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Letter from the Chair...

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Foreign Languages,

The 2010-2011 academic year has been filled with many accomplishments from our faculty, staff, and students. We recently hired a new Lecturer in German, Dr. Edith Vandervoort. Our study-abroad programs continue to attract many students, and we added Costa Rica and Quebec to our offerings this past summer. We maintain several foreign language clubs, film series, conversation groups, and chapters of national honor societies. We organize various activities throughout the year, and our Distinguished Lecturer Series keeps bringing reputable scholars to the campus. As a result, our student enrollment keeps growing in all languages and at all levels. I encourage you to attend our activities to practice your language skills.

Our faculty members have been very productive in the area of research and scholarship. They have published books, book chapters, and articles in prestigious journals. They have also presented papers at national and international conferences, thus making our programs, our department, and UNT more visible. You will be able to read about their many accomplishments in this newsletter. As for me, I organized and directed a faculty-led graduate program in Quebec last July, thanks to a grant that I received from the Canadian government (see article and photo on p. 10). I also became an honorary member of the American Association of Teachers of French.

Our office staff, Cara Guziak and Belinda Reyes, are very supportive of our efforts; we have added another Administrative Specialist, Lindsay Goodman, who was hired this past summer. Our Foreign Language Lab, under the expert direction of Susan Gehrlein, presents the state of the art in its equipment and holdings.

I would like to share a special thought for two of our retired professors who passed away in 2011 and had taught at UNT for over thirty years. Dr. Arthur Gionet, Professor emeritus of French, had established the French Coop which is still in existence today and has enabled dozens of UNT students to participate in exchange and study programs in France. Mr. Ishmael Bustinza, Assistant Professor of Spanish, was very active in helping students who applied for external scholarships. They will be remembered.

Finally, I wish, once again, to express my deep gratitude to our donors who have generously contributed to our scholarship funds and gift account; we are indebted to them. This past summer, two of our students received the newly-established *Ryan Delaney Scholarship in German*, enabling them to spend five weeks at the University of Leipzig with the program organized by Ms. Carmen Terry. One of our objectives is to send most of our foreign language majors abroad; this is the only way they may become fully proficient in the target language. Unfortunately, with the rising costs associated with these programs, our students need financial assistance, and I would like to encourage you to donate in this area. You may contribute to our existing scholarships (please see page two of this newsletter) or establish new ones. I would be happy to discuss various possibilities with you. Feel free to contact me at MCKoop@unt.edu or by calling (940) 565-2404.

Please let us hear from you. As always, if you happen to be in Denton, I would be very happy to show you around the Language Building and our state-of-the-art facilities. In the meantime, I look forward to hearing from you.

Truly yours,

Marie-Christine Koop
Professor of French and Department Chair



Sponsored Scholarships

Our established sponsored scholarships to undergraduate language students include:

- The Arthur and Claire Gionet Endowed Scholarship in French
- The Smith Dannelly Scholarship
- The Ryan Delaney Scholarship in German (please see related article on page 12)
- The Martha & Voncile Lidell Scholarship
- The Mildred Masters McCarty Scholarship
- The Martha A. Olsen Memorial Scholarship
- The Solveig Olsen French Expendable Fund
- The Solveig Olsen German Expendable Fund
- The Solveig Olsen Spanish Expendable Fund
- The Solveig Olsen Endowed Scholarship in German
- The Donald R. Vidrine French Study Abroad Scholarship

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is proud to announce that the following UNT students have been awarded scholarships this year:

French: **Klara Knypinski** (Solveig Olsen Expendable and Olsen French), **Christina Jones** (Donald R. Vidrine Study Abroad)

German: **Carina Jones** (Martha A. Olsen Memorial), **Robert Weger** (Solveig Olsen), **Matthew Strauss** (Olsen); **Carol Walker** and **Bo Montier** (Ryan Delaney)

Spanish: **Alejandro Gallegos** (Olsen Spanish)

We, and more importantly, the students are deeply appreciative of the generous contributions that have been made to language and cultural education at UNT.

Our scholarship pool can grow and be sustained only through the financial support of our donors, the Friends of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, to whom we send this newsletter. We hope you will consider sending us a gift today.

