

POLYGLOT PRESS

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The Newsletter of the Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages



Jacqueline Danner and Stephanie Goetz, enjoying a moment together at Jacqueline's Farewell Party.

WELCOME to the inaugural edition of the Polyglot Press, the annual newsletter of the Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages. As many of you may be aware, change is in the air! After thirty-seven years with the program, and fourteen years as director, Jacqueline Danner retired at the end of November, 2008. We wish her well as she begins a new chapter in her life. Stephanie Goetz, former student director in Ciudad Real, has been appointed managing director and looks forward to continuing her association with the Honors Program.

You can read about Stephanie and Jacqueline in the pages to follow. Inside, you will find summaries and photos from the summer of 2008 for each of our program sites. You can also find ways to keep in touch with the Honors Program. We hope you enjoy catching up on the latest news!

Many thanks to everyone who contributed articles, and particularly to Trevor Shirley for his stories on Jacqueline Danner and Stephanie Goetz. Trevor studied in St. Brieuc in the summer of 2005, and is now a junior at Indiana University majoring in Journalism with a minor in International Studies. Thanks as well to all of you who submitted names for the newsletter. Congratulations to Audrey Veneck, San Luis Potosí '02, for her suggestion of the name, "Polyglot Press."

Danner Leaves Lasting Legacy Behind

by Trevor Shirley

The election season, after months and months of campaigning, has finally concluded. For what seems like years, we've all been hearing chants and rumblings of change in the air, and these sounds seemed to be decisively stronger on the IU campus. But regardless of what you believe or who you voted for, change is indeed upon us—and thankfully it's not from Washington! Yes, change is coming to the beloved Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Language, as after more than 30 years of tireless work and commitment to the program, director Jacqueline Danner has announced her retirement.

Having started work with the IU Honors Program in 1971, Danner has certainly earned her time off after years of coordinating programs that allowed thousands of motivated high school students the opportunity to travel abroad. Although many years have passed, Danner believes that that the overall experience could not have been better.

“My involvement with the program has been a most enriching experience,” said Danner, “and I marvel at the intellect, depth and maturity of the students.” It's those students that kept her doing this job for more than three decades.

While the program itself began in 1962, Danner started her involvement in 1971, when the program contained only three locations in France (St. Briec), Germany, and Mexico. After several years, the program grew to eight locations which included another program in France as well as four locations in Spain. “I've seen the program grow in prestige and importance,” said Danner. “I've tried to offer excellent programs and to make sure that the students feel loved and supported to inspire them to try their hardest and learn as much as possible.”

Looking back at her time with the program, Danner admits that the best part wasn't the traveling or the expansion of the program, but rather getting to know and work with the students themselves. “Every year I receive phone calls from people who have traveled on the program who still cherish those memories,” said Danner, who credits the students' success to talented teachers and an adherence to the famed “no English” rule. “I believe the no English rule is crucially important—it helps the students learn more quickly and helps them adjust to the culture,” said Danner. “When you think in a foreign language, you share the lives of the host families.”

But don't expect Danner to be slowing down any time soon. With plans of teaching and staying active, Danner has much more excitement ahead of her. “I want to travel more and do yoga, or take walks whenever I want,” said Danner, “I just love nature—it gives us so much.”

Yet regardless of the path ahead of her, Danner is acutely aware of the path she's left behind her. “I like having the feeling that I may have contributed a small degree in helping the students lead better lives,” said Danner, “It's a feeling of helping—that's always been my most profound desire. To help these students become more mature, intelligent and have a deep understanding of life.”



Jacqueline and the Brest 2008 stagiaires

Goetz Ushers in New Chapter in IUHP History

by Trevor Shirley

As the Indiana University Honors Program recently bid farewell to long-time director Jacqueline Danner, the obvious question turned to her replacement. After soliciting applications and interviews with candidates, the IU Honors Program has announced the new managing director as Stephanie Goetz, a talented driven language instructor at IU who comes with a long history of working with the IU Honors Program.

Goetz grew up in Ohio where she attended high school and later Ohio University with the goal of pursuing a degree in journalism. Describing herself as the type that “likes to get her hands into everything,” the allure of a career where she could write about and cover an array of subjects seemed very appealing. Yet like so much else, that goal changed on September 11, 2001. “I was watching the coverage of everything, and decided that I didn’t like how it was covered,” said Goetz, “I just didn’t think I had the stomach for it.” Like so many others, the events of that day spurred her to take more interest in the world around her and to move outside of her comfort zone to see what was out there.

