Initiatives of Particular Interest

Catch up with the department’s last five years

By Flore Zéphir

Research

Our Afro-Romance Institute for Languages and Literatures of the African Diaspora has been at the forefront of international initiatives owing to the efforts of several members of our faculty. First and foremost, we acknowledge our founding director, Marvin Lewis, who retired in summer 2005. We thank Marvin for his tireless work in creating at MU an institute devoted to the study of literature produced by black writers of Spanish, French, and Portuguese expression, and for bringing this literature into the academic mainstream.

When Marvin arrived, he joined Edward Mullen who had already taught courses in Afro-Hispanic literature and had published books and essays on that subject years before the field was widely recognized in the profession. In 1987, with the help of a grant, Marvin and Ed brought the Afro-Hispanic Review to campus. Our department continued to publish the journal until 2004.

The work of Ed and Marvin on Afro-Hispanic Literature paved the way for many other scholars, including several members of our department, to pursue research in this area. We also recognize our former chair Mary Jo Muratore. Mary Jo worked closely with Marvin to establish the Afro-Romance Institute at MU as an integral part of our department’s teaching, research, and service mission.

Let me highlight in particular the research that faculty in our institute have devoted recently to both the literature and culture of three countries: Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, and Rwanda.

Juanamaria Cordones-Cook is currently working with the MU Museum of Anthropology to develop a special collection of works by the renowned Cuban poet Nancy Morejón. Juanamaria is also working with the MU Museum of Art and Archeology on a collection of Cuban artisan books created by Ediciones Vigía in Manzana, Cuba. Further, she is producing a series of documentaries on the contemporary Afro-Cuban intelligentsia. Juanamaria’s latest book on Nancy Morejón, Soltando amarras y memorias: Mundo y poesía de Nancy Morejón, will be released later this year by the Chilean press, Editorial Cuarto Propio.

Michael Ugarte has recently concentrated on the literature of Equatorial Guinea, Spain’s only colony in Africa. In March 2009, he invited Equatorial Guinean writer and journalist José Siale Djangany to deliver a lecture at MU on that country’s literature. In spring 2009, Michael collaborated with colleagues at Hofstra University to organize an international conference commemorating the 40th anniversary of Equatorial Guinea’s independence from Spain. He translated into English Equatorial Guinean writer Donato Ndongo Bidyogo’s novel titled Las tinieblas de tu memoria negra. The translation, Shadows of Your Dark Memory, was published by Swan Initiatives of Particular Interest

Catch up with the department’s last five years

Professor Béa Gallimore introducing the speakers at the Rwanda 94 event. April 27, 2009.

Continues on Page 8
From the Department Chair

By Flore Zéphir

We express our gratitude to Russ for his colleagues, and friends.

“From January 2005 until August 2008, our department (French, now at Northern Illinois University), specializing in French literature of the 19th century. In fall 2008, we hired Mamadou Badiane (PhD, University of Minnesota), specializing in African section of our department, and Jack Draper (PhD, Duke University) in our Portuguese section. The following year, we hired Mamadou Badiane (PhD, University of Iowa), who specializes in Afro-Caribbean Hispanic literature, and Erick Rondón (PhD, University of Pittsburgh) who specializes in Latin American literature. In fall 2007, we hired Aisler Alcazar (PhD, University of Southern California), specializing in Spanish linguistics, and Daniel Sipe (PhD, University of Minnesota), specializing in French literature of the 19th century. In fall 2008, Roberta Tabanelli (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison) came on board as our Italian film specialist. During the same period, we also recruited several non-tenure-track faculty. Ken Fleck (Spanish), Joseph Otadua Memwo (Spanish), Mónica Marcos-Llinares (Spanish), Linda Keown (Spanish), Jose Luis Escoria (Spanish, now at Baylor University), Jose Luis Escorcia (Spanish, now at Baylor University), and Frank Badiane (Spanish), Mónica Ken Fleak (Spanish), also recruited several non-tenure-track faculty. Under his leadership, our department continued its tradition of recruiting top-notch faculty. In fall 2005, we hired Iván Reyna (PhD, University of California, Berkeley) in the Latin American section of our department, and Daniel Sipe (PhD, Duke University) in our Portuguese section. The following year, we hired Mamadou Badiane (PhD, University of Iowa), who specializes in Afro-Caribbean Hispanic literature, and Erick Rondón (PhD, University of Pittsburgh) who specializes in Latin American literature. In fall 2007, we hired Aisler Alcazar (PhD, University of Southern California), specializing in Spanish linguistics, and Daniel Sipe (PhD, University of Minnesota), specializing in French literature of the 19th century. In fall 2008, Roberta Tabanelli (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison) came on board as our Italian film specialist. During the same period, we also recruited several non-tenure-track faculty. Ken Fleck (Spanish), Joseph Otadua Memwo (Spanish), Mónica Marcos-Llinares (Spanish), Linda Keown (Spanish), Jose Luis Escoria (Spanish, now at Baylor University), and Frank Badiane (Spanish), Mónica Ken Fleak (Spanish), also recruited several non-tenure-track faculty.

