

Modern &

Classical

Languages &

Literatures

The University of Montana

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-2006



Dear Friends of MCLL,

As the Autumn Semester and the calendar year draw to a close, our thoughts turn to our many friends across the country. On behalf of the Department I would like to wish you all a joyous holiday season and extend to each of you our best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

The Department continues to grow and expand. We now offer 11 languages to our students. We total 51 hard working individuals, 26 of which are tenure-track faculty. I am particularly pleased that we were able to welcome 5 new full-time faculty to our ranks this fall. Their expertise, dedication and innovative ideas have enriched the Department immensely.

More students than ever before are participating in Study Abroad opportunities. This academic year the Department is organizing trips to Rome, Paris, Mexico, Germany and Austria, and Russia. In addition, many students avail themselves of University-sponsored exchange opportunities and direct placement at several foreign universities. All these students work with members of the Department to ensure that their experience will be as rewarding as possible and that they continue to make progress towards their degrees.

Almost all of the sections sponsor language related clubs and organizations, where students can meet on an informal basis outside of class to practice their language skills and participate in a variety of culturally oriented programs. For more information about these activities and to learn what is happening in the various sections, please consult the language specific descriptions in this Newsletter.

In closing, I would like to profoundly thank all of our donors (listed below) who so generously made monetary contributions to the Department this last year. As you know, State support for the University is limited, and we thus depend on your gifts to help fund a variety of our activities and to provide scholarships for many of our deserving students. All the members of the Department greatly appreciate your continued support, so thank you again!

Cordially,

Bob Acker, Chair



Dr. Robert Acker
Chair

Section Heads
Dr. Timothy Bradstock
Chinese

Dr. Linda Gillison
Classics

Dr. Christopher Anderson
French

Dr. Elizabeth Ametsbichler
German

Dr. Judith Rabinovitch
Japanese

Dr. Ludmila Prednewa
Russian

Dr. Jannine Mountauban
Spanish

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Martina Baum-Acker
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Thomas Bateridge '74
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Shirley Cuplin
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Dr. Maureen '60 Curnow
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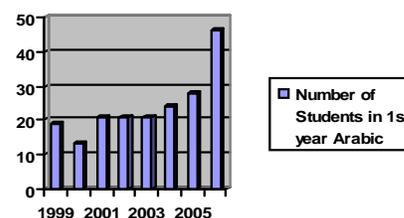
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Arabic

Samir Bitar joined the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures at The University of Montana in 1999 with hope of promoting their mission of excellence through continued

dedication to academics and service. It is his honor and privilege to teach Arabic Language and Culture at The University of Montana, where there are many expanding opportunities for learning the languages, cultures and history of our world. Thanks to the dedication and continuous support of the students and the University, Arabic classes are well enrolled and his program is a success.

Arabic Enrollment



Chinese

Currently, the Chinese program provides three years of language

instruction. 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 (putonghua or Mandarin) and Chinese literature and civilization. The program is

staffed by Professor Timothy R. Bradstock and Dr. Cao Zhen.



Classics

This semester has been a very busy one for the Classics section. Professor Hayden Ausland is on sabbatical this year and has been away in Norway, where he presented a couple of professional papers and has been working toward the establishment of exchange relationships between our university and institutions in Norway and Iceland. He is also active in talks about a possible Study Abroad in Greece for Classics students—an option which has been in abeyance for several years now, since John Madden retired.

Professor Linda Gillison has returned to the section full-time after four years as Chairperson of Modern and

Classical Languages and Literatures. She presided at the Latin Session of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association in Tucson in October and continues her work on the Development Committee for the Advanced Placement Exam in Latin. At its most recent meeting, she was nominated by the College Board to the chairmanship of that committee for the next three years.

The section welcomed Professor James Scott back to the teaching/service “fold” after eight years in the Dean’s office of the College of Arts and Sciences, where he served as Associate Dean of the College.

Assistant Professor Matthew Semanoff continues his work on Aratus’ didactic verse. He is making very important contributions to the section and department, participating in the deliberations of the Faculty Evaluation Committee and the Unit Standards

Revision Committee, and also taking the lead in the section’s moves toward a revision of its schedule.

