

# Indiana State University

2005 - 2006 Academic Annual Report

Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics

## Year in Review

### Accomplishments

**As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's accomplishments for the 2006-2007 year that will contribute to this effort? [Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.]**

1) Faculty and students in our department and in the American Studies Department at Hassan II University - Mohammedia in Morocco were engaged in a project using IT MiniGrant-funded Breeze videoconferencing technology allowing ISU and Moroccan students to directly interact with each other on joint research topics. Students enrolled in our LLL 400 senior capstone course on languages and cultures teamed for the month of April with students in the American Studies classes at our partner institution, Hassan II University-Mohammedia in Morocco. The students worked in pairs using one-on-one videoconferencing to study common misconceptions of American and Moroccan cultures. The project is the pilot phase of a larger project between the 2 departments to connect ISU and Moroccan students studying languages and cultures. 2) 2005 was our most productive year to date for external translation service contracts and related internships for LLL graduate and undergraduate students of Spanish, with over 10 contracts for Clabber Girl Corporation for help in their Latin American marketing campaign, Spanish translations of prisoner handbooks for the Wabash Valley Correctional Institution in Carlisle, translations of policies and regulations for use in prisons statewide for the Indiana Department of Corrections Central Office in Indianapolis, public schedules for the West-Central Development Corporation, and multiple translation projects for Tabco Business Forms. 3) Thanks in part to our now offering a significant portion of the degree via distance technology, enrollment in the Department's new MA program in TESL/Linguistics grew 67% in 2005, leaping from 18 in Spring 2004 to 30 in Fall 2005 4) Our innovative new undergraduate Cross-Linguistics program was singled out by the external evaluators conducting our program review, who noted that the new major has the potential to serve as a model program for other similar institutions nationally. 5) The 9 Faculty in LLL had a particularly productive year in scholarship, with 2 books published and 2 in press. \*\*One work (the novel by Dr. Montanez) has been nominated for Mexico's prestigious Sor Juana Prize for the best work of Spanish language fiction written by a woman in 2005\*\* •The Meditative-Devotional Literature of Renaissance Spain (Angelo DiSalvo, Mellen Press 2005) • Pelo bueno, pelo malo [novel] (Carmen Montañez, Terranova Editores Press 2005) • World Englishes in Asian Contexts (Cecil Nelson, in press at Hong Kong University Press) • Word Frequency and Lexical Diffusion (Betty Phillips, in press at Palgrave-McMillan Publishers)

### Research and Scholarship

**What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of research and scholarship that is focused primarily on contributions to practice and discipline-based scholarship? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?**

The 9 faculty members in LLL had a very productive year in research and scholarship, capped especially by the appearance of 2 books published and 2 in press (see the section on

"Accomplishments" above for details). In addition, there were 16 conference presentations, 1 scholarly article published, 1 book chapter, and 3 book reviews.

### Grants, Contracts & Off Campus Professional Service

**What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of grants, contracts, and off campus professional service? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?**

LLL did quite well in both grants/contracts and in professional service in 2005. External grants were awarded (two U.S. Department of State English Language Specialist grants, 1 Partners of the Americas travel grant, and an Everett Helm Visiting Professorship). Internally the Department received 2 International Travel grants, 1 University Research grant, and 2 IT Technology Mini-grants. Off-campus professional service has become a strong point for the Department (see in particular the section on "Community engagement"). In addition to this, LLL faculty members held offices in 2 national and 3 state organizations, organized 1 state and 1 national conference, served as Book Review Editor for an international journal, and refereed for 1 scholarly journal and 4 scholarly presses.

### Teaching

**We would like to highlight innovative approaches to teaching. Has your department developed any pedagogies or practices you'd like to share with us? Please describe briefly.**

1) LLL has developed an innovative collaboration between ISU language majors and Moroccan university students of American language and culture at our partner university in Morocco using web cams and other internet tools. The students collaborated in pairs face-to-face with each other on joint projects dealing with comparative cultures. This will be expanded next year to several different courses in the Department. 2) ISU students of French used digital recording equipment and web expertise from an ISU IT Mini-grant to conduct a research project on French immigration, which included digitized interviews of Francophone immigrants in the Wabash Valley and construction of a course-related website for the project.

