Dear Parents,

One of the University of Minnesota, Morris’ oldest and most successful service learning programs is the partnership between students in Stacey Aronson’s Spanish language courses and young people in the Morris community. For the last five years, as part of their Spanish courses, students have been planning fun activities for children to teach them the Spanish language and about Latino culture. College students benefit by getting to know teachers and children in the community and by practicing what they are learning in class, and we hope kids will benefit by learning a new language and culture and enjoying the activities! This class is just one of many (about 20 each year) that includes a community-based learning component that both enriches the community and enhances student learning.

This newsletter will acquaint you with these dedicated UMM students who will be working with your children. Your comments, suggestions, and questions are welcome! Feel free to contact me at (320) 589-6257.

Argie Manolis  
Service-Learning Coordinator

A note from Professor Stacey Parker Aronson

Service-Learning Goals . . . .

What is most challenging for Spanish language students is the development of the speaking portion of the course. Aside from studying abroad, few opportunities exist for them to use their linguistic competence in Spanish in a meaningful way outside of the confines of a structured classroom environment. To overcome this obstacle, I have decided to develop the potential for real-life conversation experience and to enhance course content by incorporating a service-learning component. Service-learning endeavors to join class instruction with community service and outreach in such a way as to mutually benefit both the community partners and the students. Through the incorporation of service-learning in my advanced Spanish language course, I intend to:

- Provide real-life opportunities for my students to engage in meaningful conversation in Spanish in a non-threatening environment;
- Help students recognize the practical applications of language study;
- Create a higher level of motivation for students to continue to study Spanish;
- Reinforce the linguistic concepts and vocabulary presented in the course;
- Increase students’ feelings of accomplishment and self-esteem;
- Carrying out identified community needs.
MORRIS AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Marilyn Beyer’s 1st grade class

My name is Julia Schmitt. I am 19 and a freshman at UMM. I’ve been studying Spanish for seven years, starting in Minnetonka and continuing here in Morris. Before I lived in Minnetonka, I lived in Minneapolis going to a bilingual school. There, Spanish and English were taught to the students. This is what makes me want to teach Spanish. I believe it is important for children to understand other cultures and languages from around the world. I enjoy dance and music, having experience teaching dance to children of all ages and am excited to try it with Spanish!

My name is Sara Wolf, communications major and a of the UMM Cougar Soccer (UMAC) championship title. and I am a junior at the University of Minnesota, Morris. With a speech minor in Spanish, I hope to go into the field of advertising. I am also a part team and currently defending our Upper Midwest Athletic Conference Playing has always been fun for me and just like with Spanish, there is always more to be learned!

Lori Boettcher’s 1st grade class

My name is Jennifer Baga, and I am a Spanish student at the University of Minnesota, Morris. I was born in Massachusetts and am currently from Duluth, Minnesota. I am 18 years old and have been taking Spanish for 5 years. I chose to continue with it because Spanish is one of the most dominant languages in our country and it will be very useful when I am an Elementary School teacher. I have loved working with kids ever since I was young. I have four siblings, three of which are younger than I am. I hope this experience will give me a better understanding of what being a teacher is like and will make me more comfortable in front of a classroom.

My name is Addriana Her, and I love Spanish! I’ve been taking Spanish ever since 7th grade and may end up majoring in it. I’ve been in like to work with more students this semester excited and I can’t wait!

Amy Millard’s (Christa Udelhofen’s) 1st grade class

My name is Emily Carroll. Even though this is my first year at the University, I have been studying Spanish for about six years. I love learning a foreign language; not only does it teach me about a culture outside my own, but it has significantly increased my understanding and appreciation of my native language, English. Being able to communicate effectively in another language is a valuable skill, whether one is traveling abroad or working with immigrants to one’s home country. I hope to share with young students my love for this beautiful language!

My name is Natalia Thompson. I’ve been studying Spanish since I was a freshman in high school. My father is from Mexico, and my grandma doesn’t speak much English so that’s what sparked interest in learning the language. teaching Spanish but right now I’m a global business major.
Gretchen Gillis’s 2nd grade class

Hi! My name is Sarah Cagle. I am a Psychology and Spanish major at the University of Minnesota, Morris. I am originally from a northern suburb of the twin cities, Plymouth, Minnesota. Moving from the big city to Morris was a big adjustment, but I love it here. I am currently on my third year of school here in Morris, and plan to graduate next spring. My goal is to go to Graduate school and work in the field of Clinical Psychology. I also am interested in helping Spanish immigrants adapt to the United States. I volunteered to teach Spanish at the elementary school because I love working with children and watching them learn. I have always been around children and am currently teaching a dance class to preschoolers. I look forward to teaching your child and watching them grow as they learn about the Spanish language.

