

Northern Accents

N M U D E P A R T M E N T O F M O D E R N L A N G U A G E S A N D L I T E R A T U R E S

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Study Abroad Experiences 2

Rescue Search Ends in Guatemala 3

While NMU students have been broadening their horizons by studying abroad, the faculty has been busy as well. Listed below are just some of the accomplishments of members of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

Dr. Carol Strauss

Organized and chaired a session at the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (ASECS): "Women Writers Adopt, Adapt, and Appropriate Male Models of Educations." The conference was held in the only non-gaming hotel in Las Vegas!

Published "Scandal Writ Large in the Wake of the French Revolution: The Case of Amalia



Dr. Carol Strauss

Holst." Women in German Yearbook. Vol. 20 (2004): 98-121 (this is an article in an annual journal); and "Educating for Women's Future: Thinking New Forms." Romantic Nonfictional Prose: Expanding Borders. Ed. Virgil Nemoianu and Stephen Son-

drup. Amsterdam: John Benjamin, 2004. 257-80. Co-author: Margaret R. Higonnet (this is a chapter in a book).

Dr. Timothy Compton

Published "Mexico City's Spring 2004 Theatre Season" Fall 2004 in Latin American Theatre Review.

Presented "Super(b) Sized: Packaging Shorter Plays into Full-Sized Bundles in Recent Mexican Theatre" at the 6th Latin American Theatre Today Conference in Storrs, Connecticut, April 7, 2005.

Visited Mexico City in March to do research on Theatre for the 12th straight year.

Ran Espanolandia for the 12th

Continued on page 2

SPANISH CLUB DANCE A SUCCESS



The Spanish Club recently enjoyed a Latin Dance party on Friday, October 21, 2005. It was hosted in the Michigan Room in the University Center. Nicole Fadellin (president) and Talisha Singlet

organized the event with the help of all the Spanish Club members.

Dancers encountered a wide variety of music as well as diversity of dance moves being performed on the dance floor. From students to professors,

everyone had their own style of dancing and many of them shared that knowledge with the rest of the crowd.

The Latin Dance was successful and plans and suggestions for a future one are being discussed in Spanish Club.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS (CONT'D FROM COVER)

straight year.

Teaching an experimental class called "Spanish for Health Care Professionals."

Others

In May of 2005 professors Susan Martin and Amy Orf, with the help of Robbie Goodrich, Director of the Honors Program, led a group of 20 NMU students on a three-week study abroad program in Granada, Spain. The students studied Spanish at Aca-

demia Castila in Granada and went on a number of cultural tours and excursions, including La Alhambra, the Cathedral, the Royal Chapel, a flamenco performance, dance lessons, a bullfight, the Sierra Nevada, the city of Sevilla, and the Costa del Sol.

Students stayed with families or in apartments in the historical Moorish part of Granada, the Albaicín.

Professors Martin and Orf then traveled to Segovia, Spain to visit AHA International's study abroad program

site and meet the faculty there.



Dr. Timothy Compton

STUDENT STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCES: HUNGARY

"The resolution called increased foreign language study 'vital to the economic welfare of the United States.'"



Virginia Harris is a Senior at Northern, studying International Studies and Political Science, as well as working on a minor in German. In addition to serving as a tutor at the Language Lab, she works at All-Campus Tutoring.

This is a very exciting time of transition in Hungary and in all of Eastern Europe, and I was one of few lucky students who were there to experience it. Most people would imagine Hungary as a depressing, unstable, and poor nation, but after spending nearly two years in this amazing country, I can assure you that you will find something very different. After years of oppression and un-

certainty, Hungary is now seeing the sun shine for the first time in nearly a century.

