

MCLL News

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Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures

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<http://hs.umt.edu/mcll/>



Ona Renner-Fahey, Justin Trifiro, [PhD Candidate, USC] and Clint Walker at ASEES 2016.

The Chair

Elizabeth Ametsbichler is chairing MCLL alone this academic year, while **Jannine Montauban** spends the year in Peru teaching at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. The department looks forward to welcoming her back next fall!

We in MCLL continue to face many challenges as the university looks for solutions to problems, including searches for new leadership. I remain hopeful that we will rise to these challenges and continue to offer exciting and inspiring educational opportunities to our students.

This academic year, we were fortunate to be able to once again welcome new colleagues to the department: **Michihiro Ama** joined us as the Karashima Tsukasa Associate Professor of Japanese Language and Culture; **John Trevathan** is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Spanish; **Martina Fontanarosa** is an FLTA from Rome, Italy teaching first-year Italian; and **Karoline Fuchs** is our Austrian FLTA teaching German. We also would like to congratulate **Rob Tuck** of the Japanese section and his wife Kate on the birth of their baby girl, Zoë, in August.

A big thank you to our office staff, **Karen Blazevich** and **Olivia White**, as well as to the

work-study students last semester, **Carter Isaiah**, **Guthrie McLean**, and **Zakk Winch**, for their willing help with all of our special requests.

This Spring Semester, MCLL will once again host the annual Foreign Language Day on Friday, March 3rd. Each year we welcome hundreds of Montana High School students to UM to introduce them to the ten languages that MCLL offers – a unique opportunity in Montana.

We will say goodbye to our graduating majors at Commencement. The MCLL graduation ceremony will take place at 12:00 pm Saturday, May 13th in the UC Theater.

Please enjoy reading about the diverse activities of MCLL members below.

Arabic

Khaled Huthaily, Associate Professor, was promoted to Associate Professor effective AY 2016-17. He has also received an NSA grant via the STARTALK program to offer two intensive Arabic language courses to high school students in summer 2016. Twenty-two students attended the program and earned five UM credits. The program reinforced UM's collaboration with the Missoula County Public Schools. Mr. Brendan Work, the Arabic language teacher at the MCPS joined the program as one of three instructors. Students learned Arabic in a fun environment, where they cooked, danced, and sang using Arabic.

Chinese

Zhen Cao, Senior Lecturer, long-time faculty advisor to the Chinese Student Association has supervised its Chinese character competition this fall, sponsored by provost's and dean's offices and by China Buffet. Other activities include movies and Mahjong and Chinese calligraphy evenings. Cao also gave two lectures for the 2016 summer

program at Shanghai International Studies University: "Introduction on the Philosophy of Chinese Medicine" and "A Comparative Look at Chinese Religions." Also, UM students Cory Horton and Augustine Mende participated in the three-week study abroad program in Shanghai, and Jesse Rapoport studied at Shanghai International Studies University on a one-year exchange program.

NOTE: The Summer Study Program at Shanghai International Studies University (three weeks in July with four UM credits) is open for sign-up; scholarships are available.

Classics

Hayden Ausland, Professor, spent fall semester on research leave in Norway.

Matthew Semanoff, Associate Professor, led a group of ten UM students on a study tour through Greece during the 2017 winter session. Students learned about the art, archaeology, and history of ancient Greece from the Bronze Age to the Byzantine periods with visits to Athens, Crete, Nafplion, Olympia, and Delphi. Students tasted wines from an organic winery in Nemea, picked oranges from an organic grove outside of the Bronze Age citadel of Tiryns, danced traditional folk dances in Olympia, and sang in the ancient theater of Epidauros.