The following students, who have completed or are working on a minor or a major or who studied a language in our department, were MU EX- CELS honorees at a ceremony held on April 22, 2009: Amanda Cleaver (Rhodes Trust Scholarship); Chela Colvin (YMA Fashion Scholarship); Nudnang Uwarse (Global Engagement Summit, and Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans); Anne Flaker (Fulbright Scholarship); Laura Hastings (Fulbright Scholarship); Mark Stanley (Fulbright Scholarship and Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award); and Litah Miller (Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship). Erin Hoffman, a French major who graduated in May 2008, was accepted in the graduate program in political science in Paris and was awarded a full scholarship. During July 2008, she taught English in Korea in the department of education in the Jeollam-do province. Spanish major Fred Jake Kohut enrolled last year in the Civic Leaders Internship Program through the Office of Service Learning and worked with State Representative Maria Chapelle-Nadal along with another student, Megan Batal. Both students helped Representative Chapelle-Nadal coordinate research efforts for the Hispanic Day in the Capitol. French student Ufouma Obahor was recognized at the April 2009 Academic Retention Services’ Annual Salute to Excellence. Spanish student Anna Flaker was invited to join the Alpha of Missouri Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious liberal arts and science honor society in the United States.

Communiqué

Summer 2009

By Nancy Malavi

Alpha Mu Gamma, Nu Phi Chapter of the University of Missouri

The Nu Phi Chapter of Alpha Mu Gamma, National Collegiate Foreign Languages Honorary Society of the United States, was officially established on March 1st, 2007. Its creation was the result of the persistent efforts of a small group of students: First President Amanda Cleaver, Vice-President Margaux Bourgeois, Treasurer Kelli Jo Woodson, Historian Jessica Prior, and other members who set their minds and efforts to recruiting and fundraising. Now the organization has 29 active members: 10 students of French, 14 students of Spanish, two of Italian, two of German and one of English. Seven new members were initiated on March 5, 2009. The requirements for admission into the society are a 3.0 GPA and excellence in a foreign language, in addition to leadership skills. Alpha Mu Gamma recently participated in a fundraising campaign for the Missouri Food Bank, and in a very successful foreign language publicity campaign at Hickman High School, thanks to the coordinating efforts of the current president Stephanie Strinko and all other students involved. New executives just took place, and the new president is Ben Christ.

Study Abroad

Of the numerous students who study abroad each semester, we congratulate the following students: Katherine Dannell (French major) spent a semester in Paris and went back a second time in summer 2008 to do a three-month internship for the International Herald Tribune. Cierra Obioma, (broadcast journalist) and Spanish, a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and a familiar face on KOHU TV News, was given the opportunity to travel and network with news directors and reporters in Buenos Aires, Argentina, during the winter 2009 intersession. As a result of this experience, she subsequently earned an internship in Buenos Aires for summer 2009. Grant Quigley spent a semester in Paris at Sciences Po and graduated in May 2009. He plans to go to Strasbourg for a year to study and serve as a tutor.

According to the initial count, compiled by the MU International Center, for the period Fall 2007 through summer 2008, a total of approximately 182 students went to another country to study a romance language for at least one semester. Students went to Spain (74), Mexico (17), Argentina (17), Chile (one), Costa Rica (four), Brazil (five), France (25), Belgium (10), and Italy (an amazing number of 29!).

