Dear Friends of MCLL,

The Autumn Semester has come to a close and winter has descended on western Montana. At the end of the year we always think of our many friends across the country who have so kindly supported our activities with their donations. On behalf of the Department I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and extend to you our best wishes for a happy and peaceful new year.

There have been several new developments in the Department this year. As you see in the Newsletter, four colleagues are on leave (on sabbaticals or exchanges) and we welcomed several new colleagues to replace them. We also now have five Fulbright Teaching Assistants who come to us from Austria, Japan, Russia, Spain, and Turkey. Over the summer we managed to upgrade all of our remaining classrooms to multi-media capacity, which greatly enhances our teaching effectiveness. Our smaller Language Lab has just been renovated with brand new computers. We continue to seek funding and/or donations to modernize our large Language Lab which is aging rapidly.

The MCLL Faculty continues to excel in their teaching mission and at the same time to be very productive in their research and service. You can read about their many outstanding achievements in the pages that follow. Many of our students have participated in faculty lead study abroad programs or in University-sponsored direct placement programs at foreign universities. Our many language clubs continue to thrive and sponsor a host of activities.

I would like to sincerely thank all of our donors, who are listed below, for their generous contributions to the Department during this past year. The University continues to be chronically underfunded and we depend on your gifts to help support a variety of educational activities and to provide needed scholarships for a great many deserving students. The entire Department appreciates your continued help and support.

Cordially

Bob Acker, Chair

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Arabic

Enrollment in Arabic language classes continues to increase. Our 2 instructors are Mr. Samir Bitar and Dr. Khaled Huthaily. Samir attended a Workshop for Teachers of Arabic at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C. this past summer and participated in an ACTFL Workshop on Oral Proficiency Interview Tester Training. He also completed the first two stages of teacher training in Assessment and Pedagogy. Khaled received his Ed.D. degree from the University of Montana this past Spring. He gave a presentation entitled “Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language Based on Phonological Knowledge” at the National Arabic Language Conference at DePaul University in June. In August he developed an online 300-level Arabic language course for National University in San Diego. He gave a presentation “Second Language Curriculum Development” at the MEA-MFT Educators’ Conference in Missoula in October.

Chinese

This year numbers have continued to increase in the Chinese program. Some fifty students enrolled in Chinese 101 and many continue on to the second year and third years. This reflects a growing recognition of China as an emerging global power and paramount trading partner with the United States. During the past semester, the program’s two instructors, Professor Bradstock and Dr. Cao, have been reviewing the vast range of new Chinese language textbooks published in recent years and expect soon to phase in a new textbook, beginning at the first-year level.

Interest remains strong in the section’s literary and cultural course offerings. Thirty students took the introductory Chinese Culture and Civilization course. Other courses taught this past year include Twentieth Century Chinese Fiction and a new one developed by Professor Bradstock entitled Readings in Classical Chinese, designed to develop competency in reading ancient texts (such as the Confucian Analects) in the original classical language. Dr. Cao’s weekly Chinese Language Table provides students with the opportunity to hone their language skills with native speakers and learn more about contemporary Chinese society.

Classics

The Classics Section has experienced and enjoyed a significant growth this year in its majors and minors, 25 total at the most recent count. Our general education courses help attract students. Professor Gillison’s Mythology and Women in Antiquity courses, Professor Ausland’s Greek and Roman history courses, Professor Semanoff’s courses in epic and tragedy, and Professor Scott’s Survey of Classical Literature are examples of such courses. But we are also grateful to our high school colleagues, who have sent us freshman that were committed to Classics. We also boast about our five students who are pursuing PhDs at other fine universities and of two more students who are working on their Latin teaching certificate.

Professor Hayden Ausland nurtured an international partnership with the University of Tromso, Norway, and is currently on exchange there for the year. He is teaching Philosophy and collaborating in research with his Norwegian colleagues. He has also attended a conference in Chania, Crete, where he presented his research on Plato, some of which he has published.

