Jane Marie Robert
Lifelong Advocate of French Cultural Studies
Honored by the College of Arts and Science

By Flore Zéphir

Jane Marie Robert, MA ’73, received a 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Arts and Science. The award does justice to a lifetime of achievement, and it honors a lady who has spent her career in the service of others, while remaining true to her profession and to the values she learned at MU.

After obtaining her bachelor’s degree in French from Webster University in 1969, Robert enrolled in MU’s Department of Romance Languages and Literatures to pursue her master of arts in French. Since earning that degree, Robert has enjoyed an illustrious career spanning more than 30 years as a French teacher in St. Louis. She has taught at Parkway West Senior High School, home to one of the top 50 foreign language departments in the country. She has been an instructor at St. Louis University and worked as a volunteer French teacher at St. Gerard Majella Catholic Grade School. She currently serves as a founding board member of the recently established St. Louis Language Immersion Schools.

Throughout her long career, Robert has remained a tireless advocate of French cultural studies in the United States. Besides her work at local schools, she has led study-abroad programs in France for countless students of foreign language and culture. Of particular importance, she led a group of students in 1997 from St. Gerard Majella School on a summer trip to Paris in response to a private invitation that she and her students received from Pope John Paul II to attend the dedication of the Cathédrale d’Evry and to participate in the World Youth Day, held in Paris that year on Aug. 24.

Robert remains a strong presence in the Alliance Française, both within St. Louis, her city of residence, and throughout the United States. She has held important positions in a variety of French/Francophone organizations. Among them can be listed the Renaissance Française–USA, of which she is the president; the American Friends of the Musée d’Orsay, of which she is a founding member and has served as vice chair; the Federation of Alliances Françaises in the United States, of which she was the president from 2000 to 2006; the Société des Professeurs français et francophones d’Amérique, of which she is the founder of the Prix Léopold Sédar Senghor; the St. Louis–Lyon Sisters City, Inc., of which she was the president from 2007.

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From the Department Chair

By Flore Zéphir

This year again, I have the pleasure and privilege to share with our alumni, colleagues, and friends the many accomplishments of our faculty and our students, as well as the activities and events that we organize in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

In January 2013, we welcomed a new assistant teaching professor of French, Juan Wang, who earned her doctorate from the University of Colorado Boulder. We also welcomed back to our department Assistant Teaching Professor Jacquelyn Sandone, who coordinates our elementary-level Spanish courses. Jacquelyn had served in that position from 2002 to 2004 before joining the College of Arts and Sciences’s technology staff. She replaces Linda Keown, who retired after being a valuable member of our department for six and a half years. We wish Linda well as she begins a new chapter of her life, filled with the excitement of travels and leisurely activities. We were happy to learn that Linda has established the Linda J. Keown endowment fund for our department to support our graduate students. We also welcome our new staff member Brenda Klemme, who had been working at MU for 22 years in various units before joining us. Brenda replaces Pamela Myers, who retired in February 2013 and is pursuing other interests in massage therapy.

Though we rejoice in our collective accomplishments, we also pause to mourn the passing of two distinguished friends of our department. Arvarh Strickland, professor emeritus of history, passed away on April 30, 2013. Eliot Battle passed away on June 11, 2013. The legacy of these two great men remains visible on campus and in our Columbia community. They will continue to inspire us always to strive for the betterment of the human condition. We bid farewell to them and recognize them for their lifelong achievements.

We thank the various units that have helped sponsor our events and supported our students: 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 Vice Provost’s Office for Undergraduate Studies; The Campus Writing Program; The Honors College; the Departments of English, History, German and Russian studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, Art History and Archaeology, and Black Studies; the Peace Studies and Film Studies Programs; and the Center for Studies in Oral Tradition.

Members of the Arts and Science public relations team, Laura Lindsey, Amanda Schlink, Liz Shulte, and Tammy McNiel deserve special recognition for attending and photographing our events. We include some of their photographs in this newsletter, and we invite you to view all of them on our department’s Web site in the photo gallery. For updating and posting materials on our Web site, we thank Shao-Yuan (Eric) Chiu.

We extend our thanks to our staff members—to Marcia Reeves, for taking care of all of our fiscal matters, to Pamela Myers (now retired), to Brenda Klemme for designing all our posters and brochures and helping with travel arrangements for our guests, and to Mary Harris, also for helping with travel arrangements and for proofreading materials for the chair. We recognize Roberta Tabanelli, who received support this year from the Italian Film Festival USA and the Instituto Italiano di Cultura di Chicago to organize the Italian Film Festival at Ragtag Cinema.

And we recognize, as well, Professor Mónica Marcos-Llñás, who organized this year’s Catalan symposium, supported in part by The Institute Ramon Llul in Barcelona.

We renew 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 providing exceptional learning and research opportunities for all our students.