If you would like to contribute to our gift account or establish a scholarship fund for either undergraduate or graduate language students, please use the enclosed envelope or contact Dr. Marie-Christine Koop. You may reach her at (940) 565-2404 or e-mail her at MCKoop@unt.edu. All contributions are tax deductible.

Faculty and Staff Achievements

Publications

Dr. Marijn Kaplan (French) has edited the book, *Translations and Continuations: Riccoboni and Brooke, Graffigny and Roberts*, with Pickering & Chatto, London (225 pages).

Dr. Cristina Sánchez-Conejero (Spanish) has published a single-authored book entitled “Una niña postfranquista” with Casavari Publishing (2010, 103 pages).

Dr. Edith Vandervoort (German) has edited a book entitled, “Masculinities in French and francophone Literature,” for Cambridge Scholars Publishing (330 pages). Twentieth and Twenty-First Century

Leaves

Dr. Teresa Marrero (Spanish) and **Dr. Lawrence Williams** (French) have both received Faculty Development Leaves for one semester for the academic year 2011—2012.

Grants

Dr. Sam Manickam (Spanish) has been awarded a UNT Research Initiation Grant (RIG).

Dr. Christoph Weber (German) has been awarded a Robert Bosch foundation travel Grant to attend a seminar at the German National Archive for Literature in Marbach, Germany.

Awards

Ms. Cara Guziak (Administrative Coordinator II) is the recipient of a Star Performer Award, bestowed upon staff members who have made exceptional contributions by assisting the University in meeting its strategic goals.

Dr. Marijn Kaplan (French) was awarded a Chawton House Library Visiting Fellowship in England to conduct research there during her recent Faculty development Leave (October 2010)

Dr. Lawrence Williams has received the Helen Lorenz Excellence in Teaching award by the North Texas Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French.

Other

Dr. Dean Cassella (Latin) has received his Ph.D. in History.

Ms. Susan Gehrlein (pictured below, center) has been promoted to Administrative coordinator III, **Ms. Cara Guziak** (on right) to Administrative Coordinator II, and **Ms. Belinda Reyes** (on left) to Administrative Specialist III.



Dr. Jessica Greenfield (Italian) has received her Ph.D. in Italian from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

Dr. Marijn Kaplan (French) was selected to participate in the UNT Leadership Fellows Program in the February in Florida, where she attended a workshop.

Ms. Laetitia Knight (French) and **Ms. Connie Martínez** (Spanish) were recognized at UNT Honors Day in April.

Dr. Dorian Roehrs (German) has officially been granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of German.

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Faculty Achievements *(continued from previous page)*

Special Honors

Dr. Cristina Sánchez-Conejero, Associate Professor of 20th-21st Century Spanish narrative and Film, completed production on a feature film entitled *Hispanosophy* in 2010. This was a grant-funded project filmed in several locations and features, among others, Mexican writer/director/producer/actor Guillermo Arriaga. The film was premiered at the 2011 Film Festival of Colorado. In May 2011, the film was honored with the Bronze Palm Award at the prestigious Mexico International Film Festival. For additional information about the film, please visit: www.hispanosophy.com.

The American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) conferred the status of honorary member to **Dr. Marie-Christine Koop** for services rendered, including serving as president of the association. A certificate was given to Dr. Koop during an award ceremony held in Montreal in July 2011. The American Association of Teachers of French was founded in 1927 and is the largest national association of French teachers in the world.

Student Achievements

Chinese Bridge Competition

The Chinese Bridge Competition is a large-scale international proficiency contest sponsored by the Chinese government. On April 27, two UNT students, **Benjamin Simmons** and **Kyle McKenzie**, participated in the 10th Chinese Bridge, a competition among college students of the D/FW area. Benjamin Simmons, pictured on right, won first place and Kyle McKenzie was awarded the Prize for Excellence. Lecturer **Bei Chen** dedicated many long hours preparing these two students for this prestigious competition.



Japanese Speech Contest



Four UNT students — **Emily Cole**, **George Minchillo**, **Jenny Nulf**, and **Jeff Spencer** — competed in the College Division V of the 14th Dallas Japanese Speech Contest, held on February 12. After weeks of practice all four students did an outstanding job in such a difficult competition. George Minchillo (pictured) won 4th place. Also pictured, left to right, Ms. Peggy Hardt (Senior Lecturer in Japanese), students Emily Cole and George Minchillo, and Ms. Yayoi Takeuchi (Lecturer in Japanese).