Professor Linda Gillison was on sabbatical last year and dedicated her attention to Cicero’s de Officiis, its construction of auctoritas, and its ethical advice. She is the Chairperson of the Exam Development Committee for the College Board’s Advanced Placement Latin exam. Last summer, along with two colleagues, she presented a Pre-Institute Workshop on the Teaching of Latin Prose in connection with the Summer Institute of the American Classical League in Durham, NH, and also made presentations at the Advanced Placement Annual Conference in Seattle. She continues to serve as Editor in Chief of The Montana Professor. Linda also will shepherd 17 students in Milan, Florence, and Rome next January for the university’s Study Abroad Program.

French

This has been a busy and productive year for the French section in teaching, scholarship and service.

Professor Chris Anderson, section head, presented a paper, “Daniel Pennac’s Malaussène Saga and Post Colonial Identity” at the Trans-francophonie Conference in Pocatello, Idaho in April. An expanded version of this paper will be published in the Conference Proceedings. He spent the summer in France, attending the 22e congres mondial du CIEF, in Limoges, France, in early July. He visited the University of Toulouse-Le Mirail in June to establish a faculty exchange with the Department of Modern Letters there. In addition he developed a new multi-media course on surrealism.

Assistant Professor Bénédicte Boisséron has had a busy year with the birth of her first child, Armand. She published “Potlatch transnational dans Bleu-blanc-rouge d’Alain Mabanckou” and has a second article forthcoming, “La galerie de Dany Laferrière: une poétique de l’espace créole.” Her paper “Le marron au bleu de Suzanne Dracius” was presented at the 61st Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. At the CIEF conference in Missoula, it was presented on page 3.
German

The German Section would like to take this opportunity once again to thank our donors, especially Keith and Marianne Phelps, for their generous support, which makes it possible for us to provide scholarships and financial aid to the students who take part in our Study Abroad program. With the help of these donations, the German Heritage Scholarship Fund will finally be established.

In January Marty Marko and Hiltrud Arens hosted Professor Paul Michael Lützeler from Washington University. During Professor Lützeler’s stay, he met with the German Section, visited classes, participated as a guest panelist on a campus faculty forum, and gave a lecture entitled “Continentalization. The Discourse on Europe as a Plea for Peace.”

Professor Robert Acker is in his third year as Chair of the MCLL Department. He presented on Austrian Dialects at the Montana Association of Language Teachers Conference in October here in Missoula.

Assistant Professor Mladen Kozul co-authored a book, Le Roman Véritable: stratégies préfactielles au XVIII siècle, in collaboration with Jan Herman and Nathalie Kremer, and has three chapters forthcoming in books: 1) “D’Holbach et les déistes anglais: la construction des” lumières radicales” à la fin des années 1760, 2) “Physiologie du corps érotique, imaginaire de la science,” and 3) “La séduction critique: la lecture du roman entre la théologie et le libertinage.” In addition he published an article, “Du roman et de la religion au XVIIIe siècle : observations sur les fictions théologiques,” and reviewed a research project in Eighteenth-Century studies for the University of Tel Aviv, Israel. He read two conference papers: “Les Pontifes des pamphlets antipapaux,” Les papes imaginaires des lumières françaises, in Rome, and “Esthétique et pragmatique du libertinage théâtralisé selon Sade,” at the conference of the American and Northwest Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Portland. He supervised organizing, by Ari Margolin and Shannon Schreiner, of an undergraduate/graduate conference on the 18th Century Literature and Culture at UM, and judged papers and chaired a session on the Graduate Student and Faculty Research Conference at The UM. In spring of 2008 he received a UM University Research Grant. He was French Club advisor spring semester.

Associate Professor Michel Valentin continues his energetic activity in the Alliance Française of Missoula, which sponsored eight events in the last year. He co-edited a collection of articles with Assistant Professor Fazia Aitel (Claremont McKenna College), The Veil in all its States, and published an article in this collection: “Barring the veil: Le voile entre tous ses états.” In an electronic venue he published “Identity Politics Limits and Limitations” on the Firedog Lake Blog and The Liberator magazine online web site. At the Trans-francophonie Conference held at Idaho State University in Pocatello, he presented the paper, “The Transformer: Zones and fluxes in Djibril Diop Mambety’s film Touki Bouki—the Hyena’s Journey.”

