focused on KU's theme of "making a difference." He sprinkled in Spanish as he spoke of going the extra mile to help others, righting social injustices, savoring life's moments, and being open to change. His parting words, "be good and do good," reflect Matthew's indelible impression that he leaves on KU. The Modern Language Studies Department is honored to have had him as one of our students, and we wish him a bright and wonderful future.





From left: Matt
Bello, Peter
Murray, Kelly
Esslinger,
Matthew Kuna.
Not pictured:
Amber Weber



MLS Recognizes Outstanding Graduates

Five students received departmental honors at an awards ceremony held on April 26, 2016.

Linda Oswald-Bogert Award: Matthew Kuna

German Award: Peter Murray

Spanish Award: Amber Weber

Ambassador Awards: Matt Bello and Kelly Esslinger



Honors College Banquet

Matt Bello, Matthew Kuna and Kelly Esslinger were all honored for completion of their Capstone Research Project at the Honors College Award Ceremony on April 28, 2016.

Matt Bello was also awarded the Service Award for having completed 153 hours of service. Dr. Nancy Zimmerman advised Esslinger and Bello on their research and assisted with their IRB applications. Both of these students also received an Undergraduate Student Research Grant and presented at the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA) convention. In addition, Matthew Kuna has been selected to be the commencement speaker at the Colleges of Education and Business ceremony on May 7, 2016.

Steinberg Wins Fulbright ETA

Recent KU graduate Joshua Steinberg (BA Philosophy, German minor) won a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) grant to travel to Germany for the 2016-2017 academic year. The ETA program places Fulbright Scholars in classrooms abroad to provide assistance to local English teachers. Assistants in this program help teach the English language while serving as cultural ambassadors for the United States. He will pursue a master's degree in philosophy with a teaching assistantship at Texas Tech University upon his return.

"What began as a major requirement turned into a passion for language learning and teaching. The German [Section] at Kutztown University was a great help to me in my pursuit of achieving the honor receiving a Fulbright Teaching Assistant Grant. I shall be teaching English in Berlin, Germany for the school year. I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to live and work in Germany for this time. I plan on applying what shall be a wonderful learning experience to my pursuit of a doctoral degree in Philosophy, with the ultimate goal of research and teaching at the University level. My deepest gratitude to Drs. Bäck, Kutch, and Hanson for their support and encouragement."

-Josh Steinberg



"Being given the opportunity to contribute to this project was a fantastic surprise and boon. As an aspiring writer, experiencing the process and work involved in putting together a book is invaluable. I am so grateful to Dr. Kutch for inviting me to assist in her project and thereby offering me an opportunity to prepare for my career. The stipend was a big help with my expenses this summer and I am grateful to the KU foundation for providing it."

--Josh Steinberg

Faculty/Alumnus Collaboration

In February 2016, Dr. Lynn M. Kutch was awarded a grant from the Kutztown University Foundation for editorial assistance with her forthcoming anthology *Novel Perspectives on German-language Comics Studies: History, Pedagogy, Theory* (Lexington Press, June 2016). Dr. Kutch outlined project benefits in her application, including the professional gains for her former student: "This project will provide [Josh] with real-world experience in the realm of academic publishing." Dr. Kutch chose Steinberg because of his exceptional progress with the German language since beginning study at KU in German I, and because of his participation in the German Graphic Novel seminar in fall 2015.



Cover design for the anthology by Austrian artist Gerald Hartwig.
www.zeichenstrich.de



MLS Teachers' Workshop

Above (*l-r*): Maria (Haverovich) Lazzarevich ('05), Darren Vargo ('06), Charlotte (Reihl) Holman ('09), Linda Egnatz (presenter), Catherine Espinal ('15), Megan Diehl ('09), Tricia (Johnson) Butz ('15)

The Modern Language Studies Department was delighted to have six alumni return to Kutztown University for our World Language Teachers' Workshop on Saturday April 16, 2016. The featured speaker was the 2014 ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year, Linda Egnatz, from Illinois. The alumni and other attendees were very engaged in her presentation, which focused on interculturality and embedding culture through story to build language proficiency. They commented on the usefulness of lessons that compare and contrast cultural differences. The Modern Language Studies Department is very proud of these alumni who are currently making a difference as world language teachers, and we hope to see more alumni at our future professional development workshops. A special thanks to Professors Rachel Salerno and Scheri Zúñiga Murphy for organizing the conference.

