

Romance Languages & Literatures Communiqué

Summer 2010

Haiti: A Special Bond

By Valerie Kaussen and Flore Zéphir

Our department enjoys a long-standing relationship with Haiti that began 22 years ago, in 1988, when it hired Haitian-born Professor **Flore Zéphir**. Thanks to a summer research grant from MU, Flore spent several weeks that summer in Port-au-Prince conducting research to complete her dissertation on the Haitian bilingual community. The department was excited about attracting a colleague whose research focused on Haiti and the Haitian diaspora. The chief architect of this appointment was our colleague **Marvin Lewis**, now retired, then director of the Black Studies Program and professor of Spanish. Marvin approached Department Chair **Edward Mulen**, also retired, who already was conversant with Haitian scholarship as author of the book titled *Langston Hughes in the Hispanic World and Haiti* (1977). Ed welcomed the idea of hiring a Haitian colleague who would bring diversity to our curriculum.

By 2000, Marvin was president of a new organization of scholars called the Afro-Latin/American Research Association (ALARA), which, from its inception, has sponsored international conferences every two years. Under Marvin's

leadership, the August 2000 conference took place in Port-au-Prince, at the famous Hotel Montana, which was destroyed by the earthquake on January 12, 2010. Flore was a co-organizer of the conference and was responsible for all local arrangements; she also presented a paper at the conference. Besides colleagues coming from overseas, presenters at the conference included such Haitian scholars and writers as novelist **Yanick**

the hiring of **Béa Gallimore**, specialist in Francophone African literature. When faculty in the department decided to recruit a specialist in Francophone Caribbean literature, **Valerie Kaussen**, a specialist in Haitian literature, emerged as the ideal candidate. What is more, Valerie had traveled several times to Haiti and showed a strong commitment to advancing the field of Haitian cultural studies.

By the time Valerie arrived on campus in fall 2000, our department was already home to the Afro-Romance Institute, created a few years earlier thanks to the vision of Marvin Lewis. The Institute was devoted to the study of literature produced by black writers of Spanish, French, and Portuguese expression. Over the past several years, our Afro-Romance Institute has hosted several Haitian scholars and writers. Among those scholars are Professors **Michel DeGraff** from MIT, **Régine Latortue** from Brooklyn College, and **Patrick Bellegarde-Smith** from the University of Wisconsin-

Milwaukee; and **Marie-Célie Agnant**, **Stanley Péan**, and **Jiji Dominique** are writers who live in Montreal. In collaboration with the Missouri Student Association, the Institute sponsored in

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Professor Valerie Kaussen, third from right in the front row, with a group of youth at the Solino school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Lahens, sociologist **Laënnec Hurbon**, and art historian **Gérald Alexis**.

In the late 1990s, the department sought to expand the francophone literature component of its programs, a process that began several years earlier with

From the Chair

By Flore Zéphir



One of the most exciting aspects of my job as department chair is the opportunity to share with our alumni, colleagues, and friends the many accom-

plishments of our faculty and students and the myriad activities and events that we organize.

In fall 2009, we hired **Stephen Hessel** from the State University of New York at Buffalo as an assistant teaching professor of Spanish. We also hired **Alicia Aviles-Quiñones** from Tulane University as a visiting assistant professor of Spanish. Prior to this appointment and while she was completing her dissertation, Alicia taught for us in the capacity of a part-time assistant instructor. We are being joined by two new colleagues: **Guadalupe Pérez-Anzaldo** from the University of California, Irvine, who will begin this fall as an assistant professor of Spanish, and **Megan Moore** from the University of Michigan, who will begin in spring 2011 as an assistant professor of French.

Last academic year we organized a series of film screenings, lectures, symposia, and conferences. On October 15, 2009, our Afro-Romance Institute, under the leadership of **Valerie Kaussen**, organized a screening of Haitian filmmaker Michelange Quay's movie *"Eat: For This Is My Body,"* in association with the Ragtag Cinema's Passport Series. The screening of the movie was followed the next day by a mini-symposium on Haitian vodou, history, and culture, in which **Patrick Bellegarde-Smith** from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and **Kate Ramsey** from the University of Miami participated. On October 28, our department, under the leadership of **Juanamaría Cordones-Cook**, hosted a talk on the art of translation and adaptation by Latina playwright, songwriter, translator, and editor **Caridad Svich**,

in association with the MU Creative Writing Program and the Department of Theatre. On October 30, we hosted another lecture on political theater censorship in 19th-century France, given by **Robert Goldstein** from the University of Michigan at Ann Harbor. On November 12, our Afro-Romance Institute, under the leadership of **Michael Ugarte**, invited Equatorial Guinean writer Juan Manuel Davies to give a talk on Equatorial Guinea before and after independence.

On March 19, 2010, under the auspices of our Faculty and Graduate Student Seminar Series organized by **Iván Reyna** and **Jack Draper**, **Stephen Hessel** gave a talk on gender identity in Spain during the inquisition. On April 9, our Afro-Romance Institute, that time under the leadership of Juanamaría Cordones-Cook, brought to campus award-winning Cuban filmmaker **Gloria Rolando**, who showed her documentary about the 1912 massacre of Afro-Cubans. Ragtag Cinema and the Sonya Hayes Stone Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill co-sponsored this event. On April 16, our Faculty and Graduate Seminar Series, in collaboration with our Afro-Romance Institute and under the leadership of Valerie Kaussen, organized the visit of **Doris Lorraine Garraway** from Northwestern University, who gave a lecture on King Henry Christophe's Haiti. The year's grand finale was the symposium on Catalan language, literature, and culture, organized under the leadership of **Monica Marcos-Llinas** on April 30. Monica was able to secure a generous contribution from the Institute Ramon Llull in Barcelona, Spain. The symposium marked the first event ever organized at MU on Catalan. It included papers by **Arthur Hughes** from Ohio University, **Kathleen McNerney** from West Virginia University, **Jordi Prats** from Knox College, and **Carlota Benet-Cros** from Brown University.

