The Chairs

Elizabeth Ametsbichler and Jannine Montauban, co-chairs: It’s once again the beginning of a new spring semester, though with our beautiful snowfall, it feels as if spring is very far off. We hope that the semester is off to a great start for everyone, and we wish all of you a productive semester and 2016.

This academic year, we were fortunate to be able once again to welcome new colleagues to the department: Phillipe Fournier-Murphy is this year’s exchange TA from Toulouse; Judith Hinterberger and Georg Wieger are our FLTAs from Austria, and Seth Barnes-Smith is a graduate student and TA in French. We also would like to give a special welcome to Pablo Requena, our new Assistant Professor of Spanish. Originally from Córdoba, Argentina, Pablo specializes in Hispanic Linguistics. Fall semester, we also were aided by new adjunct instructors: Anna Lokowich in French, Anne Graham and Chandra Brown in Spanish. Thank you to all.

We also welcome back Mladen Kozul, Associate Professor of French, Hayden Ausland, who returned from sabbatical in Norway, and Barbara Weinlich, Visiting Associate Professor of Classics who taught in the department a few years ago.

This will be an especially rewarding year to our three colleagues who were awarded sabbatical leave to concentrate on their research projects. Hiltrud Arens (German) returns this semester after a Fall Semester sabbatical, and Marty Marko (German) has just begun his Spring Semester sabbatical. Bénédicte Boisseron (French) is on leave for the whole academic year.

This Spring Semester, MCLL will once again host the annual the Foreign Language Day on March 4th. As always, we will welcome hundreds of Montana High School students to UM to introduce them to the languages that MCLL offers. We are pleased to announce our outreach partnership with the Broader Impact Group [BIG] and Inspire Classroom as part of the We Are Montana in the Classroom initiative. Alumni and former faculty are encouraged to participate as we visit students across Montana remotely and in person. Please contact Olivia White: olivia.white@mso.umt.edu for more information. We would love to see you at our graduation ceremony. Commencement will be held on May 14th, at 2pm sharp in the UC Theater.

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

Classics

Hayden Ausland, Professor, participated in a workshop of the Ancient Philosophy Group at the University of Bergen (Norway), held in Athens (Greece) Oct. 21-24, 2015. His contribution was the paper "On the Goddess of the Republic, Timaeus, and Critias, or the problem of theory versus practice."

Matthew Semanoff, Associate Professor, presented “Oikonomia and Isonomia in Lucretius’ De Rerum Natura” at the biennial meeting of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (summer 2015). He also organized a panel on the Interpretation and Influence of Greek
Myths at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association this past Fall.


French


Ione Crummy, Professor of French, presented a research paper entitled “Writing/Righting Rural Wrongs in Lady Morgan’s National Tales and George Sand’s Early Regional Novels” at the 20th International George Sand Colloquium on the theme “George Sand et ses consœurs: la femme artiste et intellectuelle au XIXe siècle,” held in Verona, Italy, June 29-July 1, 2015. On November 2, 2015, Ione gave a guest presentation on "Representations of Sappho in French Art" in Beth Hubble’s LSH 391 class: Sappho Through the Ages.

Mladen Kozul, Associate Professor, presented the paper “Casanova and the undifferentiated body” at the conference Casanova: libertine legend held at the University of California in Los Angeles on January 22-23 2016.


German

Elizabeth Ametsbichler, Professor, completed her four-year term as co-editor of the *Women in German Yearbook*. Volume 31 of the Yearbook was published in January 2016 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 Washington D.C. September 30-October 4. 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 Banff, Alberta, 15-18.

Hiltrud Arens, Professor, presented "Representations of Exile and Gender in Robert Cohen’s Exil der frechen Frauen" in a special session titled: Hauntings of the Past: Political and Personal Hi/stories in Film and Literature at the annual German Studies Conference in Washington DC, October 1-4.
Marton Marko, Associate Professor, attended a pedagogy workshop at Bozeman High School, “Encouraging Student Engagement with Games,” led by Natsacha Milde of the German Central Agency for Schools Abroad together with German majors Sonia Mclain and Alex Porter and German minor Gary Warchola. Also in September, he participated in UM’s Central and Southwest Asian Studies Brown Bag Series, speaking on the “Refugee Crisis in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.” In October, Marty attended the Literature/Film Association (LFA) Conference in York, Pennsylvania, delivering a paper, “Questions of Documentary and Composition: Naturalizing the Cinematic in Berlin: Symphony of a Great City.” This year, he was elected president of the LFA after being vice president since 2012.

Japanese

Brian Dowdle, Assistant Professor, published a review of Timon Screech Obtaining Images in Japan Review 28 (2015): 244-45. On October 9th, he presented a paper titled “Drifting Dogs” at the Western Conference of the Association of Asian Studies (WCAAS), held at the University of Utah. There he was selected to serve as Chair for the next annual conference, which will be held at the University of Montana, September 23-24, 2016 2016. Also, in November, he was elected by members of WCAAS to a six-year term (2017-2022) as co-representative to the national Association of Asian Studies’ Council on Conferences.