About Conference Facilitator Linda Egnatz

2014: National Language Teacher of the Year, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)

2013: Golden Apple Award of Excellence in Teaching

back row, (*l-r*): Dr. Zúñiga, Dr. J. Rodríguez, M. Lazzarevich, D. Vargo, Dr. Zimmerman, Dr. Slack, M. Diehl, Dr. A. Rodríguez.

front row, (*l-r*): T. Butz, C. Holman, C. Espinal, Dr. Núñez.



German Students Create and Perform Drama

When Dr. Kutch's GER 355 students first found out that a public performance (in German!) of their original sketches was a course requirement, they were understandably somewhat apprehensive. As the semester went on, however, they grew more excited and eager to showcase their hard work.

In order to arrive at the final five skits to be performed, each student had to:

- *create an original skit, based loosely on the comedic style of German humorist Loriot.

- *submit at least three drafts, improving grammar and idiomatic content each time.

- *read their fellow students' sketches

- *provide a peer review of each along with a point value. The five sketches with the highest point values were chosen for live performance.

Kambria Carlson's sketch *Sprachspiel (Language Game)* garnered the highest number of peer points. Carlson commented:

"The process of creating my own sketch in another language was different to say the least. I enjoy making puns in English, so it took a little maneuvering to make them in German. It was enjoyable to stretch my brain like that, and I'd like to think that effort came out well."

"It felt wonderful to see my sketch performed. Laura, Alex, and Alicia played it wonderfully. Laura had sass, Alicia had the American attitude, and Alex had wit. I'm very proud of them and how they took the sketch and made it their own."

Shannon McCarthy, whose sketch *Das beste schlechteste Buch (The Best Worst Book)* said: I enjoyed the process of writing my sketch in German. It felt like a puzzle trying to get a message across while keeping it entertaining.

To be honest, I was a little leery at first to see it performed, as were the actresses when they saw the hefty script set before them. I cannot thank them enough for all of their hard work, their performance of my sketch was better than I could have asked for. I am also thankful to everyone who helped with props, backgrounds, and tech. The show would not have been the same without everyone's help."

Kariana Leinbach described the experience: "Writing my own German sketch was challenging, but lots of fun as well. I have never written a play before (in German no less!), so to have my first attempt chosen to be performed was a thrilling surprise. I think what made it such a unique experience was that there were no boundaries — we were free to create what we chose, and our class really thought outside the box, especially when it came to incorporating technology into most of the skits. The sketches provided us with the opportunity to write and speak using everyday, conversational German, as opposed to the formal, proper German we are usually required to utilize in our German classes.

As we staged, organized, and rehearsed our plays, our entire class became a team of fun-loving friends who threw themselves into our production; it was a unique bonding time that left me sorry to see the plays come to an end. Performing in a foreign language felt really special, and because our plays were built around everyday people in everyday situations, I felt the experience strengthened my conversational skills. The German Drama class was an exciting and engaging opportunity to use German in a unique approach — I'm very proud of our class and grateful to Dr. Kutch for everything she put into it!"

"There was some difficulty in writing the script, but it was still fun and a great way to express my creativity through writing. Best of all, it was done in the language I love! Seeing my own play performed was a proud moment and I thought the actors did a remarkable job. They were able to take my script on paper and make it into an entertaining performance, bringing the characters to life and showing the story."

-Laura Berkel, author of *Ein Gespräch mit meinem Mörder (A Conversation With My Murderer)*



Photos from top: Shannon McCarthy (l) and Tierney Seuffer run lines; Kambria Carlson (l) and Kariana Leinbach prepare for their skit; Laura Berkel (l) as the German and Alicia Hornberger as the American Abroad.

German/Spanish Major Gains Real World Experience

On February 15, 2016, MLS Senior Peter Murray seized a distinctive opportunity: he agreed to work for the day at GK Elite Sportswear in Reading. His task was to act as an interpreter between the sales and marketing teams at GK Elite and a visiting German distributor.

Murray describes the experience: "When I saw the notice in my inbox from Dr. Kutch for an opportunity to do German-to-English interpreting for GK Elite Sportswear in Reading I knew I had to seize it immediately. I have been studying German since the seventh grade and have been preparing for a long time to put my skills to use. Due to these long years of study and the efforts of diligent professors I had a relative idea of what to expect and was able to adequately prepare myself for the task ahead.

This job did not fail to present me with difficulties as I had to interpret for the executives of GK and their German distributor, who used business and sportswear specific vocabulary in their negotiations. This was an excellent chance for me to gain practical experience as an interpreter and hone the skills I have developed over the years.

The representatives of both companies were quite thankful for my services and stated that the negotiations would have been much more difficult had an interpreter not been present. To me this represents the importance of language study as those who are able to provide translation and interpreting services help facilitate vital communication between communities and professionals, thus improving outcomes for all involved.