We thank all the various units on campus that have helped sponsor our events: The Chancellor's Diversity Initiative, the College of Arts and Science, the MU Lectures Committee, the Center for Arts

and Humanities, the Film Studies Program, the Department of Religious Studies, the Department of Theatre, the Black Studies Program, the Department of English, and the Department of German and Russian Studies. We also thank the Black Culture Center for always allowing us to use their facilities. Members of the College of Arts and Science's public relations team, **Laura Lindsey**, **Amanda Schlink**, **Liz Schulte**, and **Tammy Mc-Niel**, deserve special recognition for their willingness to come to our events and take pictures for us. All of those pictures are on our department's Web site in the photo gallery, and some are included in this newsletter. We invite you to take a look at them. Last but not least, we extend our thanks to our own department staff members: **Pamela Myers** for designing all of our posters and brochures; **Mary Harris** for helping with travel arrangements and proofreading materials for the chair, and **Marcia Reeves** for taking care of all our fiscal matters.

We reiterate our commitment to MU's teaching, research, and service mission, and we are grateful for all the support received last year that allowed us to fulfill our responsibilities to our students. Just as important, we genuinely appreciate the support of our alumni and friends, and we hope that we can count on all of you to help us with our future activities. We invite you all to contribute to our gift fund, which will allow us to continue to provide exceptional learning and research opportunities for all of our students. We also invite you to visit our department's Web site at romancelanguages.missouri.edu to learn more about us and to stay abreast of department news. Please do not hesitate to drop me a note at ZephirF@missouri.edu, or to call me at 573-882-5048, to share your activities or to make a donation to the department.

Undergraduate Student News

By Nancy Molavi

Our undergraduate programs remain strong, and the number of majors and minors continues to increase. As of May 2010, we counted approximately 234 majors in Spanish and French who are slated to graduate between 2011 and 2013; and approximately 269 minors in Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese, also slated to graduate during the same period. Collectively our undergraduate students are members of foreign language honorary societies, have won fellowships and awards, have studied abroad, and took part in meaningful community services.

Alpha Mu Gamma Foreign Languages Honorary Society, established in March 2007, is proud to count 18 new members, initiated on April 8, 2010. The outgoing officers are Benjamin James Christ, a dual major in Spanish and fisheries and wildlife, president; Kelsea Schleusner, the vice president who is becoming president;

Spanish major Miranda Metheny, secretary; Spanish minor Megan Rehard, treasurer; and Chip Greenwell, historian. The new officers elected for 2010–11 are President **Kelsea Schleusner** (Spanish major); Vice President **Brittany Aton** (German); Secretary **Rebecca Krase** (Spanish major); Treasurer **Shahrazad Linda Habibi** (French minor); Historian **Rachael Galvin** (Italian minor); and Events Coordinator **Kyle Riggs** (Spanish minor). The total active membership of our chapter is now at 24.

Fellowships and Awards

Many students in our department were honored at the MU Excels ceremony held April 7, in Memorial Union. These include **Ashleigh Bartlett**, a double major in French and political science, who received the David L. Boren National Security Education Program Scholarship; **Lindsay Eanett**, a Spanish minor

and journalism major, who received a Fulbright Scholarship; **Andrew Sidel**, a Spanish minor and political science major, who received a Fulbright Scholarship; **Ilana Weiss**, a Spanish minor and international studies major, who received a Fulbright Scholarship; **Amanda Worrell**, a double major in Spanish and international studies, who also received a Fulbright Scholarship; and **Rachel Waller**, a Spanish minor and biochemistry major, who received a prestigious \$7,500 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. MU Excels professors and instructors from our department who served as mentors and recommenders to these award-winning students included Alicia Aviles-Quiñones, Ken Fleak, Béa Gallimore, Linda Keown, Mónica Marcos-Llinás, Nancy Molavi, and María Taub.

Excellence in Tutoring Attendees

Beth Bearce, a French minor and nutritional sciences major, received a 2010 Bonnie Zelenak Excellence in Tutoring Award from MU's Learning Center Student Support Services.

Study Abroad

Spanish minor **Abby Schneider** received the University of Missouri Study Abroad Scholarship and attended the University College of London. **Catherine Schneider**, Spanish minor, went to Barcelona and received the Dean's Scholarship to go to law school next year at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. She is attending Mizzou on a University Diversity Scholarship.

Bryn Edmonston, a major in Spanish and communication, and **Megan Batal**, a



Professor Juanamaría Cordones-Cook, Laura Pérez-Mesa, Eliot Battle, Cuban filmmaker Gloria Rolando, and Barbara Williamson, before the April screening of Rolando's film *1912: Breaking the Silence*.

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Faculty in Action

Asier Alcázar, assistant professor of Spanish, received news in March 2010 that his second book, *The Syntax of Imperatives*, a joint work with Professor Mario Saltarelli, has been accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press in their *Studies in Linguistics* series. This is the first time that a faculty member in this department will have had a book published by such a prestigious press. While Alcázar awaits the publication of several articles, books, chapters, and conference proceedings, he continues to present his work at conferences in Europe and in the United States. His research has been supported by grants from the MU Center for Arts and Humanities, the College of Arts and Science Alumni Organization, and the MU Research Council.

Mamadou Badiane, assistant professor of Spanish, published his book *The Changing Face of Afro-Caribbean Cultural Identity: Negrismo and Négritude* with Lexington Books in early 2010. He also published an article in *Revista Cayey* in 2009 and is awaiting the publication of another on Léopold Sédar Senghor and Nicolás Guillén slated to appear in the *Journal of Caribbean Literature*. In addition, he presented three conference papers in fall 2009. Badiane is currently working on a new book project: *Martinique: One Island, Multi-Cultural Trends*. During summer 2010, the University of Florida at Gainesville awarded him a summer grant to conduct research on Afro-Caribbean religions at its Center for Latin American Studies.

