

MCLL News

May 2014

Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures

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The Chairs

Elizabeth Ametsbichler and Jannine

Montauban, co-chairs: All of us in MCLL would like to wish our graduating seniors the best of luck as they enter a new phase of “life-beyond-UM”! Luckily, they can keep in touch with us by checking and liking our new Facebook Page and by sharing their adventures and successes with us. We also are launching a new website to keep everyone informed about activities and events in MCLL. Please check it for news.

We are not only saying goodbye to our graduates, but also to two long-term colleagues. **Stan Rose**, from Spanish, retired in December after teaching in the department for over forty years, and **Chris Anderson**, from French, who has been part of MCLL for over twenty years will retire at the end of this semester. We wish them both all the best, particularly relaxation!

It is always sad to say goodbye to our visiting TAs. This year, **Lisa Lackner** and **Margot Siderits**, our Austrian Fulbright TAs, taught first-year German, and **Mathias Pinon**, our Toulouse Exchange from France, taught first-year French. Auf Wiedersehen and au revoir!



Two of our MCLL students have received Fulbright Fellowships to teach English abroad next year:

Erin Hastey will teach in Germany, and **Christina Bloemen** will teach in Ukraine.

Congratulations:

Hayden Ausland has been awarded a Sabbatical for the Academic Year 2014-2015, most of which he will spend in Norway. We are pleased to announce that **Clint Walker** has been awarded tenure.

MCLL 2014 Outstanding Seniors:

Classics: **Ian Campbell**

French: **Riley Pavelich**

German: **Erin Hastey**

Japanese: **Grace Yon**

Russian: **Abigail Homer-Mayhugh**

Spanish: **Matisse Ventura**

Unfortunately, our annual FL Day was canceled for the first time due to the blizzard that closed campus on February 28th. We are looking forward to resuming the event next year on March 13th.

MCLL is very grateful to alumni and friends who have so graciously and generously supported the department with their donations over the years. Such gifts help us to enhance our students' experience in the classroom and on study abroad programs.

We wish everyone a restful, and productive summer.

Arabic

Khaled Huthaily, Assistant Professor, received a STARTALK grant (\$89,772) from NSA for UM's Montana Arabic summer Institute (MASI) in order to teach intensive Arabic to 30 high school students in summer 2014. In



April, he participated in the STARTALK Pre-Program Spring Conference in Austin, TX in preparation for MASI. The Qatar Foundation International (QFI) sponsored his webinar, “Linguistics in the K-12 Arabic Classroom” for K-12 teachers of Arabic (April 3rd). On January 19th, Khaled conducted a workshop for 200 teachers of Arabic, sponsored by the Southern California Arabic Language Teacher Council (SCALTC) in Anaheim, CA.

Morgan Azeka, a third-year Arabic student, received a Critical Language Scholarship (CLS), sponsored by the State Department, to study intensive Arabic in Oman. Second-year Arabic

student **Katheryn Houghton** has been admitted to the Center for International Learning in Oman to study intensive Arabic in summer 2014. **Jessica Lensman**, a former MASI student, received a NSLI-Y scholarship (sponsored by the State Department) to study intensive Arabic in Morocco.

Classics



Hayden Ausland, Professor, is currently a Visiting Researcher at the University of Bergen, Norway (March 15-June 15, 2014). In this capacity, he gave a presentation to the Ancient Philosophy Group (April 2) on "The Unity Virtue in Plato's Protagoras" and a guest lecture at the Institute for Philosophy (April 10) titled "Protagoras and Sophocles on the Conditions for Political Community." He will also contribute to a symposium (Poetry and Philosophy in the Light of Plato's Protagoras) to be held in Bergen (June 4-6). Hayden will be on Sabbatical next academic year, and will spend most of his time in Norway continuing his research.

Matt Semanoff, Associate Professor, will return to the Department after being on Sabbatical this past year.

French

Bénédicte Boisseron, Associate Professor, was invited to give a talk at The University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in February based on her forthcoming (June) book *Creole Renegades*. In April, she gave a talk titled "Anatole Broyard: Racial Passing and the Art of Being Creole," which was part of the "Thinking its Presence" conference organized by Prageeta Sharma from UM's English Department. In April, Bénédicte was invited to give a talk on homosexuality and homophobia in Paris at the *Fondation maison des sciences de l'homme*. She was also invited to give a talk based on her forthcoming book on May 16th at The University of Washington (Seattle). While at UW, she will be on **Claire Mouflard's** PhD Defense Committee. Claire received her M.A. from MCLL in 2007.