Honor Society Inductees of 2010—2011



The Italian Honor Society (Gamma Kappa Alpha)



The Japanese Honor Society (College Chapter)



On the left are the inductees of The French Honor Society (Pi Delta Phi).

Not pictured are the eighteen new members of the Alpha Pi chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the Hispanic Honor Society, who were inducted in a ceremony held on October 1 and the nine inductees of The Delta Phi Alpha National German Honorary Society, a chapter of the Iota Epsilon, in a ceremony held in October. Eta Sigma Phi, the National Classics Honor Society, Theta Rho chapter) initiated twenty new members. Latin student, **Christopher Rios**, was elected National President at the convention in March.

French Business Symposium

In November, the French Business Symposium was held at the University of Texas at Dallas where several competitions took place. **Dominique Diomi**, a student in **Ms. Sophie Morton's** Business French course, won 1st Place in the "university level" contest, along with a scholarship of \$700. Ms. Morton (Lecturer in French) attended the symposium with **Dr. Marie-Christine Koop** whose graduate students, **Thérèse Bishara** and **Jill Hargus**, also were awarded scholarships.



Ángel Hidalgo and **Olga Lidia Mandujano** were both recognized as Outstanding Graduate Students in Spanish.



Congratulations, students, on these wonderful achievements!

For taking the initiative to lend a helping hand, let us all join hands in applauding...

The External Funding and Scholarship Committee, chaired by Dr. Jessica Greenfield (Italian), for their efforts in establishing “scholarship brackets” (levels of donations from businesses) and for contacting in person various local businesses and restaurants. In April the committee, inspired by a unique idea suggested by its secretary, **Laetitia Knight** (French), sponsored a raffle of student textbooks donated by various publishing houses. We extend a very special “thank you” to **Pearson Publishing, Vista Publishing** and **Cengage** for responding to the fundraising efforts made by **Dr. Jessica Greenfield** (Italian). As a result, all three publishers have donated student editions of books that will be used as scholarships for our incoming and current students. And un très grand merci to the following international publishers: **Casterman** (Belgium), **Flammarion** (France), **Gallimard/Folio** (France), **Leméac** (Québec), as well as **Wiley** (USA) and, once more, **Pearson** (USA), each of whom donated books that contributed to the success of a French contest created by **Ms. Knight** in March.

Ms. Connie Martínez (Principal Lecturer of Spanish) for coordinating, once again, the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) donations made by FORL members, and supplemented by a bake sale for which we heartily thank the following for their culinary skills and/or time: **Ms. Cristina Campbell, Ms. Monika Campbell, Dr. Christophe Chaguinian, Ms. Olga Chávez Tolley, Ms. Bei Chen, Dr. Lisa Furrh, Ms. Karen Liroy, Dr. Teresa Marrero, Ms. María Muñiz, Ms. Elizabeth Norton de Evans, Mr. Steven Sheppard, Ms. Nicholey Schwab, Dr. Edith Vandervoort**; our office staff members: **Ms. Cara Guziak** (Administrative Assistant), **Ms. Belinda Reyes**, and our Student Assistants **Ms. Cynthia Daly** and **Ms. Ahnis Jones** and all those who helped to ensure the success of the bake sale by purchasing the many epicurean delights.

Ms. Connie Martínez (Advisor of the Spanish Honor Society, Sigma Delta Pi/Alpha Pi Chapter) for orchestrating a “canned food drive” among all the foreign language honor societies at UNT in time for Thanksgiving. We give special thanks to former high school science teacher, current UNT student of Spanish and Sigma Delta Pi—Alpha Pi chapter vice-president, **Ms. Mary Hardcastle**, who was in charge of gathering all the cans and transporting them to the food bank.

Ms. María Muñiz (Senior Lecturer in Spanish), who initiated a fundraising effort to help ailing colleague, Elba Álvarez (Adjunct in Spanish), befallen with a serious medical condition, who found herself with little financial support to endure the months of physical therapy ahead, and no one to tend to her needs. Thanks to María’s initiative and the generosity of Elba’s colleagues in the department, \$900 was raised to help defray the cost of accrued medical expenses, the on-going physical therapy, and a companion at home.