Erick Blandón, assistant professor of Spanish, published two articles in 2009, one on the poet Rubén Darío in *Chasqui*, and the other on a Garifuna ritual in *Négritud*. He also published two book chapters, one on the graphic art during the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua, and the other on an indigenous carnival. In addition, he published a short story in *La Habana Elegante*. In 2010, he published two other articles on the Nicaraguan poet Carlos Martínez Rivas. In summer 2009, he participated in two symposia

in Germany and Costa Rica. In November 2009, he attended the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literatures at the University of Kansas.

Rita Caviglioli, associate professor of Italian and coordinator of the elementary Italian program, published her fourth book, *I giovani raccontano gli anziani. Il contributo del Video Concorso Francesco Pasinetti alla riflessione su invecchiamento, dialogo intergenerazionale e trasmissione culturale in Italia* (Young People Narrate the Elderly: The Francesco Pasinetti Video Contest and the Reflections on Aging, Intergenerational Dialog and Cultural Transmission in Italy), with Cafoscarina, the University of Venice Press, in May 2010. The book studies Italian intergenerational dynamics based on the assumption that Italy's dramatic socio-demographic trends affect the ways in which young people construct and refute cultural views about aging, age relations, and life-stage expectations. In February, Caviglioli was invited by the MU Pride of Place core committee to present to the campus community her research on the transmission of cultural heritage to younger generations. Her research has been supported by the Research Council, the Research Board, and the Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Juanamaría Cordones-Cook, professor of Spanish, has been very active during academic year 2009–10. Her book titled *Soltando amarras y memorias: Mundo y poesía de Nancy Morejón* was published by Cuarto Propio in Chile in December 2009. She continues her research projects in Cuba, particularly her living histories and documentaries of black intellectuals, writers, scholars, and artists. In February 2010, Cordones-Cook was invited to attend the XIX International Book Fair

in Havana, where she presented her recently published book on Morejón. She also had the opportunity to travel to other regions of Cuba as a special guest to the Cuban minister of culture, and to participate in several round-table discussions with prominent Cuban intellectuals, writers, and filmmakers. In addition, while in Cuba, Cordones-Cook procured art-object books for the Vigía Special Collection (a collection of artisan books created by Ediciones Vigía from Matanzas, Cuba), which she founded at the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology. She also acquired books, films, and manuscripts for the Special Collection of Afro-Romance Literature, Language and Culture, which she founded at the MU Museum of Anthropology. Here in Columbia, Cordones-Cook is producing and directing, in collaboration with the University of Missouri Extension's video group, a documentary on Eliot Battle, a renowned educator in town. In March, she was invited to participate in the College of Arts and Science Taste of Arts and Science, where she spoke on one of her current research topics: Havana's black renaissance.

Jack Draper, assistant professor of Portuguese, was on research leave in fall 2009 and completed his first monograph, *Forró and Redemptive Regionalism in the Brazilian Northeast*, which will be published by Peter Lang this fall. He also finished a chapter on the Northeastern



Professor Juanamaría Cordones-Cook displays some of the artisan books created by Ediciones Vigía in Matanzas, Cuba. She founded a collection of the Vigía art-object books at the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology. Photo courtesy of *Columbia Daily Tribune*.



Professor Carol Lazzaro-Weis introducing Professor Robert Goldstein before his talk on theater censorship this past October.

woman in Brazilian cinema, which will be published in a forthcoming book with Intellect titled *New Trends in Brazilian and Argentine Cinema*. Last spring, Draper completed an article titled “Forró’s Wars of Maneuver and Position” which will be published in the *Latin American Research Review* in early 2011. In 2009 and 2010, he delivered papers on Brazilian cinema and popular music at national and international conferences. Draper is currently focusing on his next book project, which involves an analysis of the emotion of “saudade” as represented in Brazilian literature, cinema, and popular music.

Béa Gallimore, associate professor of French, published two articles during academic year 2009–10. She is awaiting the publication of another article, “Témoigner au féminin: Obstacles aux témoignages des survivantes au génocide au Rwanda,” to appear in a compendium edited by Michel Rinn. She is currently working on a book-length manuscript, which is a study of testimonial accounts of the Rwanda genocide. In February 2009, Gallimore was the keynote speaker for the Film Festival at Marquette University where she gave a presentation

titled “Struggles and Resilience of Rwanda Women During and After the Genocide” on Leo Kalinda’s film *Mothers’ Courage*. In October 2009, she gave a talk titled “Step Up! American Association for Rwandan Women: Its Mission in Rwanda” at the MU Sexual Violence Awareness Week.

Stephen Hessel, assistant teaching professor of Spanish, edited a volume titled *Fear Itself: Reasoning the Unreasonable*, published by Rodopi Press of Amsterdam in 2010. The volume includes his essay “Horri-fying Quixote: The Thin Line Between Fear and Laughter” and an introduction to the edition. He also presented his paper “Fashioning the Other, Fashioning the Self: the Inquisition v.

Elena/o de Céspedes” as part of the Faculty and Graduate Student Seminar Series. His work as coordinator of the graduate student writing group has met with great success, which he hopes to continue in the coming year. In addition, Hessel will present at the MLA convention in Los Angeles on the concept of liminality in Cervantes’ *Los trabajos de Persiles y Segismunda*. This will coincide with the forthcoming publication of his critical edition of the same work by Cervantes and Company.

Dawn Heston, assistant teaching professor of Spanish, continues to serve as course coordinator for Elementary Spanish II. She teaches a variety of courses including Elementary Spanish Language, Intermediate Spanish Conversation and Composition, and Methods in Teaching Foreign Languages. She also conducts regular teacher-training sessions for graduate and assistant instructors. In April 2010, she was a panel presenter at the Technology! Conference on the topic of digital media assignments. In May, also as a panel presenter, she facilitated a

discussion on the theme of working with teaching assistants at the MU Celebration of Teaching Excellence Conference.

