



# College of Liberal Arts Newsletter

2010-2011

## *A Conversation with Dr. Julie Sellers*

Julie Sellers, Assistant Professor of Spanish, took undergraduate degrees in Spanish and French at Kansas State University, where she also earned a Masters in Spanish literature. Her doctorate, from the University of Wyoming, is in Adult Learning and Technology. As an undergraduate, she lived abroad for a summer in the Dominican Republic where she taught preschool children for a community service project. She has traveled to Mexico and also to Spain as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. During her year in Spain, Julie lived in Santiago de Compostela and spoke to Rotary clubs throughout the country. Julie has worked as a volunteer interpreter in Bolivia and as a student chaperone in Ecuador. She taught as a lecturer at the University of Wyoming, at a community college in Wyoming, and online for Park University. For two years, she was the Foreign Language Content Specialist for the Wyoming Department of Education. Sellers is a federally certified court interpreter in Spanish and English. Our interview took place on January 21, 2011.

SH: I was wondering, Julie, what drew you initially to the study of Spanish?

JS: I think it was that I grew up in the country in Kansas and I had to learn to entertain myself very quickly. There was a lot of work to be done, and we lived out in the middle of the country, five miles from town, and couldn't just run in and go visit friends. I was al-



lowed to go to the library. Sometimes I'd ride along when we were getting groceries or doing something farm-related, and I'd get to go to the library and check out books. I really think it was simply that I always wanted to see other places. It came to me that one way to do that would be to study other languages.

SH: You mentioned that one of your early experiences with Spanish was in the Dominican Republic working with small children. When did you realize that you were going to combine your love of foreign language with teaching?

JS: It really wasn't until I was a graduate student. That experience in the Dominican Republic convinced me I didn't want to continue in Secondary Education because my love of Spanish was such that I really wanted to go beyond teaching the basic grammar. I wanted to be able to do more with it, and do more along the lines of what I was learning in my upper level Spanish classes at that point. So I came back to the U.S. thinking, "What am I going to do?" I went to see my wonderful advisor, who looked at my transcript and looked at what I had done

and said, "You can graduate this year." It was only my third year at Kansas State. I said, "Well, what should I do when I graduate?" I wanted to finish the Bachelor's in French. He suggested I do the Masters in Spanish, get an assistantship and finish the Bachelor in French at the same time. Here I walked into the classroom at age twenty-one as a graduate student to teach some people who were older than me. It was that experience of teaching as a graduate assistant that made me realize I really liked it, especially with the adult learners.

SH: I also noticed that you were a Rotary Scholar. What was that experience like?

JS: It was the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. Scholarships are awarded by region. Each region, depending on the population and the number of Rotarians they have, can send X number of scholars abroad. It's a competition. You write an essay, several essay questions, and then go for a series of interviews in a day. I think the region in Kansas where I was selected two. You could apply for wherever you wanted to go. It didn't have to be to Spain. The money you get depends on

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## Women's Studies Colloquiums

The Women's Studies Program hosted four colloquiums during Spring, 2011. On February 16, Professor Frances Davey offered the first lecture, "'Toilet Rooms and Rustling Frou Frou': Factory Women, Clothing, and the Management of Menstruation, 1873-1914." Davey, who recently took her Ph.D. at the University of Delaware, explained that clothing for women mediated the body, society and work during the late nineteenth century in America. Women who worked in factories had few clothes, little access to laundering facilities and not enough time anyway. Davey traces the hygiene practices, including the negotiation of menstruation, of working class women by analyzing the types of undergarments they wore. As underwear evolved, so did the specialty of gynecology, a branch of medicine that treated menstruation as a disease and insisted on defining "normal" hygiene in terms of white, native born, affluent women in America. Factory women could never live up to middle class standards because they worked twelve hours a day with no mandated breaks in a very public space. Cooperation between workers and open style drawers made a different code of hygiene possible in factories.

Other lectures sponsored by Women's Studies included, "Is Jamie Lee Curtis a Man? Sex and Sexuality: Biology or Fashion?" presented on March 2, 2011, by Professors Frances Davey and Pamela Davey Huggins. Huggins and



**Dr. Frances Davey**

Davey addressed the relationships of sex, gender, and sexuality from biological and historical perspectives, raising important questions about the nature of identity. On April 13, Professor Ann Bartolo spoke on "Women Doing Time." Her overview of changes in the criminal justice system since 1980 illuminated the ways in which "same treatment" of men and women in the prison system does not result in fair or equal consequences for families. Dr. Erin Hippolyte offered a talk titled, "*Soulfood équatoriale: Food and Love with Léonora Miano,*" on April 27, 2011. Offering the only English translation of Leonora Miano's story, Hippolyte stimulated a joyful discussion about literary paradigms, food, love, and language.

