

Northern Accents

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The Study Abroad fair was held on 9/12/07
- Susan Morgan, Coordinator of Education Abroad, initiated the Study Abroad fair during the Autumn of 2006.
- Students should start their planning to study abroad one year in advance.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Faculty Profile	2
Study Abroad Fair, cont.	2
Upcoming Short Study Abroad Trips	2
New Faculty Profile, cont.	3
Language Skills in Action, cont.	3
The World from the Web	4
Take a Trip to the Languages Lab	5

STUDY ABROAD! NEXT STOP—ALMOST ANYWHERE

NMU students asked themselves a question at the Study Abroad Fair held at the Whitman Hall commons on 9/12/2007. "Where do I want to go?" The Office of International Programs at NMU offers opportunities to study in more than sixty countries for a few weeks up to an entire academic year. Opportunities abound for studying abroad whether you are interested in learning a new language, experiencing a different culture, or pursuing a career in government, communications or business.

Susan Morgan, Coordinator of Education Abroad, initiated the Study Abroad fair during the Autumn of 2006. Her goal is to

encourage students to learn about the opportunities to be found with studying abroad. In addition, she would like to clear up some common mis-



Susan Morgan (right) speaking to a student about studying abroad.

conceptions about the study abroad program. They are that students are required to speak another language, the cost is prohibitive and financial aid may not be used to pay for

studying abroad. Actually, many of the programs are taught in English, the cost of some programs is comparable to a semester at NMU and students can use their NMU financial aid for study abroad as long as their study abroad is organized by NMU. If it isn't, they can use federal financial aid and other scholarships to pay for their study abroad.

Susan recommends that students interested in studying abroad begin research and preparation a whole year in advance. There is a lot to do to get ready to go. Perhaps the most important thing to (Continued on page 2)

LANGUAGE SKILLS IN ACTION DR. CAROL STRAUSS-SOTIROPOLOUS

There can be more to language studies than learning how to speak or teach a language. NMU professor Dr. Carol Strauss-Sotiropoulos teaches German and holds a doctorate in comparative literary and cultural studies with an emphasis on 18th-century

literature. She also speaks or reads Greek, French and Spanish. Her background in languages and literatures has allowed her to create interesting interdisciplinary collaborations. A good example of one such collaboration is her new book *Early Feminists and the*

Education Debates: England, France, Germany 1760-1810. Her book, more than three years in the making, brings back into the literary spotlight the controversial writings of some of the earliest feminist voices. (Continued on page 3)

NEW FACULTY PROFILE: MARY HARTSON

Professor Mary Hartson is one of NMU's newest Spanish professors. Her path to NMU has been an exciting and interesting one that has taken her all the way to Africa, through Europe, back to the United States and finally, Marquette. Please welcome her to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and Northern Michigan University. It wasn't until Professor Hartson taught English in Spain that she developed a passion for Spanish language and cul-

ture—her first two degrees were a BA in English and a MS in Information and Library Studies from the University of Michigan. She even spent three years working as a librarian at public libraries. At the University of Alcalá de Henares, she fell in love with Spanish culture and was inspired to obtain a Masters degree in in Spanish Culture and Language from Middlebury College in Vermont. She also received a Masters in Spanish Literature from Michigan State University where she

remained for seven years teaching Spanish. Currently, Professor Hartson is finishing the last year of her PhD in Hispanic Studies. Her dissertation topic is Cinema.

Professor Hartson has an impressive background in languages besides Spanish. She speaks some French and Italian. While in the Peace Corps teaching English and Religious Studies in Botswana, Africa, she learned to speak Setswana.

Based on her own experiences, Professor Hartson believes that it is extremely important for (continued on page 3)



You must coordinate your study abroad trip through the Office of International Programs.

