

# MCLL News

Spring and Fall 2017

Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures

[mcll@mso.umt.edu](mailto:mcll@mso.umt.edu)

[www.umt.edu/mcll](http://www.umt.edu/mcll)

---



Three Chinese Club Members hiking on Mount Sentinel

## The Chair

MCLL continues to face many challenges. However as new leadership takes the helm, I remain hopeful that we – MCLL and UM – will rise to these challenges and continue to offer exciting and inspiring educational opportunities to our students.

As Chair of MCLL, I would like to extend the department's heartfelt gratitude to all of those who have donated and contributed to the department in 2017. Your continued support is very important for our students, as this generosity enables students to keep studying language and culture, often abroad. Thank you so much! Danke sehr, merci beaucoup, muchos gracias!

In May, we sadly said goodbye to **Martina Fontanarosa**, an FLTA from Rome, Italy who taught first-year Italian, and **Karoline Fuchs**, our Austrian FLTA who taught German, as well as **Martina Baum-Acker**, Adjunct Instructor of German, Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish, **John Trevathan** and **Kelly Noe**, long-time Lecturer of Spanish. This Fall, we were happy to welcome new instructors: **Nana Archerer**, FLTA from Austria; **Vivian Chen**, our first-ever FLTA from Taiwan; **Alice Guerrin**, a Toulouse Exchange TA in French; **Anna Lokowich**, Adjunct Instructor in French; and two new

Spanish Adjunct Instructors, **Lynn Hudorovich** and **Caroline Lonski**.

This past year, we also said goodbye to two faculty colleagues: **Michel Valentin**, Professor of French, retired during the summer, and **Benedicte Boisseron**, Associate Professor of French accepted a position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Our loyal and long-time Administrative Assistant, **Karen Blazevich** took the VSO at the end of December, so is no longer with us, while **Olivia White** has taken on many of Karen's duties and will be our sole Admin. I am thankful to have a full-time Administrative Assistant for MCLL, as some units were not so lucky. My big wish for the New Year is *not* to lose any more colleagues.

This past Spring Semester, MCLL once again hosted the annual Foreign Language Day on March 3. We welcomed hundreds of Montana High School students to UM to introduce them to the languages that MCLL has available and the cultures associated with them. The array of languages at UM offers a unique opportunity for Montana students, indeed, for all students attending UM.

As we were unable to publish a newsletter last spring, this one covers selected news, activities, and events of the calendar year of 2017. Please enjoy reading about the diverse activities of MCLL members below. HAPPY NEW YEAR to all.

Sincerely, Liz Ametsbichler

## Arabic

**Khaled Huthaily**, Associate Professor, attended the NSA-funded conference STARTALK Spring Conference that took place in Chicago, IL, from April 27-29. Khaled conducted six site visits to Chinese and Arabic programs in CA, OH, UT, and MA during the summer and helped five of them to develop curriculum.

Congratulations to Khaled on becoming an American citizen this past year!

## Chinese

**Zhen Cao, Senior Lecturer**, is long-time faculty advisor to the Chinese Student Association. In Spring, he supervised many activities, including regular meetings of China Table, three movie nights, two calligraphy nights, and one mahjong night. In March, there was a character contest. In addition, the CSA co-sponsored the Chinese New Year celebration, attended by 120 people. April 18-21, the Section also hosted a Chinese delegation for the 15<sup>th</sup> CSWA annual conference and co-sponsored the event. During July, three students went to Shanghai International Studies University for a three-week Study Abroad Program.

This Fall, the Chinese Section has a Fulbright TA (Vivian Chen, who has a degree in Teaching-Chinese-as-a Foreign-Language) for the first time. Other highlights include: a record number of students enrolled in Chinese 201; Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration (moon cake and origami, folk story telling); Chinese Radicals Competition; Double Ninths Festival celebration, mountain climbing; two Chinese movie nights; Mahjong; and family and friends class visit.

## Classics

**Hayden Ausland, Professor**, contributed an essay, "On the Treatment of Virtue in Plato's Protagoras," to an anthology generated by the University of Bergen project that he has been involved in and that appeared in the spring: Olof Pettersson & Vigdis Songe-Møller (eds.), *Plato's Protagoras. Essay on the Confrontation of Philosophy and Sophistry* (Springer 2017). He read a paper "On Classical and Medieval Understandings of Hope, and Some Consequences for Us Here and Now" at an interdisciplinary conference "Hope and Fear," held at Carroll College in Helena, MT on March 31- April 2. He also contributed a paper, "Sagacity and Politics" in the Symposium of the Bergen project (Paideia, power and Persuasion: Political Thinking in and around Plato) at the University of Bergen, June 12 – 13. This past Fall, he was on research leave, spending part of the time in Norway.