Ione Crummy, Professor, has published "Lucrezia Floriani -- re-présentation de Corinne à travers Marie Dorval," in *Écriture, Performance*

et Théâtralité dans l'œuvre de George Sand. Eds. Catherine Nesci and Olivier Bara. Grenoble: Éditions Littéraires et Linguistiques de l'Université de Grenoble, 2014. 321-38.

Michel Valentin, Professor, was invited to conduct three presentations on Foucault and Power (February 22), Authenticity and Psychoanalysis (February 23), and Lacanian Psychoanalytical Theory (February 25) on Blog-Talk-Radio for the Existential Phenomenology & Psychoanalysis Institute of Seattle (EPIS). He also conducted a two-hour seminar on Lacanian Psychoanalytic Praxis via Skype for EPIS (May). On campus, he taught the "Survey of French Cinema" for the Osher/Molli Program in April and gave a talk titled, "The Case of the 'Chanson de Roland' or the Invention of the Moor/Saracen/Arab/Muslim/Paynim as Deadly Other" at the "Thinking its Presence: Race and Creative Writing" Conference.

Other News: Josh Blaylock, who received his M.A. from MCLL in 2005 defended his Dissertation at Brown University in April. He has secured a tenure-track position at Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth.

German

Elizabeth Ametsbichler, Professor, attended the Montana Association of Language Teachers (MALT) spring conference in Red Lodge in April. She was also awarded the Distinguished Service to International Education Award in recognition of her years of service as Campus Fulbright Program Advisor, as well as having directed numerous of Study Abroad Programs to Germany and Austria in addition to other international activities.

Hiltrud Arens, Professor, directed the German Section's Study Abroad Program this spring semester. Ten UM students participated, spending a week each in Neckargemünd / Heidelberg and Berlin / Potsdam before traveling to Vienna, Austria for the remainder of the semester, where they stayed with host families. They took classes in language, culture, history, and theater, undertook numerous excursions throughout the city, and went to several museums and theaters performances. They also worked on and presented their own research project related to Germany/Austria.



Austria Study Abroad Students Spring 2014

Hiltrud will present “Berlin als Metapher für Umbruch und Transformation in *Berlin ist mein Paris* von Carmen-Francesca Banciu” at the international conference *Begegnungen in Transiträumen / Transitorische Begegnungen* organized by the *Gesellschaft für interkulturelle Germanistik (GiG) / Society for Intercultural German Studies* at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, Ireland (May 29-31).

Marton Marko, Associate Professor, attended the Montana Association of Language Teachers (MALT) spring conference in Red Lodge in April and is currently editing the newest issue of the *MALT Bulletin*. He is also head organizer of the Literature/Film Association’s annual conference, which will take place at UM from October 2-4. The topic of this year’s conference is: “Fluid Frontiers: Margins and Confluences in Literature, Film, Media, and Culture.” The LFA is excited to be coming to UM this fall. If you are interested in proposing a presentation, please contact Marty. Submissions will be accepted through July 31st.

Japanese

Brian Dowdle, Assistant Professor, gave a paper titled “Reading Books Within Books: Michikusa, Kusamakura, and Sōseki” at an international conference, “Sōseki’s Diversity,” held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (April 18-20). He has been accepted as a Short-Term Visiting Scholar at The National Museum of Japanese History (Sakura, Japan), where he will be in residence June 17-July 10 conducting research on nineteenth-century Japanese literature. Brian has also received a University Small Grant for this summer to support his travel to Japan.

Rob Tuck, Assistant Professor, presented papers at three national conferences, the MLA in Chicago (January), the Association for Asian Studies in Philadelphia (March), and a symposium on the Japanese author Natsume Soseki at the University

of Michigan, Ann Arbor (April). In addition, his article “Poets, Paragons, and Literary Politics: Sugawara no Michizane in Imperial Japan” will be published in the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* this June. His son Alex continues to grow at a frankly alarming rate.

Brian and Rob Tuck co-presented a special lecture at the Montana Museum of Art and Culture on campus titled “Sex in the City: Images of Town, Country and Tradition in Edo Japan,” on March 18th, as part of a traveling exhibition: “The Japanese Woodblock Print: An Extension of the Impermanent.”