Fellowships and Awards

The following students, who have completed or are working on a minor or a major or who studied a language in our department, were MU EX- CELS honorees at a ceremony held on April 22, 2009: Amanda Cleaver (Rhodes Trust Scholarship); Chela Colvin (YMA Fashion Scholarship); Nudnang Uwarse (Global Engagement Summit, and Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans); Anne Flaker (Fulbright Scholarship); Laura Hastings (Fulbright Scholarship); Mark Stanley (Fulbright Scholarship and Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award); and Litah Miller (Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship). Erin Hoffman, a French major who graduated in May 2008, was accepted in the graduate program in political science in Paris and was awarded a full scholarship. During July 2008, she taught English in Korea in the department of education in the Jeollam-do province. Spanish major Fred Jake Kohut enrolled last year in the Civic Leaders Intern-
Belgian filmmakers Marie-France Collard and Philippe Tazan discussed their latest film, Rwanda 54, April 27, 2009.
Over the last two years, our gradu ate program has been particularly ac tive and successful. Since 2007, four doctoral students have completed their dissertations: Michel Mann, "La Folie, le Mal de l’Afrique post-coloniale dans Le Baobab Fou et La Folie et le Mort de Ken Bugul"; Viviane Ducret, “Georges Perec: Auto biographie et Trauma”; Juan Anto nio de Urda, “Representaciones de la violencia en la poesía de la guerra civil española”; and Cecilia Saenz Roby, “La Fundación de la nación en la narrativa de Juana Manuela Gor riti.” Currently, eight students are in the process of writing their disserta tions: Anthony Butler, Michelle Forbes, Aaron Koehnemann, Kath lenne Fueter, Anne Menhouse, Antoine Matondo, Chad Montu or, and Victoria Pine. We are also pleased to report that in fall 2009, we will welcome five new doctoral students, seven new master’s stu dents, and six master of arts in lan guage teaching (MA|LT) students into the French and Spanish programs. Our graduate students have earned several prestigious awards over the past two years. In 2009, a doctoral student in Spanish, Michelle Forbes, was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research on Garifuna Lan guage and Culture in Guatemala. She also was the third-place winner in the 2008 Annual Graduate Professional Council’s Research and Creative Ac tivities Forum at the University of Missouri for her presentation, “The Garifuna: Using Linguistic Analy sis to Trace the African Presence in Garifuna History, Language and Cul ture.” Laura Ramiro Cid, a master’s student in Spanish, won the Jacob Warshaw Scholarship award in the amount of $1500.00. The department recognized two of its graduate students for excellence in teaching by nominating them for the Donald K. Anderson Award for graduate student teaching: Michelle Anderson, a MALT student in Spanish (nominated in 2008) and Victoria Pine, a doctoral student in French (nominated in 2009). We are also pleased to report that a graduate of the MALT program, Monique Quay le, has been accepted into the doct oral program in Spanish peninsular studies at UCLA and will begin the program in fall 2009. Several graduate students pre sented scholarly papers at a variety of national and international confer ences between 2007 and 2009. This year, three of our doctoral students presented the findings of their re search to an international audience. In March, Michelle Forbes present ed “Garifuna: A Deconstruction of Historical Myths” at the Fulbright En hancement Seminar in Antigua, Gu ate mala. In April, Ana Zapata Calle presented two papers: the first “El camino del’ exilio interior’ hacia el in fierno en la escuela de los disfraces de José Sáez Djangary” at a confer ence held at Hofstra University com memorating the 40th anniversary of Equatorial Guinea’s independence from Spain; and the second, titled “El sueño” de Donato Ndongo como génesis de El Metro y una propues ta hacia la transculturación,” at the 62nd Annual Kentucky Foreign Lan guage Conference at the University of Kentucky. In May, Maria Quir oz Taub presented “Blanca Varela: Omisión del género femenino” at the Canadian Association of Hispan ists in Ottawa, Canada. In addition, three students spoke at MU’s 2007 Afro-Romance Symposium on Afro-Caribbean Cultural Identity. These include: Michelle Forbes, “Garifuna Language and Culture: Moribund or Renaissance Bound?”; Antoine Mat ondo, “Rene Depestre From Ode à Mackandal to Mît de Cocagne. The Metamorphosis of a Revolutionary Myth”; and Jennifer Schneider jans, “Nationality and Litera ture in the French Imperial Nation State and Colonial Humanities by Gary Wider.” Wendy McBurney presented “Canonization of Afro-Hispanic Fe male Writers” at the 2008 Annual Graduate Student News Communiqué SUMMER 2009 Foreign language faculty from regions throughout the state attend the Third Annual Modern Languages and Modern Technologies Conference held at MU in June 2009. MU Graduate Professional Council’s Research and Creative Activities. Other students presented papers at the 2008 and 2009 Annual French and Spanish Graduate-Undergradu ate Student symposium held at St. Louis University, including: Anthony Layson, “El mito nacional en el Don Juan de La Regenta,” Victoria Pine, “El Roman