The Chair

Robert W. Acker, Professor — Another month has passed by quickly and Department members have been busy with a flurry of activities. Of particular note are the many out-reach and service endeavors which meet the needs of our students beyond the classroom as well as the community at large. My congratulations to everyone listed below for their hard work and dedication.

Arabic

Samir Bitar was the guest speaker at the annual international meeting of the Madison Valley Woman's Club on Thursday, October 5, at noon in the Ennis fire hall. He spoke about growing up in East (Arab) Jerusalem, his family's life, the definition of the Arab world and the Muslim world and how each American can contribute to bringing more peace to the current world situation.

Samir always looks forward to speaking and answering questions about the Arabic language and today's Arab and Muslim worlds and he was received very well by the people of Ennis and the Madison Valley community. The following day, Friday, October the 6th, Samir was invited to give the same talk to everybody at the Ennis High School. The students, their teachers and some of their parents gathered at the school's gym.

The session at Ennis High closed with several of the students approaching Samir to ask about how they can get started with their studies of Arabic language and culture. Samir's visit to the Madison Valley reflects very well on the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and The University of Montana.

French


Chris Anderson accompanied the President on the Silver Cloud Outreach train tour and represented MCLL/French at Helena High School, Park County High in Livingston, and Skyview High in Billings, September 12-14.

Ione Crummy, Associate Professor - I presented two papers at conferences in recent months.


“Love’s Post Mortem in Alfred de Musset’s La Confession d’un enfant du siècle, George Sand’s Elle et lui and Diane Kurys’ Les Enfants du siècle,” 17th International George

During winter session, I’m taking students to Paris for my French Theater course.

Michel Valentin, Associate Professor - The French section sponsored through the Alliance Française de Missoula and the Montana Committee for the Humanities (“immediate action grant” received from MCH) and the Services Culturels of the French Consulate of San Francisco:

a) the program “Molière than thou” (Sept 19, at the Masquer Theatre) a one-man show introduction to Molière’s main characters; 
b) the visit and conference of writer Luc Lang; 
c) a French creative workshop under the splendid guidance of Anne Hemingway (from the Alliance Française de New York) –Sept 27 to Sept 29; and 
d) a conference by the Senior Editor of the Agence France Presse in Berlin, Ms. Henriette Lowisch on the upcoming French Presidential elections and their repercussions in Europe.

The coming attractions in the French sphere will be:

a) Nov.3, a dance-poetry evening with Maryse Lovelette and Claire Mouflard; and 
b) Nov. 17 a conference on Leopold Sedar Senghor (ex-President of Senegal) and African Philosophy by the Professor Diagne from the University of Chicago (also sponsored by The UM International Programs Office).

For more info please see www.afmissoula.org.

Italian
Evelina Badery, instructor of Italian, and Desiree Gerner, MCLL administrative assistant and student of Italian, have established a conversation table at downtown Break Espresso. The group has formed an Italian Club (advisor Evelina Badery) to be recognized very soon by ASUM. The club will have a potluck with Italian dishes at the end of the semester and an Italian film series next spring. Il Circolo italiano meets weekly Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Break Espresso 432 N Higgins. The students have also formed a study group that meets Sundays.

For more information, please contact Desiree Gerner at desiree.gerner@mso.umt.edu or call 239-7134.

Japanese
Charles Exley, Assistant Professor - I spent two very humid weeks in Tokyo this summer taking pictures, sound recordings, and video footage of areas of cultural interest (temples, restaurants, travel agencies, shopping arcades, train stations) thanks to support received from a research grant from University Research and Development. As I gradually integrate my summer recordings, other streaming media, podcasts, and level-appropriate websites into Third and Fourth-Year Japanese, I hope to lead students from their textbooks and audio cassettes into the streets of Tokyo and to see more grammar and vocabulary in action (Japanese in Action, perhaps?). As part of an ongoing collaboration in the Japanese section, I also developed online character flashcards for First through Third-Year Japanese. The flashcards are available on our section website.

Judith Rabinovitch, Professor - The Japanese section is happy to report that we will have three visitors for nine days in November, from Kumamoto Prefectural University, in Japan. Two undergraduate students majoring in Japanese Second Language Teaching and their KPU professor, Dr Baba, will be attending our Japanese classes and conducting some with me. We took around 120 books with us for our review table.

German
Liz Ametsbichler, Professor - The Campus Fulbright Committee met on Monday, October 9th, to interview seven applicants for this year’s competition. As the campus Fulbright Program Advisor, I would like to thank Timothy Bradstock for once again being willing to serve on this committee.

As Book Review Editor for the German Studies Review, I attended the annual conference of the German Studies Association held in Pittsburgh from September 29th-October 1st. I was fortunate enough to be able to take my trusty GSR assistant, Carly D’Andrea, along
extracurricular sessions with volunteers from our second-year Japanese class.

Also, Dr. Renichi Suzuki has recently arrived at UM as a visiting professor from Kumamoto University. He is affiliated with the English Department. Dr Suzuki, a John Clare scholar, and his wife Masuko will be hosting a Japanese Table with our language students once a week starting October 18. All who wish to practice their Japanese are welcome to attend! The group will meet just outside the Bookstore in the UC at 1:00 every Wednesday.

Judith Rabinovitch, Professor of Japanese, and Timothy Bradstock, Professor of Chinese, on October 7, did a book signing and reading of their new book, Dance of the Butterflies. The signing and reading were part of The University of Montana’s Faculty Author Series.

Spanish


Maria Bustos, Professor - I hope the semester is an exciting and good experience for everybody. It certainly is for me. I am preparing my seminar that I will teach to PhD students, certainly not like teaching Spanish 312. I feel as if I was taking my Comps again. Also the University has so many presentations, lectures etc. I am also attending the meetings of a research grupo led by Dr. Ricardo Kaliman and their discussions are very interesting.

An article of mine has appeared in ALBA DE AMERICA.

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