Dear Friends of MCLL,

The year is drawing to a close and the Autumn Semester is almost finished. At this time we always like to think of our many friends across the country who have been so supportive of our programs and endeavors. On behalf of the Department I would like to wish you all a joyous holiday season and extend to you our best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

There have been many new developments in the Department this year. We have a new tenure-track hire in Russian and we are offering Turkish for the first time ever. We have increased the number of Fulbright Teaching Assistants to include students not only from Austria but also Russia and Argentina. We have two new (and heavily used) multi-media rooms and we hope to add to this number in the future. We continue to look for ways to modernize our Language Lab.

The Faculty have been very productive with their scholarship, research and service during the past year, as you can read in the various language sections of this Newsletter. Colleagues have also sponsored Study Abroad trips to Mexico, Germany and Austria, Rome, Paris and Russia. In addition, many of our students participate in University-sponsored direct placement programs at foreign universities (several of our students studied Arabic in Egypt this summer, for example). Faculty also serve as advisors to various Language Clubs which were very active with a host of activities.

I would like to sincerely thank all of our donors (listed below) who made generous monetary contributions to the Department during this last year. Our support from the State is always rather meager and we depend on your gifts to help fund a variety of educational activities and to provide needed scholarships for many of our deserving students. Everyone in the Department greatly appreciates your continued kindness and support.

Cordially,

Bob Acker, Chair

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Arabic

Over the last two academic years, the Arabic Program at The University of Montana has seen increased enrollment numbers very comparable to the rise nationwide. According to a report put out by the Modern Language Association earlier this month, the number of students studying Arabic in the U.S. rose by 126.5 percent from 2002 to 2006. There are now two instructors in the Arabic section — Samir Bitar and Khaled Huthaily.

In the fall of 2007 the Arabic Program benefited greatly from the presence of the international exchange students studying at The University of Montana as part of the Near East and South Asia Undergraduate Exchange Program which is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. During Friday’s cultural period our students received excellent presentations on the following Arab countries: Egypt, Morocco, Oman, and Tunisia. Each presentation was followed by a very eye-opening and informative open discussion. We would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm thank you to the students who presented and to the International Program for their great efforts in making this pool of students available to our Arabic Program and to our University at large.

Last year our students of Arabic were invited by the Department of History to attend on campus lectures and research presentations given by potential Department of History candidates and provide feedback to assist in the evaluation process. This year, during Friday’s Cultural period, the Arabic Program hosted lectures given by potential candidates for the Department of History, whom we would like to thank for their contributions.

Chinese

The Chinese program provides three years of language instruction, with a minor. Our language courses give top priority to developing oral and aural skills, although learners are taught to read and write Chinese as well. We offer courses in modern Chinese language, literature and civilization. The program is staffed by Professor Timothy R. Bradstock and Dr. Zhen Cao.

Classics

It is a pleasure to report that the Classics Section is increasing its number of declared majors and minors. To date we have a group of about 21. Since we in Classics all teach some General Education courses in the areas of philosophy, history, and literature in translation, we have attracted many new “converts” to our program. (We attribute this interest to the outreach we have made to other departments, and also to our University and community service).

For academic year 2007-2008 Professor James Scott has become the Section Head of Classics. For the first time in MCLL a language is being offered online. Jim has developed and currently is teaching Latin 101 and 102 through the Blackboard program. He also continues his research and publication of the Jesuit Latin records for the Montana Indian missions in the 1800s.

Professor Hayden Ausland was on sabbatical leave 2006-2007, spending some of the year in Norway, where he worked to establish international ties with several institutions. He continues to pursue very successfully his research and publication on Socratic Induction. In addition to his courses in Greek Dr. Ausland provides most of the ancient philosophy and history to these respective departments.

Professor Linda Gillison, Classics’ previous Section Head and MCLL Chair, is taking a well-earned sabbatical this year.

