Romance Languages & Literatures
Communique

Serving with Honors

By Flore Zéphir

For many years, our department has worked closely with the Honors College, teaching general–honors-designated classes or courses offered through the Honors College’s learning-by-contract system. Indeed, our commitment to educating all MU students, including the best and brightest, has never been stronger. Last academic year alone, our professors taught several classes for the Honors College.

Mary Jo Muratore had the pleasure of working with honors student Pari Jafari, who enrolled in Muratore’s writing-intensive course, Introduction to French Literature. Even more gratifying, Mary Jo and Pari collaborated on a literary paper, “The Perils of Plausibility in Balzac’s Facino Cane,” which has been accepted for publication in Romance Notes, a top-flight journal in the field of romance languages and literatures. Mary Jo and Pari were prominently featured in an article published by Mizzou Weekly titled “Honors College Program Brings Faculty and Students in Collaboration” (February 2, 2012). This outstanding accomplishment is a strong testament to the mentoring that our faculty provide to students.

John Zemke taught two humanities honors seminars: The Ancient World, and The Middle Ages and Renaissance. Roberta Tabanelli cross-listed her Italian Civilization class with the Honors College and Jack Draper likewise offered in the Honors College his survey of Brazilian literature. In addition, Roberta supervised the learning-by-contract project of honors student Mariel Seidam-Gati, who enrolled in her Italian Cinema class in spring 2012.

Ken Fleak agreed to a learning-by-contact arrangement to help two honors students, Brandon Foster and Garrett Richie, both Spanish and journalism majors enrolled in his writing-intensive Introduction to Hispanic Literature course. In addition, Ken attended the Honors College convocation in May as the faculty mentor of Derek Klein, who is a journalism major and Spanish minor.

Alicia Aviles Quiñones worked with honors students Brandon Thornberry and Sara Ives to complete their learning by contract in the Honors College for their course, Introduction to Hispanic Literature. In spring 2012, Alicia also worked with three other honors students, Kelsey White, Theresa Beno, and Zane Clark, who were enrolled in her Advanced Spanish Composition class.

María Taub designed a learning-by-contract course of study for honors student Alycia Camoriano who enrolled in Taub’s Advanced Spanish Conversation class in fall 2011, as did French doctoral student Antoine Matondo for French student Monica Ayala, who took his French Advanced Conversation and Composition class in fall 2011.

Other faculty members have designed new classes for the Honors College. In fall 2012, our three Spanish language coordinators, Linda Keown, Dawn Heston, and Lorna McCune will offer for the first time an honors section of each of the three courses in our elementary-level

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By Flore Zéphir

Once again this year, I have the pleasure and privilege to share with our alumni, colleagues, and friends the many accomplishments of our faculty and students, and the myriad activities and events we organize.

This fall, we are joined by a new assistant professor of Spanish, Mar Soria Lopez. She earned her doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, and has taught at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. We also welcome French lecturer Aurélia Mouzet, who will be at MU as part of the accord signed between MU and Paris West University/Nanterre la Défense for a lectureship exchange. It is worth remembering that our own Carol Lazzaro-Weis was instrumental in establishing this exchange. Aurélia is the second lecturer from Nanterre to come to our department, where she will teach French classes. French doctoral student Rochelle Baldridge will spend the academic year in Nanterre teaching English classes.

John Zemke, professor of Spanish, is stepping down from his duties as associate chair and director of graduate studies in our department. Dean O’Brien appointed him the director of the Center for eResearch, director of the Center for Studies in Oral Tradition, and editor of the journal Oral Tradition. In fulfilling those duties, John will succeed our esteemed colleague, John Foley, who passed away in May. Needless to say, all of us in the department were deeply saddened by Foley’s passing. Charles Presberg, associate professor of Spanish, will be our department’s new associate chair and director of graduate studies, positions that he has held before. Our department has extended a courtesy faculty appointment to Gera Burton, as an adjunct assistant teaching professor. Gera is currently interim director of Mizzou Online; she earned her doctorate in Spanish in our department in 2002.

We were extremely happy to learn that in April Carrie Wilkins made a second donation of $30,000 to the Carrie Wilkins Fellowship in Romance Languages she established last year. This fund is intended to provide fellowship awards to our doctoral students, with a preference given to those working in French/Francophone literature. We also thank our other generous donors: Patrick Monahan, PhD ’73, French; Daniel Lee Doherty, BA ’70, French; Jim and Barb Forst of Chesterfield, Mo.; John and Anne Wetzel, BA ’69, French; Mary Gutermuth, MA ’61, PhD ’65; and Jane Mary Robert, MA ’73, French. Their gifts enable us to help graduate students travel to conferences to present papers. In September 2011, our department had the pleasure of meeting Jane Robert, who was a career French teacher in St. Louis. Our French faculty and graduate students participated in the casual luncheon we organized for Mrs. Robert and her friend Mrs. Cindy Mars. It was a very pleasant visit, and our department intends to continue to renew our relationships with our alumni and friends.

