

Indiana State University

2006 - 2007 Academic Annual Report

Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics

Vision Statement

[View/Modify Vision](#)

Below is your vision statement from previous years. Please take this opportunity to review it and if necessary update it.

VISION: a) EARMARKS OF THIS DEPARTMENT AND ITS PROGRAMS ARE: > constant innovation, creativity, and a forward-thinking approach in every facet of the operation > effective responsiveness to internal and external change > high quality standards in all programming and outreach efforts > totally international and global in every aspect (courses, programs, outreach, faculty, student body, linkages, etc.) and constantly seeking to increase its international connections > student-centered approach b) ROLE WITHIN THE INSTITUTION: > serve the student body through General Education programming and offering students degree and certificate programs which offer students multiple opportunities for exposure to languages and cultures throughout the world and prepare them for careers in an international context > act as a leader and major facilitator in the international efforts of the University, act as an agent of change on campus in increasing international awareness and commitment, and offer expertise to the community, state and region, as well as to international partners and other external agencies

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) Professor Lisa Calvin received 2 statewide awards for excellence in teaching: a) Indiana World Languages College Teacher of the Year Award, given by the, Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association, November 2006 b) Spanish Teacher of the Year Award, given by the Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, November 2006 2) The graduate program in TESL/Linguistics continued to grow at an amazing rate. the number of students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate program has at least doubled (from 15 last summer to 31 this year), and it will likely rise to 44 this summer (nearly 3 times as large as it was last year). 3) In the new undergraduate Cross-Linguistics program, the number of majors has risen dramatically, nearly doubling from 10 to 17. 4) In response to recommendations of the Program Prioritization Report, the Department has trimmed its graduate program from 3 programs to 1 (very strong) program with 39 majors, and has drafted a significantly streamlined, efficient, and innovative undergraduate program reducing 17 separate programs into 2, reducing the required number of hours by 9, and introducing a required experiential component. 5) The Department continued to be productive in terms of translation service contracts for the local business community, with over 8 contracts for Clabber Girl Corporation for help in their Latin American marketing campaign, as well as English-to-Spanish translation projects for Tabco Business Forms.

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 8 faculty members in LLL had another productive year in research and scholarship, especially in light of the fact that 2 (25% of the faculty) hold administrative assignments of 50% or 100%. In addition to having published one very well received scholarly book, the faculty presented 20 papers at regional, national, and international conferences, published 3 scholarly articles, and 1 book chapter. They were especially active in the area of grants, receiving 3 internal grants and one external. In addition, Dr. Betty Phillips, Professor of Linguistics, in light of her stature in the field of historical phonology, was honored by being invited to teach a seminar and give a workshop on sound change theory this summer in the internationally renowned Linguistic Society of America Seminar held at Stanford University.

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?

Professor Berg garnered an \$18,000.00 external grant from the French American Cultural Exchange, to fund the Tournées Film Festival on campus, and the department continues to do an excellent job of securing on-campus grants, receiving two experiential learning grants for projects in France and Honduras, an international travel grant for work in Paris, and a Community and Public Engagement grant for working on the Latino community in Indianapolis. Off-campus professional service continues to be a strong point for the Department (see in particular the section on "Community engagement"). In addition to service listed there, LLL faculty members held offices in 2 international and 1 state organization, co-organized 1 international conference, served on committees for 1 various academic organizations (1 international, 1 national and 2 at the state level), served as Book Review Editor for an international journal, and refereed for 2 scholarly journals.

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.

Professor Montañez took students to Honduras during Spring break, where they earned internship credit interpreting for American medical personnel serving the rural Spanish-speaking population, and Professor Berg organized and led a study abroad trip to Paris in conjunction with her Honors class on Paris and the Visual Arts this spring.

Course Scheduling/Enrollment Management

How is the department making sure that students are able to get the classes they need to graduate in a timely manner?

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 continue 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. 4) The German and French sections are instituting new scheduling allowing students to complete the entire intermediate sequence in one semester.

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 especially in the Graduate Certificate program, which has nearly tripled over the past year from 15 to 44.

Assessment

Please share your stated student learning outcomes.

The Department in the midst of completely re-writing its learner outcomes based on an intensive semester of self-analysis and the development of its four new learner goals, viz., 1) Provide students with the tools of critical analysis, whether linguistic, cultural, or literary 2) Develop students' knowledge of how languages operate 3) Develop students' ability to communicate in one or more languages 4) Develop students' knowledge of other cultures and their ability to reflectively compare cultures The new outcomes should be in place by September 2007

Strategic Initiatives

Community Engagement I

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

LLL has continued provide valuable translation services to aid the Clabber Girl Corporation in its new marketing campaign in Latin America and to Tabco Business Forms when they supply patient care forms written in Spanish for hospitals. 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. Faculty provide expertise for various services such as statewide orientation coordinator for AFS student exchanges; President of Indiana Partners of the Americas exchange program between the state of Indiana and Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil; and service on the organizing committee for the Terre Haute Community Theater International Film Series.

Experiential Learning

What is your vision for experiential learning in your department?

We recognize that direct contact with target cultures and with native speakers of the target language is an absolute necessity for our students. For that reason, we recently drafted an entirely new curriculum in which there will now be a mandatory experiential learning component for all our departmental majors. For most students, this will be a study abroad experience. For others it may be an internship such as for those who work as interpreters in rural Honduras, on translation projects for local businesses, or in teaching settings such as the students who teach English in a high school in Mexico or the Czech Republic.

Fundraising Activities

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

We continue to mail our monthly newsletter not only to students but also to recent grads and to donors. We have established a page on our web site that allows alums to “sign in,” tell us what they are doing, and get in touch with their fellow alums.

Quality

Quality

Please provide 1-2 suggestions to increase the ability of your department or the University to meet the criteria above.

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