Valerie Kaussen, associate professor of French, presented papers at two conferences in 2009–10 in Tallahassee, Fla., and in Aberdeen, Scotland. Her article titled “Reading Aristide After 2004: Violence and Representation,” was published in *Small Axe* last fall. She co-organized two events on Haitian culture: “Haitian Vodou, History and Culture” in October, and in April, a talk by literature scholar Doris Lorraine Garraway on print culture in King Henry Christophe’s Haiti. Having been in Haiti during the January 2010 earthquake, upon her return to Columbia she was invited to several local Columbia schools to talk to children and teenagers about the earthquake. She also gave talks and fundraisers at the Peace Nook in Columbia and on the MU campus. Kaussen is pursuing a research project on disaster, political representation, and symbolic death. She returned to Haiti over spring break where she interviewed residents of tent camps, and again in July with a small grant from the MU Research Council.

Linda Keown, assistant teaching professor of Spanish, continues to serve as course coordinator for Elementary Spanish I, and for Accelerated Beginning Spanish (the new course she piloted last year). In summer 2009, she led three College Board Institutes for Advanced Placement Spanish language: one for the Chicago Public Schools, one at the University at Iowa, and the other for the Illinois Placement Institute. This summer she also led another institute at the West Virginia Center for Professional Development in Morgantown, WV. She has been selected to serve in fall 2010 on an advisory committee for McGraw-Hill Publishers and on another one for Prentice-Hall Publishers. In spring 2010, Keown served as a reviewer for the Miz-zou Scholars program. She continues to be the faculty adviser to Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Chi Kappa Chapter.

Carol Lazzaro-Weis, professor of French and Italian, is now an affiliate of the Black Studies Program, and she served on the conference committee for the black studies fall 2009 conference.

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Faculty in Action

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She has been involved with the Provost's Focus on Faculty Program, where she serves as a mentor to associate professors. In recognition of her extensive research and publication on contemporary women's writings, she was appointed to serve on the international advisory board of the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Women's Writing at the University of London. Lazzaro-Weis continues to serve as the president of the American Association of Italian Studies (AAIS), and in April, she organized AAIS' annual conference at the University of Michigan. Her article, "Bodies and Gendered Spaces in Post-unification Italian Studies," will appear in the fall issue of *Romance Studies*, and her book, *Les Voyages de Tixier dans la Louisiane et le Missouri*, will be published in this fall by Centenary College Press in the *Francophone Writings of North America Heritage Series*. She will be on leave this fall to work on her book-length manuscript *In Search of History: Contemporary Italian, Francophone Caribbean and Canadian Women and the Historical Novel*.

Monica Marcos-Llinas, assistant teaching professor of Spanish, was awarded a travel grant by the Universitat de les Illes

Balears under the auspices of the Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, Madrid, in summer 2009 to conduct research on the various affective variables impacting second-language acquisition. In April 2010, she presented a paper at the Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference. During the past academic year, Marcos-Llinas started a new program on the study of Catalan language and literature, and offered an introductory course in spring 2010. She is finishing the translation from English to Spanish of Michael Ugarte's book, *Africans in Europe: The Culture of Exile and Emigration from Equatorial Guinea to Spain*, originally published by the University of Illinois Press. She was invited by the Institut Ramon Llull (IRL) to attend the International Conference to Instructors of Catalan Abroad, in Girona (Catalunya) in July.

Mary Jo Muratore, professor of French and Catherine Paine Middlebush Professor of the Humanities, spent the 2009–10 academic year completing her fifth book-length literary study. The work, titled *Exiles, Outcasts, Strangers: Icons of Marginalization in Post World War II Fiction*, explores how nine different "outsider" authors treat the theme of alienation in

one of their major works. Works under review include: Albert Camus' *L'Étranger*; Richard Wright's *The Outsider*; André Langevin's *Poussière sur la ville*; Ernesto Sábato's *El túnel*; V.S. Naipaul's *Guerrillas*; Elie Wiesel's *Le Cinquième fils*; Norbert Zongo's *Le Parachutage*; Gisèle Pine-

au's *L'Exil selon Julia*, and Jean Genet's *Querelle de Brest*. Muratore continues to work on French neo-classical texts and published in 2010 a study of Corneille's prefaces entitled "Latent Disfigurations: Corneille's Paratextual Mishaps" in *Neohelicon*. She also just completed an article on Corneille's *Le Cid* titled "The Poetics of Indeterminacy."

Joseph Otabela-Mewolo, assistant teaching professor of Spanish, published an article "La literatura de Guinea Ecuatorial" in *Palabras*. His 2009 book, *Entre estética y compromiso: La obra de Donato Ndongo-Bidyogo*, was selected as book of the month and featured in the monthly magazine *Mundo Negro* in Spain in September 2009. He is awaiting the publication of another book and additional articles. Otabela-Mewolo continues to make important contributions to our curriculum by offering both undergraduate- and graduate-level courses on Equatorial Guinean literature. He is also an active member of the Afro-Romance Institute.

Charles Presberg, associate professor of Spanish, delivered two papers during the past year: "Perdió el juicio: Don Quixote and the Insanity of Books" at Newberry Library, Chicago; and "Reading Slays Death: Don Quixote and the Poetics of Heroism" for the Cervantes Society of America, at the Wizard Academy in Austin, Texas. He is a member of the College of Arts and Science curriculum, instruction, and advising committee. The associate dean appointed him to the campus committee Learning Across Borders that is designing an undergraduate certificate in international studies. Presberg will be on research leave this academic year to complete his book project, *Praising the Folly of Truthful Tales: "Don Quixote" and the Enigmas of Narrative*.