We thank the various units that have helped sponsor our events: the Vice Provost’s Office for International Programs; the Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative; the MU Arts and Humanities Small Grants Program; the MU Lectures Committee; the College of Arts and Science; the Departments of English, History, Women’s and Gender Studies, Sociology, Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, Classical Studies, and Art History and Archaeology; the Black Studies Program; the Peace Studies Program; and the Film Studies Program. We also thank the College of Business and the Black Culture Center for allowing us to use their facilities. Members of the A&S public relations team, Laura Lindsey, Amanda Schlink, Liz Shulte, and Tammy McNiel deserve special recognition for their willingness to come to our events and take pictures for us. All 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 staff members, Pamela Myers for designing all our posters and brochures and helping with travel arrangements for our guests; Mary Harris, for also helping with travel arrangements and proofreading materials for the chair; and Marcia Reeves, for taking care of all of our fiscal matters.

We received outside support from the Embassy of Rwanda in Washington, D.C.; the Canadian Consulate in Chicago; and Step Up! American Association for Rwandan Women thanks to the efforts of Béa Gallimore, to help defray some of the costs of our conference, Genocide in Rwanda, organized under her leadership. The Instituto Italiano di Cultura di Chicago, and the Italian Film Festival USA contributed to the Italian Film Festival organized at Ragtag Cinema under the leadership of Roberta Tabanelli. The Institute Ramon Llul in Barcelona, Spain, contributed to the Catalan symposium, organized by Mónica Marcos-Llinas.

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. 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 to contribute to our gift fund, which will allow us to continue providing exceptional learning and research opportunities for all of our students. We also invite you to visit our Web page at romanclanguages.missouri.edu 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.
Alpha Mu Gamma, Phi Nu Chapter of MU, continues to flourish. Indeed, last year it initiated 18 members: in fall 2011, Morgan Cooper, Alexandra Delaney, Lauren Delaney, Kelsey Early, Margaux Henquinet, Anne Kruse, Emily Lynn, Megan Manuel, Kelsey Peltz, Casey Platt, Jennifer Travers, Courtney Weissman, and Breanna Wexler; in spring 2012, Morgan Hafner, Kaylie Lau, Adee Levinstein, John Tenn, and Olivia Yarbrough.

—Stephen Hessel

Fellowships and Awards

In February, several of our undergraduate students were awarded scholarships from the College of Arts and Science. They include Spanish student Ashley Renee Jones nominated by Professor Mamadou Badiane; French student Celia Ampel nominated by Professor Mary Jo Muratore; Spanish student Enrique Mejia, also an English major, nominated by the English Department; and Spanish student Rebecca Taylor, nominated by Professor Michael Ugarte. Rebecca was in Argentina during spring 2012.

In April, many of our students were honored at the MU EXCELS ceremony. Spanish and fisheries and wildlife science major James Christ was a finalist for the NSF Graduate Research Award; Spanish and English major Enrique Mejia, a finalist for the US–UK Fulbright Commission Summer Institutes; International Studies/French and journalism student Paul Mossine, a finalist for the Undergraduate Fulbright U.S. Student Program to go to Korea; and Spanish and biological sciences major Kassie Hyde, a finalist for the Undergraduate Fulbright U.S. Student Program. This past summer, Kassie traveled to Nicaragua to serve as a translator and assist a medical team working with lower socio-economic communities.

In spring 2012, Spanish student Clarence Clinton Crouch won an Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award, a Mizzou Greek 4.0 Award, an Outstanding Panhellenic Association Senior Award, and a Mizzou ’39 award. Clarence started medical school at MU this fall. Spanish student Alicia Mercedes Lorio, nominated by Professor Charles Presberg, won a McNair Fellowship as well as a Golden Key Scholarship in April. French student Jaclyn Malke was accepted into the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF). Jaclyn will begin this fall and has been assigned to the Dijon region. Spanish student Derek Klein, who was recognized at the Honors College convocation ceremony, was admitted to the MU MBA program and started this fall.