Classics Club Saturnalia party 2017 – B. Weinlich

**Barbara Weinlich, Visiting Associate Professor**, presented a paper entitled "Isis, Bacchus, and Apollo: Propertius on Religion and Power" at the annual meeting of the Society for Classical Studies (SCS) in Toronto, January 5-8, 2017, and brought her book manuscript to near completion during the summer, which she once again spent at the Blegen Library of the University of Cincinnati. She also traveled to the ACL Institute in Grand Rapids (MI), June 28 - July 2, in order to extend the official invitation to the ACL Institute 2018, which will be held at the University of Montana, June 27-30, 2018. She received a TAA Grant to cover the costs of purchasing the rights for reproducing six images in her book chapter "The Metanarrative of Picture Books," and she secured a National Latin Teacher Recruitment Week (NLTRW) grant for inviting Prof. Alden Smith (Baylor University) to speak at the inaugural Vergilfest, April 13, 2017. This past Fall, she again organized a UM Classics Day for high school students on October 2. The full-day event attracted 150 students and their teachers from Montana and Washington and was a great success. As the adviser of the Classics Club, she helped host Prof. Brett Rogers (University of Puget Sound) who gave a lecture on the classical roots of the Harry Potter novels ("Hunting Classical Ghosts and Tyrants: Defense against the Dark Arts Course") in association with UM's Harry Potter Extravaganza on December 8.

## French

**Seth Barnes-Smith, Graduate Student & Teaching Assistant**, graduated with his M.A. in French in May. Since a moratorium has been placed on MCLL's Graduate Program, Seth is most likely our last graduate student – at least for

the near future. We very much appreciated his energy and engagement in the department these past two years. Currently, he is teaching in Toulouse as part of the UM exchange with that university.

**Ione Crummy, Professor**, presented a paper on “A Fertile Literary Cross-pollination: Mme de Staël and Lady Morgan’s Travel Writings” at the conference entitled *Reputations, Legacies, Futures: Jane Austen, Germaine de Staël and their contemporaries, 1817-2017*, at Chawton House Library, Hampshire, UK, July 13-15, 2017. She also conducted sabbatical research on “The Afterlife of ‘Devils,’ or What Became of George Sand’s Best English Convent School Friends,” at the National Archives, the British Library, and the archives in Stafford, Preston, York, Beverley, and Hull, UK. She is on sabbatical for AY 2017-2018.

**Mladen Kozul, Associate Professor**, published a peer-reviewed essay, “Collectivité de pensées, collectivité textuelle, plagiat: l’auteur Holbach dans la République des lettres,” in *Mélanges en l’honneur de Michel Delon*, éd. Jacques Bertchold and Pierre Frantz, Presses Universitaires de Paris Sorbonne, 2017, and presented the paper “Sade et son lecteur” at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS), held in Minneapolis, MN, from March 30 to April 2. In April, he gave a series of graduate seminars in French at Brown University (Providence, RI), under the title “Le corps et la sexualité à l’âge classique en France.” He also gave a lecture, at both Brown University and at Tufts University (Cambridge, MA), titled “Modernity, Authority and Media Manipulation in the French Enlightenment.”

## German

In spring, German was approached by the National German Honorary Society Delta Phi Alpha about establishing a UM chapter. Our first inductees were: Natalia Boise, Eric Bush, Sonia McLain, and Ian Strahn. This Fall, our inductees were: Dillon Sarb and Gary Warchola.



Spring 2017 German Honor Society Inductees: Eric Bush, Natalia Boise, Ian Strahn, and Sonia McLain

Other student news: Ian received a Fulbright to teach English in Germany, and Eric received a Teaching Assistantship grant to teach English in Austria. Gary has been accepted to conduct his student teaching this Spring in Berlin, Germany, a first for UM.

**Elizabeth Ametsbichler, Professor**, presented a paper “Stories Across Borders in Zdenka Becker’s *Good-Bye Galina*” at the annual Austrian Studies Association Conference in Chicago, March 16-19. She also presented at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Conference in Spokane, October 12-14. Her paper was titled “Mothers in Zdenka Becker.” In April, she organized a visit by the Austrian Scholar Winfried R. Garscha who delivered a lecture, “In Praise of disobedience: Why and How People Resisted Nazi Dictatorship” and also visited German classes to discuss his work as historian and archivist at the Documentation Center of Austrian Resistance (DÖW) in Vienna.