Visiting Assistant Professor Barbara Weinlich, in her second year with the Classics section, is completing another chapter in her new book on Propertius’ elegies. She will present an associated paper at a conference on “Regionalism and Globalism in Antiquity” in Vancouver next April.

The section is very happy to report that, for the first time, two of its senior majors—Karra Cuplin and Lonnie Alexander—are participating in the prestigious College Year in Athens program. They are spending this semester in Greece, working and studying in Athens and traveling to various sites of archaeological and historical importance with their fellow Classics students and the instructional staff of CYA.

French

The French section is pleased to announce that two new faculty members have joined us to replace faculty who have retired. Bénédicte Boisseron comes to us with a fresh Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and is a specialist in 20th century Francophone and Caribbean studies, and already has published widely in her areas. Mladen Kozul, an internationally known

scholar, comes to us from the University of Leuven in Belgium where he has been leader of a research group the last few years. He is a specialist of Enlightenment literature and thought who has concentrated most recently on the works of the Marquis de Sade. Both Bénédicte and Mladen bring an expertise and enthusiasm from which our students are benefiting greatly and which is already charting new directions for the French section. We are very pleased for their important contributions to our endeavors.

Michel Valentin (Film, Critical Theory, the Baroque) remains president of

the Missoula Alliance Française, and, thanks to his tireless work, provides a French link between The UM and the town. Each year he brings in a number of speakers from France to give lectures. In addition he has organized a number of conferences open to the public, the most recent of which was a three-day International Conference on “The Veil” that included luminaries from all over the globe. Michel is busy preparing the proceedings of the conference for publication as a book.

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Christopher Anderson (modern and postmodern 20th century literature, regional and popular genres, poetry) has resumed duties as section head after a semester exchange in Montpellier, France. His most recent article, «*L'eau d'ici et l'au-delà: pêche et spiritualité chez Norman Maclean et René Fallet*», published in France, is a tribute to his two favorite pastimes: literature and fishing.

Ione Crummy (Romanticism, 19th century fiction, drama, Women's Studies) also recently returned from an exchange in Cork, Ireland. She is active in her research on Georges Sand and Balzac, having recently presented papers at national and international conferences.

After 30 years of semester-long faculty directed study abroad programs to Beaune, to Beaune and Paris, and finally to Paris, we have moved toward sending students to study in French universities through ISEP (International Student Exchange Program) and direct exchanges with French universities. Michel Valentin and Chris Anderson helped set up student and

faculty exchanges with the Universities of Toulouse, Montpellier, Lyon and the Catholique University in Angers. Chris Anderson works closely with the Office of International Programs and interviews students, helps them establish a study program, and works with them to transfer their credits toward the French major and minor. In the last three years (not counting fall 2006) we have sent 29 students to study in French and Swiss universities. In addition, he works with students to get them abroad on a teaching program in France that employs American students to teach English in French primary and secondary schools. Ione Crummy is directing a Wintersession program in January to Paris to see plays studied in her drama course. Bénédicte Boisseron is working to establish a student and faculty exchange with the University of Guadeloupe, and will begin a new faculty-directed summer program in Guadeloupe in summer 2008.

The French Section is very grateful for the Scholarship Fund that was

established in honor of Paul Crowley. The many generous donations will enable us to provide financial assistance to some of our deserving French majors.

At a time when national enrollments in French have been dwindling, at UM we have seen some gains. At the beginning of fall 2006 we had fifty French majors and twenty minors, thanks in large part to the opportunities we provide in study and work abroad. We find that after a semester or two in Europe students come back enthusiastic about studying French. In addition, we have seen in the last few weeks more than a ten percent growth in new majors: this is due to the enthusiasm of the new faculty and the spirit of cooperation throughout the section. We work well together, and students respond well to it. There are five of us in tenured and tenure-track positions, plus two teaching assistants and an exchange lecturer, which makes us the largest, and most diverse program in French between Minneapolis (U of Minnesota) and Seattle (U of Washington).