After this experience I would strongly recommend to all those who study language and wish to pursue a career in interpreting or translation to grab onto any opportunity to practice their skills. I guarantee that the results will be rewarding."

This opportunity represents the great importance of language study because those who are able to provide translation and interpreting services help facilitate vital communication between communities and professionals, thus improving outcomes for all involved.

-Peter Murray



February 19, 2016

Dear Dr. Kutch,

Thank you for giving GK Elite Sportswear the pleasure of working with Mr. Peter Murray as a translator for our German Distributor visit on February 15, 2016. Mr. Murray did an exceptional job as our translator for the day. He was dressed professionally for the occasion and was very well prepared for even the most difficult questions. Mr. Murray was in meetings with corporate executives as well as international distributors, which could be intimidating to even the most well prepared person, but Mr. Murray handled himself very professionally at all times. In the days prior to the event Mr. Murray contacted me to learn about the company and what vocabulary he should review for the meetings, which shows how conscientious, studious and serious he truly was about the opportunity. We hope that we are able to use his services in the future. We wish him all the best on the remainder of his collegiate career and his future endeavors.

Thank you for the recommendation we could not have had our meeting without Peter!

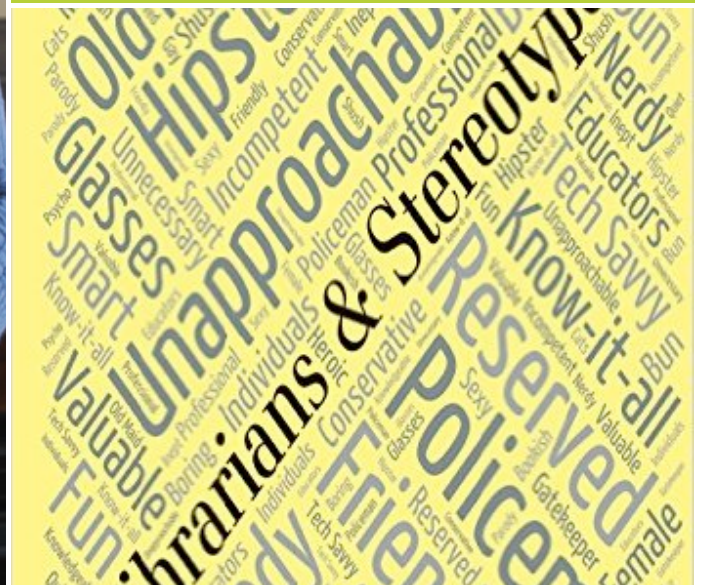
Wendy Martin

*Vice President of Global Gymnastics Sales
GK Elite Sportswear*



“This book examines librarianship through communication, gender, psychology, anthropology, and cultural studies theories to begin to get to the root of why certain librarian stereotypes exist today and whether or not it’s possible to change some of these stereotypes. I draw on spoken language examples from English and Spanish to show language’s influence on culture.”

-Christina Steffy



MLS Alumna Publishes Book

¡Hola! I'm a proud KU alum who just couldn't get enough of it here – I earned a B.A. Speech Communications with minors in Spanish and political science in 2006 and a B.A. English/professional writing with a public relations minor in 2009. I began freelance writing while completing my second bachelor's degree, and I've been doing that ever since. I frequently have articles in Berks County Living, and I've written for the *Kutztown Patriot*, the *Hamburg Item*, and the *Reading Eagle*. While completing my professional writing degree, I worked in the KU library and saw how I was able to combine all of my previous degree experience and that's when I knew I wanted to be a librarian whose focus was outreach and teaching. I then attended Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, for my Master of Library and Information Science.

In my current position as manager of library support services at Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences in Lancaster, I am responsible for managing all of the library's reference and education initiatives. During my time at the School of Nursing, I published library articles and eventually wrote my newly published book *Librarians & Stereotypes: So,*

Now What? While my jobs haven't focused on Spanish, I do still know and use what I learned while at KU. I admit I'm a bit rusty with speaking the language because I don't get to do it often, but a recent trip to Panama and future plans to travel in Central America have pushed me to improve my speaking abilities (the trip to Panama was a honeymoon...in the midst of everything else happening, I married my husband whom I met in the KU's Rohrbach Library, and we bought a house and are raising our three cats). Lancaster is also very diverse, so I hear Spanish spoken on an almost daily basis. I've always maintained an interest in communication and cultural studies, and my master's degree was in the School of Communication & Information at Rutgers; this furthered my interest in the true interdisciplinary nature of communication studies, and it attracted me to language and its influence on culture.