Iván Reyna, assistant professor of Spanish, is awaiting the publication of two articles: "Las venas aún están abiertas: Obama y Latinoamérica, el primer año," to appear in *Palabras*; and "La captura de un inca 'embriagado': La chicha y Atahualpa en la *Suma y narración de los Incas* de Juan Diez Betanzos," to appear in *Perífrasis*. His book, *El encuentro de Cajamar-*



Department chair Flore Zéphir; Professor Béa Gallimore, winner of a 2010 MU International Engagement Award; and Handy Williamson, vice provost for international programs.

ca, was published this summer by the University Press of Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, and was showcased at the Feria del Libro in Lima, Peru, in July. This past fall, Reyna presented two papers: one at the Midwest Modern Language Association in St. Louis and the other at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature at the University of Kansas.

Daniel Sipe, assistant professor of French, published two articles last year: "Social Gastronomy: Fourier and Brillat-Savarin" in *French Cultural Studies* 20, and "Parody and Paratext in J.J. Grandville's *Un autre Monde* (1844)" in *Neohelicon* last spring. In April, he presented two papers: "Realpolitik or a Return to Utopia in Etienne Cabet's *Voyage en Icarie* (1838)?" at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, and "Baudelaire's Epistolarity Dialectic," at Vanderbilt University's W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies. Sipe is the director of the summer 2010 Study Abroad program in Lyon, where students focus on the theme of French and cultural gastronomy. He will be on leave next academic year to work on his book on utopia in 19th-century France.

Roberta Tabanelli, assistant professor of Italian, recently published two articles: "Al di là del corpo: la narrativa postumana di Laura Pugno," in *Italian Culture*, and "Il cinema della (non) memoria di Mario Martone," in *Italica*. Her chapter on contemporary Italian filmmaker Saverio Costanzo titled "Il cinema 'privato' di Saverio Costanzo" appeared in *Zoom d'oltreoceano: istantanee sui registi italiani e sull'Italia*, edited by Daniela De Pau and Simone Dubrovic, published by Vecchiarelli publishers in Rome. Her work has been supported by grants from the Center for Arts and Humanities, the MU Research Council, and the MU Research



Professors Kathleen McNerney, Arthur Hughes, Carlota Bent-Cros, and Jordi Prats, who were invited presenters at the first MU symposium on Catalan language, literature, and culture in April.

Board. Tabanelli will be on leave this fall to start a new research project on transnational cinema where she looks at contemporary Italian filmmakers who concentrate on non-Italian subjects/stories.

Michael Ugarte, professor of Spanish, published his book *Africans in Europe: The Culture of Exile and Emigration from Equatorial Guinea to Spain* with the University of Illinois Press for their *World Migration Series* in January. Michael taught a graduate seminar in fall 2009 on Spain in Africa/Africa in Spain. Several of the students in that seminar presented papers at the student symposium sponsored by the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at St. Louis University. He was the recipient of the prestigious Kemper Award for Excellence in Teaching this spring. Ugarte continues to be greatly involved with social justice issues. In summer 2009, he worked as a volunteer for No More Deaths, nomoredeaths.org, an organization that seeks to prevent fatalities in the Arizona desert along the U.S.–Mexico border. Ugarte recounted his experience in an article "Border Visit Presents Other Side of Issue," published in the September 22, 2009, issue of the *Columbia Daily Tribune*. He continues to serve on the Peace Studies Program Committee.

John Zemke, professor of Spanish and associate chair, is working on several research projects on medieval Spanish literature, including a monograph and study of a 15th-century Spanish plague treatise in Hebrew characters, as well as an edition and study of a Hebrew alaxamía demand d'amour. He serves as director of graduate studies and mentors many graduate students. He is also a member of the College of Arts and Science Executive Committee. In addition, he directs our Study Abroad program in Oviedo, Spain. Next spring, Zemke will be on leave studying traditional arts, verbal and otherwise, in Southeast Asia, India, and Turkey.

Flore Zéphir, professor of French and department chair, published two book reviews in 2009: one of *Critique de la francophonie haïtienne* by Tontongi in the *French Review*; and another of *Bilingual Education: An Introductory Reader*, edited by Ofelia Garcia and Colin Baker, in the *Modern Language Journal*. She is awaiting the publication of her article on the languages of Haiti and its diaspora, expected later in the fall. In February, she was invited to give a talk about Haiti in the context of the earthquake to a visual-design class that was working on poster

By John Zemke and Flore Zéphir

The past academic year has been particularly successful for many of our graduate students. Three of them earned their doctorates, several presented papers at professional conferences, some had articles accepted for publication, and others received grants and fellowships in support of their work. It is with great pride that we tell you who they are. In fall 2010, our outstanding graduate students will be joined by another group of equally talented graduate students. Our department will welcome a total of 16 new graduate students into our programs (eight in French and eight in Spanish), thus bringing the total number of graduate students in residence to a record high of 40 students.

Spanish doctoral candidate **Kathleen Fueger** successfully completed her dissertation, "Deception and Truth: The Use of Letters in the Comedies of Iriarte and Muratin," under the mentorship of Professor Michael Ugarte in November 2009, and graduated that December. Fueger is teaching at St. Louis University.

French doctoral candidate **Aaron Koehnemann** successfully completed his dissertation, titled "The Ogre as Lycomorph," under the mentorship of Professor Mary Jo Muratore in March 2010 and graduated in May.

French doctoral candidate **Victoria (Tori) Pine** successfully completed her dissertation titled "Jeanne Marie Le Prince De Beaumont: Women's Epistolary and Pedagogical Fiction in the Eighteenth Century" under the mentorship of Professor Carol Lazzaro-Weis in April 2010 and graduated in May.

Spanish doctoral candidate **Anthony Butler**, now a faculty member at Worcester Academy in Worcester, Mass., presented "A Hero of the Marginalized: Anthropology and Action in San Juan de la Cruz" to the panel discussion *¿La justicia, la justicia seguirás? Sistema legal y marginación institucional en los siglos XVI–XVII* during the Third Annual Spanish Graduate Students Conference at the University of Chicago in October 2009.