épistolaire: L’influence du genre sur le genre”; Monique Quayle, “The Invisible Woman: The Fading Inheritance Body in Fortunata y Jacinta”; Jason Wilki, “La non-in novation, ou la recherche de la per fection chez Beaumarchais”; Maria Quir oz Taub, “La presencia de España en La gavota”; Aaron Koeh nemann, “The Trials and Tribulations of Rapunzel”; and Danilo León, “Ana Otores: víctima de la rivalidad de las dos Esañoras.” Three students presented papers at MU’s 2008 Afro-Romance Con ference on Film and Culture: Antoine Matondo, “Writing as Heal ing in Theatre en milles morceaux by Lyonel Trouillot”; Wendy Mc Burney, “The Representation of the Afro-Mexican Female in the cinema of Matilde Landeta”; and Cecilia Saenz Roby, “Preparando la nación: aderezos y otras yerbas en Cocina eclectica de Juana Manuela Gorriti.” Our graduate students are also publishing their research findings in academic journals. Ana Zapata-Cal lés article “Amor y pedagogía y La tía Tula como proyecto común: la par odia de la alienación nacional” has been accepted for publication in Cáfiro Journal. Jennifer Schneiderjans reviewed Gary Wider’s book, The French Imperial Nation State: Na gritude and Colonial Humanism Be tween the Two World Wars. Cecilia Saenz Roby published a chapter “La influencia del italiano en el español de Argentina” in a book, Añedades lingüísticas y lenguas en contacto en el mundo de habla hispana, ed ited by Carmen Ferrero and Nilsa Lasso-Von Lang and published by AuthorHouse in Bloomington, Ind., in 2005. Michelle Forbes, Michel Mann, and Antoine Matondo have all written and published online begin ning language textbooks for MU’s Center for Distance and Independent Studies. Victoria Pine published in 2004 an editorial “Las Fautés d’orthographes, pas de problèmes!” in Le Soleil, a publication of the Uni versité de Laval, Québec. Alumni News Several of our alumni have published important works: Raul Galoppe, associate professor of Spanish at Montclair State University, published two books: the first, Género y con fusión en el teatro de Tirso de Mó lina, with Editorial Pliegos in Madrid in 2001, and the second (co-edited with Richard Weiner), Explorations in Subjectivity, Borders, and Demar ca tion: A Fine Line, with the University Press of America in 2005. Cristina Rodríguez Cabral, assistant pro fessor of Spanish at North Carolina Central University, published a col lection of poetry titled Memoria y Resistencia. Antología, with Editora Manalit in the Dominican Republic in 2004. Antonio Tillis, associate professor of Spanish and African-American studies at Purdue University published Manual Zapata Olivella and the “Darkening” of Latin Amer ican Literature, with the University of Missouri Press in 2005. Gera Bur ton, associate director of education, Center for Distance and Independent Study at MU, published Ambivalence and the Post-Colonial Subject: The Strategic Alliance of Juan Francisco Manzano and Richard Robert Mad jans, with Peter Lang in 2004. Dorothy Mosby, associate professor of Spanish at Mount Holyoke College published Place, Language, Identity in Afro-Costa Rican Literature, with the University of Missouri Press in 2003. Maite Nuñez-Betelu, associ ate professor of Spanish at Linden wood University, published Una Bib liografía Anotada de Obras Escritas por Mujeres en Euskera/Annotated Bibliography of Works Written by Women in Basque, with Edwin Mei len Press in 2003. Samuel Zadi, as sistant professor of French at Wheat on College in Illinois, published an article, “Représentation ou traves tissement: Image de l’Afrique dans Fast Kiné de Sembène Ousmane,” in the French Review in 2005. Professor Ed Mullen at his May 2009 retirement reception.
Over the last few years, our department has been very active in organizing a variety of symposia and conferences. First, under the leadership of Magdalena García-Pinto (now retired), our department established in fall 2009, the Faculty and Graduate Student Seminar Series to create a forum in which also participated in the series, including Robert Baum from the MU Department of Religious Studies, Domingo Martínez-Castilla from the MU International Agriculture Program, and Cristián Gómez Ch. from the University of Iowa. In the 2009-2010 academic year, we were fortunate to bring to our campus Professor Alberto Moreiras, Sixth Century Professor of Modern Thought and Hispanic Studies at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, who gave a lecture titled “Common Political De-mocracy? The Marrano Regis-ter” to an enthusiastic audience. In November 2007, under the leadership of Charles Pres-berg, our de-partment hosted the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Lit-erature. Other faculty assisting with organiza-tion of the con-ference were Carlos Barri-uso, Michael Ugarte, Erick Blandón, Molly Olen (now at Macalester College), Iván Reyna, and John Zemke. The conference brought more than 200 scholars from all over the United States to our campus. The con-ference included keynote addresses from three scholars of international renown: John Beverly (Pomona College, Pittsburgh); James Efland (Boston University); and Brad Epps (now at Harvard University). Moreover, our Afro-Romance Institute has organized numerous con-ferences in recent years. In November 2014, under the leadership of Valerie Kaufeen, we organized our America-Communiqué