The French Section is also pleased to welcome Florent Hebert, who is the exchange instructor for this year from the University of Toulouse, where he earned a degree in English.

Continued from page 2

Continued on page 4
organizing soccer matches involving various language clubs on campus.

Andrea Kuenz from Austria is our Fulbright teacher for the first year German. She has an M.A. degree in French and English and has taught for two years in Austria. Our graduate student Lindsey Brandt is in her second year of studies and received the prestigious Bertha Morton Scholarship Award for graduate students. Congratulations to our MA students Robert Mottram, Elisabeth Belz, and Kristi Schendel, who graduated in the spring. Brenna Moore, a student who graduated in German and Journalism in spring 2007, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study the combined field of journalism and German. Undergraduates Peter Landsiedel and Matthew Nykiel went on semester long study abroad programs to our partner university in Potsdam.

Wir wünschen ein frohes Weihnachtsfest und einen guten Rutsch!

Italian

After three years of being offered on an experimental basis, Italian has now become an official program which offers two years of Italian language. Evelina Badery Anderson taught a full load of classes, organized a film series for her students, and advised the Italian Club.

Japanese

The Japanese section has welcomed two new adjunct faculty members this semester, Ms. Yuri Naito, MA in Japanese Linguistics, originally from Vancouver, Canada, and Ms. Shiho Yamamoto, a Fulbright instructor from Yamaguchi prefecture in Japan. Ms. Naito and Ms. Yamamoto are teaching first and second year Japanese; Ms. Naito will be teaching a new course on Japanese semantics in the spring of 2009.

Professor Charles Exley has spearheaded a series of presentations on the theme of the legacy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at UM. Ms. Shigeko Sasamori, a survivor of the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima, gave a moving oral narrative of her experiences in a lecture last September, and there have been five film presentations and a faculty Roundtable on the same theme. Finally, the public has been able to view posters with images of the Japanese nuclear holocaust in the Library. Charles also taught a summer film course and plans to teach Japanese film again next autumn.

Dr. Yuka Tachibana has gone to Japan on sabbatical to do research on computer-assisted learning related to the acquisition of Japanese reading skills.

Dr. Judith Rabinovitch has completed a joint research project with Dr Tim Bradstock on the unpublished kanshi (Chinese) poetry collection of a late 19th century school principal in Japan. Also, with Tim Bradstock, she is currently compiling a new volume of never-before translated Chinese poems written by members of the Japanese aristocracy more than a thousand years ago.

More than a dozen students applied to participate in Study Abroad programs again this year; three went to the town of Oe over the summer to work as English teaching assistants. Mathew Lenning returned from a successful year as an English teacher in Date, Hokkaido. Ms. Genesie Miller started graduate school in Japanese at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Ms. Eve Bleeker graduated last June, receiving the Mortar Board award for top senior in Japanese. Ms. Shannon Jakes was hired by The Traveling School and is presently living and working out of a suitcase in Africa. Jeremy Sather has recently completed his PhD qualifying exams at the University of Pennsylvania in medieval Japanese literature and history. Kendra Junkert Strand, our top senior in 2003, is now in her second year of PhD studies at the University of Michigan in medieval literature. Graduate Jonathan Crummett is now teaching Japanese at Loyola Sacred Heart High School.

Russian

The Russian section has had a productive and enjoyable year.

Clint Walker has been with us now for a year and a half. This semester he offered a new course entitled “Russian Cinema and Culture.” He has also been busy planning a study abroad that will be held either this summer or winter-session of next year. Earlier this semester he participated in the Montana Association of Language Teachers with a presentation on “Russian Culture in the K-12 Classroom.” In November he attended a national Slavic conference in Philadelphia, both presenting a paper on Andrei Platonov and serving as a discussant on a panel devoted to Mikhail Bulgakov.

