The Chair

Bob Acker: The semester is rapidly coming to a close and the festive season is once again 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. A few of us will be busy during the upcoming January Wintersession. Alicia Gignoux will be teaching Advanced Practice in Conversational Spanish and I will be offering a course on Germanic Mythology and Culture. Ione Crummy will be serving as a resource person for the Honor’s College study trip to Ireland. We will all be back for the first day of our contract on Jan. 16, 2008 ready to face the exciting challenges that lie ahead.

MALT

Spent time with a program off-campus or overseas since last spring? Have teaching ideas, classroom experience using technology, or research you’d like to share with colleagues? News or announcements about students, colleagues, events? Connections to other campuses and/or schools about which you’d like to inform colleagues? Comments or insights regarding the profession? Please consider offering a contribution relating to any of these topics - or others - to illuminate fellow teachers around the state about your work and the work of others in the upcoming issue of the MALT Bulletin! Have questions or considering a submission? Please contact Marty Marko at marton.marko@mso.umt.edu or drop by his office in LA 435. Submission deadline is December 15th.

French

Ione Crummy gave a power-point presentation to the Davidson Honor’s College group that is going to Ireland over Wintersession 2008 on Cultural and Historical Connections between France and Ireland from Mary Queen of Scots to Samuel Becket on Sunday Nov. 4.

Michel Valentin, together with students of French, the French Section, and the Dept. of Drama/Dance, will be giving a presentation on the Life and Work of Molière at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 3, in the Montana Theatre. This is in conjunction with the performance of Molière's play Tartuffe by Drama/Dance. All are invited to attend

German

The well-known Austrian author Elisabeth Reichart was in Missoula November 4-5th. On Monday, she visited 2nd and 3rd-year German classes and in the evening, she gave a reading from her works at the Davidson Honors College. There was a reception for her afterwards at the home of Liz Ametsbichler. We were able to bring her to campus with the generous support of the Provost’s Office, the Office of the Vice President for Research, the office of the Dean of CAS, and the President’s Office.

Liz Ametsbichler will attend the KCTOS (Knowledge, Creativity and Transformations of Societies) Conference in Vienna, Austria, December 6-9th and present a paper “Fräulein Else: Schnitzler’s Novella Adapted for the American Stage.”

Also congratulations to graduating senior, Meghan Adney, who successfully passed the written exam for high honors in November.

Marty Marko attended the annual conference of the Literature/Film Association at the University of Kansas, Lawrence on October 11-14, where he presented a paper: “Adaptation Effects. Bertolt Brecht and the New German Cinema of the 1970’s.”

Japanese
The Japanese section is happy to welcome Alan Rosen, a visiting professor of English from Kumamoto University in Japan. Prof Rosen will be here for a year and plans to teach a course (titled "Japan Through Western Eyes") in spring semester featuring the 19th century writer Lafcadio Hearn, who lived and taught English in Kumamoto for several years. Our students are greatly looking forward to taking the class.

There was strong student interest in study abroad programs this year, and thirteen of our students have now applied to go to Japan on exchanges. The Japanese section is using a new 'interactive' textbook (titled Yookoso!) this year. It is extremely challenging and uses the latest interactive CD and web-based technology for dialogs, exercises, and quiz practice activities. The students have received it favorably and appear to enjoy the computer-assisted activities.

Charles Exley continues his research on a Japanese writer named Satō Haruo (1892-1964), a flamboyant and multi-talented painter, essayist, poet, and novelist whose literary career took off in the 1910s and continued for five decades. Dr. Exley is particularly interested in the use of fantasy, melancholy, detectives, and colonial travel in Sato’s prewar fiction.

Yuka Tachibana is investigating the role of web-based Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI) as it relates to the acquisition of Japanese reading skills. She would like to learn how CAI reading curricula can help students improve their reading ability as compared to more traditional textbook approaches.

Judith Rabinovitch is completing an article and translation of the poetry of Inaga Nanpo (fl. 1880-1900), a Meiji-period school principal and Chinese studies scholar who used Chinese verse forms (kanshi) as his expressive medium. The poems are written in classical Chinese (the language of male intellectuals of the time) and offer many insights into the life and times of a young, sensitive scholar witnessing the end of feudalism in Japan, the advent of war with China, and the industrialization of his nation. She is also working on a second volume of Heian-period court kanshi (translated into English) with Timothy Bradstock of the Chinese section at UM.

Russian
Ona Renner-Fahey will be attending an annual national Slavic conference in December in Chicago. She will be presenting a paper entitled “Constructions of the Self in Nadezhda Durova’s Kavalerist-devitsa” as part of a panel devoted to women and autobiography. She will also be chairing a panel with papers given by two alumni of our own Russian program here at UM: Professor Thomas Seifrid is currently chair of the Slavic department at the University of Southern California and Dr. James (Frank) Goodwin is an Assistant Professor of Russian at the University of Florida.

The Russian Club recently gave a presentation on Russian culture for students at Hellgate High School. Five club members (Mylisa Jones, Samantha Schorzman, Tyler Dolan, Erin Cole, and Chad Chittenden) put together the presentation, focusing on such aspects as politics, etiquette, superstitions, fashion, and the national beverage (i.e., vodka!). This is the second year that the Russian Club has participated in this outreach event.

The next issue of the MCLL newsletter will appear on February 1, 2008.