Goetz had her first experience traveling abroad when she studied for 10 weeks in Pamplona, Spain as a junior at OU. It was there that she ended up getting more than she bargained for, and the experience made her think twice about what she really wanted out of life. “I fell in love with it and I couldn’t get enough of all the newness,” said Goetz. Upon her return, she changed her major to Spanish education.

After traveling to Ecuador in 2003 to study there, Goetz applied to graduate school at Indiana University, where during the interview process mention was made of the IU Honors Program. A few



Stephanie and the Ciudad Real team back in 2005.

weeks into her graduate work, an e-mail was sent searching for instructors for the Honors Program. Despite the fact that she was inundated with work, Goetz threw herself headfirst into applying for a teaching position.

“I applied and kept hoping I would get the position, because I wanted to go abroad and teach so much,” said Goetz, “and then Jacqueline actually called me on my birthday and told me that she had some good news for me.” Goetz began teaching as an instructor for the program in Ciudad Real, Spain in 2005 and eventually became the student director for Ciudad Real in 2006. But after two years as director of the program there, Goetz knew that the summer of 2008 would be her last. “The goodbye party last summer was really emotional,”

said Goetz.

But even as she bid farewell to the program, fate would end up having another twist in store for her. “I knew in my mind that Jacqueline’s job was really my dream job, but when I heard that she was retiring, I just couldn’t wrap my head around it—she’s so diligent and hardworking,” said Goetz, “I honestly thought the program would end when she retired.”

Yet ironically, it’s now through Goetz that the program will continue to live, as she recently accepted to take over the director’s position from Jacqueline Danner. “I’m so excited about this new

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prospect, and my enthusiasm for the program is endless,” said Goetz. “I’m all about striving to make this program even better and we have lots of long-term goals. I want to try and better integrate the group of students into the community, and maybe even have a community service program within each location.”

Goetz admits though that a weakness of hers is the language barrier. “I speak Spanish but I need to start learning some French and German,” said Goetz, “I dislike being in a country and not knowing the language. It lets us connect with people we might not otherwise connect with.”

Despite any changes that may come to the program under Goetz’s watch, the basic principle of ideals will certainly remain steadfast. “Everybody does this program because they believe in it,” said Goetz, “and working for the Honors Program is definitely the most fulfilling job I’ve ever had.”

2008 in Brief

BREST (*Marie-Line Brunet*)

In the summer of 2008, thirty-eight *stagiaires* launched into the life-changing adventure that the Indiana University Honors Program represents. The warm atmosphere of the foyer and the generosity of the host families greatly contributed to create a solid bond between all the students. Together, they strolled down the rue de Siam, learned the steps of the danse bretonne, the moves of the tecktonik, enjoyed the sound of French music during *La fête de la musique*, and savored the traditional dishes Brittany has to offer.



Brest students learn how not to get lost.

Luckily, the weather was on our side this year (the *stagiaires* of Brest ‘07 would remember that they were not so lucky) which allowed us to enjoy many afternoons at the beach during our weekly sports day, or even a late swim in the English Channel during the Normandy excursion. This summer was marked by two events that placed Brest at the center of all attention. Despite the premature defeat of the French soccer team in the Europe Cup, the *stagiaires* had other events to look forward to. Brest had indeed been chosen to be the starting point of the *Tour de France* and many students had the chance to witness the event that

most French people follow at this time of the year. And as it is the case every four years, the city also hosted *Brest 2008*, a world-wide famous sailboat exhibition.

To celebrate the success and progress of the *stagiaires*, we spent the last evening in a café-concert in Paris. This privileged moment was the perfect occasion for all of us to recall all the great memories of our stay in France. Merci to all the *stagiaires* of Brest 2008, teachers, coordinators, host families and all the people involved in the program - whether they are on one side of the Atlantic or on the other - for making the summer of 2008 another tremendous success and for creating innumerable memories.

ST. BRIEUC (*Sandra Valnes Quammen*)

The 2008 St. Brieuc program was a great success, thanks to enthusiastic students, hardworking teachers, a patient and resourceful coordinator, and wonderful host families! Despite some jetlag following a marathon trip to St. Brieuc, we hit the ground running. Our eager and curious students kept us on our toes, and the teachers were delighted to see that students threw themselves whole-heartedly into everything, from everyday class work to “special events” like
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A hearty lunch makes happy students in St. Brieuç.

lodge of Dinan, toured the fortified city (and sunny beaches) of St. Malo, and explored the châteaux and grounds at Fort La Latte. An afternoon rainstorm held off long enough for us to enjoy a day at Mont St. Michel, while a wet and chilly evening couldn't keep our most intrepid *stagiaires* from enjoying the frigid ocean outside our hostel door in Normandy. We spent a very memorable and moving 4th of July at the D-Day Beaches and at the World War II Memorial at Caen.

