The Department of Global Cultures and Languages has been in a stage of transition. Dr. Dieter Jedan, who had served as chair for 20 years, retired at the end of academic year 2013.

Since that time Dr. Leslee Pollina added to her duties of chairing the Department of Psychology by agreeing to serve as the interim chair of the Department of Global Cultures and Languages until a new chair was named.

After an extended search process, the Department is pleased to welcome Dr. Toni Alexander of Auburn University to Southeast. Dr. Alexander’s field is Cultural Geography with a particular concentration in socio-spatial relationships. She is particularly interested in patterns of ethnic and racial segregation and the social context that either promotes or inhibits it. Other areas of her research are domestic migration and agricultural to urban land use.

Dr. Alexander will be leading a multi-disciplinary department, to which she looks forward. “I’m very excited to be joining the Southeast Missouri State University Community and especially the Department of Global Cultures and Languages. I’ve long had a passion for all disciplines represented there and feel like it is a place where I will not only feel right at home, but can also be of service. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to campus in January and can’t wait to return on a permanent basis this summer and spend more time with the faculty, staff, and especially students.”

Dr. Alexander is busy preparing to make the move from Auburn to Cape Girardeau. Her duties will begin August 1.

Costa Rican Exchange

In October 2013 a group of six students and two faculty members from the University of Costa Rica (UCR) visited the campus of Southeast Missouri State University for 10 days. They stayed with host families in Cape Girardeau and host students, visited classes, made presentations, traveled around the region, and generally became acquainted with what it might be like to study here as an international student.

Their visit marked the seventh time that such a group has traveled to the United States to be on Southeast’s campus. They are part of an exchange program between Southeast and the University of Costa Rica that is now 10 years old. Six groups of Southeast students (usually anthropology or foreign language majors) have traveled to Costa Rica as part of the exchange program as well.

In 2004 Warren Anderson, professor of anthropology, and a fellow anthropologist from the University (cont’d. on p. 3)
Haley Dolosic came from a family of world travelers and knew from an early age that she wanted to study abroad. Her father traveled in the U.S. Military and as then as a civilian contractor and her parents spent time in many countries. At the age of fourteen Haley accompanied them to Paris and from that point there was no doubt that she would return to France. She spent the Fall 2012 semester at Southeast’s exchange partner in France, the University of Angers. It was an unforgettable experience, both academically and personally, which she would recommend to any Southeast student.

Haley took classes in composition, literature, philosophy, and translation, all conducted in French. Comparing French students to American students, she feels that French students are more self-motivated and tend to put forth their best effort constantly without giving in to the temptation to slack off. They enjoy social life, and love to get together with friends at clubs, but overall they spent less time partying and more time focusing on their long-term goals. They get more sleep and probably eat healthier foods, including fewer snacks and high-sugar items. Having undergone a rigorous routine of classes and exams since middle school, they handle stress better than American college students.

At Angers, Haley found a lot of choice in activities outside of class, from sports to dance. She joined the active International club. She found a great conversation partner, a student from Angers who wanted to become an English teacher. They shared conversation in both French and English.

While the campus was Haley’s home base, she took the opportunity to venture in to the city frequently, thanks to an efficient public transportation system. Haley notes that crime is relatively low, but it is always wise to travel with a friend. Outside of Angers, she traveled west to the village of Le Croisic near the Atlantic Ocean, and to the eastern city of Strasbourg, on the German border. The French rail system offers discounts for students, and a popular system of ride sharing has developed at the University. She was able to visit Bordeaux, Toulouse, and Paris, among other cities.

Haley was in France during the Presidential Election of 2012 and was able to view the coverage from a different perspective. Among the people she met, there was a wide range of attitudes towards Americans. Overall, Haley found the French people to be friendly and helpful, with a few exceptions. The bureaucracy may be confusing, but functioning in a new system contributed to her boost in self-confidence and independence. Haley feels that any student with a sense of adventure and a willingness to work at learning a foreign language will reap enormous benefits from studying abroad. It was the experience of a lifetime.

Haley also was awarded a $1000 national Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Study Abroad Scholarship in the summer of 2013. She studied Spanish language and culture six hours per day for one month at the Universidad Técnica Del Norte in Quito, Ecuador.

The classes included visits to historic and cultural sites and museums, as well as trips to the surrounding cities. On one visit to a village in the high Andes, students saw a cloud forest, a tropical forest so humid that clouds settled among the trees. Haley was able to experience Ecuadorian culture first hand. She was housed with a host family and loved her friendly homestay “mother,” who spoke no English and introduced Haley to her extended family of children and grandchildren.

Haley is graduating with majors in both French Education and Global Studies with a minor in Spanish in May 2014. She has been accepted into a Ph.D. program and awarded a fellowship in Foreign Language Education/Second Language Acquisition at Washington University in St. Louis.

---

“Anthropology is the most humanistic of the sciences and the most scientific of the humanities.”
— Eric Wolf

---

“Experience Southeast
Experience Success”
Costa Rica (cont’d.)