Last spring Ona Renner-Fahey received promotion to Associate Professor. In the summer she attended the Silberman Faculty Seminar “Teaching the Legacy of the Holocaust: Poland, Lithuania, and Ukraine,” held at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in D.C. During the summer she also finished an article on a 19th-century autobiographical work by Nadezhda Durova. This autumn semester she participated in a UM roundtable entitled “Contested Narratives: Hiroshima and World War II,” at which she spoke about Russian and Polish memoirs devoted to the Soviet and Nazi camp experiences. In late November she attended the conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies held in Philadelphia. She presented a paper on mythologies of the creative process and inspiration in twentieth-century Russian poetry.

Our Fulbright scholar and teacher of Elementary Russian last year, Albina Khabibulina, is currently in a graduate program in Teaching English as a Second Language at the University of West Virginia. This year we are lucky to have another
wonderful Fulbright scholar, Tamara Shtanova. Tamara, originally from Ulyanovsk, taught English in Moscow for two years before joining us. Here at UM she is teaching first-year Russian.

Our Russian Club was very active again over the course of the past year. We continue to have weekly conversation tables and monthly Russian dinners. Last spring we had a display booth and baked and sold Russian goods at UM’s International Festival. We also participated in Children’s World, helping kids make bookmarks with their names written in Cyrillic. This year our upper-level club members have begun some tutoring sessions for the first-year students. In addition, they have had weekly futbol matches with the German and Spanish clubs.

Last year two of our students won awards in the annual national essay contest sponsored by the American Council of Teachers of Russian. Melissa Sheedy, a second-year student of Russian, was a third-place winner and Elizabeth Fullerton, a third-year student of Russian, received an Honorable Mention for her essay. One of last year’s graduates, Mylisa Jones, is now working on a Masters’ Degree in Slavic at the University of Kansas.

We send out warm wishes for the new year and sincerely thank all those who have supported our section and Russian Studies in the past.

## Spanish

The Spanish Section is operating with three of its six full-time tenure track faculty this fall due to sabbatical and part-time maternity leaves. We are deeply appreciative of any and all financial help which goes toward funding student scholarship assistance for our foreign study program and rewarding academic excellence.

We are pleased to welcome Ismael Artiga and María de la Paz García-Villalba Navaridas to the Section. Professor Artiga is originally from Zaragoza, Spain, and has his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky. He is here to cover for our two sabbatical leaves. María Paz graduated from the Universidad de Alicante and is our Fulbright Exchange—our first one from Spain. We are also fortunate to have back this academic year our outstanding adjunct instructors Manolita Connor, Melissa MacKenzie, Alicia Gignoux, Linda Bailey; Lecturer Kelly Noe; and TA Bret Linford.

In October Alicia Gignoux gave a presentation entitled “Using YouTube and Online Film in Class” at the MEA-MFT Educators’ Conference in Missoula and also gave a presentation about her on-line Spanish 101 course for the MCLL Faculty Forum.

Maria Bustos-Fernández conducted a study abroad program in Argentina at the Universidad de cuamcuan last spring. She is serving as the Spanish Section Graduate Student Adviser and Latin American Studies Minor Adviser. She presented a research paper “Patagonia: Tracing the Southern Frontier in Contemporary Argentinean Literature” at the Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies Conference in Las Vegas in November.

Jannine Montauban and Eduardo Chirinos spent a couple of months doing their research on Luis Buñuel in Madrid, Spain and will be spending the remainder of their sabbatical year toggling between Spain, Missoula, and Peru.

Stan Rose is serving as Spanish Section Head this year. He took a four-day Robert Fritz, Inc. training workshop on the Fundamentals of Structural Thinking in Newfane, VT in October.

