

# the Polyglot

Ciao Buongiorno Wie geht's? **Hallo!** Salut  
 ¡Hola! ¿Qué tal? Buenos días SALVE  
 BONJOUR Wie geht's? Salut 你好  
 こんにちは! χαίρε ΠΡΙΒΕΤ! שלום

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE SPRING 2006 ISSUE NO. 13

## A NEW HOME FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

In early February, amid great excitement, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures moved into its new home, Jastak-Burgess Hall. Located near historic Old College, Recitation Hall and Mechanical Hall, the new foreign languages building has a history—and a future—all its own.

Two former fraternity houses originally built in the 1920s were completely renovated and joined together to form the beautiful Jastak-Burgess Hall. The Sigma Phi Epsilon house (1922) and the Sigma Nu house (1929) had been designed by architects Day and Klauder in the Georgian style, with fine brick work, marble accents, and slate roofs with dormer windows. Respecting and enhancing these architectural features, a new central structure that connects the two historic houses and serves as the main entrance to Jastak-Burgess Hall was designed by architect Michael Deptula of ABHA Architects. The restored and enlarged building boasts a welcoming vestibule with Tuscan columns, fine cherry staircases, wood balusters, paneled doors, and circular interior windows that provide magnificent light and elegance. A delicate and appropriately scaled entry porch appointed with cast stone columns and mahogany trim announces the formal entrance to Jastak-Burgess Hall from the north campus green.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is extremely grateful to Sarah Jastak-Burgess and her husband Leslie Burgess, for their generous gift in support of our new home! We are proud to have our building named in their honor. Sarah Jastak-



Burgess, who practiced psychology in Wilmington, earned a master's degree ('54) and a doctorate ('63) from the University of Delaware; Leslie Burgess (University of California, Berkeley '43, MBA Harvard, '61) worked in Africa establishing a school  
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*Jastak-Burgess Hall is the new home of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures on the North Green near Old College, named in honor of two longtime University benefactors, Sarah Jastak-Burgess and Leslie Burgess, pictured on the right. The dedication ceremony was held on April 21, 2006.*



## Jasktek-Burgess Hall continued from page 1

of business administration. Philanthropists long active in the arts, the Burgesses have donated major collections of amber, Russian icons, and sculpture and art from around the world, including many works that they themselves commissioned, to the University of Delaware. Their longstanding interest in cultural exchange and in the enhancement of the multicultural wealth of the UD campus makes it even more fitting that their names be given to a building devoted to the study of foreign languages and cultures.

Their latest gift has helped to make possible Jastak-Burgess Hall, itself a work of art that inspires us all! It holds sixty-two faculty offices, a luxury (but an extremely practical one) for a large department whose faculty has traditionally been dispersed in several buildings. Our lovely offices are full of light and beautifully appointed with new furniture, as are the well-designed administrative suite, the second-floor meeting room, the third-floor faculty lounge, and two areas fully equipped for the needs of supplemental faculty. Adjacent to the administrative suite is the Rollins Conference Center, which houses the exquisite furniture donated to the University by the Rollins family. The Foreign Language Media Center, complete with state-of-the-art computer clusters and a small theater, is installed in the well-equipped lower level of the building, alluring with its traditional columns and newer-than-new technology.

Department faculty are fully cognizant of the advantages offered by this wonderful building. Says Dr. Laura Salsini, Associate Professor of Italian, "I'm thrilled that the FLL faculty is finally all under one roof. This will greatly increase communication among the various language programs." Students also love their department's new home. As Dr. Bonnie Robb, Associate Professor of French and coordinator of the Foreign Language Teacher Education program, points out, "My advisees have all commented on the beauty of Jastak-Burgess Hall, as well as on the convenience of finding me and all of their other professors in the same building!"

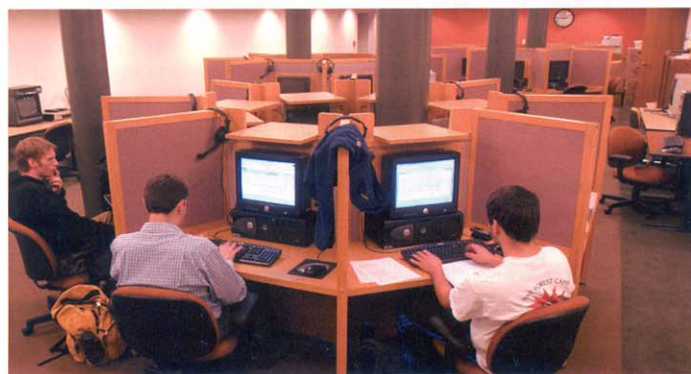
Dr. Monika Shafi, Elias Ahuja Professor of German and director of the department's graduate studies programs, has placed an orchid on the window sill of her office, as a metaphor for the exquisite building and its purpose. Assistant to the Chair Dorie Galloway exclaims, "The building is beautiful, but my favorite part is the woodwork, and how bright and cheery my new office is!"

Dr. Thomas McCone, Director of the Foreign Language Media Center, is highly enthusiastic about the new installation: "The new Media Center is an exuberant melding of contemporary architectural form with strong technological presence in everything from its understated video viewing room to its state-of-the-art reception desk. Visitors find working in its colonnaded clusters both inviting and comfortable, and the immense quiet of the setting brings refuge and focus to anyone engaged in serious academic enterprise. Everything about the new Media Center says that this is a place where the virtual and the physical worlds enjoy inspiring convergence."

Dr. Ali Alalou, Assistant Professor of French and Foreign Language Pedagogy, finds the building well-ordered and commodious: "The building is spacious, well-designed and comfortable; the meeting room is welcoming, full of light and beautiful; it is rewarding to feel the sense of space."

Jastak-Burgess Hall is experienced as both spacious and cozy. Dr. Jianguo Chen, Assistant Professor of Chinese, noting his excitement at entering the building, declares, "it is very personal and cozy, making me want to stay a bit longer in the office after a day's teaching. I can't but feel amazed by the meticulous architectural attention paid to each minute detail."

Dr. Richard Zipser, Chair of Foreign Languages and Literatures,



*Rollins Conference Center, which houses the exquisite furniture donated to the University by the Rollins family. The Foreign Language Media Center, complete with state-of-the-art computer clusters and a small theater, is installed in the well-equipped lower level of the building, alluring with its traditional columns and newer-than-new technology. Ms. Marion Bernard-Amos, Study Abroad Coordinator, enjoys her new office.*

sums up the exciting promise of Jastak-Burgess Hall: "One's work environment is really important. Needless to say, our magnificent new surroundings are utterly inspiring! Now that we are all in the same building, there is bound to be more collaboration on various kinds of projects, and I predict that our faculty, already very productive, will become even more so. I'm confident that we'll live up to the expectations of what is surely the most beautiful foreign languages building in the country!"

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Sarah Jastak-Burgess and Leslie Burgess for their generosity to the University of Delaware and to our department, and to President David Roselle for designating us as the occupants of Jastak-Burgess Hall.