Annie Flaker, who graduated with a double major in Spanish and international studies, has been accepted into a combined master’s program in education and international affairs at Georgetown University. Kylie Tutko, journalism and Spanish student, was honored with a Mizzou ’39 award. Professors Ken Fleak, Megan Moore, Charles Presberg, Ivan Reyna, Jacquelyn Sandone, as well as French graduate instructor Antoine Matondo, served as mentors and nominators to these award-winning students.

—Flore Zéphir and Ken Fleak

Study Abroad

During the January inter session, Professors Jacquelyn Sandone and Lornaida McCune took a group of students to San Jose, Costa Rica. Students studied at the Costa Rican Language Academy where they received individualized intensive Spanish language classes. They resided with local families, which provided them the opportunity to be immersed into Costa Rican culture. They also participated in weekend trips to other regions of Costa Rica. Over summer 2012, Professor Béa Gallimore took a group of students to a Summer Study Abroad in Kigali, Rwanda. Students had the opportunity to view the consequences of the Rwandan genocide through a number of different approaches to achieve a deeper understanding of events that took place. This was done by experiencing, interpreting, researching, and responding in personal and group settings. Professor John Zemke took a group of students to Spain to study at the Universidad de Oviedo. Students were also immersed in the Spanish way of life outside of the classroom through home-stays with Spanish families. In addition, they had the opportunity to travel to Asturias during the month of July. Likewise, Professor Daniel Sipe led students on a six-week study abroad experience in Lyon, France. The trip’s theme, “Gastronomy and French Identity,” provided a framework with which to analyze the complex and ever-evolving relationship that the French have with their food.

Spanish Through a Fish Bowl

Spanish 1100 student John Tyaldoes, who studied with instructor Marcela Lopez, won the Spanish Vistas textbook competition for an award-winning photo. The national contest asked students to submit a photo of how they learned their Spanish, showing their Spanish textbook, Vistas, in a study situation. It was all done online and is now on the Facebook page of Vista Higher Learning publishers in Boston. John also won an Amazon $100 gift card. The photo shows the textbook through a fish bowl with John’s pet fish, as well.

—Marcela Lopez and Linda Keown
Contributing to the Intellectual Life

By Flore Zéphir

In addition to contributing to the teaching and research mission of the university, our department contributes significantly to the intellectual life of the campus by organizing a series of lectures, symposia, and conferences. Those events are organized under the auspices of our Afro-Romance Institute for Languages and Literatures of the African Diaspora, and of our Faculty and Graduate Student Seminar Series.

Activities Sponsored by the Afro-Romance Institute

Last academic year, our institute brought to the MU campus a number of U.S.- and foreign-based scholars and filmmakers. In September 2011, the institute, under the leadership of Valerie Kaussen, invited assistant professor of anthropology Mark Schuller, from York College of the City University of New York, to present his latest documentary, Poto-Mitan: Haitian Women Pillars of the Global Economy. The film screening was followed by a short “post-earthquake” update video, and a conversation with Schuller.

Also in September 2011, Mamadou Badiane organized a symposium on slave narrative and racial issues in Cuba. The symposium featured Victorien Lavou, professor of Spanish at the Université of Perpignan Via Domitia (France), and Marlène Marty, associate professor of Spanish at the Université de Lille 3–Charles de Gaulle. Lavou presented a paper titled “Figuraciones de la esclavitud transatlántica en los textos literarios latinoamericanos”; and Marty, “Representaciones de la esclavitud transatlántica en la novela Son del África de Sergio Bizzio.”

In March, Jack Draper invited Paul Sneed, assistant professor of Brazilian literature at the University of Kansas, to come to MU. Sneed is also the cofounder of the Two Brothers Institute of Rocinha in Rio de Janeiro. While on campus, Sneed met with students enrolled in Draper’s course focusing on the favela (slum) in cinema and literature, presented his film, Rocinha: At Home on the Big Hill, and gave a lecture titled “Non-profits in the Favela: Rio’s NGOs in Contemporary Brazilian Film.”