## Kestrel Launch Party, Spring 2011

*Kestrel: A Journal of Literature and Art*, the Department of Language & Literature, and the Frank and Jane Gabor Folklife Center at Fairmont State University hosted five writers for readings and a reception on Friday, March 25. Readers included Sherry Chandler of Kentucky, A. Kay Emmert of Georgia, Sally Rosen Kindred of Maryland, W.F. Lantry of Washington, D.C., and Lori Wilson of Morgantown. Chandler, Kindred, and Wilson had books for sale. "The Celebrations are a wonderful opportunity to hear *Kestrel* contributors reading their own work, and we are proud to bring them to Fairmont State, to be able to show off our campus and community," said Dr. Donna J. Long, *Kestrel* editor-in-chief. Founded in 1993, *Kestrel* is the professional literary and art journal at Fairmont State University. *Kestrel* editors and interns promoted the journal at the Frostburg Literary Festival last October and at the Associated Writing Programs Conference in DC in February. The launch party of Issue 26 will take place in September of 2011.

## Celebration of Student Scholarship

Each year in April at Fairmont State, students nominated by their professors present their original research in a day-long celebration of undergraduate scholarship. Papers, speeches, performances, and projects demonstrate excellence of critical thinking, whether scholarly or creative.

This year's participants from the College of Liberal Arts were: Robert Bolton, James Bright, Floyd Conway, Lillian Gaylord, Shasta Gibson, Liz Golden, Kristin Jones, Josh Lucas, Lonzo Martin, Alicia M. Nieman, Celi Oliveto, Nick Oliveto, and Matthew Yost.

## *Awards Ceremony for the College of Liberal Arts*

Women of Fairmont State University Scholarship  
**Kimberly Hill**

Outstanding Senior Psychology Student Award  
**Megan Walters**

Carolyn Coakley-Hicherson Memorial Scholarship  
**Miriam Miker**

Mary Esther and Dr. Byron Jackson Scholarship  
**Shasta Gibson**

Mildred Mason Newcome Award  
**Meghan Schreckengost**

Salvatore, Anne, Thomas, James Giovanni Peluso Scholarship  
**Raymond Durbin**

Christiana Buck Sweeney Award  
**Bryan Bumgardner**

John Teahan Memorial Scholarship  
**Michelle Yost**

Outstanding Senior in English Award  
**Meghan Schreckengost**

Outstanding Student Achievement in Foreign Language  
and Culture (French)  
**Jessica Nardo**

Outstanding Student Achievement in Foreign Language  
and Culture (Spanish)  
**Miriah Mills**

Criminal Justice Achievement Award  
**Kevin Lowdermilk**

National Security and Intelligence Achievement Award  
**Justin Myers**

Political Science Achievement Award  
**Robert Bolton**

William and Doretha Barns Prize in History  
**Michael Underwood**

Charles J. McClain Scholarship  
**Samuel "Miles" Smith**



Miriam Miker receiving the Carolyn Coakley-Hicherson Memorial Scholarship from Dr. Angela Schwer.



Samuel "Miles" Smith receiving the Charles J. McClain Scholarship from Dean Deanna Shields.



Kimberly Hill receiving the Women of Fairmont State University Scholarship from Interim Provost Chris Lavorata.

## *Criminal Justice Honors Society Students Travel to Toronto*

Dean Deanna Shields and CJ professors Bartolo and Shaw traveled with seven CJ Honor Society students to Toronto in early March to attend the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference. Alpha Phi Sigma, the International Criminal Justice Honor Society, holds its meeting in conjunction with the Academy, and Dean Shields serves on the Executive Board of Alpha Phi Sigma. The students participated in many activities and attended panels on human trafficking, cyber bullying, and prison programs for “lifers.” They placed second in the national crime scene competition (Colorado Technical University placed first, Northern Kentucky placed third).