Graduate Student News

Spanish doctoral candidate **Chad Montuori**, now a faculty member at Maplewood Community College in Kansas City, received a fellowship from the University of Minnesota's Department of European Studies to participate in the Trans-Atlantic Summer Institute on Gender and Migration at the University of Minnesota in July 2010. He has recently published an article on marriage and migration in the *Utah Foreign Language Review*, and a review in *Mester of El metro* by Donato Ndongo. During academic year 2009–10, Montuori has also presented three conference papers: one at the XIII Annual Hispanic and Lusophone Studies Symposium at Ohio State University, a second at the Graduate Symposium at Saint Louis University, and a third at Purdue University's 25th Annual Symposium on African-American Culture and Philosophy. He will present "Migrating Gender Identities" at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature in October 2010 at Washington University in St. Louis.

Spanish doctoral candidate **María Taub** successfully completed her comprehensive examination this past spring and will present a paper at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature in October at Washington University in St. Louis. Her article "Estética literaria alemana en *La Gaviota*: Un discurso nacionalista" was accepted for publication in the refereed journal *Decomónica*.

Spanish doctoral candidate **Michelle Forbes** returned to MU in January 2010 from her successful field research trip to Guatemala sponsored by the Fulbright Foundation. While in Guatemala, she taught a course, *introducción a las culturas afro-descendientes del Caribe y Centroamérica*, at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. She presented a paper, "Garifunaisance: The Birth

and Rise of an Afro-Indigenous Culture," at the 27th Annual Graduate Professional Council Research and Creative Forum at MU in March 2010. Forbes received a 2010–11 Chancellor's Dissertation Fellowship to complete her dissertation, titled "Garifuna: The Birth and Rise of an Identity Through Contact Language and Contact Culture."



Spanish doctoral student Nelson Danilo León presenting a paper at the City University of New York in April.

Spanish doctoral student **Nelson Danilo León** presented "Najat El Hachmi y sus djins: la mujer y la hibridez cultural dentro la cosmovisión de una marroquí-catalana" at the 15th Annual Hispanic and Lusobrazilian Literatures and Languages Conference in April 2010 at the City University of New York. He will also present a paper at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature in October at Washington University in St. Louis.

Spanish doctoral student **Ana Zapata-Calle** presented three conference papers in 2009: one at the French and Spanish Students Annual Symposium at Saint Louis University, a second at the Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association in St. Louis in November 2009, and a third at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kans., in November 2009. This fall, she is scheduled to present papers at two conferences. Zapata-Calle, in collaboration with others, contributed to the edition of the second volume of the complete works

Haiti

Continued from Page 1

November 2004 the screening of Jonathan Demme's movie *The Agronomist*, a documentary about the life of slain Haitian journalist Jean Dominique (father of writer Jiji Dominique). Further, our department helped sponsor the visit of Haitian filmmaker **Raoul Peck**, who came to campus in 2002 to discuss his documentary *Lumumba*, which centers on the life of the Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba. Incidentally, Peck is also well known for his Haitian movie *The Man by the Shore*. Both Valerie and Flore have helped organize all these activities.

Valerie has traveled several times to Haiti since her arrival at MU. In fact, she was in Haiti on January 12 conducting research for a book project titled *Disaster and Its Afterlives: Representation and Social Death in Twentieth-Century Haiti*.

Thus, no one would feel more keenly than Valerie the sad irony that this trip should lead her to witness, firsthand, one of the worst natural disasters in Haiti's history. When the quake struck, she was riding a *tap-tap* (one of the colorful buses used for local transportation) in the downtown Port-au-Prince neighborhood called Poste Marchand. After fleeing the bus with the other riders, she made her way to the Champs de Mars, the large plaza in front of the collapsed national palace. There she spent the night with thousands of Haitians seeking safe ground. Valerie was evacuated the following Friday.

Since January, Valerie has given numerous talks at local Columbia schools and for community groups. She returned to Haiti this past April to conduct re-

search on the tent camps, home to hundreds of thousands of Haitians after the quake. She has engaged in activist work to raise awareness about the human rights crisis in post-earthquake Haiti. She returned to Haiti in July to videotape interviews of quake survivors and to continue her research on both Haitian human rights activism and local strategies for treating post-earthquake trauma.

Our department plans to invite several Haitian speakers to campus for the next academic year. Please consult our Web site for more on our upcoming events.

of the 17th-century Spanish writer Francisco de Rojas Zorrilla, which was published by the Universidad de Castilla la Mancha in Spain in 2009. She also published an article in *Divergencias* in fall 2009. She is awaiting the publication of another article, which will appear in *Revista Iberoamericana*.

French doctoral student **Tomaz Cunningham** participated as a respondent in the conference on Baudelaire held at Vanderbilt University in Nashville in April 2010. He received this opportunity from Professor Daniel Sipe, who presented at the conference. Cunningham served as a teaching assistant to Sipe in spring 2010.

French doctoral student **Antoine Matondo** serves as special research assistant to Professor Emeritus Allen Thiher, doing library work for a book on Marcel Proust that Thiher is writing. In addition, Matondo served as grading assistant for a writing-intensive course in French literature that Professor Sipe taught in spring 2010.

Spanish master's student **Toshiya Kamei** published his translation of Mexican writer Socorro Venegas' short story "Johnny Depp" in *Sud-*

den Fiction Latino. He also received the Spanish Minister of Culture Translation Grant for Espido Freire's novel *Irlanda*. He translated Japanese writer Naoko Awa's "First Day of Snow" in *My Mother She Skilled Me, My Father He Ate Me*. In addition, he selected, translated, and edited 30 short stories by Naoko Awa in *The Fox's Window and Other Stories*. Kamei received a grant to participate in the summer 2010 Japanese-English workshop, sponsored by the Nippon Foundation. The workshop took place at the British Centre for Literary Translation at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. He is one of 10 recipients of that grant.