### Course Scheduling/Enrollment Management

**What have been your greatest challenges in scheduling courses to meet student needs this year? How were you able to overcome them?**

1) The Department instituted 2 evening sections and 2 Tuesday-Thursday sections of Elementary Spanish especially to address the needs of nursing students whose schedules made it difficult to enroll in the traditional MWF daytime sections. 2) We were able to introduce small no-cost sections of less-commonly taught languages (Korean, Chinese, and advanced Japanese) for students in our new Cross-Linguistics major by utilizing visiting faculty from Asia as well as having native speakers in our TESL master's program earn internship credit to provide intensive tutoring. 3) On the advice of our external reviewers, we began to enable our students to do low-cost, short-term study abroad trips not tied to formal programs at institutions abroad by assigning independent research projects (example: conducting survey interviews of German high school students in a small town in Germany on international issues).

### Outreach

**What are the outreach opportunities for your discipline? (non-traditional modes of delivery and timing, etc)**

The new distance-based courses now available for the TESL/Linguistics program has helped

contribute to robust growth in that program (from 18 in spring 1004 to 30 in Fall 2005). We are also now offering a credit-based course on Spanish for Medical Personnel which has drawn significant interest from off-campus professionals as well as from our own students in Nursing and Health and Human Performance.

### **Strategic Initiatives**

#### Development Activities

**What steps have you taken to support development activities in your department? How can your efforts be supported?**

We have been very successful in securing emeriti contributions and continue to lay the groundwork for future giving. We are also working on our potential external base by expanding our service commitment to the local business community.

#### Community Engagement I

**Please summarize your faculty's efforts in community engagement this year.**

For the 3rd year in a row the volume of LLL's community engagement has continued to grow, picking up new translation service contracts from Tabco Business Forms and providing over ten translations and business expertise service contracts to aid the Clabber Girl Corporation in its new marketing campaign in Latin America. We also provided Spanish translations of prisoner handbooks for the Wabash Valley Correctional Institution in Carlisle, translations of policies and regulations for use in prisons statewide for the Indiana Department of Corrections Central Office in Indianapolis, and public transportation schedules for the West-Central Development Corporation. In addition, LLL students and faculty continued to provide a volunteer program teaching foreign languages in area elementary schools, and LLL faculty continued to be active organizers of the yearly St. Joseph Parish humanitarian project in Honduras, where LLL faculty and students act as translators for medical personnel working with the indigenous population.

#### Experiential Learning

**We are interested in hearing about any innovative approaches you might have taken to incorporate experiential learning into your course or departmental work this year.**

The Department developed a number of new approaches to learning this year: 1) the Moroccan Trans-Atlantic classroom allowed our students to partner with Moroccan students at Hassan II University-Mohammedia in Morocco on joint projects of cross-cultural understanding. These student-to-student partnerships have created lasting relationships and students are still communicating with their partners long after the close of the course. The possibility exists for still further collaboration in the next academic year. 2) Students in our French 495 course on French Immigration conducted digitally-recorded interviews of French-speaking immigrants in the Wabash Valley and created their own course-based website. 3) Students in LLL 409 earned internship credit for their experiential work in translation projects, working alongside faculty in translating prisoner handbooks and policies from English into Spanish for the Wabash Valley Correctional Center in Carlisle and the Indiana Department of Corrections Central Office in Indianapolis.

### **Future Goals**

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**The University is highlighting experiential learning, community engagement, and eminent programs as aspects of our campus that will attract students and resources. How is your department planning to contribute to these strategic initiatives in ways that will help ISU be**

### **recognized as a Pre-eminent University?**

We plan to expand our language services (especially translation and language training services) to the business and government sector and expand our use of technology, especially to link our students with students in foreign universities. We also hope to increase our number of study abroad scholarships to make study abroad available to as many of our students as possible.