Robert Tuck, Assistant Professor, served as acting Section Head during fall semester and is on research leave this spring. Rob was invited to be a presenter on the panel “Fostering Engaged Citizens through General Education” at the conference Defining a 21st Century Education for a Vibrant Democracy, held at UM October 26-27, 2015. He had a journal article and a chapter in an edited volume (to appear in both Japanese and English) accepted for publication. He also put forward a proposal for a new exchange agreement with Waseda University in Tokyo.

Russian

Ona Renner-Fahey, Associate Professor, took 10 UM students to Russia on a three-week, three-credit course “The Russian Experience.” Highlights included a ballet, a play, the Hermitage Museum, some agro-tourism, and Georgian food! This semester, Ona was involved with UM’s First-Year Reading Experience. In her Introduction to Russian Culture course she has for a number of years been teaching the book The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival by John Vaillant. In addition to advocating for his visit, she was on the evaluation committee that judged the student essay contest. Finally, her entry on the poet Anna Akhmatova will appear this winter in the forthcoming on-line Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism.

Clint Walker, Associate Professor, was invited to give the alumnus talk and serve on the jury for best paper at the annual AATSEEL-Wisconsin Conference on October 9-10, 2015 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His talk was titled “Breaking Free but Paying his Respects: Revisiting Pushkin’s Story ‘The Stationmaster.’” In November, Clint attended the national Slavic conference ASEEES in Philadelphia, where he presented “Who Will Shape Your Dreams? Fairytale and Advertising Motifs in the Films of Anna Melikyan.” Fall Semester, he enjoyed team teaching with Sean O’Brien (Film Studies) the GLI course “Identity in Focus: Russian and American Perspectives.”

Spanish

Maria Bustos, Professor, is currently in Argentina conducting the semester-long Study Abroad Program for the Spanish section.
Eduardo Chirinos, Professor, was invited by the Casa de la literatura peruana to give the talk "Poesía, desentarramiento e historia en Recinto de Javier Literatura (August 18, 2015). He also published two books of poetry, Treinta y cinco lecciones de biología (Lima, 2015. Pp. 103) and Siete días para la eternidad (Homenaje a Odysseas Elytis) (Lima, 2015. Pp. 101). Anthologies of his work were published in Ecuador, La música y el cuerpo. 50 poemas de Eduardo Chirinos, ed. Aleyda Quevedo (Quito, 2015. Pp. 84) and in México, Incidente con perro en la calle 5 (Houston-Mexico, 2015. Pp. 127).

A second edition of his anthology and critical study of Spanish and Spanish American Avant-Garde poetry Rosa Polipétala. Artefactos modernos en la poesía española de Vanguardia was published for the first time in Spain by the prestigious Centro Generación del 27 (Malaga, 2015. Pp. 337). He also won the 2014-2015 Corda Foundation Award for faculty members and scholars for his essay "La insistencia del espectro en Canción de cuna de David Rosenmann-Taub y My Son de Mark Strand."

Alicia Gignoux, Lecturer, along with Jaylene Naylor from Physics and Astronomy, gave two bilingual planetarium presentations on November 12, 2015. The shows, Aztec Legend (creation of the sun and moon), were both sold out.

Clary Loisel, Professor, taught a GLI freshman seminar titled “Human Rights Issues in Films and Literature of the Portuguese-Speaking World.” His anthology of translated contemporary Mexican plays, which deals with LGBT issues has been published by Floricanto Press (168 pp.). He also published an article, “Los elementos románticos y realistas en Martín Rivas” in Sieteculebras: Revista Andina de Cultura. During the summer, he received a Library Travel Grant from the University of Florida’s Latin American and Caribbean Collection to research Brazilian theater. Clary also gave a Diverse U presentation, “Human Rights and Global Issues in José Saramago’s Blindness,” (November 2015).

Pablo Requena, Assistant Professor, Presented at two conferences in Fall 2015: At the Hispanic Linguistic Symposium in Urbana-Champaign, IL (September 24-27, 2015), he gave the paper “Acquiring a Variable Structure: Spanish-speaking Children’s Use of Mood.” In Boston, he presented the poster “Acquisition of Spanish Variable Clitic Placement: A Case of Probability Matching” at the Boston University Conference on Language Development (November 13-15th, 2015). He collaborated with two research groups and the results were presented at 1) the XL Congress of the Argentine TESOL Federation in Córdoba, Argentina (September 24-26th, 2015). The paper was “Transformaciones en el libro de texto de lengua extranjera: ¿Por qué y para qué cambia?”; 2) The Paper “Bilingual children’s patterns of morphosyntactic variation: Variable clitic placement in Spanish” was presented at the 44th New Ways of Analyzing Variation Conference in Toronto, Canada (October 22-25, 2015); 3) “El libro de texto de lengua extranjera: recursos multimodales para lectores actuales” was presented November 6-8, 2015 at the VII Congreso Internacional Cátedra UNESCO in Córdoba, Argentina.

Both papers presented in Argentina were later published in conference proceedings.