

# Northern Accents

Northern Michigan University

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

## WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE NORTHERN STUDENTS?

- April 2-May 2: Practicing their conversational Spanish in Chihuahua, Mexico with Amy Orf.
- May 12-June 10: Enjoying Austrian culture and learning the German language in Vienna with Dr. Carol Strauss.
- May 31-June 13: Touring Francophone Europe with Dr. Nell Kupper.
- June 30-July 28: Learning Spanish language and history in Granada, Spain with Dr. Susan and Dr. Robert Goodrich.

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## FACULTY-LED INTERNATIONAL TRIPS TAKE NORTHERN BY STORM

The faculty-led trip abroad is not a new concept at NMU. Faculty members have been taking students to Granada, Vienna, and throughout Francophone Europe for years; however, with the current push for internationalization, there is now more support for new programs and greater student interest in studying abroad.

In the upcoming winter and summer semesters, there will be four faculty-led trips traveling all over the world.

Dr. Carol Strauss will be accompanying students to Vienna, Austria for four weeks, where they will take intensive German language courses at Actilingua Institute.

Dr. Susan Goodrich, accompanied by History professor Dr. Robert Goodrich, will support a group of students for four weeks in Granada, Spain. Students will study Spanish at the Castila Academy, while Dr. Robert Goodrich will teach a Spanish history and culture course on-site.

Students traveling with Dr. Nell Kupper will learn about the artistic and cultural heritage of Europe as they tour the canals of Amsterdam, visit castles and museums, and view Monet's gardens.



Students on the French Credit Abroad trip outside of the Louvre

With the additional support provided by the internationalization initiative, new study abroad paradigms are being explored. This winter, the department will be experiment-

ing with an intensive Spanish block, which will culminate in a month abroad led by Amy Orf. In order to participate, students must dedicate themselves to studying only Spanish language and Latin American culture during the first two months of the semester, while the last month they will travel to Chihuahua, Mexico where they will gain conversational Spanish skills. Trips like this are

transforming the way students and professors approach language education.

For more information on these trips, visit the department website ([www.nmu.edu/languages](http://www.nmu.edu/languages)) and follow the links or contact the department directly at 227-2940.



Students studying Spanish in Granada get to enjoy this amazing view everyday.

## NEW LANGUAGE OFFERINGS A SUCCESS!

**L**anguages are exploding at NMU! Traditionally, only the more commonly-taught languages of Spanish, French, and German have been offered. This is rapidly changing with NMU's international initiative.

This coming semester, for the first time, Elementary Italian and Intermediate Chinese will be available. Portuguese and Latin were both recently introduced, so these new additions will bring the number of languages currently taught at NMU

up to seven. In the near future, the department hopes to add classes in two additional languages. If you're interested in these diverse options, sign up now! These classes are popular and fill up quickly.

Contributed by Ginny Harris

## SPANISH CLUB UPDATE

**S**panish Club has been very busy this semester! To kick off the year, the club participated in the Homecoming Parade, winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place for its banner and marching unit. More recently, Spanish Club screened the movie *Habana Blues* in the Whitman Commons, and organized a bottle drive to raise money for the upcoming Latin Dance. Last year's dance was quite successful, yet the club anticipates even better attendance this year due to the popular new Latin Dance Club on campus.

The Spanish Club Dance is scheduled for Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 pm in the University Center.



Spanish Club with its winning banner!

In addition to these activities, the club has kept busy with regular potlucks and Spanish chats. Members have seized the opportunity to celebrate Hispanic culture and language whenever possible, arranging for club members to teach Spanish at local elementary schools and attending the presentation by Latino activist, director, and actor Edward James Olmos that has been rescheduled for later this semester.

If you would like more information about Spanish Club, e-mail the club president Alana Stuart at [nmuspanishclub@hotmail.com](mailto:nmuspanishclub@hotmail.com)

## NEW FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

*Dr. Joy believes it is important to stay active in your scholarly field, but his top priority has always been his students.*

**D**r. Michael Joy, one of the newest faculty members of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, is an individual of diverse interests and skills. Dr. Joy holds a B.A. in Spanish from Carleton College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Hispanic Languages and Literatures from the University of Minnesota. He is a Spain specialist, and his expertise lies in Golden Age Spanish literature.

the “astronomer guy” due to his passion for Astronomy and Physics. He might never have taken Spanish in college if it had not been for the liberal arts language requirement.