My name is Nissa Staffaroni. I enjoy Spanish language. I have been taking Spanish for seven years to work with the children (I have worked as a camp new language! because it is interesting and useful to know a second throughout high school and college. I am excited counselor for several summers) and teach them a

Brian Johnson’s 2nd grade class

My name is Nathan Jarnot. I am a sophomore at UMM from Rice, Minnesota. I’m double majoring in Biology and Spanish and hope to have a bilingual for the past six years and have spent time touring Costa Rica as well as living with a Costa Rican family. I enjoy Spanish because it gives me the ability to been able to communicate with. My goal is to promote Spanish immigrants’ transition into our culture.

My name is Jamie Oyanagi. I am an Elementary Education, Special Education major with a language emphasis in Spanish. I am a sophomore at UMM. Last year I worked with a first grade classroom at MAES. That was a wonderful experience for me to be able to get some hands on experience in the education field. I have volunteered at my home church for three years with the younger children’s Sunday School. I also have worked with the Special Needs Sunday School. I am a part of the Big Friend, Little Friend Program. I have been involved with this program for two years now. This year, I am the treasurer for the group.

Suzanne Smith’s 2nd grade class

My name is Theresa McMenomy, Latin American Area Studies. I have to Costa Rica, Mexico, Guatemala sharing my knowledge with them.

My name is Ruth Olson. I am a first year student from New Ulm, Minnesota. I am in the pre-medicine program and am considering a double major in Spanish and Biology. I love to travel and learn about other cultures. I have traveled to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Guadelope, Antigua, and 35 states including Alaska and Hawaii. I love to watch and play basketball, volleyball, and football. My favorite movie is “ELF” and I love country music. This is my fourth year of Spanish, and I am very excited to teach children about this exciting and vibrant language and culture.

Ruth Olson
Kim Erdahl’s class

My name is Anna Westrom, and I’m a senior at UMM. I’m majoring in Global Business Management and Spanish. I am interested in Spanish because I was born and grew up in Belize, a tiny, tropical country on the Caribbean in Central America. English is its official language; however, many people have immigrated there from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico so there are a lot of Spanish speaking people who live there. I am more recently from Canada and came to Minnesota to teach in a small private school and loved it. I enjoy working with children and have done tutoring for elementary and secondary children in the Cyrus, Morris, Elbow Lake, and Glenwood areas. I enjoy children and also love our 29 nieces and nephews.

Molly Kuether, science major with a minor in old. I’m a child of bilingual I enjoy working with children peace!)

I’m a freshman at the University of Minnesota, Morris. I’m a political Management. I’ve been taking Spanish for 14 years, since I was four years education. This past summer I was a Spanish teacher to three young girls. and I am happy to be working with yours. ¡Sueña por la paz! (Dream for

Sue Helberg’s class

My name is Arielle Anderson, and I am a freshman here at UMM. My intended major is Spanish with an area of concentration in interior design. I am also a member of the Cougar Women’s Basketball team. I came to Morris from Minnetonka, and it has been fun to live in a small town. That’s something I definitely was not use to. I really enjoy learning Spanish because I feel it is going to be very important with all of the immigration into the United States to be able to communicate with more people. I also have a passion for traveling, and it seems that many of the places I want to visit are Spanish-speaking. Plus, Spanish is fun!

My name is Emily Croaston. I am a student at the University of Minnesota, Morris. I am from Minneapolis. This is my 7th year studying Spanish. I have gone to Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, and Uruguay with Spanish teachers and students from my high school. I am very interested in learning about different cultures. I am currently planning on becoming an Elementary School teacher. I have had a little experience teaching kindergarteners church for four years.

LOS AMIGOS EN ESPAÑOL (COMMUNITY EDUCATION)

My name is Grace Doval. I am a freshman at the University and I am studying Spanish and Psychology. I have studied Spanish for nearly thirteen years. In grade school, we were required to take Spanish and I loved it so much, I took it in high school as well. I briefly taught Spanish to first graders during my Senior year.

My name is Emily Schwieger and I’m in Minnesota, which is a small town near Beyond doing homework, I like to read school, and this is my second year of I like languages and learning about other my second year here at Morris. I’m originally from Nicollet, Mankato. My majors are political science and Spanish. I enjoy studying Spanish because places and cultures through language.