Additionally, one of our students, Rutheana “Miriah” Mills, competed for the office of national vice president and won the election. Her two speeches (one at the opening meeting and one right before the election) were professionally done and well received by the student attendees. Her two opponents were from the University of Nevada-Reno and the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore. Our students also did an excellent job of campaigning for her throughout the three-day conference. Miriah will serve a two-year term and will represent Fairmont State at the yearly business meetings at Alpha Phi Sigma Headquarters



Crime Scene Team in Toronto

in Ft. Lauderdale and at the two upcoming national conferences in New York City and Dallas.

Members of the crime scene team are Ashley Bourbeau, Joshua Brooks, Logan Markley, Miriah Mills, Samantha Snyder, Kristen Thomas, and Tammy Walker.

## *Alumni News*

Sarah Mauller reports that after graduating with a BA in French from FSU in May 2007, she enlisted in the Army as a cryptologic linguist. In November 2007 she was assigned to the Presidio of Monterrey, C Co, 229th MI BN (Military Intelligence Battalion), in Monterrey, California to attend the Defense Language Institute where she learned Modern Standard Arabic.

Angela Rehbein, who graduated in English 2003, has accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor of English at West Liberty to start in the fall. She’s finishing up her dissertation at the moment, but said she is looking forward to being neighbors with Fairmont State.

Sarah Shuman is currently a French-speaking Travel Planner for Loews

Hotels and Resorts. She works primarily with guests in Quebec City and Montreal via the Shared Services Center in Nashville. Before working for Loews, Sarah taught French at the East Literature Magnet School in Nashville.

## *Student News*

James Bright and Floyd Conaway presented papers at the West Virginia Literature Symposium for Undergraduate Students. The symposium convened on the campus of Wheeling Jesuit University on Saturday, February 26, 2011.

Danielle South, one of our language majors, has won a scholarship to attend the meeting of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators in June, 2011. Danielle is one of a handful of students chosen

nationally for this scholarship, including students from Cal State Long Beach, CUNY Hunter College and the University of Chicago.

Brittany Sypolt, one of our Spanish education majors, received a \$1,500 scholarship from the West Virginia Foreign Language Teachers Association. Funded by the HEPC, the scholarship will allow Brittany to study abroad in the next year. Brittany wrote an essay as part of the competition for the scholarship. Thanks to Dr. Julie Sellers for encouraging and helping Brittany to apply.

Three of our journalism students, Bryan Bumgardner, Josh Hartz, and Shannon Walker, attended the National Conference for Media Reform in Boston in April, 2011. The conference allowed students to explore “the future of journalism and public media, consider how technology is chang-

ing the world, look at media, and discuss strategies to build the movement for better media.”

## ***Faculty News***

Congratulations to Dr. Deborah Nestor, Dr. Donna J. Long, Dr. Rhonda Lemke Sanford and Dr. Elizabeth Savage, all of whom earned promotion been to Professor. Well done!

Congratulations to Dr. Erin Hippolyte, who has been awarded a \$10,000.00 grant from the HEPC to pilot her new course, “Introduction to Global Perspectives.” She is working with Dr. Sunil Surendran, Professor of Marketing and Management, on the project. The course will provide students the opportunity to explore global questions early in their college studies and make plans for continued global engagement throughout their lives.

Elena Jaime, our Fulbright Scholar, gave a presentation on youth culture in Spain to students in the College of Liberal Arts’ residential learning com-

munity in Bryant Place in March.

To celebrate Halloween, Dr. Deborah Nestor sponsored a two-part reading of *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley’s classic tale of the ambitious scientist and his experiment gone wrong, very wrong. Both readings took place in downtown Fairmont. In March, she gave a paper at the meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Vancouver. Nestor has been awarded a sabbatical for Fall 2011.

Dr. Adam Podlaskowski has work forthcoming in *Chronos: Proceedings of the Philosophy of Time Society*. He presented a paper, “Semantic Pluralism and Original Intentionality,” at the 1st Annual Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Conference in September, 2010. He also presented work at the Alabama Philosophical Society Conference in Pensacola, FL and the Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference. On campus, Podlaskowski spoke on “Medical Ethics and the Case of Henrietta Lacks” as part of the Common Reader Lecture Series.

Professor Ned Radulovich was in-

terviewed on the Serbian version of “Good Morning America,” about the Superbowl, what Americans think about it and what the Serb communities of Northern WV and Western PA planned to do on Superbowl Sunday.