Professor Matt Semonoff has been developing new and attractive classes. In spring 2007 he offered an interdisciplinary course examining Greek and Roman attitudes towards nature and the environment. The class was offered as a sophomore seminar in an initiative sponsored by the Associate Provost’s office in conjunction with the Center for Teaching Excellence to help sophomore retention rates. He hopes to offer it on a wider scale to members of Geography and Environmental Studies.

In the absence of Linda Gillison the Classics Section has been fortunate to find instructional help nearby. Ms. Stacia Graham, who is the full-time Administrative Assistant in the Department of Economics and also holds an MA from Yale University in Classics, is teaching one section of Latin 101 and 102. Stacia continues her own studies in Greek, Biblical Hebrew, and Aramaic.

French

The French section has been quite active this past year. Chris Anderson (20th Century Lit) developed a new course on Francophone Sub-Saharan Colonial Literature. He remains section head and advises numerous students.

Bénédicte Boisseron (20th Century and Francophone Lit) has become the new Graduate Advisor. She was given a grant to study Creole in Guadaloupe and presented a research paper at the Congrès International d’Études Francophones in Cayenne, Guyanne, July 1-5, 2007. She developed a new graduate level course on Caribbean literature.

Ione Crummy (19th Century Lit) was named co-director of UM’s Women’s Studies Program. She also was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities stipend to participate in a summer seminar at Notre Dame University, June 26-July 6, 2007 on “Anglo-Irish Identities, 1600-1800”. She presented a paper, “George Sand’s Contes et veillées Voice of the People?” at the 33rd International Nineteenth Century French Studies Colloquium in Mobile, AL, October 18-20, 2007. She will also be accompanying the Davidson Honor’s College student trip to Ireland during Winter session 2008.

Michel Valentin (17th Century Lit, Film, Critical Theory) is President of Missoula’s chapter of the Alliance Française. He developed a new course on African Cinema. He gave a presentation entitled “Molière (1622-1673), A Playwright for All Seasons, or The Life and Works of Molière, presented December 3 in conjunction with the UM Drama and Dance Department’s performance of Molière’s Tartuffe.

Mladen Kozul (eighth century) developed two new courses, one on Libertaine Literature and another on Seduction in 17th and 18th Century English and French literature. He presented three papers at two conferences. At the 12th International Congress of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies: Science, Technology, Culture, held in Montpellier, France, (8-15 July 2007)

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he presented « Le Dialogue épistolaire et la construction de la figure auctoriale dans les textes clandestins des Lumières», at the roundtable “Esprit philosophique et dialogue”. He also presented « Théologie et imaginaire anatomique des organes de génération», at the roundtable « Anatomies : traités scientifiques ou voyages imaginaires ? ». At

German

The German Section has had a very successful 2007. Following is a short update on the individual faculty members as well as on our star students. Once again, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors for their generous support, which makes scholarships possible, especially for the students who participate in our Study Abroad Program. This year, we would especially like to thank Keith and Mariane Phelps for their very generous contribution to the German Section. We are hoping to use their donation as a basis to raise enough money for an endowment for our students.

We are pleased again to be able to have two Fulbright T.A.s from Austria: Susi Gruber and Julia Ploeckinger. Susi is finishing her studies in English and is from the University of Vienna. Julia is studying German and English at the University of Salzburg. We would also like to welcome Lindsey Brandt, a first-year Graduate Student in German.

One highlight of Fall Semester was the campus visit of the well-known Austrian author Elisabeth Reichart, who 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.

Professor Bob Acker is in his second year as chair of the MCCL Department, while continuing to be an active member of the German Section. In addition, he attended the Montana Association of Language Teachers Conference in Belgrade, MT Oct. 18-19th and presented a workshop entitled “Die Germanen und ihre Mythologie.”