STUDY ABROAD, CONT.

remember is that students must coordinate their study abroad trip through the Office of International Programs. Any study abroad trip that is not coordinated through them will not count for credit. They can also help students apply for a passport, visa and financial aid. The Office of International Programs located at 145 Whitman Hall is available to

answer all students' questions. The Language Lab has a wide array of informative brochures and books to help answer any questions. There are several tutors available who have studied abroad and they would be more than happy to talk to students about their personal experiences. Encourage your students to consider studying

abroad. They'll have fun, pad their resumes, and fill up their minds with new and different cultures!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of International Programs
906-227-2510
http://www.nmu.edu/international/study_abroad

Dept of Modern Languages and Literatures
906-227-2940

UPCOMING FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD TRIPS

Early Summer Session in Vienna

5/12/08 – 6/6/08 (Pending NMU approval)

Vienna, Austria will become as familiar to students as their hometowns as they spend nearly a month immersed into German language and culture. Students will earn four German language credits and three credits in the

accompanying course. For more information, visit the Vienna study abroad website at <http://www.nmu.edu/honors/vienna/home.htm>
The Cultural and Artistic Heritage of Europe
May-June 2008
Dr. Nell Kupper will lead an artistic and cultural tour of The Netherlands, Belgium and France. Dur-

ing this two week trip, students will see some of the most beautiful sights in Europe. For more information go to: www.nmu.edu/languages and click on *French Credit Abroad*.
Winter 2008 Intensive Spanish Block
Chihuahua, Mexico
3/31/08—4/30/08

The goal of this program is to immerse students into the Mexican way of life so they will gain a better understanding of Mexican culture while developing their linguistic skills. For more information contact Prof. Amy Orf, 227-1816 or aorf@nmu.edu

NEW FACULTY PROFILE, CONT

students be open and share their experiences and cultures with others. Studying abroad is important but not always possible especially for non-traditional students. There are many ways to experience the outside world without studying abroad. She says that it is important to overcome fears of shyness and asking questions.

You should go places even if you don't know anybody there. Her best bit of advice to her students is to "get out there" and experience as many cultures as possible.

Perhaps, the best bit of advice the winter-seasoned professors and students at NMU could give Professor Hartson is to prepare for legendary amounts of snow. Although she admits that her colleagues have been trying to

scare her with tales of insurmountable snow banks, below absolute zero temperatures and ice-covered roads, she should adapt just fine. She already has the desire to get out there and enjoy winter rather than fear it. Professor Hartson enjoys spending time outside cross-country skiing, running and hiking. She's even been ice-fishing—that alone will put her right at home amongst the Yoopers.

LANGUAGE SKILLS IN ACTION (CONT'D)

Dr. Strauss could not have written her book without a background in German (and French) because the majority of the texts she discusses in her book have not been translated into English. The ability to read documents in the original allows researchers to pick out subtle details that are not easily translatable. Dr. Strauss will often ask her students why

they want to study German. If she finds that a particular class is primarily concerned with reading, she will try to teach them in a way that will best prepare them for academic research. While teaching at the University of Connecticut, Dr. Strauss taught a class called "German for Reading Purposes" in which students learned how to decipher and decode gram-

mar as quickly as possible to research scholarly articles and historical texts effectively.

The fusion of fields such as language studies and literature can lead to interesting and exciting academic endeavors. Look for more instances of language skills at work in upcoming issues of the Department of Modern

Languages and Literatures Newsletter.

The ability to skillfully decipher texts allows researchers to pick out subtle details that are not easily translatable.

Early Feminists and the Enlightenment Debates: England, France, Germany 1760-1810.
Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2007.
By Carol Strauss-Sotiropoulos

Controversy about woman's role and educational needs persists to this day, yet pales before the furious debates that took place when state interests in reproduction and the infamous words of Jean-Jacques Rousseau dominated public discourse: "Woman is made specially to please man . . . and to be subjugated." To prevent alienating the men in power—government officials, book reviewers, doctors and professors—feminist writers argued creatively and subversively in a variety of genres against the training of girls for domesticity. The writings of the most astounding radical feminist, Theodor von Hippel, a male lawyer and mayor who called forthrightly for women's admission into university and every profession, were dismissed as a joke and forgotten. This volume resurrects his and the many other predominantly women's voices—several still recognized, many forgotten—in the struggle for women's education.



