

MCLL News

Winter 2015

Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures mcll@mso.umt.edu www.umt.edu/mcll

The Chairs

Elizabeth Ametsbichler and Jannine

Montauban, co-chairs: We would like to wish all of you a great semester and a wonderful 2015!

This academic year, we were once again fortunate to be able to welcome new colleagues to the department: **Adrien Lacombe**, exchange TA from Toulouse; **Reinhard Wogg**, our FLTA from Austria, and **Scot Moyer**, adjunct instructor of French. We also congratulate **Mike Olsen** of the Spanish section and his wife Alexis on the birth of their baby boy in October.

We would like to thank our office staff, **Karen Blazevich** and **Olivia White**, and the work-study students from last semester, **Payton Wulff** and **Tresha Sanders**, for their great help with the extra events from fall, including the 25th Annual Literature/Film Association (LFA) Conference: “Fluid Frontiers: Margins and Confluences in Literature, Film, Media, and Culture,” which took place at UM on October 2-4 and was organized by **Marty Marko**. They also helped tremendously with the Wall Weeks events that celebrated the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, which was organized by the German Section.

Events to look forward to this semester include: The annual Community Lecture Series sponsored by the Alumni Association, which features lectures about birds. **Eduardo Chirinos** has been invited to introduce each lecture by reading a poem from his recently published work, *35 Zoological Lessons (and Other Didactic Poems)*. Also, **Clint Walker** will be giving a talk as part of UM’s Tedx Talk series on February 20. This year’s topic is about language.

This Spring Semester, MCLL will once again host the annual the Foreign Language Day on March 13th. Last year was the first time that we did not

have FL Day in over 30 years, due to a late-February blizzard. We always welcome hundreds of Montana High School students to UM to introduce them to the ten languages that MCLL offers – a unique opportunity in Montana. This year, graduation ceremonies will be held on May 16th. Please enjoy reading about the diverse activities of MCLL members below.

Classics



Wintersession 2015 Study Abroad Greece Students

Hayden Ausland, Professor, is currently on sabbatical leave in Norway for this academic year.

Matthew Semanoff, Associate Professor, led the Classics section’s study abroad program to Greece this January. Seventeen students with diverse majors studied art and archaeology while traveling through Greece. After four days in Athens, the group took an overnight ferry to Crete, the birthplace of Zeus and legendary home of King Minos. In spite of stormy seas (and the anger of Poseidon), the group returned to the mainland and began a tour of the Peloponnesus with visits to Mycenae, Tiryns, Epidaurus, Corinth, Nemea, and Olympia. The tour culminated in a visit to Delphi.

Throughout the program, students presented research projects on location, studied art and artifacts in museums, and walked through the places of myth, legend, and history. While the

program focused on the history of Greece from the Bronze Age to the Hellenistic period, students also experienced contemporary Greek culture.

Some highlights included learning how to make *peinilri* (a traditional Greek “pizza”), a visit and lesson from one of the last families that makes *phyllo* dough by hand, a tour of an olive oil cooperative, and folk dancing lessons.

French

Associate Professor Bénédicte Boisseron’s book, *Creole Renegades: Rhetoric of Betrayal and Guilt in the Caribbean Diaspora*, received the 2015 Nicolás Guillén Outstanding Book Award. Boisseron will attend an awards ceremony in June at the Caribbean Philosophical Association in Riviera Maya, Quintana Roo, Mexico, to receive the award. Bénédicte was also awarded a sabbatical research leave from the University of Montana for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Ione Crummy, Professor presented a paper titled “Portraits of the Author as a Woman: George Sand in Film” at the Literature/Film Association



Conference at UM (October 2-4).

During winter-session, she led a study abroad program from January 3-24

to Paris to attend a dozen French plays. Eight students, who had studied the plays fall semester, participated. Besides attending such classic plays as Molière’s *Tartuffe*, Marivaux’s *La Double Inconstance*, and Rostand’s *Cyrano de Bergerac*, the group also explored the Musée d’Orsay, the Louvre, the Carnavalet and Cluny museums, Notre-Dame, Sainte-Chapelle, and the châteaux of Versailles and Fontainebleau. The students found attending live performances, after having read the plays, very rewarding – in particular, Beaumarchais’s *Le Mariage de Figaro*.

