Dear Friends,

Here are a few highlights from an eventful two weeks of teaching, scholarship, and creative work in our department.

On Friday, September 19, our first guest speaker in the department Seminar Series, Dr. Selfa Chew-Smithart delivered a stirring presentation titled “Narratives From the Borderlands” to a numerous audience of students, faculty, and alumni from across the campus. Dr. Chew-Smithart drew on her work of historical fiction, Silent Herons, and on her recent work of historiography, Race, Gender and Modernity: The Removal of Japanese and Japanese Mexicans from the Mexican Borderlands During World War II, to be published in 2015 by University of Arizona Press. Thank you to all members of the Black Studies Department and the Afro-Romance Institute for their generous support of this event.

Dr. Jack Draper, Associate Professor of Portuguese, and Chair of our Seminar Series, delivered a lecture on September 25th titled “Youth on Film in Brazil’s Favelas: The Advent of Child-Centric Perspectives on Life at the Margins.” This lecture formed part of the Noel P. Gist Seminar on International Affairs.

Dr. Mamadou Badiane, Associate Professor of Spanish, delivered a lecture on September 26th titled “Who Am I? The Challenge of Afro-Caribbean Cultural Identity,” at Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri), by special invitation.

Ms. Virginie Ems-Bléneau, doctoral candidate in French, as well as Assistant Coordinator and Instructor of French Language, published a scholarly article, “La pensée raciste démasquée: métaphore et racisme dans L’Art français de la guerre d’Alexis Jenni.” For this project, Virginie consulted with both Dr. Valerie Kaussen and Dr. Mary Jo Muratore.

Just yesterday, Dr. Juanamaria Cordones Cook learned that the documentary she co-directed, Battle: Change From Within, about the local civil rights leader Eliot Battle—for many years a friend of this department—has been selected as a finalist for the Mid-America Emmy. Good luck to Juanamaria and to her colleagues Julie Middleton, Michael Hicks, and Barbara Williamson.

Last Friday, September 26, Dr. Megan Moore, Assistant Professor of French in our department, delivered the second lecture this year in our Seminar Series. The title of her presentation was: “Translating Authority: Women and the Making of the Medieval Mediterranean.”

Best wishes,

Charles Presberg

CONGRATULATIONS!