The grand finale of the institute’s events was the three-day conference, Genocide in Rwanda: Media, Memory, and Denial, organized under the leadership of Béa Gallimore in late April. This was the first event of its kind organized by our faculty, covering such a broad spectrum of issues from legal, journalistic, literary, sociological, philosophical, filmic, geopolitical, and human rights perspectives. The conference began with a screening of the film Brussels-Kigali, based on the trial in Belgium of some of the perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi in 1994. Scholars based in the United States and overseas presented at the various sessions. They included: Bianca Bagatourian of Hollywood, Calif., founder and president of the Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance; Phillippe Basabose, professor of French at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada; Martine Beckers, expert in the field of human rights, justice, and victimology from Belgium; Tim Gallimore, former spokesperson for the Office of the Prosecutor at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; Gerise Herndon, director of the Gender Studies Program at Nebraska Wesleyan University; Tim Horner from the Center for Peace and Justice Education at Villanova University in Pennsylvania; Chantal Kalisa, associate professor of modern languages and women’s and gender studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln; Jean-Pierre Karegeye, assistant professor of French and Francophone studies at Macalester College; Pascale Perraudin, associate professor of French at Saint Louis University; Dominique Payette, associate professor of information and communication at the University of Laval; Aimable Twagilimana, professor of English at the State University of New York at Buffalo; and Michèle Vialet, professor of French and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies at the University of Cincinnati. Carl Wilkens, a Seventh-Day Adventist missionary who was the only American to stay in Rwanda after all U.S. citizens were evacuated in 1994, and author of I’m Not Leaving, gave one of the keynote addresses, “Why I Chose to Stay in Rwanda,” to an attentive audience of approximately 120 people, many of whom took the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of his book. The conference ended with a keynote address given by Canadian General (now Senator) Roméo Dallaire, who had at his command the United Nations Peacekeeping troops during the Rwandan genocide. He gave a powerful presentation, “Are All Humans Human,” to a mesmerized audience of
Activities Sponsored by the Faculty and Graduate Student Seminar Series

In October 2011, Erick Blandón invited Nicaraguan filmmaker, Ivan Argüello, to present his movie *The Other Wars Within the War*. The movie screening was followed by a lively exchange between the audience and Argüello. In November 2011, Roberta Tabanelli gave a talk on transnational cinema titled, "Italian Eyes on the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict: Saverio Costanzo’s Private. A Case Study of Transnational Cinema." Later in April, Roberta organized an Italian film festival in collaboration with Ragtag Cinema. She also secured support from the local community to assist with the costs of the festival. The movies shown included *Into Paradiso, 20 Sigarette, Sciulla! (Easy!)*, and *Una Vita Tranquilla (An Easy Life).*

The spring semester saw a number of other interesting events. In February, David Castillo, professor of Spanish at the State University of New York at Buffalo, gave a presentation titled "Landscape and Spectacle: Fuenteventura to New York City, and Back to Granada," to the MU community. He was invited by Stephen Hessel who taught a class on the supernatural and the grotesque in Spain. Castillo also had the opportunity to visit the class.

Michael Ugarte organized in February the visit of Juan de la Urda from the State University of New York at Fredonia, who presented a paper on the poetics of violence in the Spanish Civil War. In March, graduate students Angélica García Genel, Danilo León, and Ana Zapata-Calle presented papers on their current research projects. Megan Moore hosted the visit of Professor Sharon Kinoshita from the University of California at Santa Cruz, who gave a talk, "How to Do Things in the Medieval Mediterranean." Kinoshita also visited with Megan’s gradu-

Over 250 people. Senator Dallaire was introduced by former U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda, Joyce Leader, who had worked with Dallaire at the time of the genocide. Incidentally, Ambassador Leader is not a stranger to our campus; she has been invited before to present *The Other Wars Within the War*. Before closing this section, we want to thank Handy Williamson, vice provost for international programs, for the two luncheons he organized for our guests, and for taking the time to come and offer welcoming remarks to the audience before Senator Dallaire’s speech.

Canadians Senator Roméo Dallaire with Vice Provost Handy Williamson, at the April Rwandan Genocide Conference.

Charles Presberg followed in April with his presentation, "Romancing the Novel: The Fourfold Genre of Don Quixote."

In keeping with the department’s commitment to Catalan studies, Mónica Marcos-Llinas organized in April the third annual symposium on Catalan language, literature, and culture. The symposium began with an introduction by Mallorcan journalist Sergi Marcos-Llinás of the 2010 movie, *Pan negro*, which was shown. Edgar Illas from Indiana University gave a talk on Catalan literature and national allegory; and Todd Mack, from Stanford University, presented on the well-known Catalan novel, *Les veus de Paman*, which, like the movie *Pan negro*, deals with the theme of the recovery of historical memory. The Catalan symposium also included presentations by students enrolled in Monica’s Catalan class.

For this academic year, we are already planning a series of interesting events, all open to the public in order to continue honoring our commitment to the intellectual life of the campus.
Faculty in Action

French Assistant Professor Dan Sipe’s book, *Text, Image, and the Problem with Perfection in Nineteenth-Century France*, is forthcoming from Ashgate Publishing. He is working on a collected edition titled *Figurations of Desire*, which will examine the ways that various disciplines and historical periods represent and respond to desire. In preparation for a new course on contemporary French culture, Sipe was awarded a Mizzou Advantage Faculty Development Award, allowing him to study at the prestigious École du Louvre in Paris this past summer.