Ms. Nicholey Schwab (Adjunct in Spanish), who had been leading as many as three groups of fifteen or so volunteers to Mexico each year for the past ten years until the current year, when travel was prevented due to occurrences of violence along the only route to be taken in order to reach the region of Jalisco where their volunteer efforts were carried out. Jalisco United, as it has been named, performs much needed volunteer services in two orphanages, three primary groups of senior citizens and three main one-room schoolhouses. Their proud accomplishments include the replacement of cardboard or tarpaper roofs in approximately six family dwellings each year and the delivery of food, shoes, clothing, blankets and other necessities to families in remote mountain communities. In schools, Jalisco United promotes reading by means of a cleverly designed program: commensurate with the number of books read, the children receive sorely needed school supplies — gratis! In the orphanages there are camps where music, cooking, jewelry making, and reading skills are taught. Jalisco United also supplies books to the tiny local public library which has also benefited from

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A helping hand

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a fresh coat of paint and a roof repaired to prevent further leakage.. All of these highly ambitious and executed projects are the fruit of year-round fundraising efforts back in the USA. Because travel to the region was not possible this year, Jalisco United currently sends the money it raises to its host families in Mexico and they, in turn, deliver the necessities in the name of Jalisco United. For further information, including making a donation, please email nicholey.schwab@unt.edu and visit the webpage at jaliscounited.com. ¡Gracias!



Pictured above are just a few of the many orphans of Jalisco and a group of Jalisco United volunteers, including Nicholey (far right hand corner).

Ms. Yayoi Takeuchi (Japanese), as well as members of **The Japanese National Honor Society—College Chapter at UNT** for initiating fundraising efforts within the Foreign Language Department to contribute to the relief efforts of the Japanese Red Cross. Sixteen hundred dollars were raised in one day alone! Ms. Takeuchi, who hails from the central part of the Japanese main island of Honshu, kept FORL faculty and staff informed — and motivated — to lend a hand. “I cannot help them directly, but I want to do what I can do now to help, even in a very little way. So I decided to share my thoughts with you and the information on relief activities available online and around the UNT campus. Your help can expand the ring of support and make a difference.”

Dr. Donny Vigil (Spanish) for finding a place in the core curriculum for community service. In fulfilling the requirement of 50 accumulated points per portfolio submitted by students of Spanish 2040 and 2050, students may elect to volunteer in *Success for Life through Reading* and / or *America Reads*, so as to endeavor to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy through improving the educational opportunities of the economically disadvantaged.

FORL EVENTS



El Día de los muertos was commemorated with two fetching *altares* exhibited in the main entrance hall of the Language Building. Pictured at left is the *altar* assembled by Alpha Pi Chapter members of Sigma Delta Phi. On the left of the *altar* stand **Ms. Mary Hardcastle** (Chapter Vice-President), and **Ms. María Gómez** (Chapter President). The theme of the exhibit was Hispanic authors (departed, of course), under the direction of **Ms. María Muñiz** (Senior Lecturer in Spanish), who brought the idea to **Ms. Connie Martínez** (Principal Lecturer in Spanish), the Alpha Pi chapter advisor.

The other “book end” to the Day of The Dead commemoration was presented by **Dr. Sam Manickam** (Spanish). For its theme, “Heroes of the Mexican Revolution” was chosen and creatively designed by students from Dr. Manickam’s Mexican Culture and Civilization (SPAN 3140) course.



Mardi Gras auf Deutsch!



In February, the faculty and students of German celebrated Fasching, as Mardi Gras is called in German, with colorful decorations, costume and talent contests, and students singing and relating anecdotes in German — a traditional Fasching component. Everyone enjoyed the sing-a-long and, *natürlich*, the German sausage and potato salad that were served. *Prost!*



Graduate Students in Spanish launch the new publication, *El espejo universitario*, the first journal published at UNT completely in Spanish. Pictured fourth from the right is faculty advisor, **Dr. Teresa Marrero**.