As our time in St. Brieuç came to an end, we celebrated with a reception at City Hall, and also with a standing-room-only *spectacle* at the Igloo. Skits, songs, dance, and instrument solos allowed students to showcase their talents. The show closed as everyone danced the night away to *stage* favorites like "Face à la mer" and "La Tribu de Dana". We spent our last days together in Paris, visiting many popular tourist attractions – Versailles, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre – plus a few sites, like the *égouts* (Paris sewers), that were more "unusual." Finally, with heavy hearts and heavy suitcases, but more than a little excitement to return home to post photos to Facebook and tell friends and family about our adventures, we boarded a plane for Indiana after an unforgettable summer together.



KREFELD (*Natalie Simmons*)

Twenty-seven students participated in IU's forty-third year in Krefeld, Germany, from June 5 to July 15, 2008. Natalie Simmons of Madison served as director and conversation teacher. Three doctoral students from IU completed the team: Megan Barrett, culture teacher and choir director, Andrew Kostakis, grammar instructor, and John Scott, literature teacher. Barbara Rogge and Carin Boettler capably coordinated housing and outings in Germany.

Students quickly adjusted to making their way daily to the Volkshochschule and enjoyed the Stadtwald city park, zoo, and pedestrian shopping area. This year's group was the first to experience two Krefeld treasures: Villa Merlaender and the Mies van der Rohe villas, Haus Esters and Haus Lange. Students were surprised at the modernism of van der Rohe's villas, built in 1928 and converted to modern art museums in 1955. Villa Merlaender provided a double cultural perspective, serving today as a Holocaust memorial site with documentation of the Nazi era in Krefeld, and also preserving two astonishing murals by noted Expressionist Heinrich Campendonk.

Three city visits completed the cultural-historical experience, as students explored Aachen, where the cathedral contains Charlemagne's coronation chair; Cologne; and the capital city, Berlin, which was the first cosmopolitan experience for many of the students. The Bundestag, Brandenburg Gate, Holocaust Museum, and evening attendance of the musical *Elisabeth* were the highlights of the trip. Students and teachers alike were pleased with the improvement in the group's language skills as, once again, the immersion program has proven its worth.



Sharing a moment over snacks in Krefeld.

CIUDAD REAL *(Stephanie Goetz)*

The summer of 2008 in La Mancha proved to be full of challenges to meet and memories to make. The chicos from Ciudad Real '08 banded together to form a bond not to be broken—a bond that can only be nourished (as alumni from the Ciudad Real program would know) by Helados Moran, late afternoons in the Plaza Mayor, Wednesday trips to the 'cine' (movies) and generous portions of 'pisto' and 'queso manchego.'

The Ciudad Real '08 experience was set to the grueling backdrop of many a 40+ degrees Celsius days and the omnipresent 'huelga' (strike) of public transportation. Despite these daunting forces working against us, we not only persevered, we had the time of our lives from celebrating Spain winning the Europe Cup in the fountains of the Plaza Mayor ('¡campeones!') to walking the enchanted streets of Granada at night, from our adventure to Madrid on the AVE and touring the Congress with Padre Zazo to our everyday adventures discovering the nooks and crannies of Ciudad Real—and maybe even ourselves along the way. The success of the Ciudad Real '08 program culminated appropriately with what the coordinator for going on 10 years described as the best 'despedida' (farewell party) she had witnessed. ¡Congrats, chicos of Ciudad Real '08, for creating yet another memorable summer in the land of Quijote and Sancho!



Singing their hearts out in Ciudad Real!

OVIEDO *(Erin Lavin)*

When a really awesome group of people get together to live and study in Oviedo, the result is pretty astounding. The 2008 IU Honors Program in Oviedo proved to be an amazing experience for us not only as individuals but as a group as well. We connected with the norms of our new surroundings: rainy days, Cola-Cao in the morning, long nights spent talking after dinner with families, ice cream as a new food group. On our own, we faced the challenge of navigating new surroundings and we improved incredibly in our Spanish skills. Together, we forged new relationships while sharing things like our common love of hiking up 435 steps (ok, not that many) every morning to get to class, trips to Gijon, Santiago de Compostela, and Los Picos de Europa/Covadonga.



Learning Spanish keeps them on their toes in Oviedo.

While the excursions helped us spend time together and learn about why Asturias holds such a unique place in the history of Spain, it was probably the daily time spent with our host families and new friends that showed us why Oviedo so appropriately became our own patria querida (cherished land). Displays of generosity, encouragement, kindness and some seriously good food from our hosts animated what we came to understand as the rich culture of Oviedo.

