

POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- The Arab Spring: Connection between Students and their studied languages
- BW International Film Series
- China Study Abroad
- Deutsche Adventsfeier
- Foreign Language Department Picnic
- Club de Espanol: Dia de Los Muertos
- German Club: Oktoberfest!
- Espanol Students and Esperanza
- Beginners Spanish Club
- German Play
- Current Students Studying Abroad
- Professor's Corner

Newsletter
Information

Written By:
Sundous M. Eddeb

Edited By:
Dr. Maria Marin

For questions about the newsletter or articles please contact Sundous M. Eddeb at seddeb09@mail.bw.edu or Dr. Marin at mmarin@bw.edu.

Foreign Languages & Literatures Department

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2012

Reaction of Students to the Arab Spring: Languages

The Arab Spring in recent months has taken center stage of not only the media, but most classroom discussion here at B-W. Intellectual curiosity only deepens within students whom are studying the languages of these rebellions.

The phrase "Arab Spring" refers to the recent uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa regions where people from Tunisia to Egypt took to the streets to dispose of the tyrannical regimes suppressing their lives for decades. The "Spring" implies a new beginning for these people after a long dark winter.

Spanish student, Bella DiFilippo, believes that, "studying any language in general opens up your eyes to other cultures" as well as, "the understanding of other cultural groups is more deepened." Moreover, DiFilippo states that there are limitations of studying only one language at B-W, in her case Spanish, but nonetheless, "does not mean not interested in learning more." In fact, DiFilippo also has a great interest in learning Italian and French.

B-W student Mohamed Aziz, whose

second language is Arabic, profoundly expressed the significance of acquiring another language. The significant role languages played in the social media and how diverse groups were able to utilize such a unique tool in order to create a strong front to bring down their



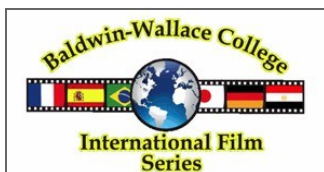
authoritative regimes as seen in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. Aziz stated that, "what seems as if it would have been a barrier was actually a tool---language, and the effectiveness of an Egyptian, Libyan, Tunisian, to go onto Twitter or Facebook and post something in French, Arabic, English, Chinese; this is what allowed the world to connect with these demonstrators."

French and Spanish minor Molly Haragan, has been keeping up with the news primarily because of France's huge role in the Arab Spring. Haragan additionally states that, "knowing other languages helps in understanding people from their standpoint, a chance to see things beyond our perspectives." Haragan, working at the Study Abroad Office, states that it has raised her awareness of the importance of knowing language(s) in regards to increasing one's knowledge of the variety of regions around the world, a "global citizen." Considering the colonial history of the intervening countries, such as France, the ability of these revolutions to be conducted and succeed in their language(s) Haragan believes, will preserve their cultures, identities and traditions. Furthermore, dealing with the languages of these newly revolutionized countries will inevitably widen the understanding of their cultural norms and values of their future to outside countries, specifically the intervening powers.

Evidently, the value of studying and acquiring a foreign language is incalculable. Not just in understanding complex situations such as the Arab Spring, but moreover gaining the ability to build and strengthen social bonds between other groups of people. Efforts to further raise awareness of the importance of language skills may only improve the future of society for the better.

International Film Series By: Molly Haragan

The 3rd Annual Baldwin Wallace International Film Series is set for the month of February. Five exciting days are filled with comedies, dramas, and eye-opening films from all around the world. With our Foreign Language Clubs, this bound to exceed your calendar to participate with authentic before the films, discussions, and, of course, participation from all around the world. The class taught by Dr. Wang and Professor Fuehrer will give students the opportunity to explore Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Beijing China. Professor Fuehrer described the trip as, "a risk-averse class. There is only so much one can learn from textbooks. Being there is when you can learn intrinsic value of that experience is very hard to replicate." Professor Fuehrer further stated that, "although culture shock is inevitable, the value of this trip is academic, professional, and personal." Students are only responsible for visas/passport and for miscellaneous spending, other than that, the department has provided a generous budget of \$4,000 per student.



Friday, February 3; Saturday, February 4; Wednesday, February 8; Friday February 10; Saturday, February 11

Chinese Study Abroad Trip

Offered in the Spring '12, Discovering China: From Tradition to Modernity, this exciting eight credit course will not only be held at BW, but in China as well. The class taught by Dr. Wang and Professor Fuehrer will give students the opportunity to explore Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Beijing China. Professor Fuehrer described the trip as, "a risk-averse class. There is only so much one can learn from textbooks. Being there is when you can learn intrinsic value of that experience is very hard to replicate." Professor Fuehrer further stated that, "although culture shock is inevitable, the value of this trip is academic, professional, and personal." Students are only responsible for visas/passport and for miscellaneous spending, other than that, the department has provided a generous budget of \$4,000 per student.

German Play Showing: A rare occurrence, German Literature students took advantage of attending the play "Life of Galileo" by Bertolt Brecht at the Alan Theater on October 9th. Although the play was translated into English, German students had the opportunity to read the play beforehand in German.

Service Learning: !Esperanza!

