

IN THE NEWS

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FRENCH PROGRAM AWARDS

Two students in the French Program received prestigious awards this spring 2013:

Mr. Anthony Bucher received the Joseph Yedlicka Scholarship from the French Honors Society, **Pi Delta Phi**. This award will allow him to travel to Aix-en-Provence to study for six weeks over this summer, while living with a French family. He will attend classes at the Institute of American Universities College. The award covers travel expenses, tuition, room and board.

Ms. Felicia Franklin received the **Benjamin Franklin Grant** awarded by the French Embassy in Washington D.C. This grant allows double majors to go and research in France. Ms. Franklin, who majors in French and Criminal Justice, will research on women in the police force in France during her stay. She will spend three weeks in Boulogne-sur-mer for her project. The award covers all her travel expenses and the cost of her research.



PROFESSOR RECEIVES CERTIFICATION

Dr. Blandine Mitaut, Associate Professor of French, received her OPI certification at the end of the spring semester. OPI stands for Oral Proficiency Interview and is the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) instrument to measure the levels of proficiency of speakers. Dr. Mitaut attended a four-day workshop at Middlebury College in the summer of 2011 then went through the rigorous two-year process of certification. Congratulations!

VISIT OF AN ALUMNUS

Matt Murphy, who graduated five years ago, came to the department in early summer and visited with Drs. Ragone and Mitaut. Matt has been in the Navy these past years. He attended the Monter-

rey Institute in California and studied Korean. He has been stationed in Hawaii since. Upon completion of his tour of duty, Matt would like to come back to Shippensburg, get his certification for teach-

ing and move on for a dual Master's in French and Spanish Education. Matt, we will be waiting for you!

Learn more about OPI at: <http://www.actfl.org/professional-development/certified-proficiency-testing-program>

GERMAN PROFESSOR CONDUCTS RESEARCH OVER THE SUMMER

Dr. Wildermuth reports that he was in Germany at the beginning of the summer and conducted research on the WWII:

"From May 13th until May 23rd, I was in Baden-Württemberg, Germany working on my research project "The Oral History of the 35th Wehrmacht Division." I received a Council of Trustees Presidential Faculty Development Grant and additional support from the College of Arts to make my research trip possible.

During my ten days in Germany, I was able to visit with four surviving members of this German infantry division which had fought in the Soviet Union from 1941 until the end of the Second World War. They were willing to be interviewed about their own personal experiences of the war against the Soviet Union, which both the Wehrmacht and the Soviet Red Army fought as a war of annihilation. All of them served in the East between three and four years, and had much to say about the conditions there, their contact to enemy soldiers, civilians and partisans. They shared the documents and photographs they had kept from their service in the Soviet Union.

As a German professor, I am very interested in how this gen-

eration – the German equivalent to our "Greatest Generation" – reflected and internalized the hegemonic, racial goals of *their* Germany, a country quite different in both its shape and mentality than the democratic, pluralistic Federal Republic of today. How this war is remembered and recorded in Germany has almost exclusively been based on the documents that survived the war. I have now interviewed a survivor from all subunits of this division, something that I believe will give me much greater insight into experiences the division had that are only alluded to in the written record.

Certainly, my entire approach to this question is predicated on my ability to communicate effectively in German. Having only begun with my study of German as an undergraduate, I am particularly thrilled to be putting my language skills to such practice, and to hopefully gain more insight into this important socio-historical question."

Congratulations on Dr. Wildermuth's success!