The Fairmont Arts and Humanities Commission selected Dr. Elizabeth Savage as an award winner for her poetry in November, 2010. Furniture Press will publish both a chapbook, *Jane & Paige or Sister Goose*, and a full-length collection titled *Grammar*, in 2011. The on-line journal *No Tell Motel* will feature Savage’s poetry the week of June 13th. The current issue of *Town Creek Poetry* includes the poem “Mailman in Early November,” and *Feminist Teacher* will publish her critical essay, “What We Talk Around When We Talk About The Dick,” in their next issue.

Dr. Craig White did a reading and book signing at Barnes and Noble in November, featuring his book, *Unemployment Ended by Community Restored*.

## ***VDAY at Fairmont State University***

This year’s production of *Vagina Monologues* took place in April. For three nights, audiences gathered to celebrate the performance of Eve Ensler’s landmark play. Ensler offers her work to theater activists across the country once a year to raise awareness of violence against women and to raise money to fight against it.

The Fairmont Chapter and the Student Chapter of AAUW supported this year’s performance, which took place in the Studio Theater of Wallman Hall, a black box of a space that was brilliantly lit as fifteen students, including many Liberal Arts majors, performed the monologues. Kudos to director Suzie Hall, the performers and other participants for a vibrant production.

*I’d like to thank everyone who contributed to the newsletter, especially Dr. Robert Baker, who unfailingly forwards news of students, faculty and alum, and Donna Long for her editing advice. Everyone is invited to forward news of events/accomplishments or feature articles to [hheagy@fairmontstate.edu](mailto:hheagy@fairmontstate.edu). Some contributions were edited due to space limitations. Any errors are mine. HSH*

### ***In Memory***

FSU alum Derek Hotsinpiller, a deputy U.S. marshal who graduated in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, was killed in the line of duty on Feb. 16, 2011. Hotsinpiller successfully studied in the U.S. Marshals Service Centralized Student Experience Program. He was in the rugby club and led the FSU team and the entire league in scoring during team’s undefeated championship season and run to the “Elite 8” in the Division II nationals in 2008-2009.

***Photo Collage of Activities  
by Psi Chi and the Student Psychological Association***



SPA members assist in the general clean-up and reorganization of shelves at the Food Pantry.



Members assist with sorting and distributing clothing for the Salvation Army.



SPA current members and alumni at the annual Halloween Party held at Three Ways Restaurant.



Members bowling for United Way. All proceeds for the evening were donated by Valley Worlds of Fun to Marion Co. United Way agencies.

## *The PACE Project in India*

In March, 2011, Dr. Craig White, Dr. Sunil Surendran, and Alicia Nieman, former president of Student Government at Fairmont State, traveled to the state of Andhra Pradesh in southern India to do a preliminary assessment of needs in three villages. PACE stands for Program Advancing Community Employment; the program seeks to assess citizen problems in a focus community and to train, supervise and place the poor and unemployed in work that will address those problems.

The PACE team (comprised of White, Surendran and Nieman) interviewed over five hundred villagers for three days. The team also met with RVP, the National Development Organization of Indian, an NGO dedicated to improving everyday life, and with administrators at Osmania University, the second largest research center for American Studies outside the U.S. Some central issues of concern for all three villages were: basic general health care resources and services, education resources and teachers, transportation resources, including better roads, access to vari-



Dr. Surendran, Dr. White and Alicia Nieman  
in Dharmasager

ous kinds of vehicles and bridges, and basic utilities like electricity and water. A central goal of PACE is to provide meaningful employment for all citizens while improving the quality of community life.

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where you go, what the cost of living would be, and that kind of thing.

SH: Sounds like a unique opportunity. After having traveled so widely, and after having been at Fairmont State for only a semester, is it fair to ask what your first impressions are?

JS: I am absolutely thrilled to be here. I've enjoyed the students, their curiosity and the questions they ask. They really want to learn, they want to know, they seem to really be able to appreciate having someone that once sat in their seat and can understand what it's like to learn another language but who has also had the chance to travel, to make friends, to share those experiences. I've been thrilled with the sense of community that I feel on campus. It seems very supportive, not only within my own department, but also campus-wide as I start to meet people. Everyone seems to really feel like this is a family, and it certainly feels that way to me.

SH: It does seem my students are very motivated this semester.