**Hiltrud Arens, Professor**, published an article in a German anthology on transitory/transitional encounters in literature, theater, and film: “Berlin als Metapher für Umbruch und Transformation in Carmen-Francesca Bancius *Berlin ist mein Paris*.” *Transiträume und transitorische Begegnungen in Literatur, Theater und Film*. Eds. Withold Bonner, Sabine Egger, and Ernest W.B. Hess-Lüttich. Frankfurt/New York: Peter Lang, 2017. 313-28.

Over the summer, the German Section received a grant from the German Embassy to organize what the Embassy calls “campus weeks” on topics relevant to Germany on the UM campus. This year’s theme was the integration of immigrants in Germany in light of the refugee crisis. Liz and Hiltrud organized the series *Every Monday is Migration Monday* between October 23-November

13, which included films and a panel discussion. The well-attended panel was the final event on “Immigration, Migrants, and Refugees in Germany, the U.S.A., and the World,” featuring Hiltrud Arens (MCLL), Gillian Glaes (History/UM), Mary Poole (Soft Landing Missoula), and Jen Barile (International Rescue Committee) as panelists. The grant also included a poster exhibition that was on view in the Mansfield Library during this time.

**Marton Marko, Associate Professor**, participated in a campus panel, “The 2017 German Elections: Merkel’s to Lose?” in September that discussed aspects of the year’s German political campaigns and the anticipated outcomes of the election at the time. In October, he hosted the Literature/Film Association’s annual conference, which returned to UM after being held here in 2014. This year’s meeting, themed “Politics, Ethics, and Adaptation,” featured 47 presentations with participants from across the US and Canada, as well as from Germany, Turkey, and India, and included presenters from UM. Marty will continue his role as president of the LFA into the coming fall.



Fall 2017 German honor Society members Dillon Sarb and Gary Warchola

**Bob Acker, Professor Emeritus** and former MCLL chair, and **Martina Baum-Acker**, former **Adjunct Instructor**, organized a reunion in Vienna, Austria last summer for some of the Austrian Fulbright Teaching Assistants who taught at UM. For the past 40 years the Department has been hosting young scholars from Austria who teach an elementary German class, participate in a variety of activities to provide cultural enrichment for our students, and attend University classes in their fields of interest.

## Japanese

The Japanese Section includes **Michihiro Ama, Karashima Tsukasa Associate Professor of Japanese Language and Culture, Brian Dowdle, Assistant Professor, and Robert Tuck, Assistant Professor.**

In January, Rob was invited to deliver a lecture at the École des Hautes études en Sciences Sociales, one of France’s most prestigious universities. During the summer of 2017, he signed a contract with Columbia University Press for his book, *Idly Scribbling Rhymers: Poetry, Print, and Community in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Japan*. He received the “Weatherhead East Asian Institute’s First Book Prize” for this work.

During the summer, Brian participated in “Japanese Text Mining: Digital Humanities Methods for Japanese Studies,” a workshop held at Emory University May 30 -June 2. He is using this training on web-based corpora and analytic tools in his research project on nineteenth-century Japanese literature.

In December, Michihiro was invited by the Hompa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to deliver lectures.

In August, eight students left for Japan for study abroad: Anna Kenny, Marcus Laurence, and Aubrey Quamme went to Dōshisha University; Christian Slavin and Ryan Koski went to Waseda University; and Julie White, Ryan Wozniak and Schrielle Standish went to Tōyō University.

In November, UM was selected again to participate in the Kakehashi project, which is designed and fully funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan for university students in North America who have not been to Japan to visit and understand Japan. More than twenty students will be visiting Japan this coming March.

In November, the Kumamoto Governor of Japan and his delegation came to UM as part of his trip to the state of Montana to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup>-year anniversary of the Montana-Kumamoto sister states. Brian and Michihiro played a key role in organizing the event and interpreting various presentations.

On November 14, 2017, Consul General Yoichiro Yamada presented Judith N. Rabinovitch, **Karashima Tsukasa Professor Emerita of Japanese Language and Culture** with the Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2017. She was recognized for her contributions in promoting Japan research in the U.S.A. Congratulations, Judith!