Barbara Weinlich, Visiting Associate Professor, undertook research for eight weeks this past summer at the University of Cincinnati, generously funded by the Loeb Classical Library Foundation (Harvard University). She presented her research findings in a paper, "Isis, Bacchus, and Apollo: Power Politics and Religion," at the annual meeting of the Society for Classical Studies in Toronto, January 5-8, 2017. As the adviser of the recently revived Classics Club, Barbara organized a field trip to Bozeman on September 30, 2016. Club members visited the exhibit "Leisure and Luxury in the Age of Nero: The Villas of Oplontis near Pompeii" in the Museum of the Rockies and also attended the symposium "Genius Loci." The trip was college experience above and beyond classroom learning. In addition, Barbara organized the inaugural UM Classics Day, on November 16, 2016, attended

by 110 high school students of Greek and Latin and their teachers from Idaho, Montana, and Washington. Activities included a workshop on learning Greek, competitions, and a lecture on Roman graffiti and inscriptions. The event was recognized in a *Missoulian* article and subsequently gained nationwide attention among classicists when it was posted on the Facebook page of the American Classical League.



Classics Club at the Bozeman Museum of the Rockies Pompei Exhibit Fall 2016

French

Seth Barnes-Smith, Graduate Student & Teaching Assistant, participated in the President's Tour around Montana, giving interactive French presentations in Billings, Bozeman, and Great Falls during fall semester.

Bénédicte Boisseron, Associate Professor, gave an online presentation on her textbook *La Culture Francophone: Le monde à l'écoute* (Hackett Publishing, 2016) with co-author Astrid Billat (Meredith College) for the Boston American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, November 18, 2016.

Ione Crummy, Professor of French, presented her research on "The Other Within: Abject Peasant Women in Zola's *La Terre*" at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium on *la Terre* held at Brown University, October 26-28, 2016.

The French section received a most generous gift of more than three hundred leather-bound books by famous French authors from Julie Gay of Big Arm, MT, in memory of her mother-in-law, Louise Swain Gay. They are now shelved in the MCLL seminar /reading room.

German

Elizabeth Ametsbichler, Professor, attended the annual conference of the German Studies Association in San Diego, CA., September 29-October 2, 2016. She also attended the annual conference for the Coalition of Women in German in Banff, Alberta, from October 13-16, as a member of the Editorial Board of the *Women in German Yearbook*.



Karoline Fuchs, Marton Marko, and Hiltrud Arens at Nikolausfeier December 2016

Hiltrud Arens, Professor, presented “On the ‘Northpole of Dreams’ in Yoko Tawada’s *Etüden im Schnee*” as part of a panel on Yoko Tawada at the first Modern Languages Association International Symposium (Other Europes: Migrations, Translations, Transformations) in Düsseldorf, June 23-25, 2016. She also organized and procured funding for two scholars who visited during the fall. On October 20, 2016, **Carmen-Francesca Banciu**, a Romanian born German-language writer from Berlin, presented and read from two of her translated books, *Berlin is My Paris: Stories from the Capital* and *Mother’s Day: Song of a Sad Mother*, at a well-attended reading and reception. Banciu also visited German classes and discussed her writing and the creative process with the students, also talking about writing in her chosen literary language of German. On November 21, 2016, **Dr. Helmut Peitsch**, Professor of German Literature of the 19th and 20th Centuries at UM’s partner University of Potsdam presented on “Anti-Fascism to Anti-Totalitarianism: Remigration of Jewish Writers to Post-War Germany with a focus on Hans Mayer and Alfred Kantorowicz.”

Marton Marko, Associate Professor, offered a new course this fall, “Nature and the Environment in German Literature and Film.” Marty is entering

his second year as president of the Literature/Film Association and presented a paper, “Between Myth and Modernity: Cinematic Temptation in F.W. Murnau’s *Faust*,” at the LFA’s annual conference in mid-October at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. He also presented a paper on the early 20th-century Austrian poet Georg Trakl, “Crossroads of the Pastoral and Modern: Trakl on the Edge of the Commonplace,” at the German Studies Association annual conference in early October in San Diego.

Japanese

Michihiro Ama, Karashima Tsukasa Associate Professor of Japanese Language and Culture, published, “Shinran as Other” in the *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 43:2 (2016): 253-74.