JS: I think so, too. Speaking another language is so hard when we're adults. It's hard because they know they're funny, they know they're witty, they know they're smart, and now they're reduced to saying, "My name is," and "I'm from," and "I'm only so many years old," because that's the language they have. But the fact that they're willing to stick their necks out and take that chance. That's what it takes. And I've already seen that in a couple of days of classes.

SH: Since you've been here, has there been interest in a Spanish Club?

JS: We're in the process of starting a Spanish Club. I have some students who are interested and they approached me. The idea would be to have activities available for people who are interested in Spanish and Spanish-speaking cultures. To have

fun with it, to spark interest in it for people who haven't taken languages, or even to provide a space for people who do know how to speak the language to practice. I know some of the students are hoping we can take a trip sometime and they would like to fund-raise toward that.

SH: Are there any trips available abroad to Spanish-speaking countries?

JS: Definitely through ISEP, which Dr. Hippolyte advises. Students can apply to different places and pick places to go. I would like to do a faculty-led trip somewhere. Obviously, the Dominican Republic is always my favorite place. I'd like to see if we can attach a class to it because there are a lot of opportunities. I have a lot of good contacts there, too, so that would facilitate it. One of the groups I've worked with there also has an office in New York because New York is the second largest Dominican city.

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After the death of their dictator in the 60s, restrictions eased up to the degree that people really began to immigrate. Many moved to places in New York like Washington Heights in upper Manhattan. When you walk down the streets, the only thing that's different is that it's not blazing hot. Everything is the same: the smells, the sounds, the way they display their wares. One thing I would be interested in, if possible, is doing a service learning trip to New York where students could work in an area that is Spanish-speaking and stay with Spanish-speaking families so they could have a Spanish-speaking experience in the U.S. at a lower cost.

SH: Are the people that immigrate from the Dominican Republic bilingual or primarily Spanish-speaking?

JS: Some of both. When I was first there in 1993, you didn't find that many people who spoke English. But immigration really picked up in the mid-90s, facilitated to some degree by the ease of transportation. A lot of people who go to New York get dual citizenship, because they can keep their Dominican citizenship. If they're Dominican citizens, they can also be American citizens. And they go back and forth, and they bring things or they ship things, so it has given some families a chance to be more upwardly mobile socially and economically than they would have been if they hadn't had this money coming to them. You can honestly find cases where people who don't have running water might have an I-Pod because of these material things that come back and forth. They're a very transnational community.

SH: Are there other events or international studies opportunities that you envision here at Fairmont?

JS: Definitely. I would hope that we can continue to reach out with some of the specific classes that we have like, "Spanish for Criminal Justice," and "Spanish for Medical Professionals." They're on the books but we just need to be able to get them into the rotation in balance with the high-demand classes. I would love to do something especially for criminal justice, given my background as a judicial interpreter. I've taught Spanish for law enforcement as an enrichment class to police officers in Wyoming. "Spanish for Criminal Justice," could be not only for people here who are studying criminal justice but also as an outreach for local law enforcement too.

SH: Also, here at Fairmont State, don't you work with education majors who hope to teach Spanish in West Virginia public schools?

JS: Yes, I teach Foreign Language Methods in fall. Additionally, I've visited a local middle school in Fairmont. I included those students in a little role play to show them what it was like to be an interpreter. So they read the parts. I put Juan Valdez, the coffee grower, on trial for speeding in Marion County. And they got to read the parts and I interpreted. They had a lot of fun with that. It's a way to spark interest.

SH: For a final question, I'd like to ask, why study Spanish?

JS: That's a question a lot of people ask. They say, "We're in West Vir-

ginia. We don't have a huge Hispanic population. Why study Spanish?" I think there are a lot of reasons. You can look at the obvious ones. You may move. The Hispanic minority is the fastest growing in the U.S. And there are people here who speak Spanish. I know them. I've spoken with them, and I've interpreted for some of them. There's also the fact that studies have shown that people who know more languages are better problem solvers. They're more creative. So, why not give yourself that advantage? And the best reason that I can ever come up with is one that a professor of mine shared. He said, "There is no single culture large enough to hold the human soul." When you learn other cultures and learn other languages, you discover things about yourself you didn't even know. Things you like. Things you didn't like. The best way to get there is to learn another language and be able to really interact and meet people from another culture so that you can make part of that your own.

SH: Thanks for speaking with me today, Julie, and welcome to Fairmont State.

JS: Thanks for the interview, and you're welcome.