French Professor Mary Jo Muratore’s book titled *Exiles, Outcasts, Strangers: Icons of the Outsider in Post-World War II Narratives* (Continuum Press) appeared in October 2011. The study is an analysis of how writers, often categorized as outsiders themselves, treat the theme of alienation in their works. Writers discussed include Camus (*L’Étranger*), Sábat (El Tiénel), Genet (*Querelle de Brest*), Wright (*The Outsider*), Langevin (*Poussière sur la ville*), Pineau (*L’Exil selon Julia*), Naipaul (*Guerrillas*), Zongo (*Le Parachutage*), and Wiesel (*Le Chien et la Mouche*).

Mónica Marcos-Llinas, associate teaching professor of Spanish, has just finished translating a collection of folk tales from Catalan into English, which will be published later this year. She will present a paper on Catalan acquisition in Poland this coming fall. She will be on a development leave this fall to continue working on the design of new courses on Catalan language and culture, which have been officially approved by the university.

Rita Cavigioli, associate professor of Italian, published the following articles: the first, “Dalla scuola al mondo. Percorsi di crescita nella narrativa interculturale per ragazzi,” in *Quaderni del ‘900*; the second, “Gli age studies americani. Riflessioni critiche su età, genere e letteratura,” in *Vecchie allo specchio. Rappresentazioni nella realtà sociale, nel cinema e nella letteratura*, edited by Edda Melon, Luisa Passerini, Luisa Ricaldone, and Lucia Spina in 2012; and the third, “Journeying Little Women: a Gendered Reading of Intercultural Children’s and Juvenile Literature,” in the *Proceedings of the International Colloquium WWW: World Wide Women: Globalization, Gender, and Languages* in 2011. In addition, she presented papers and organized conference sessions at conferences in Rome and Venice. In October, she will present a paper titled “Minimal Departures: Narratives of Young Female Mobility in Early 20th-century Italian Children’s Literature” at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association at Seattle University. Her research has been supported by a Faculty International Travel Grant from the MU Research Council and by a grant from the MU Center for Arts and Humanities.

Spanish Assistant Teaching Professor Stephen Hessel’s critical and pedagogical edition of Miguel de Cervantes, *Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda*, was published by Cervantes and Co. in fall 2011. He presented a paper, “Butch Femme/Femme Butch: The Trial of Elena/a de Céspedes and its Postmodern Consequences,” at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference in Rochester, NY, in March. He was also a respondent for the panel “Horror in Romance Language Cinema” at the same conference.

Charles Presberg, associate professor of Spanish, served his final year on the executive committee of the Cervantes Society of America. He delivered a paper titled “Shifting Doubles” at the University of Texas at Austin in November 2011, and another titled “Romancing the Novel” at the department’s Faculty and Graduate Student Seminar Series in April.

French Assistant Professor Megan Moore’s book manuscript, *Exchanges in Exoticism: Byzantium and the Making of the Medieval Mediterranean in Old French Romance*, is under contract and will be published later this year with the University of Toronto Press. Last year, she published an article, “Hellenism, Islam, and Exoticism in French Medieval Romance,” in the *Journal of Modern Hellenism*. In addition, she was invited to present the following papers: “Teaching the Interconnectivity and Cross-culturalism Inspired by the Medieval Mediterranean,” by the American Comparative Literature Association in April; and “The Maritime Mediterranean in Old French Literature: Seas of Commerce, Exchanges of Knowledge,” by The Mediterranean Seminar at the University of California at San Diego in February. She also attended in February the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference, where she presented “The
Eroticization of Death: Masculinity and the Mourning of the Hero in Old French Epic” in Phoenix.