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Communiqué

From the Department Chair
Continued from Page 2

Summer 2009

We continue to pursue innovative methods and technologies that enhance our teaching. We continue to seek resources that will help our undergraduate students improve their knowledge of language and culture, including study opportunities abroad. We also continue to seek resources that will help our graduate students promote their research and scholarship, including participation in professional conferences. In times of financial hardship, support and generosity from both our alumni and friends remain more important than ever to helping needy students succeed at MU. Carolina Ebeid, a Spanish major, with the support of the McNair Scholars Program studied translation theory and practice during the academic year 2008–09 under the tutelage of Professor Michael Ugarte. Carolina is also a writer who published a poem, “Albat,” in Gulf Coast in 2008. Another poem, “The First Age of the Global Market” will be published later this year in the journal 32 Poemas. Next academic year, Carolina will be a fellow at the prestigious Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas at Austin, pursuing an MFA degree.

Promotions and Recognitions
Juanamaria Cordones-Cook was promoted to professor in fall 2009. Valerie Kaussen was promoted to associate professor in fall 2007. Nancy Molavi was promoted to associate teaching professor in fall 2009. She continues to serve as undergraduate advisor and as faculty advisor to the Alpha Mu Gamma student organization. In recognition of his teaching and research accomplishments, Michael Ugarte was named Catherine Paine Middlebush Chair of Romance Languages and Literatures for August 2008 to August 2011.

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Faculty in Action
Continued from Page 5


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For the next academic year, our department is planning a variety of interesting events all open to the public.

On October 15th, we will sponsor, with the Ragtag Cinema, the screening of Haitian filmmaker Michel Ange Quay’s latest movie, Eat, For This Is My Body. The movie presentation will be followed by a mini-symposium on the theme of Haitian vodou, culture, and history organized by our Afro-Romance Institute. The symposium will take place on October 16th and will feature Professor Katherine Ramsey from the University of Miami, who will speak on the role of the vodou religion in Haitian society.

On October 28th, in collaboration with the Department of Theatre, our department will sponsor a talk by Caridad Svich, a well-known Latina playwright, translator, and theater journalist.

On October 30th, Professor Robert Goldstein from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor will deliver a lecture on 19th-century French theater censorship.

In mid-November, we will host the visit of Equatorial Guinean poet Juan Manuel Davies, who now lives in New Jersey.

On April 16, our Graduate Faculty and Seminar Series will host the visit of Professor Doris Garraway from Northwestern University, a specialist in Francophone Caribbean literature. Please stay tuned for more on our upcoming events.