

September 29, 2014

department of  
**romance languages & literatures**  
college of arts and science | university of missouri

**Calendar Items:**



**UPCOMING FACULTY MEETINGS**  
FOR FALL 2014:

- ◆ **Friday, Oct. 3, 3:00-4:00 pm,**  
**113 A&S**

The Benefits Office will present  
the new healthcare options.

- ◆ Friday, November 7,  
3:00-4:00 pm, 113 A&S

**UPCOMING RL DEPARTMENT SEMINARS**  
FOR FALL 2014:

**MAITE ZUBIAURRE**, Professor  
of Spanish and Gender Stud-  
ies, UCLA, Dept. of Spanish  
and Portuguese

- ◆ Friday, October 17,  
4:00-5:30 pm, 113 A&S

*"If Spain were a Bordello:  
Musings on National  
Eros"*



Please share all your good news.  
Send Brenda Klemme  
(klemmeb@missouri.edu) or me  
(presbergc@missouri.edu) any items  
you wish to appear in our Bulletin by  
the second and the fourth Tuesday of  
every month. And please include  
relevant contact information so that  
readers can send their inquiries about  
events and their congratulations for  
achievements.

*A note from the Chair.....*



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 stir-  
ring 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 Jap-  
anese and Japanese Mexicans from the Mex-  
ican 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 Ser-  
ies, delivered a lecture on September 25<sup>th</sup>  
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 Septem-  
ber 26<sup>th</sup> 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: méta-  
phore et racisme dans *L'Art français de  
la guerre* d'Alexis Jenni." For this project,  
Virginie consulted with both **Dr. Valerie  
Kausen** and **Dr. Mary Jo Muratore**.

Just yesterday, **Dr. Juanamaría  
Cordones Cook** learned that the docu-  
mentary 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 Juanama-  
ría and to her colleagues Julie Middle-  
ton, 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!**

Kudos to Virginie Ems-Bléneau, PhD candidate in French, for her published article: "La pensée raciste démasquée: métaphore et racisme dans *L'Art français de la guerre* d'Alexis Jenni." *Confluence* 3 (Spring 2014):14-22.

<<http://www.slu.edu/colleges/AS/languages/confluence/pdfs/vol3art3.pdf>>.