German

We are happy to report that the German Section has had an extremely successful start to the 2006-2007 academic year. We have had healthy class enrollments this semester and are very pleased to welcome four graduate students to our M.A. program this fall. Two visiting Austrian Fulbright exchange students (Marlene Pichler and Ursula Windhab) are wonderful additions to our section, as well, teaching classes at the 100 and 200 levels. We are grateful to the Austrian Fulbright Commission for their continuing support of this exchange. We also are especially thankful to our donors for their generous support, which makes scholarships possible for our best students, and especially for our students who participate in our Study Abroad Program. Following is a short update on the individual faculty members of our section:

Professor Bob Acker has taken over as chair of the whole MCLL Department, a time-consuming and arduous task, of course, though he remains an active member of the section.

Professor Liz Ametsbichler acts 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*. This fall, she attended the annual conference for the GSA in Pittsburgh September 28-October 1. In addition to her German duties, she is Chair of the Faculty Senate this year.

Associate Professor Hiltrud Arens is on sabbatical fall semester. An article of hers on the Arab-German writer, Rafik Schami, was published in the fall issue of *Seminar*. Spring Semester, she will direct our Study Abroad Program to Berlin, Potsdam, and Vienna. Eleven students, who all are German majors, double majors, or minors have signed up for the program.

We welcome Assistant Professor Marton Marko, who has joined our ranks this fall. He has been helping to formalize the German Club from a conversation group to a recognized ASUM organization that offers many activities and is expanding. In early November, he presented a paper on the German filmmaker Wim Wenders at the Literature/Film Association's annual meeting in Towson, Maryland.

We were sorry to say "goodbye" to Professor Dennis McCormick who retired last spring after many dedicated years of service to the German Section, the MCLL Department, and UM.

In other news:

Ametsbichler and Arens traveled to Potsdam, Germany as part of a UM delegation to the University of Potsdam, one of UM's many exchange partners.

We are still very proud of our annual Study Abroad Program, but would also like to report that we have several students who study in German-speaking countries via ISEP (International Student Exchange Program) each year.

A former UM graduate, Pete Schweppe, is currently in Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship.

A former German graduate, Laura Sliter, is currently a member of the CAS External Advisory Board.

Again, we would like to extend a big thank you to all of you who help to make our program successful by your generous contributions that support student scholarships and activities, and: Wir wünschen Ihnen ein frohes Weihnachtsfest!

Italian

MCLL is pleased to include Italian in the Department's family of languages with Evelina Badery serving as the instructor and advisor for the Italian Club. After a 25-year hiatus, Italian language classes have started again and now include 1st and 2nd year with two sections of 1st year and a section each semester of 2nd year. A number of 2nd year students have indicated interest in continuing to a 3rd year course. *Il Circolo Italiano* (Italian Club) has already grown by leaps and bounds since its inception on September 13, 2006. Twenty-one students signed on as official members and

meetings are regularly attended by eight to ten students, as well as faculty, community members and native speakers. Word of the club has even spread as far as California, with a mention in *The Italo-Americano*, a weekly publication for the Italian community. The club is now ASUM recognized and looking forward to being included on next year's budget. Mackenzie River Pizza Co. generously hosted a meeting in November, and December will see the publication of the first edition of the club's newsletter, *La Bocca della Verità* (The Mouth of Truth). One side of the newsletter will be written in Italian and the other in English in the spirit of the club's goal of being accessible to all who are interested in participating, regardless of language skill. The club will finish

its first semester with a potluck at the International House on December 9th. Many activities are in the works for spring semester, including participation in Foreign Languages and Literatures Day, the International Food Festival, volunteering at the Missoula Food Bank and the creation of a week long event, Italian Days, during which students hope to share Italian film, food, games, music and guest speakers with both campus and community. Weekly conversation meetings are held on Wednesdays at Break Espresso, 432 N. Higgins.

Japanese

The Japanese section is happy to report strong enrollments of new majors and minors in our program, with about 75 students having declared their intent. This autumn, we expanded to 3 sections of first year Japanese and two of second, and are now able to give even more individual attention to students enrolled at these levels. Japanese Instructor Hiroko Takada-Amick joined us for a second year of language teaching in the section, the addition of this position giving the section the means to teach not only the extra sections of elementary and intermediate Japanese but also certain new elective courses (an experimental Japanese film studies course, for example, to be taught by Prof. Exley in spring 2007). Last spring