Juanamaria Cordones-Cook, professor of Spanish, took advantage of her research leave during 2011–12 to work full time on numerous documentary projects on Ediciones Vigía, and on prominent Afro-Cuban intellectuals and artists, which she will finish next academic year. She has already completed one documentary: Un libro de Estévez/A One-of-a-kind Book by Estévez. These projects were funded by a Mizzou Advantage grant. In addition, she has been organizing a Mizzou Advantage-sponsored international conference on Ediciones Vigía to be held on campus Nov. 11–13. In May, she traveled to Havana, where she had the opportunity to present her work at the Festival Internacional de Poesía. Her book, La Habana expuesta: Antología bilingüe de poesía de Nancy Morejón/ Havana on Display: Bilingual Anthology of Poetry by Nancy Morejón, was published by Ediciones Vigía in February. Last year, she published two pieces: “Georgina Herrera: Una cimarrona contemporánea,” in Unión, Revista de Literatura y Arte, Año 1; and “Panorama poético de Nancy Morejón,” in a volume titled Hijas del Muntui. Biografías críticas de mujeres afrodescendientes de América Latina, edited by María Mercedes Jaramillo and Lucía Ortiz Bogotá and published by Editorial Panamericana. She co-produced with Julie Middleton and Barbara Williamson the documentary Eliot Battle: Change from Within, filmed in Columbia with MU Extension Cooperative Video Group. The documentary premiered at MU in February. She also presented her documentary Cimarroneando con GH during Black History Month.


Dawn Heston, assistant teaching professor of Spanish, was an invited speaker at the Kansas City Regional Language Teaching Symposium in September 2011. In her presentation titled “Vivid, Virtual and Visual: Best Practices in Integrating Authentic Video,” she spoke about creative sources for integrating authentic video. She was excited about a language technology symposium she attended in Boston last October, where she was able to learn more about the future technologies to be integrated into making language learning and teaching more authentic and student-driven from Marc Prensky, a well-known expert in the field of educational technology. That month she also presented, “Preparing Students for Success in College” for the Annual Conference of Foreign Language Association of Missouri with colleague Linda Keown, assistant teaching professor of Spanish. Their presentation was well received by high school language teachers eager to prepare students for college-level language study.

Jack Draper, associate professor of Portuguese, published an article in The Latin Americanist comparing histories of, and narratives on, interracial marriage in Brazil and the United States. This past spring, his research and teaching centered around favelas (Brazilian slums) and their culture and history. He also has a forthcoming chapter with Palgrave analyzing two films on the perspective of teen girls in favelas.

Carol Lazzaro-Weis, professor of French and Italian, is awaiting the publication of her annotated, revised edition of Victor Tixier’s Voyages aux Prairies Osages, Louisiane et Missouri, which will appear in Editions Tintamarre of Centenary College of Louisiana. She published an article in May, “Gender as an Analytical Category in Post-unification Italian Literature,” in Verso una storia di genere della letteratura italiana edited by Virginia Cox and Chiara Ferrari. Her encyclopedia entry of Italian writer Dacia Maraini appeared in the Literary Encyclopedia (online) in 2012. She also published a joint review of two books dealing with the French and Haitian Revolution in the Journal of Haitian Studies in 2011. She presented “The Role of the Trickster Figure in Indigenous Comic Strips in Canada,” at the American Association of Canadian Studies in Ottawa last November. 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.


Valerie Kaussen, associate professor of French, published two articles related to her new project on humanitarian communications in post-Earthquake Haiti: the first, “Do-it-Yourself: International Aid and the Neoliberal Ethos in the Tent Camps of Port-au-Prince” in NACLA Report on the Americas in November 2011, and the second, “States of Exception: Haiti’s IDP Camps,” in The Monthly Review (January 2012). In January, she was invited to participate in a roundtable on the need for interdisciplinarity in Haitian studies, and in November, she traveled to Jamaica to deliver a paper at the Haitian Studies Association Conference. She will be on leave this year to continue working on her book manuscript titled Disaster and Its Afterlives: Representations of Social Death in Post-earthquake Haiti.

Associate Professor of Spanish Ivan Reyna’s latest book manuscript, True Account of the Conquest of Peru, is under contract and will be published in 2013 by Peter Lang. He presented “De Pizarro a Pizarro: Las guerras civiles entre los conquistadores y la identidad criolla en el Virreinato del Perú,” at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in April. He has been appointed to the board of referees of a new electronic journal, L’érudit franco-espanol. His research has been supported by grants from the MU Research Council and the Center of Arts and Humanities.

Erick Blandón, associate professor of Spanish, published his book titled Discursos transversales. La recepción de Rubén Darío en Nicaragua, with the Banco Central de Nicaragua in 2011. During his trip to Managua in November 2011, he gave an interview about Ruben Dario to the newspaper, El Nuevo Dario, and to the television show, Esta Noche Show Channel 12. He also published three articles last year: “Presencia de Rubén Darío en los discursos del mestizaje” in Chasqui; “Rubén Dario frente al Estado intervenido,” in Revista Centroamericana, a journal published at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan; and, “Rubén Darío expectador y naufragio de los ciclones de 1910,” in La Habana Elegante. In February, he presented “La alegría del descenso en Carlos Martínez Rivas” at the Festival of Poetry of Granada in Nicaragua.