Professor Liz Ametsbichler continued as Head of the German Section. She is active in German Studies, especially in her role as Book Review Editor for the German Studies Review, the journal for the international German Studies Association. Along with her graduate student assistant of the GSR, Lindsey Brandt, she attended the German Studies Association Annual Conference in San Diego October 4-7th. In December (6-9th), she attended the KCTOS (Knowledge, Creativity and Transformations of Societies) Conference in Vienna, Austria and presented a paper “Fräulein Else: Schnitzler’s Novella Adapted for the American Stage.” Her publications that appeared this past year are: “Bernstein’s Work and the Women’s Movement” in From Fin-de-Siècle to Theresienstadt: The Works and Life of the Writer Elsa Porges-Bernstein. Ed. Helga W. Kraft and Dagmar C.G. Lorenz. (Austrian Culture 38.) New York: Peter Lang, 2007 (pp. 59-75); and “Anatol” (pp. 41-42), “Liebelei” (pp. 815-16), “Professor Berhardi” (pp. 1103-04), “Reigen” (pp. 1126-27), and “Arthur Schnitzler” (pp. 1195-99) in The Columbia Encyclopedia of Modern Drama. Eds. Gabrielle H. Cody and Evert Sprinchorn. NY: Columbia UP, 2007. Liz continues to serve as the Fulbright Program Advisor for campus and is happy to report that three UM students were awarded Fulbright Scholarships last year.

Associate Professor Hiltrud Arners left on February 20th with eleven students for the German Study Abroad Program. The group spent ten days in Berlin before heading to Austria, where they spent the rest of the semester in Vienna. She also participated in the interdisciplinary workshop “Postkoloniale Räume, Transnationalität und Erinnerungsgeschichte” held July 26-27th at the University of Hannover, Germany, organized by its History and African Studies Departments. Her presentation was entitled: “Von Abfall-Wörtern, Klängen und Geistern: auf den Spuren von Erinnerungen in ausgewählten Texten Yoko Tawadas.” “Her essay, “Das kurze Leuchten unter dem Tor oder auf dem Weg zur geträumten Sprache: Poetological Reflections in Works by Yoko Tawada,” appeared in Yoko Tawada: Voices from Everywher. Ed. Douglas Slaymaker. Lanham: Lexington Books. 2007. 59-76. Hiltrud also presented “Transcultural Learning About The Past and Present: A Study Abroad in Germany and Austria” at the Annual ACTFL/ AATG Conference in San Antonio, November 15-18th.

Assistant Professor Marta Marko served as faculty advisor to the newly reforming UM German Club and helped students organize the first late winter event of last year, Faschingsfest in March. June saw the reappearance of the Montana Association of Language Teachers Bulletin, which Marty edited with the technical assistance of Jeremy Jensen. In July, he gave two papers at conferences in the UK: “Through the Modern-Postmodern Divide: Constructing Transparency, Creating Diffusion in Post-Wall Germany” at the New Europe at the Crossroads conference at York St. John University and “Touring the Cinematic City: Wim Wenders and the Urban Exotic” at an interdisciplinary conference entitled “Things that Move: The Material Worlds of Tourism and Travel” hosted by the Center for Tourism and Cultural Change at Leeds Metropolitan University. In October, he presented another paper, “Adaptation Effects: Brecht and the New German Cinema of the 1970’s” at the Literature/Film Association in Lawrence, Kansas. Later in October, Marty, along with M.A. student Lindsey Brandt and Visiting Fulbright TA Julia Ploeckinger hosted “An Evening with Brecht,” a multimedia event featuring the life, works, and legacy of Bertolt Brecht co-sponsored by the German Club and the Department of Drama and Dance in collaboration with the campus production of Brecht’s The Good Person of Setzuan. In the meanwhile, Marty continues planning for the upcoming Study Abroad in Germany and Austria next semester and is looking forward to an exciting spring with the nine UM students who will be participating.

Congratulations are in order to: graduate students Elisabeth Belz, Rob Mottram, and Kristi Schendel for passing their written and oral M.A. exams earlier this semester; to Melissa Sheedy, a junior majoring in German, who was awarded an Undergraduate Research grant through the Davidson Honors College together with Professor Ametsbichler; and to graduating senior, Meghan Adney, who successfully passed the written exam for high honors in November.

Thank you again to all of you who help make our program successful by your generous contributions that support student scholarship and activities. Wir wünschen Ihnen ein frohes Weihnachtsfest!
Enrollments in Italian language classes have been steadily rising over the last couple of years. In the fall, 56 students registered for Elementary and Intermediate classes.