we added three new exchange programs in Tokyo for students of Japanese, bringing the number of partner universities to seven. More than a dozen students participated in these exchanges last year, many receiving scholarships from various sources. We continue to send 1-2 students to Date (Hokkaido) each year on one-year paid working internships and also dispatch 3 additional students to Oe, in Yamagata, Japan, during the summer months to undertake paid English teaching work. Two of our BA graduates began PhD courses in Japanese in the autumn of 2006, enrolling at major American universities. Several others are now working to complete their doctorates, either in Japanese linguistics, premodern Japanese literature, or modern literature. A number of UM students of Japanese, recently graduated, have been placed in Japanese schools where they are teaching English, under the Japanese government's JET program. Last spring,

three members of the Japanese section, Profs. Tachibana and Exley, and Ms. Takada-Amick, prepared a joint paper for the Central Association of Teachers of Japanese Annual Conference in Michigan. The paper was titled "Developing Integrated Teaching Material for Beginning to Intermediate Kanji." Prof. Rabinovitch, with Prof. Bradstock of the Chinese section, completed a book dealing with Chinese kanshi poetry by Japanese courtiers of the court period. This work published by Cornell University in 12/2005. This year, the Japanese section is undertaking a textbook review with the goal of picking a new text for our first two years of Japanese instruction. Prof. Renichi Suzuki, who is visiting UM's English Department for the year from Kumamoto University in Japan, has been offering a weekly Japanese Conversation Table to interested students of Japanese.

Persian / Farsi

Designated a critical language by the U.S. State Department, Persian has been taught since 2003 at the University.

Maia Sukhiashvili, a native of the Republic of Georgia, is currently teaching first and second year Persian. Modern Persian is a spoken language of more than 100 million people around the world. It is an official language of Iran (as Farsi), Tajikistan (as Tajik) and also in Afghanistan (as Dari).

Persian is also spoken in Uzbekistan, southwestern Pakistan, northern Iraq and southwestern Turkey, as well as by numerous speakers in Europe and the USA. There are more than 1 million Persian speakers in the United States.

Russian

The Russian Section would like to wish everyone "S Novym Godom"

(Happy New Year)! Ludmila Prednewa continues to serve as Section Head and enjoyed a Sabbatical last spring semester to work on her research. Assistant Professor Ona Renner-Fahey acts as Advisor to the Russian Club and Resident Director of the

Section's study abroad program. She presented research in May at an international conference on comparative literature in Poland and this November at a national conference in Washington, D.C.

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Enrollments in Russian language and literature classes have been steadily climbing over the last couple of years. We will have twice as many graduating seniors this year as in previous years. Russian Club continues to be quite active, holding a weekly conversation table and a monthly dinner. Club members are already planning for the International Festival in the spring and recently gave a presentation on Russian culture to over 100 students at Hellgate High School. For the

fourth year in a row, the top Russian language students will be nominated to participate in a highly competitive national essay exam. We are proud to announce that last spring one of our first-year students was awarded a bronze medal. Last spring was also eventful for our section when we welcomed the documentary filmmaker Marina Goldovskaya to campus. We held screenings of several of her films in the UC Theater, one of which she introduced, and we also greatly enjoyed talking with her in the language classroom during her visit.

Currently, the Section is in the process of planning a three-week abroad to take place this summer. This will be the first time we take students to Samara, a city of one million inhabitants located on the Volga. Following their studies in Samara, the participants will spend a few days sightseeing in Moscow.

Due to the generosity of donors, we have been able to offer scholarships to our most promising majors both for study at UM and abroad. We have also been able to expand our library holdings for our students and our own research. These contributions are truly appreciated.

Spanish

The academic year of 2006-2007 has been very exciting for the Spanish Section. Our class enrollments continue to grow as Spanish remains a very popular language among college students. We are pleased that Assistant Professor Naomi Shin and Lecturer Kelly Noe have joined the section. Professor Bustos-Fernández is participating in a faculty exchange in Argentina and Associate Professor Montauban is debuting as Section Head.

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 receptions of the UM chapter of Sigma Delta Pi (*National Collegiate Spanish Honor Society*) allow students to practice their skills in Spanish and share their enthusiasm for Spanish and Latin American cultures. *Zeta Xi* will initiate new members during the Spring semester. Next semester, thanks to Kelly Noe's work and enthusiasm, the section will offer a film series. Faculty will present and discuss important films from Spain and Latin America. The Section is also grateful to have an active scholarship program for students who would like to participate in Study Abroad Programs.