Clary Loisel presented a paper entitled “The Inequality of Language in the Narrative Works of Rosario Castellanos” at the Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies Conference in Las Vegas in November. He received a University Research Grant for his project “Postmodern Construction of Sexual Identity in Contemporary Puerto Rican Literature” and went to San Juan, PR this summer. He also moderated a panel and gave a talk, “‘Amores perros’: Everything changes,” at the Graduate Student and Faculty Research Conference in April. Professor Loisel invited Mexican novelist, short story writer, poet, and former journalist Rosamaria Roffiel to campus as a visiting scholar. He also presented “Elementos de Bildungsroman femenino en El espejo roto de Mercé Rodoreda” at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Conference in Reno in October. He gave a talk entitled “The Quechua World of the Ecuadorian Indigenous People: A Critical Study of Jorge Icaza’s Huasiupungo/The Villagers” at the Educators’ Conference in Missoula in October. For the campus event “Day of Dialogue,” he presented “Pixote: Fiction and Reality in Brazilian Life.” Clary received a Faculty Development Award to attend the Council on International Educational Exchange International Faculty Development Seminar entitled “The Environmental Impact of Brazil’s Economic Growth” in São Paulo in July. He recently published “El romanticismo en Hispano-america” and his article “Print the Myth: Elena Poniatowska’s Biographical Fiction” will be published next spring. Over the summer he finished a lengthy scholarly introduction to his anthology of contemporary Mexican gay and lesbian plays. He hopes to see his anthology in print within the year.

Naomi Shin’s MA student, Patricia Cano, won an award for her presentation at the Graduate Student and Faculty Research Conference. Patricia is completing her MA on children learning Spanish as a second language. Another of Naomi’s students, Ryan Morehouse, was awarded the A1 Price Opportunity Fund for an undergraduate research project. With this award, Ryan will conduct sociolinguistic interviews in Mexico this summer. Naomi and her husband Sang had a baby girl in June, and Naomi was on partial maternity leave in the fall. She was the primary author of a book chapter: “Shifting sensitivity to Continuity of reference: Subject pronoun use in Spanish, in New York City.” Dr. Shin presented findings from her research projects at various conferences in 2008: “One-word code switches in the Otogu-Zentella corpus of Spanish in New York,” at the Workshop on Automatic Processing of Natural Language Code Switching in Tampa in April; “Ella habla vs. Habla: Subject pronouns in Spanish-speaking children’s discourse,” presented at the UM graduate student and faculty research conference also in April, and “A Linguist’s Approach to Spanish in the US,” presented at the MEA-MFT conference in Missoula in October. She designed a new course for the spring called “Theories of Language Learning.” She also received a DHC Service Learning Grant to develop a Spanish sociolinguistics course to be taught in the summer of 2009 in conjunction with the “Count on Me Program,” which provides tutoring for the children of migrant workers in the Flathead Lake Region.
Turkish

The Department is pleased to welcome Ms. Selin Bitti, who teaches Elementary Turkish and who comes to us courtesy of the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship Program. Selin studied English Language Teaching at the foreign languages education department of Bogazici University, Istanbul. In addition to her instructional responsibilities, she will study educational psychology and women’s studies during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Happy Holidays

Bek Acker, German
Elizabeth Ametsbichler, German
Chris Anderson, French
Hiltrud Arens, German
Ismael Artiga, Spanish
Hayden Ausland, Classics
Evelina Badery, Italian
Linda Bailey, Spanish
Samir Bitar, Arabic
Selin Bitti, Turkish
Bénédicte Boisseron, French
Timothy Bradstock, Chinese
Lindsey Brandt, German
Maria Bustos, Spanish
Zhen Cao, Chinese
Eduardo Chirinos, Spanish
Manolita Connor, Spanish
Ione Crummy, French
Phyllis Duran, Staff
Charles Exley, Japanese
Alicia Gignieux, Spanish
Linda Gillison, Classics

Stacia Graham, Classics
Herent Hebert, French
Khaled Kuthaity, Arabic
Mladen Kozul, French
Andrea Kuenz, German
Bret Linford, Spanish
Clavy Leisle, Spanish
Melissa Mackenzie, Spanish
Marton Marko, German
Jannine Montauban, Spanish
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