Brian Dowdle, Assistant Professor, took part in scholarly workshops during the summer of 2016 at Yale and UCLA. He also served as the program chair and organizer of the 54th annual meeting of the Western Conference for the Association of Asian Studies (WCAAS), which was held at UM Sept, 23-24 and featured panelists from all over the world. Brian was also elected as President of WCAAS.

Robert Tuck, Assistant Professor, completed a book manuscript on nation, media, and poetry in 19th century Japan.

In September, the Japanese section welcomed back alumna Grace Yon from Germany where she is working as a translator for Nintendo. She presented to current students on her work, as an example of job possibilities for language students. On behalf of the section, Rob organized a public event on campus, hosting Mr. Yukio Shimomura, a Japanese-American interned during WWII, who presented a lecture on his experience to a very well-attended public audience. In October and November, in conjunction with the Mansfield Center, the section sent 23 students to Japan as part of the Japanese government’s Kakehashi Study Tour, with Brian Dowdle as chaperone.

Russian

Ona Renner-Fahey, Associate Professor, presented at the national convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in November. Her

paper, "The Modernist Woodsprite and its Diminishing World," was part of a series of panels on Ecology and Russian Culture.

Clint Walker, Associate Professor, attended a conference in Vancouver, BC devoted to the 150th anniversary of *Crime and Punishment*, where he presented on folkloric motifs in Dostoevsky's famous novel. He also attended the ASEES national convention, where he participated on a roundtable on *Icons and the Arts*.

At the ASEES conference, Ona and Clint met up with three former students who are currently in graduate programs: Ellina Sattarova (U-Pitt), Justin Trifiro (USC), and Travis Vincent (Johns Hopkins).

NOTE: This fall, the Russian Section has been busy organizing a small conference to be held in April in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Russian major at UM. Eight alumni of the Russian program will be returning to UM to present papers at this jubilee.



Russian Club at the Garden City Ballet performance of the Nutcracker. December 2016

Spanish

Maria Bustos, Professor, invited MSU Professor Molly Todd to campus on behalf of the Spanish section and Latin American Studies. She delivered a lecture and attended Spanish classes on Dec 1-2, 2016. Her research deals with El Salvador's refugees in Honduras and other Central American political and social issues.

Alicia Gignoux, Lecturer, participated in the NFLRC Project-Based Language Learning & Interculturality Intensive Summer Institute, held June 27-July 1, 2016 on the University of Hawai'i

at Manoa campus in Honolulu, Hawai'i. She was awarded \$1,000 to attend and was awarded a Designer Badge for her project on the Hawaii web site. She also has been chosen to mentor students in The Global Leadership Initiative who are completing their final projects during the next academic year.

Clary Loisel, Professor, has received a Fulbright (for Fall 2017) to teach courses in Spanish about human rights issues in Latin American Literature at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

Jannine Montauban, Professor, and **Micaela Downey, Adjunct Instructor**, published the article "Del Edén a México: sexo y religión en el cine de Luis Buñuel." *Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana* 83. (2016): 347-73.

Pablo Requena, Assistant Professor, presented at four conferences in fall 2016. At the Hispanic Linguistic Symposium at Georgetown University (October 7-9), he presented on "Syntactic Effects of Manipulating Animacy: Capturing Knowledge of Language in Child Spanish." In Boston, he presented the poster "Acquisition of Spanish Mood Selection in Complement Clauses" at the selective Boston University Conference on Language Development (November 4-6). He collaborated with two international research groups with whom he presented at two conferences. At the XLI Congress of the Argentine TESOL Federation held in San Juan, Argentina (September 15-17), he presented "EFL Textbooks for young Learners as Visual Models of Interaction," which appeared in the selected conference proceedings. His collaborative project, "New Longitudinal Corpus for the Study of Child Language Acquisition," was presented as part of the symposium "Psycholinguistic Studies on Rioplatense Spanish" at the II International Congress of Psychology in Cordoba, Argentina in October. Pablo was guest speaker at a graduate seminar (UM Dept. of Linguistics) where he presented on "Constraining Language Variation: Evidence from Adult and Child Spanish."