Michael Ugarte, professor of Spanish, and Flore Zéphir, professor of French, were both invited to present papers at Vanderbilt University’s Black Migration Symposium in February. Ugarte’s paper was titled “How Do Migrants Become Exiles and How Do Exiles Become Refugees?”, Zéphir’s was titled “Haitian Immigrants, Writers, and Academics Responding to the Challenges of Post-earthquake Haiti.” They were also both discussants at the Roundtable on Black Intergroup Relations.

Marvin Lewis, professor emeritus of Spanish, continues to have an impact on the profession. Two of his books originally published in English have recently been translated into Spanish. The first one, Afro-Argentine Discourse: Another Dimension of the Black Diaspora (1996, University of Missouri Press), was translated by Gabriela Díaz Cortez, a 1999 graduate of the MU MALT program. The translation, El discurso afroargentino: Otra dimensión de la diáspora negra, was published by the Press of the University Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina, in 2010. The second, Afro-Uruguayan Literature: Post-Colonial Perspectives (2003, Bucknell University Press), was translated by Alicia Porrini and Marvin Lewis. The translation, Cultura y literatura afro-uruguaya: Perspectivas post-coloniales, was published by Casa de la Cultura Afrouruguaya in Montevideo in 2011.
Autumn 2012

By Flore Zéphir

Our department continues to enjoy a great level of success with our graduate students. In fall 2011, doctoral student María Taub successfully defended her dissertation titled Arauco domado de Lope de Vega: Ética y estética (Lope de Vega’s The Taming of Arauco: Ethics and Aesthetics) under the mentorship of Professor Charles Presberg, and she earned her doctorate in December 2011. Another doctoral student, Ana Zapata-Calle, passed her comprehensive exams with flying colors and is now writing her dissertation under the mentorship of Professor Juana-Carolina Cordones-Cook. French MALT student Jessica Joyce also graduated in December 2011. In May 2012, several other students graduated: French master’s student Elizabeth Ramey; French MALT students Louise Allen and Erica Titus; and Spanish MALT students Enrique Murutato, Megan Ledoux, and Daveiva Murillo Condo. This fall, our department welcomed 14 new graduate students, thus bringing the number in residence to 43.

Our graduate students have accomplished a great deal. Collectively, they have been nominated for teaching awards, have presented papers at professional conferences, and have published their works. It is with great pride that we share their accomplishments with you.

María Taub, who recently obtained her doctorate in Spanish, presented a paper, “Amor y furor de Fresia en Arauco domado de Lope de Vega” at the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater in March. In addition, she received the prestigious Everett Hesse Graduate Student Travel Award for the best student paper presented at the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater. Her paper “Arauco domado de Lope de Vega: reflexión ética acerca de la historia” has been accepted for publication by Bulletin of the Comediantes and will appear next year.


Spanish doctoral candidate José Carreño presented two papers at professional conferences: the first one, “Rubén Darío: entre el caracol y la sirena” at the Midwest Modern Language Association in St. Louis in November 2011; and the second, “Tarumba: símbolo o pretexto para la creación poética de Jaime Sabines,” at the XVII Congreso de Literatura Mexicana Contemporánea, at University of El Paso in March 2012. In addition, he published his poems: “Luz Oscura” and “Muerte Nocturna” with Acentosreview in November 2011; “Cuando vuelva a ser niño” and “Hacedor de palabras” with the Hispanic Cultural Review in May; and “Nocturnal Death” with the Prism Review in June.

French doctoral candidate Tomás Nicolás presented two papers at professional conferences: the first, “Campo de los Almedros, el recuerdo de una memoria olvidada,” at the French and Spanish Graduate and Undergraduate Symposium at Saint Louis University in April; and the second, “Emma Bovary la antítesis de Ana Ozares,” at the University of Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages in May.

French doctoral student Virginie Ems-Bléneau presented a paper, “Bringing the Subaltern into Speech: Maryse Condé’s Moi, Tituba, Sorcière... Noire de Salem,” at the MU Women’s and Gender Studies’ Graduate Student Conference in March.

In summer 2011, Spanish master’s student Toshiya Kamei was invited to attend the Encuentro Literario Rosario Memorable in Comitán, Chiapas, and met Mexican poet Dolores Castro, whose work he later translated for Washington Square and Weave. He also participated in the presentation of Leticia Luna’s Wounded Days and Other Poems at Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City. In spring 2012, he published book-length translations of Spanish writer Espido Freire’s Irlanda.