Japanese English Conversation Exchange Hanami (Blossom Viewing) Party Spring 2014

Japanese major **Kyle Koslosky** was selected to undertake ten weeks of intensive language and cultural training under the Critical Languages Program (CLS) of the U.S. Department of State. Kyle will be studying Japanese in Himeji, Japan and will receive an all-expenses paid scholarship. **Bruce Mountan** has been awarded a Heisey Foundation Scholarship in order to attend Sophia (Jōchi) University in Tokyo for one year beginning this fall. **Anna Meine** and **Lauren Molin** have been awarded Mukogawa Summer Program scholarships to study Japanese language and culture in an immersion program at Mukogawa University in Nishinomiya, near Kobe. **Grace Yon**, the Outstanding Senior in Japanese, has been accepted into the Master’s Degree Program in Applied Translation Studies (Japanese) at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Grace is also the MCLL commencement speaker on May 17, 2014.

Russian

Ona Renner-Fahey, Associate Professor, has been reviewing abstracts this spring for the national Slavic conference AATSEEL.

Clint Walker, Associate Professor, published the article "Platonov in the Anglophone World" *Returning to Platonov: Questions of his Reception*. St. Petersburg: Dmitrii Bulanin, 2013. 165-202.

This April, the Russian Studies program was fortunate to host guest speaker Patrick Michelson of Indiana University who presented on "War, Religion, and the Making of Ascetic Russia, 1914-17."

Abigail Mayhugh, the Outstanding Senior in Russian, is also an alternate for the Fulbright Program in Russia. Junior **Justin Davis** is our national Russian Scholar Laureate, organized under the auspices of the American Council of Teachers of Russian. Three students placed in the highly competitive national Russian Essay Contest: **Dakota Whisler**, who also placed last year, won a silver medal for Level Three; and in the Heritage Speaker category, sisters **Emma** and **Dina Difort** won Bronze in Level Three and Gold in Level One, respectively.

Spanish

Mike Olsen, Visiting Assistant Professor, gave a talk, "Syntax or Semantics? The L2 Learner Conundrum in the Acquisition of Spanish Object Pronouns," to the UM Linguistics Club on April 24th.

Maria Bustos, Professor, conducted the Study Abroad Program to Argentina this spring semester. Ten UM students participated. While there, they spent three weeks traveling in Patagonia and spent the remainder of the semester in Buenos Aires.

Eduardo Chirinos, Professor, spent two weeks in March at the *Universidad de Granada* where he taught a seminar on contemporary Latin American literature to students in their Master's Program. While there, he gave a poetry reading organized by the *Ateneo de Granada* at the *Biblioteca Pública de Granada*. In April, he was

invited to participate in a poetry festival organized by De Paul University in Chicago. He also gave a poetry reading to the Peruvian community of Chicago. In May, he was invited to the Book Fair in Bogota, Colombia at which Peru was the featured country. As part of the Peruvian delegation, Eduardo gave poetry readings, presented books by Colombian authors, and participated in several round tables. Two of his books were released while he was in Colombia: *Anuario Mínimo*. Bogota: Peregrino ediciones, 2014 and *Fragmentos de una alabanza inconclusa*. Bogota: Caza de libros, 2014. His new poetry book *Medicinas para quebrantamientos del halcón* was published in Spain. Valencia: Pre-textos, 2014.

Clary Loisel, Professor, received a University Small Grant to go to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil this summer to conduct research for his anthology of Brazilian theater. While in Rio, he will pursue his interests in the Portuguese language and Brazilian culture at the *Instituto Brasil-Estados Unidos*. This spring, he was a faculty mentor for a former GLI (Global Leadership Initiative) student, **Jada Kishimoto**, who presented "Gender Construction in Contemporary Latin American Film and Literature" at the DHC's Undergraduate Research Conference. Clary has also begun recruiting for his faculty-led study abroad program to Oaxaca, Mexico for spring 2015.

Jannine Montauban, Professor, gave a talk, "La escena de los músicos como un espejo textual de Los empeños de una casa de sor Juana Inés de la Cruz," at the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater Conference in El Paso, Texas (February 26-March 1).



Nancy Pinzón, who received her M.A. in 2013, has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Spanish at The University of Florida. She received both a TA-ship and a prestigious Fellowship.