So then, along the way we discovered a great deal about ourselves, each other, the people of Asturias, and there was even a sighting of a rare, mythical animal visible only to IU Honors Program students called the ligre...

LEÓN *(Lorenzo García Amaya)*

In its four years of history, the León Honors Program has witnessed the academic, linguistic and personal growth of more than 120 Indiana high school students that are now studying at Indiana University, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, and other prestigious institutions. León is one of the most beautiful cities in northern Spain, and its privileged location allows fascinating day trips to cities such as Salamanca, Segovia, and Oviedo among others. No less well located are our classrooms, right at the heart of the main campus of the University of León, where our students can enjoy the sport facilities of the University.



Inma guides her Spanish protégés in León.

For both the students and the faculty members, each day in León entails a learning experience where everyone acquires new knowledge. Although a certain amount of effort is necessary to speak a second language, the León program guarantees that with every small step that a student takes during in the program, the reward will not be delayed to appear, as it is mostly found by the students in their improved Spanish performance. As a language instructor of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at IUB myself, I have had the opportunity to see former León students again in my classes at the college level. Seeing how much they improve and accomplish after their overseas stay is one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had during my professional career.



SAN LUIS POTOSÍ *(Leslie Van Howe)*

The IU Honors program participants in San Luis Potosí, México during the summer of 2008 shared a variety of experiences culminating in increased understanding of the ‘cultura potosina’, unforgettable friendships and (in most cases!) new-found passion for traveling abroad. From dancing ‘Los Viejitos’ with masks and canes, to visits to the local bakery, to playing football at the Parque Tangamanga, the students took full advantage of all that the summer had to offer with enthusiasm.



San Luis Potosí students show off their ‘Día de los Muertos’ altar.

The student group last summer proved to be open-minded and impressed us with their academic abilities, their enthusiasm during the excursions (even dancing in their seats and singing to the reggaeton played during the bus trips) and their willingness to embrace new and exotic foods, including gorditas, enchiladas potosinas, nopales and chilaquiles. In San Luis Potosi, students sampled ‘aguas de sabor’ and different ice cream flavors while exploring the centro. They bartered in the markets of San Miguel de Allende, walked through Diego Rivera’s house and the Quixote museum in Guanajuato and rambled amongst the pyramids of the ‘City of the Gods’ at Teotihuacan outside of Mexico City. In addition to these adventures, we celebrated the Fourth of July at a water park offering natural hot springs with a piece of traditional Mexican flair: the piñata.

The students had an unforgettable summer and returned to the US with impressive Spanish language abilities and many stories to share with family and friends. Students of 2008, we are proud of your accomplishments and look forward to hearing about your future successes. Congratulations!



Valencia students enjoy the bullfight.

VALENCIA *(Ivy Howell)*

Because it was my first year participating in the IU Honors Program, it seems almost impossible to narrow down all the memorable experiences of last summer in Valencia to a few highlights. We could consider the excursions to the castles of Sagunto and Peñíscola, days spent on the beach, Spain’s victory at the Eurocup, or even the Juanes concert as our favorite memories. But for me, it wasn’t only the big events, but every single day and activity that we experienced and shared. Watching our students explore and discover the city, nurture and develop new relationships, and fall in love with Spain was incredible. But overall the greatest experience was getting the chance to take part in this journey with thirty-two amazing students and three great instructors, and having the opportunity to get to know them.

As much as every single day of the program has become a cherished memory, the last two weeks are especially memorable because of a series of “sorpresas.” The word “sorpresa” appeared on our calendar at school several times, causing much anticipation and curiosity for our students. Each surprise, they discovered, would be bigger, better, and more meaningful than the last: from a scavenger hunt, to a powerpoint presentation of familiar faces and experiences, to our last night in Madrid with performances by all. These surprises have come to represent the Valencia program for many because they were filled with smiling faces, laughter, imagination, tears, fond memories, and new friends, and especially because they show how the experience left all of us “conectados.”



Alumni Connections

Since the program began in 1962, nearly 5,900 Indiana high school students have spent a summer immersing themselves in the language and culture of Mexico, France, Germany, or Spain. Honors Program alumni are everywhere, and we want to keep in touch with you! Plans are afoot for an Honors Program Alumni Association in the near future, so keep an eye out for information in future editions of the Polyglot Press. We would also like to include information on our alumni right here in the newsletter. Send an email to iuhpfl@indiana.edu with “Alumni Update” in the subject. You can tell everyone about momentous occasions (graduation, marriage, etc.) or just let us know where you are and what you are up to these days. Please include your name (and maiden name if applicable), program city, and year of participation, and we will include your update in this section of the Polyglot Press.

If you are interested in contributing an article to a future edition, please contact us at iuhpfl@indiana.edu.

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