The story is that a tourist, allegedly a Spaniard, came to Ecuador, saw the hats and immediately saw a potential business. The hats were mass-produced and shipped first to the Isthmus of Panama before proceeding to the Americas, Europe and Asia. The hats became known by their point of international distribution instead of their place of domestic origin. And that’s how the traditional Ecuadorian jipijapa became to be known around the world as the Panama hat!

Where did the Panama hat originate? Okay, I hear you. You’re expecting a question along the line of “Who is buried in Lincoln’s tomb?”

Actually, while we were on a recent trip to Ecuador, I learned that the Panama hat is native to Ecuador and is a favorite of the indigenous people of the Ecuadorian highlands.

The hats were originally made from the leaves of the Carludovica palmate plant known by the locals as the toquilla palm or jipijapa palm.

The story is that a tourist, allegedly a Spaniard, came to Ecuador, saw the hats and immediately saw a potential business. The hats were mass-produced and shipped first to the Isthmus of Panama before proceeding to the Americas, Europe and Asia.

The hats became known by their point of international distribution instead of their place of domestic origin. And that’s how the traditional Ecuadorian jipijapa became to be known around the world as the Panama hat!

You Don’t Say

Dr. Debbie Lee-DiStefano

Beneath the Surface

Three Southeast Anthropology students attended the annual meeting of the Missouri Archaeological Society from April 4-6. At this academic conference students networked with other Missouri archaeologists and presented some of their research at the Hunze-Evans site, a Mississippian site near Cape Girardeau, Missouri, which dates to about A.D. 1300.

Senior Dakota Price co-authored and presented a paper with Dr. Bengtson entitled “Gendered Buildings in the Mississippian World: Beneath the Surface.” They focused particularly on stylistic interpretation and raw material analysis, which might provide clues about the relationship between the prehistoric occupants of the site with people in other Mississippian communities in the broader region.

This trip was made possible by generous funding from the Charles Hunze Site Fund and the Anthropology Society.
Where in the World . . . ?

Recently in the news some 500 African refugees were reported to have scaled a fence on the African continent in order to seek asylum in . . . Europe!? Whoa. Wait just a minute. How can people climb a fence on African soil, descend the other side and be on European territory? Isn’t there a little body of water called the Mediterranean Sea between the two? Is this some kind of time-space portal to another part of the globe?

How can this be? (No, an embassy is not involved.) Where did this event take place?

A recent report by the National Assessment of Educational Progress discover that nearly 75% of American students are deficient in their geographical skills—73% of eighth graders and 80% of high school seniors. The assessment did not merely ask students to locate countries on a map (a skill demonstrated by only 20% of Americans when instructed to find the United States on a world map). Geography testing assesses students’ overall subject knowledge and problem-solving skills.

The Department of Global Cultures and Languages offers geography classes which count for the B.A. in Global Cultures and Languages as well as Global Studies. Sign up and learn more about the world in which we live.

Club News

Alpha Mu Gamma, the foreign language honor society, is growing after reinstating the group over the past year. The club promotes the study of language and studying in other lands. The group sponsored a Foreign Language Trivia night in April.

Last year seven students were inducted into the society and eight more will join in the April 2014 ceremony. The current officers are working to create a foundation upon which the society will be able to grow in the coming years.

For more information on events or membership, contact Hannah Smith at hksmith1s@semo.edu.

Spanish Club meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the University Center in the Presidents’ Room. In these meetings members typically practice Spanish and focus on the areas that a number of students have difficulty with including conversations and grammar. Since the club’s goal is to assist students who want to learn Spanish, we offer membership to any student interested in supplementing class time with more exposure to the language. We also arrange study times outside of meetings at convenient times in order to practice language skills. Spanish Club will also be hosting a Salsa Night at 6 p.m. in the Mississippi Room of the University Center.

Contact club president Zack Quick at zrquick1s@semo.edu if you have any questions about being involved.

German Club hosted a movie night on in February with a screening of the comedy Advertising Rules! (2001) about ad men competitively trying to land a lucrative advertising contract.

In April they hiked through Trail of Tears State Park and learned the names of trees in German.

Emily Waters, club president, invites all interested students to become involved and to bring creative ideas for learning more about the German language and culture. You can contact her at erwaters1s@semo.edu.

“Archaeology is the Peeping Tom of the sciences. It is the sandbox of men who care not where they are going; they merely want to know where everyone else has been.”

—Jim Bishop
Global Cultures and Languages students have been busy traveling this past year.

The first study abroad trip to Taiwan led by Dr. Shu-Chuan Wang-McGrath last summer was very successful. Students visited various cultural and historical sites in Taipei, Kinmen island, and Kaoshiung. They experienced the richness of the colonial history of Taiwan, diversity of the cultures and cuisines.