Italian club (Il Circolo italiano) advised by Evelina Badery, adjunct instructor of Italian, continues to be quite active, holding a weekly conversation table and publishing a newsletter in Italian and English La Bocca della Verità (The Mouth of Truth) Vol. 4 was issued in October. This semester a film series was organized for all Italian students. Club members are already planning for the next edition of the International Culture and Food Festival, which they attended for the first time last March with a successful bake sale and a lottery. At the end of last spring semester the club was able, thanks also to a mini-grant received by UM Diversity Advisory Council grant received by UM Diversity Advisory Council to present an Italian movie The Night of the Shooting Stars to a very large crowd, including several people from town, in the UC Theater.

Last May, second-year Italian student and now co-president of the Italian Club, Francesca Di Stefano, received a scholarship “The Gift of Discovery” from the NIAF (the National Italian-American Foundation) to spend 10 days in Italy, with field trips in the Marche region. Auguri di buone feste a tutti!

We are pleased to be offering Turkish language instruction for the first time this semester. Elementary Turkish is being taught by Tamila Meladze, who is a graduate of the Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa in the Republic of Georgia.

The Russian Section sends out a New Year’s greeting to all!! We have had many new developments in the Russian section over this last year. Dr. Ludmila Prednewa retired in the spring after many years with the department. This autumn we welcomed to our department a new faculty member, Dr. Clint Walker, who earned his Ph.D. (2006) from the University of Wisconsin. His teaching and research interests include Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Russian and Soviet prose of the 1920s-1930s, and contemporary Russian poetry. In November he attended a national Slavic conference where he presented a paper on Mikhail Bulgakov. We are also very happy to have a Fulbright scholar with us this year. Albina Khabibulina is teaching one of our sections of first-year Russian. She has good enrollments this year. We are using a new interactive web-assisted textbook, Yookoso!, which has helped our students to rapidly develop effective communicative skills. Last year, Prof. Exley taught a new Japanese film studies course, which was popular with students. During autumn semester, thirteen Japanese majors and minors applied to Office of International Programs to participate in overseas study opportunities in Japan, and several more have expressed an interest in going to the town of Date, in Hokkaido, to teach English on our AET (Assistant English Teacher) internship.

Our former students Kendra Junkert and Jeremy Sather are now pursuing their PhDs in Japanese literature at the University of Michigan and the University of Pennsylvania, respectively. Francesca Leader completed her MA in Japanese modern literature at Ohio State last summer and is thinking of starting her PhD studies at another institution next autumn. We hope they will come home for a visit!

Professor 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.

Professor 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.

Prof. 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. She is also working on a second volume of Heian-period court kanshi (translated into English) with Prof. Bradstock of the Chinese section at UM.
Spanish

The academic year 2007-2008 has been very busy and exciting for the Spanish Section. Our program not only has very strong enrollments, we now have most of our majors and minors studying abroad through ISEP (International Student Exchange Program) or participating in a variety of direct exchange programs with Spanish and Latin American Universities. We are pleased to welcome two new members. Bret Linford, who graduated last year from BYU-Idaho, joined our M.A. program this fall. We are also happy to have Gustavo Guajardo as a Fulbright teaching assistant for the academic year. Gustavo is originally from Bahía Blanca, Argentina. He is teaching first-year Spanish.

We are especially thankful for the support of our generous donors. With their contributions, the Spanish Section is able to offer students opportunities to expand and enjoy their knowledge of Spanish outside the classroom setting. The Section is also grateful to have an active scholarship program to help our most promising students participate in Study Abroad Programs.

In spring 2008 Professor María Bustos Fernández will direct our Study Abroad Program which for the first time will go to Tucumán (Argentina). Ten students, who are all Spanish majors, double majors and minors have signed up for the program.

