The Chair

Robert W. Acker, Professor – The semester is winding down and the festive season is upon us. I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday break and convey to you my best wishes for a successful and prosperous New Year. Many faculty will be busy during the upcoming January Wintersession. Linda Gillison will be directing a Study Abroad program in Rome, Ione Crummy will be conducting a theater course in Paris, Ona Renner-Fahey will be teaching a course on Slavic 'Camp' Literature and Film, Alicia Gignoux will be teaching Advanced Practice in Conversational Spanish, and I will be offering a course on Germanic Mythology and Culture. We will all be back for the first day of our contract on Jan. 17, 2007 ready to face the exciting challenges that lie ahead.

German

Liz Ametsbichler, Professor and Hiltrud Arens were part of a UM delegation to the University of Potsdam (Germany) October 22-25th, where they met with administrators and faculty to discuss possibilities for building up and expanding the partnership between the two universities.

Hiltrud Arens, Associate Professor - The article “The ‘Circus of Cultures’ and Culture as Circus in Rafik Schami’s Reise zwischen Nacht und Morgen” by Hiltrud Arens was published in the 2006 fall issue of Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies 42.6. pp. 302-320.

Marton Marko, Assistant Professor - In German Club news, work continues toward achieving recognized status as an ASUM organization. In the meanwhile, the club-in-progress is planning to host a holiday party toward the end of the semester. In my own news, in early November, I attended the Literature / Film Association’s annual meeting at Towson University outside of Baltimore, where I presented my paper ‘Wim Wenders’ American Odysseys. Stretches of the

Dialogic Imagination.” The talk featured a distinctly Montanan flavor, as I focused on Wenders’ most recent film, “Don’t Come Knocking,” which takes place largely in Butte.

Russian

Ludmilla Prednewa announced her retirement effective at the end of the academic year in 2007. We wish her well as she moves to the coast of Maine to open up an art gallery. The Department will be conducting a search in the Spring to find a replacement.

Ona Renner-Fahey attended in November the National Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Washington D.C.. She organized twin panels entitled "Encounters with the Other World," served as a discussant on one and on the other presented a paper called "Modernist Nostalgia for a Lost Spirit World: Mourning the Wood Sprite."

A three-week study-abroad is being planned for this summer. Students will be spending about two weeks in Samara, a city on the Volga with a population of about 1 million people, and then a few days in Moscow. The trip will take place during the second summer session.

Spanish

Clary Loisel, Associate Professor - I will take my study abroad group to Guanajuato, Mexico, for the spring semester of 2007. Because of civil violence in Oaxaca, I had to cancel our traditional program there. (I was fortunate to be able to create a brand new program from scratch in very little time). Throughout the spring semester, I hope to provide updates. Stay tuned!

The next issue of the MCLL newsletter will appear on February 1, 2007.