Particularly for students of history, politics, economics, and anthropology, Hungary is a



treasure. From the tribal settlement of the country in 900, to its three occupations, to the division after Trianon, to the

two communist takeovers, there is much to discover! The language is unique and a challenge, but attainable if one works hard enough. How does roasting fat on a stick (as opposed to a hot dog) while listening to students your age sing folk music (not nerdy at all!) around the campfire sound? Perhaps fresh bread spread with lard and salted with raw onions (a typical party snack) is more your style? How about slaughtering pigs or touring castles in Transylvania (Hungary's most historic region, now part of Romania), or going for a boat cruise up and down the Danube?

Cont'd on page 4

RESCUERS END SEARCH IN GUATEMALA

The search for survivors of Tropical Storm Stan has been called off in Guatemala, where the official death toll stands at 652.

But the figure could reach 2,000, as entire communities were engulfed by landslides and mud, officials say.

They say continuing the search is too risky and have called for a number of communities to be declared mass graves.

Another 131 people are known to have died elsewhere in Central America and Mexico as a result of the storm.

Stan slammed ashore as a hurricane in southern Mexico, but it lost force as it struck Central America. Most of the damage has been done by torrential rains lasting days on end.

Officials say that 42 people have died in Mexico, 72 in El Salvador and 11 in Nicaragua.

Health risk

In Guatemala, the threat of hunger and disease looms in areas still cut off by floodwaters and mudslides.

Crops, livelihoods and homes have been destroyed, and water sources compromised.

President Oscar Berger has said 130,000 people have been directly affected by the storm. More than 90,000 are still living in government shelters.

Two Mayan villages near the tourist resort of Lake Atitlan - Panabaj and Tzanchaj - were completely buried under an avalanche of mud and rock.

"The search has been definitively called off. The 1,400 declared missing in Panabaj are dead", a spokesman

for volunteer firefighters told AFP news agency.

The town was also declared an area of high health risk by the Guatemalan Red Cross.

President Berger made his way to the site, which has become a vast mass grave. He had to wear a mask to protect himself against the stench of dead bodies.

"We came to share the pain of all those who lost loved ones", he told the press.

Nobel peace prize laureate Rigoberta Menchu also visited the town.

There has been controversy over the decision to abandon the search. Some want to keep on digging for their relatives but it has been decided that the risk is too great, both from further mudslides and from disease.

Aid appeal

The BBC's Claire Marshall in Guatemala says that getting aid to those who are still alive is very difficult, as the country's already fragile infrastruc-

ture has been shattered.

Guatemalan army helicopters began delivering food and drinking water to towns on Guatemala's south coast for the first time on Tuesday, almost a week after Stan struck.

The United Nations has launched a \$22m (£12.5m) appeal in aid of survivors.

It said that providing food, water, shelter and sanitation are the priorities. Several countries have already provided assistance.

Unicef has estimated that more than a third of the victims were children and has reorganised its aid programmes to help them.

"Officials say that 42 people have died in Mexico, 72 in El Salvador and 11 in Nicaragua"

Story provided by the BBC News.





**N M U D E P A R T M E N T
O F M O D E R N
L A N G U A G E S A N D
L I T E R A T U R E S**

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

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

Knowledge of languages other than English and sensitivity to other cultures are becoming increasingly important as we start 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 Languages seeks to open doors to students in their wide-ranging pursuits through the study of languages and cultures.

S T U D Y A B R O A D E X P E R I E N C E S (C O N T ' D)

These are just a small handful of the interesting experiences that I had during my adventures in Hungary. Most expenses are still at bargain prices (especially compared to Western Europe), and there are many funding opportunities for study abroad to these diverse destinations. Going to a nation off the beaten path is not for everyone, but it was by far the most rewarding experience of my life. I wish every student would study abroad, at least for a few months, to get a taste of what life is like outside of our own home. You would be surprised at how many more similarities there are than differences, and the world is becoming smaller and smaller every day. Be-

come a part of it!

Ginny received a National Security Education Program Boren Undergraduate Scholarship, as well as a Vandament Scholarship from NMU. They covered all of her tuition and expenses. If you are interested in either of these funding opportunities, please

email Ginny at vharris@nmu.edu or contact the International Affairs Office.