Michel Valentin, Professor, read “Strauss versus Genes or the postmodern vengeful return of positivism” at the 2nd annual EPIS Conference in Missoula, July 31 - August 1. He also presented “HYBRIDITY/ TERRITORIALITY: Zones and

Fluxes in Orson Welles’s *Touch of Evil* (1958) at the Literature/Film Association Conference at UM University of Montana (October 2-4). He participated in two seminars (on Lacanian theory, authenticity and subjectivity, Foucault, and the care of the self) via Skype for EPIS in October.

German

Elizabeth Ametsbichler, Professor, is in her third of a four-year term as coeditor of the *Women in German Yearbook*. Volume 30 of the Yearbook was published in January 2015 by the U of Nebraska P. As a member of the Executive Board of the German Studies Association, an international organization, she attended the annual conference in Kansas City, MO September 18-21. In her capacity as co-editor of the Women in German Yearbook and member of the Executive Committee, she attended the annual conference for the Coalition of Women in German in Shawnee on the Delaware, PA, October 23-26.

Hiltrud Arens, Professor, presented “‘So frech möchte ich auch sein’ – Brazen Women in Robert Cohen’s *Das Exil der frechen Frauen*” at the Triennial International Conference of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies, September 17-19, at the Institute of Modern Languages Research, University of London, UK.

Marton Marko, Associate Professor, organized and served as host for the Literature/Film Association Conference at UM, October 2 - 4. Forty-seven presenters from across the US and Canada attended, including 11 from UM, 6 of whom were from MCLL. Marty’s paper was titled “Velocity, Fidelity, and Cultural Identity. Re-Mobilizing Notions of Nation in *Run Lola Run* and *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*.” In early December, Marty also presented “Filmstädte: A History of the German Urban Cinemascape,” as part of the Geographical Colloquium series hosted by the UM Department of Geography.

The Section was involved in two significant collaborative undertakings during the fall. The first was a shared presentation by the full-time faculty titled “Berlin and the Wall in Media, Film, Literature, and Global Context” given at the MEA / MFT Educators’ Conference in mid-October in Missoula. The other, more extended undertaking was an event series commemorating the 25th

anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall entitled "Wall Weeks." In homage to the "Monday Demonstrations" held in the former East Germany in 1989, events took place at UM each Monday between October 13th and November 10th. The series included screenings and discussions of the films *Der Himmel über Berlin/ Wings of Desire* (1987), *In weiter Ferne, so nah! / Faraway, So Close!* (1993), and *Good-Bye Lenin!* (2003). The series also featured a journalist discussion panel about the fall of the Wall with UM School of Journalism Dean, Larry Abramson; Abramson's former NPR colleague Mike Shuster; and School of Journalism Associate Professor, Henriette Löwisch. UM Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Bradley Naranch also gave a lecture as part of the events. Students from GRMN 201 and 301 made posters which were displayed in the department as part of the commemoration. The series was supported by a grant from the German Information Center USA secured by Liz Ametsbichler and Marty Marko. The UM School of Journalism and School of Business Administration co-sponsored the events together with MCLL.

Japanese

The Japanese section is pleased to announce that **Kendra Junkert Strand** (UM 2003) completed her Ph.D. studies in Japanese Literature at the University of Michigan this past fall. Also, senior **Trevor Barton** has received a \$4,000 Bridging Scholarship for study abroad in Japan from the U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation. Trevor is currently studying Japanese at Sophia University in Tokyo.

Brian Dowdle, Assistant Professor, was in residence at the National Museum of Japanese History outside of Tokyo for three weeks last summer. He received a fellowship from the Museum to research nineteenth-century reading and educational practices in Japan and their relationship to the publishing industry. Brian also participated in an intensive two-week seminar on reading early-modern Japanese handwriting, which was held at Cambridge University in August.

Robert Tuck, Assistant Professor, has been serving as reviewer for *Japan Review*, *Dissertation Reviews*, and the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*.

Judith Rabinovitch, Karashima Professor, continues to work on a translation project devoted to the works of the Romantic poet Itō Shizuo (1906-1953). With **Tim Bradstock, Professor of Chinese**, she is seeking a publisher for a completed study of classical kanshi poetry with translated, annotated poems from the period ca. 700-1200.

Russian

News about Russian students: **Greta Starrett** (2013), after finishing her Fulbright program in Georgia last year, received the highly competitive FLAS through the State Department and is attending graduate school at The University of Washington's Slavic program. This past summer, **Ann Demi** (2015), President of UM's Russian Club, attended Middlebury College's Russian School, where she completed a year's worth of language study. In addition, Ann and fellow senior **Erin Herbrand** (2015), have just received job offers to teach English in Russia following graduation. Finally, **Justin Davis** (2015) is spending all of his senior year at Moscow State University.