Distinguished Lecturer Series



The pioneer Hispanic/Latina Theatre artist, **Cora Cardona** (at left) is embraced by **Dr. Teresa Marrero** (Speakers Committee) at the reception which followed her talk in April on her upcoming production of *La muchacha de los libros usados* (“*The Maiden of the Used Books*”). Ms. Cardona is the founder and director of Teatro Dallas. Her visit was sponsored by the **Distinguished Lecturer Series** of the UNT Department of Foreign Languages and literatures. Other invited distinguished lecturers this past year were: **Dr. Francisco González-García** of the Universidad de Almería (Spain) , who presented “What Construction Grammars can do for Contrastive (English-Spanish) Linguistics,” and **Dr. Judy Okada**, who discussed the history and characteristics of words that have come into Japanese from English and other languages.

Cultural Excursions



In November, fifty-four UNT faculty and students attended the Dallas Opera production of Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*. This event was hosted by the UNT **Italian Club** moderator, **Dr. Jessica Greenfield**. Pictured above is the famous masked ball scene. In April, the UNT Italian Club again hosted an additional “night at the opera,” this time to attend a performance of Giuseppe Verdi’s *Rigoletto*.



Ms. Laetitia Knight (French) escorts UNT graduate and undergraduate students of French to the Dallas Museum of Art where they admire masterpieces of French paintings.

Study Abroad

Destination Change: from Mexico to Costa Rica

Responding to the uncertainty of travel to Mexico, **Dr. Jonsoo Lee** and **Dr. Jiyoung Yoon** began to research possible destinations alternative to Guadalajara, Mexico for their 2011 faculty-led study abroad program. Ultimately, Costa Rica proved to be the best choice in terms of safety concerns and student response. During Summer I, UNT students enjoyed learning Spanish, interacting with locals and learning their culture. The new destination also offered opportunities to explore Costa Rica's many beautiful locations ideal for appreciating pure nature in places such as Monteverde, the Poas Volcano, Puerto Viejo, Tamarinda Beach, and Manuel Antonio, and for observing exotic animals such as sloths, boa constrictors, and toucans. The program is planned to continue for Summer 2012. ¡Pura Vida!



Pictured above are some of the UNT students, along with Dr. Lee and Dr. Yoon, at Fortuna Waterfall, and at left, at Poas Volcano.



New Graduate Program in Québec



Dr. Koop's graduate students at the beautiful Montmorency Falls in Québec, July 2011

Dr. Marie-Christine Koop organized and directed a two-week graduate seminar in Québec, entitled "Québec Society and Culture." It was partially funded by a grant from the Canadian government which provided scholarships for eight of the ten participants. After an introductory course on Québec taught on line at UNT, the second part of the seminar was hosted at McGill University and Université Laval (July 9-24). It included lectures by specialists in various fields and guided visits to various places of interest. The group also spent an afternoon at the Huron-Wandat village of Wendake, an enclave within Québec City where they enjoyed a typical American-Indian luncheon with the Big Chief and Vice Chief, visited their education center, and met with officers of their social services. The seminar ended with a one-day excursion to Les Chutes Montmorency, la Basilique Sainte-Anne de Beauré, and L'île d'Orléans. This seminar was part of the French Summer Institute, a graduate program offered every summer at the University of North Texas to enable secondary school teachers to earn a Master of Arts degree in French.

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

“Do you speak German?” This question posed no challenge for the high school students who participated in *Deutscher Samstag* or German Saturday on April 16. More than eighty-one students studying German at high schools in the greater Dallas-Fort Worth region arrived by bus at the UNT campus to explore and learn more about German language and culture. For the fourth time in a row, UNT’s German program has been the host for German Saturday, an annual event that started in Denton eight years ago. At around 8:30 a.m. the students together with their teachers gathered inside the Foreign Language Building to register and pick up their German Saturday “passports” and T-shirts. Afterwards a wide variety of half-hour seminars and activities were offered: students could test their knowledge of German in a game of Jeopardy, have fun at *Theaterwerkstatt*, bake gingerbread hearts or listen to German music. There were also seminars on Easter egg painting, German folk dancing, and German *Lieder*. As the students hop scotched from one event to the next, they were encouraged to speak as much German as possible. The activities were rounded off by several snack breaks that offered oven baked German pretzels, refreshments and fresh fruit. After having collected stamps for each attended seminar, the students exchanged their “passports” for prizes that were given out at the end of a fun-filled and educational morning showcasing multiple aspects of German culture.

