Higher ed sees decline in language studies.

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Despite much talk about the importance of glo- balization, there is no denying that colleges and universities are losing foreign-language instructors, especially those who are proficient in non-European languages. Many departments of foreign languages and cultures have seen a decrease in the number of their faculty over the past ten years. A recent study conducted by the Modern Language Association (MLA) has shown that the number of people working in language instruction has declined by 7.5 percent. The decline in Arabic language instruction has been particularly significant, with a drop of 7.8 percent. Russian is also down 17.9 percent. And it is not just the Arabic language that has suffered. The German language, for example, has fallen 8.2 percent, and Spanish, the most studied language in colleges and universities, has declined by 10.1 percent. These declines are not only alarming for the field of foreign-language instruction but also for the future of our global society. As our world becomes more interconnected, it is important that we continue to offer a wide variety of foreign-language courses to our students. This not only helps them to develop language skills but also broadens their understanding of different cultures and ways of life.

WILDEY

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“I’ve known Steve for 50 years; I actually was the one who more or less got him into the business,” said his wife, Jenny. “And now he’s just so happy and proud of what he’s doing.”

The Wildey of Springfield is proud to present the Erin Bode Group Holiday Concert, performing at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 15. The Bode Group is a unique collaboration of some of the finest musicians in the Midwest. The concert will be held in the main auditorium, and tickets are available for $25 at the door or online at wildeytheatre.com. For more information, call 618-276-1700.

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The company reports a 39 percent increase in auctions in town. “It’s so much fun. We have people come from all over this country, and we’re really pleased to see that,” said Spencer Paul, 23, one of the newer members of the club. “It’s something that is more artistic. We have people from all walks of life, from steel workers to retired firemen. More and more people are joining the club every day, and we have a waiting list of 250 people.”

The Woodturners of Southwest Missouri are a group of people who share a love for woodworking. They meet every month to discuss different woodworking techniques, and they have a demonstration woodturner at each meeting to show the members how to turn wood. They also started a mentoring program so new members could be paired with more experienced members who could help them learn the craft. “The club brings in a demonstrating woodturner every month,” said Jackson. “It’s a great way to learn about different techniques and to see what others are doing.”

The club meets on the second Tuesday of every month, and their meetings are held at the Springfield News-Leader, 100 S. Main St. For more information, call 417-866-3980.

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