Spanish MALT student **Farah Ali** completed her degree in May 2010 under the mentorship of Professor John Zemke and has been accepted into the doctoral program in Spanish linguistics at the University of California, Davis. She will begin the program in fall 2010.

French MALT student **Rochelle Baldrige** completed

her degree in May 2010 and has been accepted into our own doctoral program in French literature. She will begin the program officially in fall 2010 and will serve as assistant to our French coordinator, Professor Annice Wetzel.



Professors Kate Ramsey and Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, invited by the Afro-Romance Institute to deliver papers at the October Symposium on Haitian Vodou, History, and Culture.

Undergraduate Student News

Continued from Page 3

major in Spanish and business administration, have been awarded a language assistantship by the Ministerio de Educación to study in Castilla La Mancha (Spain) during academic year 2010–11. **Anne Flaker**, a dual major in international studies and political science and a Spanish minor, has accepted a Peace Corps teaching position in Kazakhstan from August 2010 through August 2012.

According to numbers obtained from the International Center, a total of 15 MU students went to France to study during the academic year 2009–10. Of those, 10 went through MU's International Center and five through the School of Journalism. During the same period, 11 students went to Italy, two to Brazil, 46 to Spain (six through the School of Journalism), 13 to Argentina, four to Mexico; one to Peru, four to Costa Rica, and one to Senegal.

In summer 2010, French professor **Daniel Sipe** took 15 students to Lyon, and Spanish professor **John Zemke** took 19 students to Oviedo, Spain. In addition, 10 students went to Argentina through the School of Journalism.

Worth Noting

Melissa Urscheler, a journalism major who attended the MU Summer 2009 Study Abroad program in Rwanda with Professor Béa Gallimore, won fifth place in the prestigious, national Hearst Journalism Award competition for a story she wrote about Rwanda for the *Columbia Missourian*. Details about the award can be found at: www.hearstfdn.org/hearst_journalism/press_release.php?id=80.

Her full article, "When Two Weeks in Africa Changed my Life," is available at www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2009/12/13/study-abroad-

[program-shows-mu-students-effects-rwanda-genocide/](#).

Josie Patton, a French student who also attended the MU Summer 2009 Study Abroad program in Rwanda with Gallimore, worked on a translation from French into English of a genocide testimony, *Murekate*, written by African writer Monique Iboulo. The translation was revised with the assistance of Professor Nancy Molavi. The writer has given permission to Josie to publish the translation. Gallimore is helping Josie find a publisher here in the United States.

Nadège Uwase, a French minor and political science major who graduated in May 2009, founded a nonprofit organization called Global Issues Leadership Development (GILD) of which she is the executive director. The organization works with high school students in Columbia to educate them about human rights and global issues. In February 2010, Nadège and Rock Bridge High School students hosted an event,

"Rock Bridge Talks Haiti," aimed at making local students aware of the January 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti. French Professor Valerie Kaussen spoke at the event. In addition, GILD's high school club, Global Issues Club at Hickman High School participated in the court warming tradition with the rest of the school to raise about \$10,000 that was given to Doctors Without Borders to help with Haiti's relief efforts.

A group of students and **Kaleb Sellers**, a pre-med student in biology and a Spanish minor, have created APPLE, Allies Partnering with Patients for Literacy Education, applelies@gmail.com. They created a flyer entirely in Spanish to reach out to those in the Spanish-speaking community needing help in understanding and translating English medical terminology.



Journalism student Melissa Urscheler with Rwandan children while attending the MU Summer 2009 Study Abroad program in Rwanda directed by Professor Béa Gallimore. Photo courtesy of Will Latta.

Faculty in Action

Continued from Page 7

projects in order to provide aid to Haiti. She also gave interviews about the Haiti earthquake to local media. Zéphir serves as a mentor for the Provost's Focus on Faculty Program. She also serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Haitian Studies* and of the *Publication of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association*.

Faculty Emeriti

Edward Mullen, professor emeritus of Spanish, has completed the eighth edition of *El Cuento Hispánico: A Graded Literary Anthology*, which is slated to be published next January by McGraw-Hill World Languages. He is working on a second edition of *Langston Hughes in the Hispanic World and Haiti*, which first appeared in 1977. Mullen continues to come to campus to work on his research projects.

Allen Thiher, professor emeritus of French, published a book, titled *Understanding Robert Musil*, as part of the University of South Carolina's *Understanding Modern Fiction* series in 2009. He received a grant from the MU Research Council for a research assistant to work on a book on Marcel Proust, and another from the Research Board to spend time at Clare Hall, of which he is a fellow, at Cambridge University, to do research on Proust this summer. Thiher also wrote book reviews of recent books on Robert Musil.

Special Recognition

Mary Jo Muratore has been named the Catherine Paine Middlebush Professor of the Humanities. Professors from all humanities departments in the College of Arts and Science competed for this five-year appointment. This marks the first time a faculty member in our department has won this prestigious, interdisciplinary award. Muratore will hold the title until August 2015.

Michael Ugarte is one of five 2010 recipients of the Kemper Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award carries with it a \$10,000.00 prize and is given to the University by Commerce Bank to reward

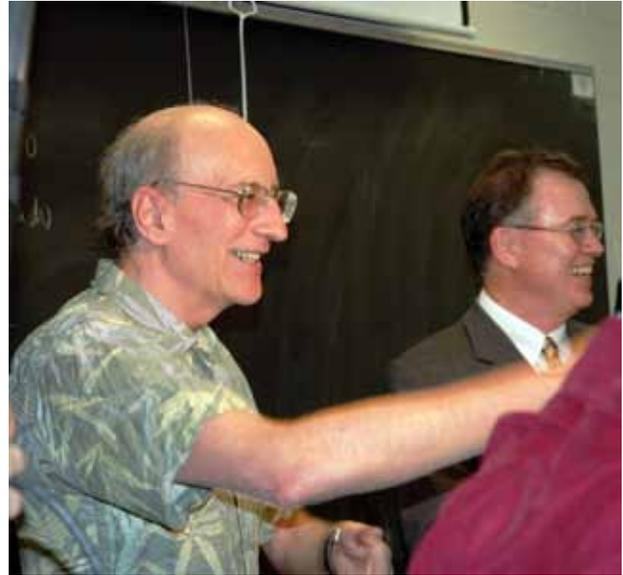
outstanding teaching. Michael is the fifth member of our department to earn this recognition. The first colleague was Mary Jo Muratore in 1991, the inaugural year; the second, Ana Rueda (now at the University of Kentucky) in 1993; the third, Flore Zéphir in 1995; and the fourth, Molly Olsen (now at Macalester College) in 2004.

