

WLLC Spotlight

Welcome Back Edition

MARIN DIGS DEEPER INTO THE ARABIC LANGUAGE



While other students walked across the stage and received their keys to the career world during graduation, Mikenna Marin, psychology major with double minors in Spanish and Middle Eastern Studies, had her eyes set on pursuing another year of language studies at the U of A.

Marin is returning to the University to continue studying Arabic. She was drawn to the language after listening to her professor,

See "ARABIC" page 3

GERMAN PROGRAM PREPARES GODDARD FOR HIS NEXT MOVE

Ian Goddard, German and chemistry major, initially chose to study a second language because of his heritage, but after months of studying the language he soon realized it held more than just an ancestral significance in his life.

As he learned more about German language and culture, he began to absorb the rich, centuries-old history of Germany; he realized that he wanted to turn his passion into a career. Although Goddard had figured out his area of concentration, he was still left with the daunting task of how he would use a degree in German Studies.

Goddard will be studying chemistry and German at the University of Regensburg while also learning a third language.

He said the German program at the U of A has helped him to realize his potential and encouraged him to always have a course of action. "Probably one of the hardest things to do as a student is to balance everything," said Goddard. "The program has helped me to prioritize my academic and career goals."

See "GERMAN" page 4



OUR *Spring* SEMESTER WAS AWESOME,



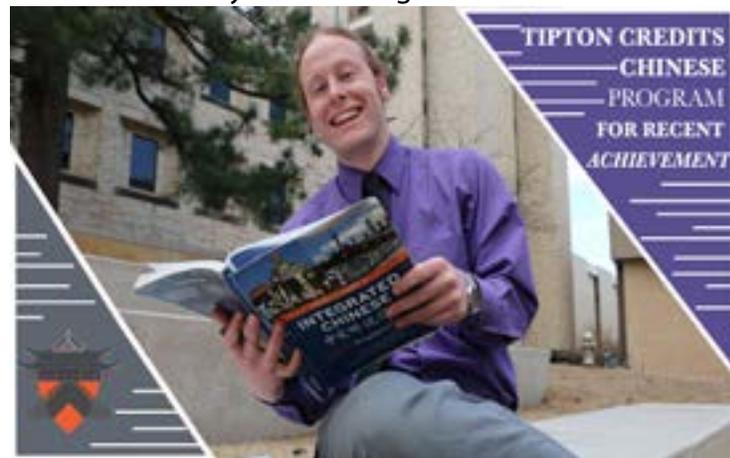
Linda Jones, associate professor of instructional technology, is the thirteenth faculty member in the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures to receive the Fulbright College Master Teaching Award.



Andrew Bartels, graduating senior and Spanish major, is using his degree to slay literary dragons and rescue maidens by furthering his love of Spanish studies at Indiana University in Bloomington.



Hilda Benton, our department's only remote online instructor, received the 'Quality Matters' (QM) certification for her online Spanish course.



Zachary Tipton, environmental science major and Chinese minor, has been accepted to attend the Princeton in Beijing (PiB) program.

AND WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO A SPECTACULAR *Fall* with

Rachel TenHaaf, Assistant Prof. of Spanish; Rania Mahmoud, Assistant Prof. of Arabic; Rhodora Venarucci, Assistant Prof. of Classical Studies; Rebecca Foote, Assistant Prof. of Spanish; Danje Su, Visiting Assistant Prof. of Chinese; Fernando Riva, Visiting Assistant Prof. of Spanish; Kaitlyn Butler, Instructor of French; Yoki Hori, Instructor of Japanese, Richard Romos-Segura, Instructor of Spanish & Kathy Lake, Admin. Support Supervisor.

ARABIC continued from page 1

Dr. Paula Haydar, clinical assistant professor of Arabic, explain how she fell in love with the language.

“On the first day of class, she told us the story of how she stumbled into Arabic by accident,” said Marin. “I just remember listening to her story and thinking about how much it aligned with my life.”

After a few semesters of studying Arabic, Marin knew she had to have more, but she had to convince her parents to allow her to remain at the U of A for another year.

“At first, I was a little hesitant about asking, but I decided it was worth it,” said Marin.

Apparently Marin presented a strong case to her parents: she will be taking Arabic courses during the Fall and Spring Semesters.

Marin’s desire to continue her studies has also been fueled by Dr. Haydar’s teaching methods, and her relentless desire for her students to grasp the language.

“Because Dr. Haydar started learning Arabic in a classroom, like us, she has a deeper understanding of what our Arabic experience is like, and I think that really helps her to really connect with her students and teach as well as she does.”

When Marin was asked to explain why studying a language is so important to her she said, “Learning a second language, no matter what it is, is one of the best things you can do because it opens so many doors personally and professionally.”



Ten WLLC faculty members participated in a 4-day OPI Assessment Training workshop. This four-day workshop is an introduction to the techniques of administering and rating the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI).



BEHLER USES MUSIC To Promote Language Learning

Rocio Behler, German studies graduate assistant, uses music to encourage language learning.

She begins her classes by presenting students the background information on composers and music they have written: all in German.

“I usually play the music without showing them the name of the composer and ask them to name the composer. I am surprised that so far, most of my students can recognize compositions written by Beethoven, Mozart and Richard Wagner,” said Behler.

Her method fuels the imagination of her students and heightens their interest in language learning.

“I like to connect with my students and I try to encourage them to do their best by showing them the joys of learning a second language. It warms my heart to see them laugh and have a good time while learning,” added Behler.

Her fascination with music and language learning began as a young girl. Behler has been a pianist since the age of six. During her musical evolution, she has been introduced to some amazing composers.

Her journey to musical and language discovery led her to the University of Arkansas in 2009, and fueled her research interests.

Graduate Assistant Orientation



We welcome our new TA's: Marshall Bolen, Hailey Pullin, Jean-Hugues Bit'a Menye, Jordan Garrett, Sofia Mendoza, Cindy Fernandez, Adriana Gordillo, Vanessa Guerrero, Carlos Laverde, Lee Nagel, Hayley Oller, Pablo Soponi & more.

GERMAN continued from page 1

His plan is to start with lab and research work in the German-speaking world to best make use of his chemistry specialties.

The German program has enabled him to interact with various communities on campus, and build long-lasting relationships with students from every corner of the world. One of his favorite groups is the International Culture Team.

"I have gotten the opportunity to share some of my cultural knowledge with people through this group, and this has been one of the best experiences I've had at the U of A," he continued.

According to Goddard, the faculty works closely with their

students to prepare them for the Goethe Institute Exams, a testing system that allows companies to check the foreign language skills of employees and job applicants quickly and inexpensively.

Goddard passed the B1 level of the exam, which confirms that he has an independent grasp of the German language, and corresponds to the third level (B1) of the six-level competency scale of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

"If it weren't for the hard work of the German Department's professors and instructors, I think the Goethe Exam would have been much harder."