Professor María Bustos-Fernández reports that in Tucumán she is teaching a graduate seminar and that she is participating in a research group named

"Pensamiento Argentino" which consists of professors from the Universidad Nacional de Tucumán and some graduate students.

This was a very productive year for Associate Professor, Eduardo Chirinos, who successfully directed the 2006 Study Abroad program in Salamanca, Spain during the Spring semester. After staying in Madrid for a week, students lived with families for two months. The program included trips to Toledo, Segovia, Sevilla, Córdoba and Granada. Editorial Pre-textos published professor Chirinos' translation of *The Wild Iris* by Poet Laureate and Pulitzer prize winner Louis Glück. This year Professor Chirinos' first and most recent poetry books were published in Perú and Spain. The 25th anniversary edition of *Cuadernos de Horacio Morell* came out in May and *No tengo ruiseñores en el dedo* came out in March. From August 9-17, Professor Chirinos was the guest writer at the Casa de Poesía Silva in Bogotá, Colombia, as part of the celebration of their 20th anniversary.

The Spanish Section welcomes Assistant Professor Naomi Shin. Professor Shin graduated from CUNY with a specialization in Spanish Linguistics and Language Acquisition. Our students are already benefiting from Professor Shin's enthusiasm in Spanish linguistics and expertise in teaching methodology.

Associate Professor Clary Loisel gave a paper entitled "La función del suicidio de Andrés en *Sin rumbo*" at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Conference and presented "Postmodern Construction of Sexual Identity: Queer Issues in Spanish-

American Literature" for the University of Montana's Day of Dialogue.

His translation of "La más fuerte pasión" by the Mexican writer Luis Zapata was published by Floricanto Press and his translation of the play "Drácula gay" by the Mexican playwright Tomás Urtusástegui was published by the *Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly*.

Professor Loisel will direct the 2007 Study Abroad program in México which will go for the first time to the University of Guanajuato.

Associate Professor Jannine Montauban has taken over as Head of the Spanish Section. In addition to this time-consuming task, professor Montauban is serving as the advisor of the UM chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, and is in the process of revising her second book on the picaresque, which has already been accepted for publication by Editorial Visor.

Kelly Noe, Lecturer – represented the Spanish section on a three-day, three-city promotional tour visiting several high schools in Montana. The tour began in Helena, then went to Livingston, and concluded in Billings. One focus of the tour was to communicate to Montanans that low-to-moderate income students with a desire to get a college education could find affordable ways to attend the University of Montana.

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 the Latin American Studies course for the first time. He is serving as faculty student liaison for the Department of MCLL.

Happy Holidays from MCLL



*Bob Acker, German
Elizabeth Ametsbichler, German
Chris Anderson, French
Kilbrud Arens, German
Hayden Ausland, Classics
Evelina Badery, Italian
Linda Bailey, Spanish
Elisabeth Belz, German
Samir Bitar, Arabic
Benedicte Boisseron, French
Amelie Bousquet, French
Timothy Bradstock, Chinese
Maria Bustos-Fernandez, Spanish
Zhen Cao, Chinese
Eduardo Chirinos, Spanish
Manolita Connor, Spanish
Jone Crummy, Spanish
Eileen Cummings, Spanish
Phyllis Duran, Staff
Charles Exley, Japanese
Desiree Gerner, Staff
Alicia Gignoux, Spanish
Linda Gillison, Classics
Khaled Kuthaily, Arabic*

*Juan Jorda Pascual, Spanish
Mladen Kozul, French
Clary Loisel, Spanish
Melissa MacKenzie, Spanish
Marton Marko, German
Jannine Montauban, Spanish
Rob Mottram, German
Claire Mouflard, French
Kelly Noe, Spanish
Marlene Pichler, German
Ludmila Prednewa, Russian
Judith Rabinovitch, Japanese
Ona Renner-Fahey, Russian
Stan Rose, Spanish
James Scott, Classics
Matthew Semanoff, Classics
Naomi Shin, Spanish
Maia Sukhiashvili, Persian
Yuka Tachibana, Japanese
Kiroko Takada-Amick, Japanese
Michel Valentin, French
Barbara Weinlich, Classics
Ursula Windhab, German
Stella Zion, German*

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