Béa Gallimore won an MU International Engagement Award for the numerous international initiatives in which she has been involved, her unwavering commitment to internationalizing our campus, and for the way her efforts have benefitted MU faculty and students. In summer 2009, she took a group of students to Rwanda, and one student in particular, **Daniel Kordenbrock** from the law school, was so moved by this experience that he decided to go back in July 2010 for a one-month internship with the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide of Tutsi in Rwanda. This is the first time a faculty member in our department has won the International Engagement Award.

Carol Lazzaro-Weis was selected to participate in the University of Missouri's Global Scholars Program in June. Participants visited four universities in Belgium: in Brussels, Ghent, Liège, and Bruges for research purposes and the establishment of exchanges with these universities. They also met with the European Union and NATO commissions. This is the first time a member of our department has participated in one of the MU Global Scholars programs.

Nancy Molavi, our undergraduate adviser, was nominated for a 2009 Excellence in Advising Award. Although she did not win the grand prize, she was rec-

ognized at the ceremony that took place on April 15, 2010.



Professor Michael Ugarte shortly after being informed by Chancellor Brady Deaton that he had won a 2010 Kemper Award for Excellence in Teaching, April 6, 2010.

Dawn Heston and **Linda Keown** had their titles changed from instructor to assistant teaching professor, effective fall 2010.

The **Society for Irish Latin American Studies** supports innovative and significant research on relations between Ireland and Latin America. Grants of up to 1000 Euro are awarded annually. Visit the Web site at www.irlandes.org or contact Treasurer Gera Burton for more information.

The Web site for the upcoming conference is www.dcu.ie/salis/conferencesecretsandlies2011/index.shtml.

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Editorial Office

Romance Languages and Literatures
143 Arts & Science Building
Columbia, MO 65211
Phone: 573-882-4874
E-mail: romancelanguages@missouri.edu
Web site: romancelanguages.missouri.edu

Editorial Board

Mary Jo Muratore
Charles Presberg
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Melody Galen

The department appreciates hearing from alumni and friends. Send announcements or milestones to the address listed above.

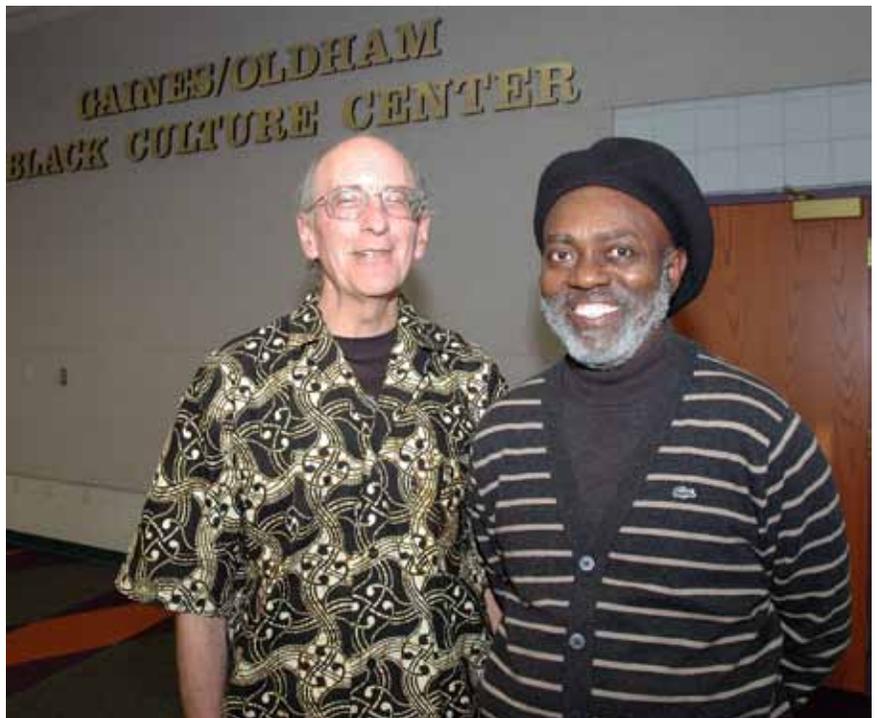
University of Missouri
College of Arts and Science
317 Lowry Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

Personal Corner

We welcome the births of the newest members of our departmental community. Claudia Gabrielle (Gabby) Becker, born on July 19, 2010, is the daughter of Megan Moore and her husband Johannes.

Abigail Dianne Pine, born on May 13, 2010, is the daughter of Victoria (Tori) Pine, who just earned her doctorate, and her husband Darren.

Lucas Juan, born on March 23, 2010, is the son of Pablo Serna and his wife Erica, and Aurelio Sun Batchelder-Draper, born on January 16, 2010, is the son of Jack Draper and his wife Jamila. This summer Jack introduced little Aurelio and his two-year-old sister, Ruby, to the "futebol-arte" of Brazil with the World Cup. The Drapers also celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in June.



Professor Michael Ugarte and Equatorial Guinean writer Juan Manuel Davies, before Davies' talk this past November on Equatorial Guinea.