"Esperanza" or literally "hope" is an organization "promoting Hispanic education since 1983." Esperanza's mission statement: "The mission of Esperanza is to improve the academic achievement of Hispanics in Greater Cleveland by supporting students to graduate high school and promoting post-secondary educational attainment." Sponsored by B-W's Office of Community Outreach, Esperanza has been working with B-W students. B-W alum, Tommy Mahall is currently working with Doctor Maria Marin and her 275 Literature class on launching the Esperanza project with hopes of creating a permanent partnership between Esperanza and B-W. Mahall explained, "I took on the project because I am extremely interested in service-learning and for me it is something that I have experienced and has taught me the value and importance of Spanish in our society today." Mahall believes The Esperanza Service Learning project will give students the opportunity "to obtain language practice with actual Spanish-speaking adults throughout the greater Cleveland Area." Applications of learned concepts is one of the main objective of the service learning project that will help reinforce the language skills gained in language classes, such as Doctor Marin's SPN-275 class.

Foreign Languages and Literatures

Department Picnic

The Foreign Languages and Literature Department hosted its annual Picnic held at the pavilion at Coe Lake on September 23rd from 4-6:30 with over 200 in attendance! Representatives from all foreign language clubs were also at the picnic, informing the group of upcoming activities. Students from Spanish, Italian, French, German, Arabic and Chinese mingled and had some great home-cooked food provided by



the wonderful staff (and guest cook Mateo Cintron's grandmother!) as well as with many wonderful foreign exchange students.

!Dia De Los Muertos!

El Club de Espanol hosted Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) an event in recognition of a widely celebrated Hispanic holiday. introduced to Dia de short PowerPoint by the opportunity to



Students first were Los Muertos with a presentation followed decorate an altar in the Student Union



honoring Compay Segundo with unlit candles, flowers, colorful paper, and a crayon cigar. Compay Segundo was an amazing Cuban guitarist and part of Buena Vista Social Club. !Descansa en paz!

Beginners Spanish Club!

Dr. Barahona is helping new Spanish speakers adjust to the conversational flow of Spanish by conducting activities held in Spanish and English. Beginners



ish gives dents oppor-to use apply learned Spanish concepts and vocabulary within a comfortable level of conversational Spanish.

Oktoberfest!

German Club's annual Oktoberfest was held September 30th at the SAC with an increased attendance of about 140 students! The Bavarian event was organized by the students providing German food, root beer, live music and door prizes. The event also held a Mr. Schönbein Competition where male volunteers would walk across a stage behind a screen and have the audience vote on who had the best legs. Moreover, a mini-polka dance led by a student as well as old folk German sing-along's led by German professor Dr. Stephen Hollender were additional components of this popular event. German 201 students also had the opportunity to perform sketches in German. President of German Club, Danielle Kuntz, expressed, "I am very happy with the outcome and very thankful to all those that helped out and came up to celebrate Oktoberfest with us. It truly was an amazing time, thanks to everyone who joined us."

Professor's Corner

Dr. Marin

Dr. Sahely

Dr. Barahona

Dr. Hollender

Deutsche Adventsfeier

Delta Phi Alpha, German Honorary Society, hosted the annual Advent Vesper Service in German at the beautifully decorated Lindsey Crossman Chapel on Sunday November 7, 2011. Professor Megan Denman played the organ at the service. B-W student organist Ethan Plummer played Pastor Horst Hoyer's favorite piece, *Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist* by composer Dieterich Buxtehude. Pastor Hoyer held the service with passages read by German majors Tim Reinhart, Tyler Stromberg, Kevin Hopkins, Maxim Shroyer and Ethan Plummer in German. More than 80 people attended the service. Mr. Joe Wendel, host of the German Hour radio program, was also in attendance.

Fête de Noël

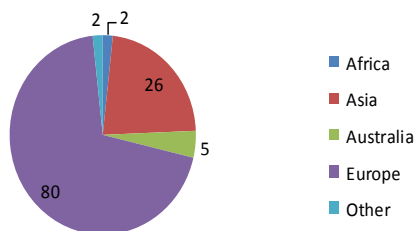
French Club hosted, at the home of Dr. Sahely, a French holiday dinner for students and community guests.



~ BW Students Study Abroad ~ By: Molly Haragan (Fall 2011 Information Provided by Explorations)

Program	Number of Students	Location
American Business School	1	Paris, France
Arts and Humanities Semester in Tuscany	1	Tuscany, Italy
CEA Aix-en-Provence	2	Aix-en-Provence, France
Discover China (Faculty-Led)	25	China
Global Sports (Faculty-Led)	25	Ireland and England
Hong Kong Baptist University	1	Hong Kong, China
ISA Sevilla	2	Sevilla, Spain
Kingston University	1	London, England
MICEFA	2	Paris, France
Semester at Sea	2	Global
Seminar in Europe (Faculty-Led)	30	Europe
University of Cape Coast	2	Ghana, Africa
University of Osnabrück	2	Osnabrück, Germany
University of the Sunshine Coast	5	Brisbane, Australia
York St. John University College	4	York, England
Total	105	

Number of Students Studying Abroad by Continent



Students Studying in English vs Foreign Language Programs