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and of Mexican writer Selva Chew’s Silent Herons. He translated Mexican writer Liliana Blum’s short story “Pink Lemonade” in the anthology Three Messages and a Warning; and Mexican poet Sara Uribe’s work in the following literary journals: The Bitter Oleander, Gargoyle, Harpur Palate, The Journal, and So to Speak. He also contributed Naoko Awa’s short story to Toma, an anthology that benefits earthquake victims in Japan.

In spring 2012, French doctoral student Courtney Alber was a recipient of a TA Choice Award given by the Missouri Students Association. French doctoral student Scott Gossett and French master’s student Taoues Hadour were also nominated for the same award. In fall 2011, nominees for the TA Choice Awards included: French master’s students Erica Titus, Alyssa Smith, Jessica Joyce and Elizabeth Ramey.

Spanish master’s student Avelina Aguilar Staker presented a paper at the Annual French and Spanish Graduate and Undergraduate Symposium at Saint Louis University in April 2011, and in 2012 her paper was published as “La feminidad: arquetipo de la feminidad reflejado en la reinterpretación de la novela Doña Bárbara,” in the inaugural issue of Confluence: A Romance Language Journal of Saint Louis University.

Guest speaker Sergi Marcos-Llinas, and professors Mónica Marcos-Llinas and Michael Ugarte before the presentation of the movie Pan negra at the Catalan Symposium in April.

French master’s student Elizabeth Ramey presented a paper titled ‘Aucun de nous ne reviendra de Charlotte Delbo: les soeurs de camps, l’esprit collectif et l’exorcisation de l’indicible” at three conferences: the Annual French and Spanish Graduate and Undergraduate Symposium at Saint Louis University, the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, and the University of Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages this past spring.

Personal Corner

We welcome the births of the newest members of our departmental community. Lily Mar Hessel, born on May 6, is the daughter of Spanish Professor Stephen Hessel and his wife Judy. Celine Al-Awawdeh, born on June 26, is the daughter of French doctoral student Nabil Al-Awawdeh and his wife Nour. Elizabeth Ramey, MA ’12, and Spanish doctoral student Tomás Nicolás became engaged on January 15. They plan to get married in Spain on December 22, with a complimentary ceremony in the United States on January 19, 2013.

Rachel Zemke, daughter of Spanish Professor John Zemke, earned her bachelor’s degree (summa cum laude) in international area studies from Washington University in St. Louis. She was also initiated into Phi Beta Kappa.

Michael Ugarte went to Florence for the first time in his life and went for a jog along the Arno all the way up to the Piazza Michelangelo. He tells us that Florence is a little like Toledo but prettier (perdón). Also, he is going to be a granddad!
Promotions and Recognition

A Perfect Score

Last year, our department put four colleagues up for tenure and promotion: Mamadou Badiane, Erick Blandón, Jack Draper, and Ivan Reyna. All four of them were promoted to associate professor with tenure, effective this fall. Additionally, Mónica Marcos-Llinas was promoted to associate teaching professor.

Special Recognition

Béa Gallimore received the President’s Cross-Cultural Engagement Award from the University of Missouri System in April.

Mary Jo Muratore received the Faculty Service Award for Outstanding Mentoring from the Honors College in April 2012. In addition, she was one of the campus authors honored in May.

Stephen Hessel was one of the campus authors honored by the campus in May 2012.

Charles Presberg received the Blue Chalk Award for Outstanding Advising from the College of Arts and Science in February.

Silvia Sarais, a graduate instructor of Italian and a graduate student in the department of classical studies, received the Green Chalk Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistants from the College of Arts and Science in February.

Ivan Reyna and John Zemke were recognized by the Mizzou Alumni Association for being a Mizzou ’39 mentor in March 2012.
Upcoming Events

For the next academic year, the department has planned a variety of interesting activities.

Juanamaria Cordones-Cook, in conjunction with the Mizzou Advantage Program, is organizing a conference titled "Cultural Bricolage: Artist Books of Cuba Ediciones Vigía" to take place Nov. 11–13. For more information, go to http://vigia.missouri.edu/.

On Nov. 14 the department will host two writers of the African diaspora, Cuban Nancy Morejón and Brazilian Salgado Maranhão.

In April 2013, we will organize the visit of Equatorial Guinean writer Justo Bolieka, who teaches at the University of Salamanca, Spain.

In spring 2013, the department will have the privilege of hosting the Kemp Lecture Series, which allows language and literatures departments to bring a scholar of international prominence to campus.

The Fourth Annual Catalan Symposium will also happen in the spring.

Please stay tuned for more on upcoming events.