## Russian

2017 was a milestone year for the Russian program, which celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russian major at UM. In honor of this occasion, the section held a mini-conference and jubilee celebration in April. The conference opened on Friday night with a keynote speaker: alumnus Tom Seifrid, Professor and Chair of Slavic at the University of Southern California. The celebration on Friday also included student performances and a champagne toast. On Saturday, eight alumni and current graduate students from institutions around the country presented their current research on Russian and former Soviet history, literature, policy, and film.

**Ona Renner-Fahey, Associate Professor**, and **Clint Walker, Associate Professor**, both presented at the American Association for Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AASEEL) national conference in Chicago in November. Ona's paper was "On Diagnosing Landscape and Placelessness: Nabokov's Wood-Sprite" and Clint presented "Monuments in Platonov's Moscow Text." He also chaired a panel on "Biography, Autobiography, Counterbiography." Earlier, in October, he presented a paper entitled "The Russian Revolution and the Re-Turn to Moscow" at the "Reflections of the Revolution" Conference hosted at UM. Finally, in October, he presented a paper and chaired a panel at UM at the Literature and Film Association conference devoted to the theme "Politics, Ethics, and Adaptation."

This past year, both faculty and current students garnered noteworthy awards. Ona was honored with two teaching awards: one national award from the AASEEL, which she received at a conference in San Francisco; the other was UM's Distinguished Teaching Award. Students: Julie Ammons received a Fulbright to teach English in Russia, and Kaitlyn Anderson won a Boren award to study Russian in Kyrgyzstan for a year. For

summer study in Russia, Andrew Castellanos received both a LaMotte Scholarship from UM and a Fund for Education Abroad, while Kitiri McDunn won a Critical Language Scholarship. Kristina Buffham also received an honorable mention in ACTR's national essay contest.



Russian Jubilee champagne toast – Slikati photo

## Spanish

**Clary Loisel, Professor**, spent most of 2017 in Latin America. During Spring, Clary directed the Spanish Section's semester-long study abroad program to Oaxaca, Mexico. Students studied at the *Instituto Cultural Oaxaca* and took courses in Spanish on culture, film, and literature, as well as the Spanish language. Students took workshops on salsa dance, cooking Mexican food, and weaving. They were also paired with Mexican counterparts to practice Spanish and to help their Mexican partners learn English. While in Oaxaca, Clary took a workshop on the Mexican writer Juan Rulfo and, as part of the workshop, co-authored an analysis of Rulfo's novel *Pedro Páramo*: "Centenario del Nacimiento de Juan Rulfo" in *Fundación Alfredo Harp Helú* (FAHHO), Oaxaca, Mexico.

In the Fall, as a Fulbright Scholar, he lived in Belo Horizonte, Brazil where he taught two advanced courses in Spanish on human rights issues at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) and worked on his anthology of Brazilian theater. He presented "Duas Vozes Queer do Teatro Mexicano Contemporâneo" at the Colóquio Internacional Dramaturgias e Pulsões Anárquicas on the campus of UFMG. His Portuguese has improved significantly during the last five months.

**Pablo Requena, Assistant Professor**, published a chapter entitled "Bilingual and monolingual

children's patterns of syntactic variation: Variable clitic placement in Spanish" in the edited volume *Language Disorders in Spanish-Speaking Children: Language Processing and Cognitive Functions* and a paper entitled "Acquisition of Spanish Mood Selection in Complement Clauses" in the proceedings of the selective 41st Boston University Conference on Language Development. He also had two manuscripts accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals. He presented at four academic meetings including a presentation about "Authentic Materials in the Second Language (L2) Class" at the 2017 MEA-MFT Educators' Conference. He gave invited presentations at the UM Humanities Institute and at the UM Datablitz on Brain, Mind, and Natural Computation. He supervised a professional paper for an M.A. in MCLL (French), as well as seven undergraduate students in research projects at the Language Research Lab. In the Fall, he taught a service-learning course through which students of Spanish offered after-school language education to children who are new to the immersion program at Paxson Elementary School. In the Spring of 2018, Pablo will be leading the faculty-led Study Abroad Program in Argentina.



Pictured above, from left to right, are: Elisabeth Pammer, Markus Huemer, Margot Siderits, Karin Köck (Dertschnig), Tina Baum-Acker, Bob Acker, Marlene Wallace (Pichler) Barbara Naschberger (Singer) and Georg Wieger.

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

DONATE