Dr. Joy was still very interested in science throughout his undergraduate years. He also had a passion for English literature, but his career-path was determined when he took a Spanish literature course from a Golden Age expert who would soon become his mentor.

Since then, Dr. Joy has become quite an accomplished specialist on Spanish language and literature. He has many years of teaching experience, working as a teaching assistant and visiting instructor throughout his graduate career, and holding an Assistant Professor position at Presbyterian College from 2003-2006. While at Presbyterian, Dr. Joy organized a foreign language film festival, and initiated and directed faculty-led trips to Guatemala and Mexico.

Professor Joy is active in his scholarly field, with many publications, book reviews, and conference presentations. Most recently, he

*(Continued on page 3)*

### DID YOU KNOW...

NMU's communications requirement can be fulfilled by foreign languages OR certain computer and math courses.

As he entered his first year of college, however, Dr. Joy never could have guessed that Spanish soon would become the focus of his education and future career. Throughout high school, Professor Joy was known as

**NEW FACULTY HIGHLIGHT, CONT.**

organized a panel for the upcoming Modern Languages Association Convention (Dec. 2006). The panel, led by Dr. Joy, will address teaching the Golden Age at smaller colleges or universities. Dr. Joy's role at this national convention that attracts over 9,000 scholars will reflect well upon NMU's language program.

Of all his accomplishments, Dr. Joy is proudest of the positive feedback he has received from his students throughout the years. Although he stresses the importance of staying active in your academic field, his top priority has always been his students.

In the classroom, he tries to be energetic and enthusiastic about the material, and he makes sure that each student gets a chance to speak.

His advice to Spanish students is to take as many literature courses as possible, as they are great for developing grammar and vocabulary skills. He also recommends that students try to spend at least a semester abroad, with a family stay if possible, although he believes that travel should be a life-long habit for language students.

In his free time, Dr. Joy enjoys running and cinema. A movie buff, he holds the world record for

watching Classic Hollywood films. Dr. Joy is very busy right now juggling research, teaching, his hobbies, and spending time with his 16-month old son, Liam.

Dr. Joy's diverse interests and abilities both in and out of the classroom make him accessible to a variety of students and a welcome addition to NMU. Originally from Wisconsin, Dr. Joy is pleased to be in the Midwest at this high-quality institution. He is excited about the recent Internationalization initiative, and he is looking forward to enjoying the snow and the friendly community.

The other new faculty members, Joshua Armstrong (French) and Dr. Rebecca Ulland (Spanish) will be highlighted in the next issue.

**PLANET CHAT**

With over 115 students and faculty members in attendance, the first Planet Chat of this academic year was quite a success! The Whitman Commons was filled to the brim, as Eric Mason, Virginia Harris, and Kyle Bladow shared their experiences abroad over pictures and a picnic-style lunch provided by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



**Eric Mason living life to the fullest in Brazil.**

Virginia Harris delivered a stimulating presentation on her experiences in Budapest, Hungary during the 2004-2005 academic year. She also shared information about the National Security Education Program scholarship that made her year abroad possible.

Eric Mason gave an exciting presentation as he shared his encounters with Brazilian culture and the Portuguese language in Fortaleza, Brazil this past summer where he was enrolled in an immersion language program.

Finally, Kyle Bladow shared some beautiful pictures as he spoke about his experiences on the most recent French Credit Abroad trip. For two weeks last summer, he participated in an educational tour of Europe, traveling to Amsterdam, Brussels, and through France. See page 1 for Information about the 2007 French Credit Abroad trip.



**Kyle Bladow strolling down the streets of Europe**



**Virginia Harris on her way to class in Budapest.**

Please join us at the next Planet Chat on Tuesday, November 14th from 1-2pm in the Whitman Commons .

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.NMU.EDU/LANGUAGES



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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 Modern Languages and Literatures seeks to open doors to students in their wide-ranging pursuits through the study of languages and cultures.

C ' E S T B I E N : F R E N C H C L U B

**T**he French Club has been busy and well-fed this semester. Starting the year off right, the French club hosted a fondue fest that was attended by students and faculty. Further, the French program underwent a dramatic change with the addition of the French Mentoring Program.

Students in the French 101 courses will now have the opportunity to meet upper-level French students. This will hopefully lead to a closer French community on campus as well as more involvement in the French program at NMU. Currently, members of the French Club are working fervently on the International Film Festival which will be held in the Spring 07.

*Contributed by Karl Mercer*



**French Student Lauren Johnson enjoying fondue!**