



Dear friends, liebe Freunde, estimados amigos, Mitákuyepi, Cher amis,—in the spirit of Epicurean philosophy,

Greetings from Slagle Hall at the University of South Dakota, your *Alma Mater*.

Over the last few years, our Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Philosophy, popularly referred to as LLP, has seen a number of significant changes. In this report, we would like to provide you an update on those developments.

In the last three years, our programs have yielded a number of successful graduates with diverse interests and career plans. These overachievers include recipients of the Truman Award, the Research Grant of the German Academic Exchange Service, the Fulbright Award, the STEP IN Scholarship at the University of Oldenburg, as well as the U.Discover Summer Scholar Award. Several of our graduates have been admitted to USD's Medical School, Law School, and various graduate schools. We have had many distinguished University Honors students in the last few years—in Spanish, in German, in French, and in Philosophy, along with presenters at Idea Fest, our campus-wide annual Undergraduate Research Conference.

In the spring of 2011, our longtime departmental chair, colleague, and friend Professor Susan Wolfe retired from her administrative duties and full-time teaching. During her term as Chair of a decade, our unit experienced a period of growth and stability. Although widely different in their backgrounds and interests, colleagues in the disciplines of languages, linguistics, and philosophy developed a successful team built on mutual respect and support. Following Professor Wolfe's withdrawal from day-to-day business in our Department, Leroy Meyer, Professor of Philosophy assumed the Chairmanship for a term of two years. Leroy tended to his duties as Chair with personal care and dedication, and significantly contributed to maintaining a positive working environment. For the 2013-14 academic year, István Gombocz, Professor of German has been appointed as Acting Departmental Chair.

Following the retirement of our former Secretary Pam Hofmann, Tammy Leitru, a highly qualified staff member was appointed to conduct the administrative matters of our Department. As the Senior Secretary in Academic Affairs and our Departmental Secretary, Tammy has successfully balanced her time and energies between two demanding positions and has provided the experience and sense of details essential for conducting our daily operations.

For the 2013-14 academic year, Dr. Maria Slocum has been appointed as Visiting Assistant Professor to teach Elementary and Intermediate French. Maria also cooperates with the French programs of Northern State University and South Dakota State University for the purposes of teaching classes in the upper-division.

In 2009, Dr. Werner Kitzler retired after his tenure of over thirty years. The operations of the German Section are now conducted by István Gombocz with occasional help from Angela Helmer (Spanish Section) and Werner himself. This academic year, first-year German is taught by Mr. Thomas



Emanuel, a graduate of our section and a Truman Scholar under the supervision of Dr. Carol Leibiger, Associate Professor in I.D. Weeks Library.

Following the retirement of Jerome Kills Small in 2012, the Lakota Language program was brought over from Native Studies into our Department of LLP. Jerome Kills Small was replaced by Dr. Armik Mirzayan. In the 2013-14 academic year, Dr. Mirzayan continues teaching Elementary and Intermediate Lakota. In the summer of 2013, two of his students finished the Lakota Language Education Action Program. They are now certified K-12 Lakota Languages Teachers in SD. Following Susan Wolfe's retirement, Armik has also taught Introduction to Linguistics.

In 2012, our program in Philosophy underwent a substantial curricular revision. In response to the growing demand, more courses in ethics are being offered. To support the major programs in Medical Biology and Sustainability, there are frequent offerings of Biomedical Ethics and Environmental Ethics. Each semester multiple sections of Introductory Ethics are taught to support the requirement for the Bachelor's degree in Nursing, and to serve a wider audience via online delivery. In 2012, Professor Keith Robinson accepted a Departmental Chairmanship at the University of Arkansas. His position is currently filled by Joseph Tinguely, Visiting Assistant Professor. And following Dr. Vaughn Huckfeldt's resignation on the spring of 2013, to take a position teaching Bio-medical Ethics at a medical school in the Dutch Antilles, Dr. Justin Moss has joined our Department as a visiting Lecturer of Philosophy.

As many of you are aware, in 2007 Diane Van Den Oever moved to Sioux Falls for familial reasons and currently teaches at the University of Sioux Falls. And in 2012, Teresa Piper followed her husband Scott Piper to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she works as an Instructor of Spanish. In 2012, Dr. Rob Turner joined our Spanish Section as Assistant Professor.

In 2012, the Spanish Section completed a major curricular revision, which resulted in a broadened and diversified spectrum of class offerings at the advanced level, listed in the 2013-2014 catalog. Starting in the fall of 2013, Dr. Angela Helmer was appointed as Coordinator of the Spanish Section. In the summer of 2013, Dr. Helmer published a book titled: *El latín en el Perú Colonial: Diglosia e historia de una lengua viva* ("Latin in Colonial Peru: Diglossia and History of a Living Language").

The Spanish Program at USD organized its first Spanish Undergraduate Research (SUR) Conference in March 2013. Twenty-six undergraduate students representing seven universities, including twelve students from USD, presented their papers and shared their research interests in Spanish on different topics related to the Spanish-speaking world, such as indigenous cultures of Latin America, Hispanic literature, colonial history of Latin America, social issues, immigration, linguistics, art, and religion. The SUR Conference was kindly sponsored by the USD College of Arts & Sciences and the Office of Diversity at USD. Between 2010 and 2013, USD's Spanish Program selected 53 Spanish majors to be initiated into the Spanish Honors Society Sigma Delta Pi.



In the recent years, our campus underwent a phase of major expansion and modernization. Following the construction of the new Medical School and a new student center (currently named the Ted Munster University Center, or the MUC), the Business School also received a state-of-the art building. And a Wellness Center north of Cherry Street serves the recreational needs of the students and faculty members. Currently, our Department is housed on the third floor of Slagle Hall.



We are, of course, very much interested in learning about the latest events and accomplishments in your professional lives. Please send us an update to: languages@usd.edu, or philosophy@usd.edu.

Visit our website: www.usd.edu/languages

And, lastly, we would very much appreciate any donations sent to the benefit of our programs.

Your help would enable us to increase our efficiency in our daily operations, including well needed maintenance and repairs. And a donation to the Green Travel Fund, from which some of you might have benefitted, would help our students in covering their costs of travel abroad.

If you decide to help us, please see the attached pledge card on the last page of this newsletter that contains instructions for donations.

Alles Gute im Neujahr! Bonne année et bonne santé! Feliz año nuevo! Ómakħa Těčca kiŋ oíyokiphi yuhá po! Happy New Year!

Kindest regards,

István Gombocz, Ph.D.
Professor of German and Acting Chair



YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LINGUISTICS, AND PHILOSOPHY

Please apply my gift to: Languages & Linguistics Current Fund Languages & Linguistics Dept. Scholarship Current Fund
 Philosophy Current Fund Philosophy Dept. Scholarship Current Fund Other _____

If no fund is selected, gifts will be designated to the first fund listed.

Enclosed is my gift of \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Email _____

Payment Method: Enclosed is my check or money order (Make check payable to USD Foundation)

Charge my contribution to my credit/debit card Visa Mastercard Discover

Credit Card Number: - - - Exp. Date: -

Signature _____

Mail to: University of South Dakota Foundation
P.O. Box 5555
Vermillion, SD 57069

Yes, my/ my spouse's employer will match this gift.

Name of employer _____

My matching gift form: is enclosed will be sent

Make your gift online: www.onwardsd.org/donate My business card is enclosed

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic funds transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. For inquiries, please call 800-521-3575 or 605-677-6703.