In October, **Ona Renner-Fahey, Associate Professor**, attended a conference hosted by the University of Wisconsin chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages. The paper she presented was titled "The Modernist Appropriation of the Woodsprite: Fyodor Sologub's *A Created Legend*." Also this fall, Ona served as an academic reviewer for the upcoming volume from Gale Cengage *Stories of Ordinary Life in Totalitarian Regimes*.

Clint Walker, Associate Professor, gave a paper entitled "Expanding the Borders of the Western in the Soviet East: Vladimir Motyl's *White Sun of the Desert*" at the Literature/Film Association Conference hosted by UM in October. He reviewed an article for the journal *Utopian Studies*, as well as several entries for *Stories of Ordinary Life in Totalitarian Regimes*.

Spanish

Mike Olsen, Visiting Assistant Professor, started a research project on the use and interpretation of object pronouns among

heritage speakers of Spanish in July. In August, he was invited to discuss his dissertation research and his graduate school experience with students and faculty in the Masters of Second Language Teaching program at Utah State University. On October 10, he presented a talk titled "Preempting an Animacy-Based Spanish Object Pronoun System in English-Speaking L2 Learners of Spanish" at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Conference in Boise, Idaho. Mike is also the new father to a bouncing baby boy as of October 25.

Maria Bustos, Professor, presented "Use of flashback in the creation of a cinematic narrator in *El secreto de sus ojos* by Juan Carlos Campanella" at the Literature/ Film Association Conference at the University of Montana, October 3.

Eduardo Chirinos, Professor, presented the paper "Pañales de hormigas: Una lectura comparativa de 'Canción de cuna' de David Rosenmann-Taub y 'My Son' de Mark Strand" at the annual conference of the *Asociación Española de Estudios Literarios Hispanoamericanos* in Granada (September 10-12). In October, he was invited to NYC to present the book *The poetry of Juan Gonzalo Rose* (selected and translated by Paola García) at McNally Jackson Books. He was one of the poets invited to the 13th Poetry Festival in Costa Rica (October 24- November 3), and he also presented the Mexican edition of his book *Anuario Mínimo* at the Feria del Libro de Guadalajara (November 29-December 4). Two of his poetry books were published in Lima and the US: *Medicinas para quebrantamientos del halcón* (Lima: Mesa Redonda, 2014) and *While the Wolf Is Around* (New Orleans: Dialogos Books, 2014). January 13-14, he gave a two-day workshop at the *Casa de la Literatura Peruana* in Lima to young writers.

Clary Loisel, Professor, earned a Certificate of Completion for taking two courses in Portuguese in Rio de Janeiro at the *Instituto Brasil-Estados Unidos*, as part of the University of Florida and Georgetown University Study Abroad Program. In October, he presented "Intertextuality in Clarice Lispector's *Hour of*

the Star: Novel and Film" at the Literature/Film Association Conference at UM. At this conference, he also moderated the panel "Frontiers in Latino/Anglo Politics, Identity, and Ethics." In mid-October, Clary presented "Motivating Students to Learn Foreign Languages" at the MEA-MFT Educators' Conference at Sentinel High School. In November, he gave a talk titled "Demystifying *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo: Sexism, Gender, and Resilience*" as part of DiverseU. As a member of the International Programs Film Committee, Clary introduced and moderated the discussion for the Brazilian film *Doña Flor and Her Two Husbands* in October and the Mexican film *Like Water for Chocolate* in December at the Roxy Theater, as part of the Global Gateway Foreign Film Series "Food, Culture, and Passion."

Jannine Montauban, Professor, presented a paper titled "S/Z en el contexto hispánico: otredad y castración en los personajes femeninos de Miguel de Cervantes y María de Zayas" at the biennial conference of the *Grupo de estudios sobre la mujer en España y las Américas* (pre-1800) in Lisbon (September 8-10). She also presented a paper on Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz at the annual conference from the *Asociación Española de Estudios Literarios Hispanoamericanos* in Granada (September 10-12).



Wintersession 2015 Study Abroad Greece

Thank you to our generous donors!

Robert Acker &	James & Maureen Flightner
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Molly Fishburn-Matthews	Kristine Roby
Barry Flightner	Thomas and Allene Waldorf