THE WORLD FROM THE WEB

CATCH PODCASTS FOR INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND MORE

There is a vast resource of easily accessible information on world events, languages and language study, music and entertainment available via the internet that you may not know about yet. All you need is an internet connection and a computer. Fortunately, NMU has provided each of us with both. The resource is iTunes™. It's free, easy to use and can be accessed from any

computer via the internet. To get started, just download iTunes™, search the podcasts and subscribe to your favorites. They will automatically download to your iTunes™ library each time they are updated. Once they are downloaded, you can listen to them on your computer anytime. If you have a mp3 player, you can transfer them and carry them with you wherever you go! Imagine

listening to the latest edition of the *German Grammarpod* while jogging the Presque Isle loop or watching the latest news from Marseille as you shiver in your deer blind or ice shanty. More podcasts can be found below. Be on the lookout for more descriptions of podcasts in future issues of *Northern Accents*.

German

O1 News from Austria

A 15 minute news and current affairs program that keeps you up to date on what's happening in Austria. Across the weekend, the Week in Review, provides a round up of the main stories of the week.

Chinese

Chinese Pod

Learn Chinese with free daily MP3 audio podcasts (over 600+), lesson review, grammar, vocabulary, open source dictionary and a vibrant community.

French

The French Pod

Learn to speak French or about French culture with Sebastian on "The French Pod." This bilingual podcast instructs you in French by focusing on vocabulary words used within the context of a story about French Culture. The lessons also include movie reviews and French music (which you can purchase on Amazon or iTunes™). The podcast has a website as well. You can listen to bilingual books here and catch up on previous podcasts. You can also keep up with your host Sebastian. He is from Cannes, FR and is currently studying Education in Aptos, California at Cabrillo College. You can get his whole story at the website.

www.frenchpodclass.com



Spanish

Music from Brasil

Music From Brasil Podcast, is a monthly podcast featuring the best of Brazilian music, Latin Jazz, Brazilian popular music and Instrumental Music. Each program we will interview an interesting musician, and show his music. Recorded in Sao Paulo, Brazil at Buena Onda studios, this program has three versions, English, Spanish and the original in Portuguese. Listen and enjoy the interviews and the best quality music.

Notes in Spanish Advanced

Ben and Marina bring you podcasts in high level Spanish covering culture, news, conversation, and all the cool words they never teach you in class. Now with transcript pages and worksheets!

YOU CAN READ INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS AND NEWSPAPERS ONLINE!

Visit this website to get the latest news, sports, entertainment and politics from around the world in French, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese and Russian. You can access major newspapers like Le Monde and Le Figaro from France, Saarbrucker Zeitung from Germany and El Espectador out of Bogotá, Colombia.

<http://libraries.mit.edu/guides/types/flnews>

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!
WWW.NMU.EDU/LANGUAGES



DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Modern Languages and Literatures
Northern Michigan University
1401 Presque Isle Ave.
Marquette, MI 49855

Phone: 906-227-2940
Fax: 906-227-2533
E-mail: mll@nmu.edu

Knowledge of languages other than English and sensitivity to other cultures is becoming more important as we begin the twenty-first century. Efficient transportation and instantaneous communications make contact with people from around the globe more and more frequent and vital. Technological advances offer exciting new opportunities. Northern Michigan University's Department of Modern Languages and Literatures seeks to open doors to students in their wide-ranging pursuits through the study of languages and cultures.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S LANGUAGE LAB

There's no doubt about it. Learning a new language is challenging. It's like starting to read, speak and write all over again—in some cases, with entirely different alphabets. Whether you are first-year student of Chinese or a third-year French student, students may need some extra resources to help them along. We have the audio CDs needed to complete their lessons. We have a nice collection of books, international news and entertainment programming and movies too. Most importantly, we have friendly and apt tutors that are more than willing to give students help that the other resources are unable to provide. The Language Lab is happy to help lan-

guage professors as well. Students may even need a nice quiet place to study or to try out their conversational skills with one of the tutors.

The Language Lab is located in Jamrich Hall, room 203.

Hours of operation:

Monday—9am-8pm

Tuesday—Thursday 10am-7pm

Friday—11am-2pm

Saturday—Closed

Sunday—3pm-7pm



Students studying in the Language Lab