During the trip, they had the opportunity to interact with the faculty and students at National Quemoy University where Dr. Wang-McGrath taught before joining Southeast Missouri State University. The students were warmly received by President Lee as well as the Dean of Academic Affairs, Dean of Student Affairs, faculty members and the students.

Three Southeast students spent four weeks in summer 2013 in intensive French classes at the University of Saint-Etienne in east-central France. They were accompanied by Dr. Alice Strange where they met other Missouri students for a joint program. They were housed with French families and were introduced to the local cuisine and culture. The students visited both Lyon, France’s second largest city, and Paris during their stay.

In May 2013 a group of students flew to Madrid, Spain to learn the language and culture. They visited El Escorial, a summer palace of Spanish royalty, which houses a library of 40,000 books and the “Imperial City” of Toledo. This city has been a steel-working center since 500 B.C. and contains layers of Jewish, Christian and Muslim heritage.

Students also visited Granada, the last Moor stronghold in Spain. The Alhambra is the most renowned building of the Andalusian Islamic legacy. They also saw a Roman aqueduct and some went to a bullfight in Madrid.

Profe Merget is taking another group this year from May 21-June 4. For more information, write her at mmerget@semo.edu.

The second intersession trip went to Munich, Germany from December 29 to January 12. Students experienced some infamous sites of Nazi Germany by walking through Dachau Concentration Camp, touring Nuremberg’s Documentation Center at Zeppelin Field and sitting in courtroom of the Palace of Justice where the Nuremberg trials were held after World War II.

Students visited three castles of the Fairy Tale King Ludwig II of Bavaria, the Bavarian Parliament Building, got a breathtaking view of the Alps from Mt. Wendelstein and spent a day conversing with German students in the medieval city of Memmingen. On a trip to Salzburg, Austria students toured the Mozart House, ate in a public house in which Charlemagne reportedly ate in 803 and ate bread from St. Peter’s Monastery Bakery which has been in business since 1160.

Students are encouraged to sign up for the next trip to Munich in December 2014. Contact Dr. Poston for more information at fposton@semo.edu.
Dr. Gabriele Eckart recently published *Shifting Viewpoints: Cervantes in Twentieth-Century and Early Twenty-First-Century Literature Written in Germany* with coauthor Meg H. Brown. This study shows that Cervantes’ work actively influenced the literature of a number of 20th- and 21st-century writers in Germany. The book explores literary works by German-speaking authors that engage in an intertextual play with a text written by Cervantes.

In May Dr. Debbie Lee-DiStefano will be completing her year as president of Faculty Senate. Among her accomplishments are three which warrant recognition.

She initiated a compensation study which resulted in the increased salaries of approximately 50% of Southeast employees.

She originated the Faculty Social Hour which takes place twice per semester. This provides faculty a relaxed atmosphere in which to socially interact with friends and to meet other colleagues.

Lastly, Dr. Lee established working relationships across campus which led to greater collegiality.

In the last two years, Dr. Jen Bengtson has worked to further develop the archaeology program. Most of the department’s collections come from the Hunze-Evans site, a prehistoric Mississippian village near Cape Girardeau that dates to about A.D. 1300. She has organized and inventoried the artifacts in the Archaeology Laboratory, teaching a four-week summer field methods course, and developing a long term research plan for the site that will include remote sensing and geophysical survey which allow archaeologists to “see beneath the soil” without digging.

Dr. Bengtson has also organized the human osteology (skeletal) collection. She is often called upon to consult with the law enforcement community when they find bones that they suspect might be human. She enjoys forensic work and is planning to develop a forensic anthropology course by spring 2014.

If you are interested in archaeology or forensic anthropology at Southeast, please contact Dr. Bengtson at jbengtson@semo.edu.

---

We’re on the Web! [www.semo.edu/gcl/index.htm](http://www.semo.edu/gcl/index.htm)

The Department of Global Cultures and Languages would like to recognize the following graduates for 2014.

**Anthropology:** Sarah Babich, Lauren Ditto, Deseray Helton, Rebekah Kell, Sarah Little, Meghan O’Brien, Cameron McConnell, Dakota Price, John Slaughter and Laura Van Booven.

**French/French Education:** Haley Dolosic.

**Spanish/ Spanish Education:** Patricia Goforth, Landon Hill, Elizabeth Laurentius, Danielle Richardson and Sarah Urban.

**German:** John Slaughter.

Five graduating students of anthropology will be attending graduate school: Sarah Babich (University of Western Ontario, anthropology), Deseray Helton (Missouri State University, anthropology), Laura Van Booven (University of Memphis, anthropology), Cameron McConnell (University of Missouri/ Columbia, anthropology) and Wyatt Balcer (Southeast Missouri State University, biology).

Haley Dolosic will be attending graduate school at Washington University in St. Louis in a Ph.D. program in Foreign Language Education/Second Language Acquisition.

Congratulations to all of our graduates!

Special congratulations to Dakota Price who won first prize for Best Theoretical Paper at the 2014 Annual Student Research Conference in April.

“Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow.”
—Oliver Wendell Holmes