Associate Professor Clary Loisel successfully directed the Study Abroad Program in Guanajuato last spring after having to change locations due to social unrest in Oaxaca. Students loved the city and the University and many of the participants are going back to Guanajuato this summer. Professor Loisel published the book Clásicos de la literatura hispanoamericana colonial en su contexto sociohistórico (San Francisco: Floricanto Press, 2007). He also delivered an academic presentation entitled “Utopia gay: un estudio queer del matrimonio” at the Easter Queer Symposium in Mexico City on April 13, 2007 and read a paper entitled “A Process of Becoming Clairvoyant” at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on October 4, 2007.

Associate Professor Jannine Montauban is serving as Section Head for her second year. In addition to this time-consuming task, she has prepared two new literature courses at the 400-level: Modernity and Modernism in Spanish Literature and Golden Age Spanish Theatre. She is actively researching the work of two female playwrights of Spanish Golden Age: Ana Caro and María de Zayas. Her article “El chiste y su relación con ‘El Coloquio de los perros’” was recently accepted for publication in the Bulletin of Hispanic Studies (Liverpool, U.K.).

Assistant Professor Naomi Lapidus Shin had a very productive year. She was invited to speak to middle and high school teachers of French, German, Latin, and Spanish from the Missoula County School District on August 30, 2007 at Sentinel H.S. and she gave a talk at a statistics seminar in the Math Department called “Using Statistics to Study Languages in Contact” on February 26. She also participated in two national conferences. She co-presented a paper entitled “Spanish Subject Pronoun Use among Caribbean Bilinguals in New York City: Diminishing Sensitivity to Continuity of Reference” at the annual conference of the American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL) in Costa Mesa, California, and she co-presented her research on monolingual first language acquisition of Spanish subject pronouns at the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium in San Antonio, Texas November 1-4. (This research was also presented in a poster session at the Boston University Conference on Language Development.)

Professor Stan Rose continues to advise students in their academic and foreign study programs and teaches an increasingly large number of students in his writing classes. Next semester he will teach Commercial Spanish, a class that has not been offered in long time that is in high demand due to the increasing number of students that are majoring in Spanish and Business. He is serving as faculty student liaison for the Department of MCLL.

In other news: Alice Jones, who graduated this May with a double major in Spanish and English Literature, is currently in Spain on a Fulbright Scholarship. She will spend a year in Madrid, Spain teaching English and continuing her research on abortion and women’s issues in Latin America. She recently published her translation of interviews with Chilean informants.
“JOYEUX ENFANTS DE LA BOURGOGNE...” ET DE PARIS ET D’ANGERS

Participants in the University of Montana French Study Abroad Programs from 1973 to the present are enthusiastically invited to a reunion at UM Homecoming September 19-20, 2008. The main activity will be a dinner Friday, September 19 when we will have an open wine bar for visiting time and a Burgundian dinner—seating with the other participants and UM faculty directors who were with you in Burgundy... or Paris... or Angers. The Homecoming Parade is Saturday morning... we could participate... A block of tickets is reserved for you for the Homecoming game. After the game we’ll meet for a loose potluck picnic in Bonner Park.

If you participated in one of these programs, please write us and give us your current name, postal address and e-mail address. We’ll also check the alumni office records. When we have your information, we’ll be able to send you for news of the reunion and your friends. Write to Dr. Maureen Curnow, Department of Modern and Classical Languages, The University of Montana, MCLL, LA 314, Missoula, MT 59812 or 11 Carkeek Lane, Cameron, MT 59720-9608. 406 / 682-494.
maureencurnow@hotmail.com.

Bob Acker, German
Elizabeth Ametsbichler, German
Chris Anderson, French
Hiltrud Arens, German
Hayden Ausland, Classics
Evelina Badery, Italian
Linda Bailey, Spanish
Elizabeth Bels, German
Samir Bitar, Arabic
Benedicte Beisson, French
Timothy Bradstock, Chinese
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Marlon Mariko, German
Siphaine Maze, French
Jamilta Metadze, Turkish
Jannine Montauban, Spanish
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James Scott, Classics
Matthew Semanoff, Classics
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Yuka Tachibana, Japanese
Michel Valentin, French
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Happy Holidays

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