The Chair
Welcome back to the beginning of the Spring Semester! Congratulations are in order to Liz Ametsbichler, Tim Bradstock and Judith Rabinovitch, who received sabbaticals for the coming academic year. Congrats also to Hiltrud Arens and Clary Loisel, who received faculty department grants to bring well known authors to campus. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to our Administrative Associate Phyllis Duran, who has been hospitalized since Feb. 2.

Classics
During the Wintersession, seventeen students accompanied Linda Gillison to Italy as this year’s iteration of the Italy Study Abroad program, which began in 1995. They visited Milan (short, short days, cold and surrealistically foggy but lots and lots of wonderful art and architecture), Florence (milder, lots of Renaissance beauty, and shopping, shopping), and Rome (eleven jam-packed days of antiquity, the middle ages, the Renaissance, Baroque, everything through Giorgio di Chirico and Picasso—and lots of gelato). In every city, they encountered raucous political demonstrations. Each student gave an on-site presentation of research done during the autumn orientation seminar, and they did, without exception, splendid jobs. The program will next be offered in connection with the January 2011 Wintersession.

German
Liz Ametsbichler is currently directing the German Section’s annual semester-long Study Abroad program in Germany and Austria. Nine students are participating this year. Recent M.A. graduate Rob Mottram has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in German at the University of Oregon. The German Club is busy preparing for a Baking Party on Feb. 23 and a Faschingsfest on Feb. 24. Both events begin at 6 p.m. in the International House.

Spanish
Clary Loisel spent Wintersession 2009 in Chile as the director of a new mini study abroad program. Seven undergraduate students participated and attended classes at the Universidad Mayor on Chilean history, economics, politics, history, literature, cooking, and dance. Excursions included watching Latin America’s largest fireworks display on New Year’s Eve from a beautiful vantage point in Valparaiso, touring downtown Santiago, visiting the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda’s principal residence in Isla Negra, and observing condors fly through the Andes in northern Patagonia.

Kelly Noe’s Spanish 202 Hispanic Film series will continue this semester. The movies will be shown from 7-9 p.m. in SS 356:
• Monday, February 23 “Pan’s Labyrinth”
• Monday, March 23 “Mondays in the Sun”
• Monday, April 27 “Under the Same Moon”

Naomi Lapidus Shin presented two papers at the 2009 Spanish in the US & Spanish in Contact with Other Languages in Coral Gables, Florida: Shin & Otheguy, “Reduction in the relevance of factors that condition variable linguistic behavior as a form of language contact among second-generation speakers of Spanish in the U.S.” and Alcalá, Shin & Solorio, “Las keys vs. el baggie: gender assignment in mixed-language texts.”

Everyone is invited to come to the Spanish conversation table which takes place Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the UC Commons food court.