Meet and Greet



Our new lecturer, **Dr. Edith Vandervoort** joined the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in Fall 2010, as a Lecturer in German. Dr. Vandervoort holds a Master’s degree in German from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Ph.D. in Modern Languages and Literatures from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Her research interests focus on French-Canadian literature. An avid dog lover, Edith’s other personal interests include: participating in 5-K runs for animal welfare organizations and other worthy causes, as well as hiking and swimming. *Willkommen*, Dr. Vandervoort!

Lindsay Goodman is our newest FORL office staff member, serving as an Administrative Specialist IV. She is coming from New Horizons Computer Learning Centers as a computer trainer. Lindsay has previously been a mathematics teacher in the public school system. Lindsay will be assisting in areas of travel, purchasing, records management, and other departmental administration arenas. Her free time is often spent camping, boating, spending time with family and friends, reading, dancing, and varied other activities. She enjoys learning about history and other cultures.



Student Office Worker, **Andrew Wahlert** has joined the computer lab staff and has been working in the main office during the summer months. Andrew is majoring in Spanish and has been studying French over the summer.

Welcome to our department !

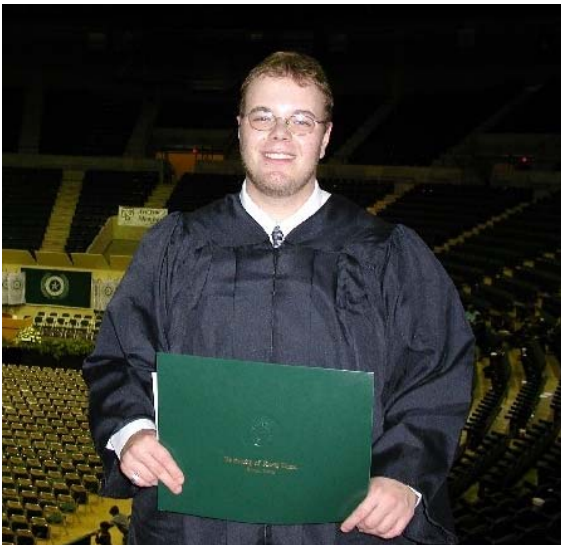
In Memoriam



Dr. Arthur Joseph Gionet, aged 85, passed away on January 16, 2011 from pneumonia. He served in the United States Air Force, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. Dr. Gionet began his career at UNT in 1961, teaching French and Latin and in 1968 he received a Ph. D. in French from The University of Texas. (Austin). Dr. Gionet established the UNT French Coop exchange program, as well as an endowed scholarship in French. He was knighted by the French government for his promotion of all things French, the highest honor that could be bestowed upon a non-French citizen. A Regents Professor in French, retired from UNT in 1998, Dr. Gionet will be especially remembered for being a beloved teacher whose love of life and willingness to laugh lifted those fortunate to have been in his presence. He is survived by his wife, Claire, his daughter and her husband, and three grandchildren.



Ishmael "Ish" Bustinza passed away on June 15, 2011 at the age of 78, following a long illness. He served in the U.S.S Juneau (Navy) for four years. "Ish" received his Masters degree from Texas Tech University (Lubbock). He taught Spanish at UNT from 1965 to 2003. when illness befell him and he went on sick leave before retiring. He was also was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Marie Shaw Bustinza, and by his loving companion for the last 15 years, Hettie "Jackie" Nye.



The Ryan Delaney Scholarship in German has been established by Ms. Mary Delaney, mother of **Ryan Eric Delaney**, a student in German at UNT whose life was tragically cut short in a car accident in 2003. Ryan loved German and his mother has established an expandable scholarship in his name.

One year later, the friends of **Gayla Tekell** remember... UNT has granted permission to dedicate a tree on campus in her honor and to place a plaque on the tree with Gayla's name engraved. In the planning stage is the establishment of a scholarship fund in her name, to be used to enable students to study abroad, If you would like to contribute to the Gayla Tekell Fund, you can write a check to UNT—FORL, and please include "Gayla's Fund" on the memo line.



UNTTM

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If you are in the vicinity of LB 101, please stop in to thank **Dr. Marie-Christine Koop** for the department's most recent acquisition — a Keurig machine (pictured at right). Coffee, tea and hot chocolate are available at the nominal cost of one USD, which also includes the beverage, powdered milk, and sugar. You must, however, provide your own cup.