I hope to write more books in the future and to continue to actively participate in library professional associations so I can continue to give back to a career field that has given me so much. And I may even continue my graduate studies and earn another degree. What can I say? I love learning! ¡Adiós!



MLS Scholarship Recipient

The Modern Language Studies Department is proud to announce a new scholarship: “The Leah and Howard Landis Memorial Scholarship for the Spanish for Modern Business Minor.”

The MLS Department is grateful for the endowment of this \$4MB scholarship and, of greater importance, we are delighted that this new award is even more incentive for students to pursue the Spanish for Modern Business Minor!

We are pleased to announce that José Colón-Cruz (BS Leisure and Sports Studies and Spanish for Modern Business Minor, Class of 2019) is the first recipient! In his own words, he shares a bit about himself and receiving the scholarship: “My major is in Leisure and Sport Studies. With this degree and my Spanish for Modern Business minor, I intend to use my Spanish and knowledge in business to work as a professional sport translator. Hopefully I will work with a big organization such as the NFL or NBA as a Spanish translator, which would take advantage of my knowledge in Spanish and business as well as my knowledge of business in the sports industry. This scholarship is viewed as a sign of opportunity for me: an opportunity to expand my knowledge in Spanish and business as well as the opportunity to strive for a great future. Earning this scholarship has not only impacted me but my family as well. Obtaining this scholarship is also a symbol to my younger siblings that you will benefit if you work hard towards something. Lastly, it has brought my parents pride which is the best feeling any child could ever ask for.”

Student Presents at NECTFL 2016

On February 12, 2016, KU BSEd Spanish student Julia Snyder presented her Honors Capstone research project, “Strike While the Iron’s Hot,” at the Northeast Council for Teachers of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) convention. Julia researched Spanish immersion programs in Pennsylvania and interviewed a number of teachers and administrators to find out why this highly successful approach to teaching world languages in elementary school is not a more significant part of our schools’ curricula. Julia, who is also an outstanding member of the KU Hockey Team, will be graduating in spring 2017 with a certificate to teach both Spanish and Special Education.





KU Spanish and the Community

On Friday April 29, 2016, about fifty first graders from Roberto Clemente Elementary Charter School joined more than 30 KU students from Spanish Composition and Conversation classes, and members of OLA (Organization for Latino Awareness) for lunch and a program led by Charito Calvachi-Mateyko. This was the culminating event in a bilingual, bicultural project developed by students in a learning community class focused on Latin American history and the history of Latinos in the US. Other activities throughout the semester included the creation of a bilingual book entitled *Mr. Moon/Señor Luna*, copies of which were given to all the Roberto Clemente students to promote their continued development of bilingual literacy. This project was sponsored through KU Sesquicentennial and NEH/ALA Latino Americans: 500 Years of History grants.

Sigma Delta Pi Induction



Eleven Spanish majors and minors were inducted into the KU chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, National Hispanic Honor Society, on April 11. The Modern Language Studies Department is proud to honor their achievements in Spanish and Hispanic Studies, as well as their overall academic success!

Photo (l-r) Brianna Bush, Jayna Snyder, Jorge González Perdomo, Sarah Shiley, Luz M. Alva de la Rosa, Ivimirmay Herrera, Meganne Abbott, Peter Murray, Rebecca Lynn Hess, Rocco Mason, Julia Kristine Snyder.

"I teach because I hope to inspire others to appreciate and value cultural differences and to connect diverse communities through language."
-Dr. Christine Núñez

Why I Teach

A recent Facebook post by one of our alumna inspired MLS faculty members to write down their own reasons.

"I teach at KU because I have the opportunity to meet amazing 'real people' who go on to do amazing things! And they inspire me to do my best!"
-Dr. Nancy Zimmerman

"Traditionally students learn from teachers. I am glad to say that I learn something new and valuable from my students every day."
-Dr. Lynn M. Kutch



"I teach to pass the torch and instill the love of discovering a new way to look at the world to make sense of it in all its diversity."
-Dr. S.P. Dewey

"To awaken in my students the intellectual curiosity that feeds a passion for literature, theater, and film or another passion that will help them surpass what they formerly believed obstacles to achieving their goals in life."
-Dr. Mary Theis

Ashley Snyder (2009, BSEd German; BA German Studies; Minor: Psychology)
German Teacher, Conrad Weiser School District

"I teach because there is nothing in the world like helping someone find the 'lightbulb' moment when everything makes sense. And, often, in the process, students even help me find my own new learning moments!"
-Dr. Dawn Slack

MODERN LANGUAGE STUDIES DEPARTMENT AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

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