We also invite you to visit our department’s Web page at romancelanguages.missouri.edu, or on Facebook: MU Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, 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, your comments, or to make a donation to the department.
Lecture Series

Besides various international initiatives, the department sponsors a range of lectures intended to enrich intellectual life on campus. In October 2012, the Faculty and Graduate Student Seminar Series, under the leadership of Jack Draper and Ivan Reyna, invited Professor Daniel Domingues from MU’s Department of History to give a talk titled “The Slave Trade in the Southern Atlantic: Shifting Paradigms.”

The Afro-Romance Institute, under the leadership of Juanamaria Cordones-Cook, also contributed to the Cultural Bricolage Conference (see International/Global Initiatives on Page 4). This three-day event brought several distinguished guests to campus. In addition to international guests, the list of speakers included Ruth Behar, the Victor Haim Perera Collegiate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan, and Jeanne Drewes, the chief of binding at the Library of Congress.

Carol Lazzaro-Weis was the chief organizer of the visit of Dena Goodman, Lila Miller Collegiate Professor of History and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Michigan. Goodman delivered the Kemp Lecture titled “Thinking of You: Objects, Memory and Epistolarity.” Lazzaro-Weis also worked with the Afro-Romance Institute to invite Professor Nacer Klelouz from the University of Missouri–Kansas City to deliver a talk titled “Le Multiculturalisme en France,” in March.

Daniel Sipe invited Professor of French Studies Brett Bowles, from Indiana University Bloomington, to offer a presentation titled “Contrapuntal Montage and Revisionist Historiography in Marcel Ophüls’ The Sorrow and the Pity.”

The department looks forward to bringing other important guests to campus this academic year.

Jane Marie Robert

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to 2009; and both the Institut Maison Bourbon–USA and the Institut Maison Bourbon–Paris, among others. She likewise holds memberships in many regional, national, and international organizations, including the Foreign Language Association of Missouri, the American Association of Teachers of French, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, the French Heritage Society, the Center for French Colonial Studies, the Association France-Amériques, La Société française, and L’Union internationale de la presse francophone.

Robert has hosted important events for dignitaries, such as the St. Louis visit of His Royal Highness, Prince Louis de Bourbon, and the Paris luncheon of Gretchen Leach, wife of the U.S. ambassador to France, Howard Leach. She travels frequently to Paris to meet with French partners of the Federation of Alliances Françaises, organizing and participating in discussions with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the American Embassy in Paris, and with the secretary general of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Abdou Diouf, former president of Senegal.

For her countless contributions, she has received many honors. Indeed, Sept. 21, 2007, was proclaimed Jane Robert Day by the City of St. Louis. Along the same lines, Oct. 26, 2007, was also proclaimed Jane Robert Day by St. Louis County. In October 2007, she received the Charbonnier Award by the Federation of Alliances Françaises. In December 2007, she was dubbed Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur, an honor bestowed upon her by the French government. In 2011, she was made an Officier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques, an honor also awarded by the French government. In that same year, she received another award, la Médaille d’or, from the Renaissance Française. In 2008, Webster University presented to her the Distinguished Alumna Award, and Webster’s College of Arts and Science honored her with an Outstanding Alumni Award.

Owing to her significant contributions, she has distinguished herself as an exceptional MU alumna. Robert joined an impressive group of Distinguished Alumni Award recipients from our department. In 1987, Margaret “Petch” Peden, now professor emerita of Spanish and international translator, received this distinction. In 1997, Petch was followed by Robert Gex, then chancellor of Southern University in Louisiana. In 1998, former Ambassador Sally Shelton-Colby received this prestigious recognition. In 1999, the award went to educator Katherine Hanley, then chair of the Fairfax County, Va., Board of Supervisors. In 2005, Janet Campbell, a well-known leader in the field of medical business and bioscience was the recipient; and in 2006, award-winning children’s book author Dandi Daley Mackall received the same honor. To be sure, our department has every reason to be proud of its alumni.
The department contributes to the international teaching, research, and service mission of the University by sponsoring a host of international and global initiatives.

**International Symposia and Guest Speakers**

**November 2012**
The Cultural Bricolage: Artist Books of Cuba’s Ediciones Vigía symposium was sponsored primarily by the Mizzou Advantage program under the leadership of principal organizer Mónica Marcos-Llinás. The presentation by Professor Justo Bolekia from the University of Salamanca, Spain, “Ethnic Differences in African Literatures,” was sponsored by the Afro-Romance Institute, under the leadership of principal organizer Michael Ugarte.

**November 2012**
*Zéphir* in collaboration with Ragtag Cinema organized the Italian Film Festival.

**Study-abroad Programs**
- January 2013 Intersession: Costa Rica program led by Professor Lorna-da McCune.
- Summer 2013: Lyon (France) program led by Professor Carol Lazzaro-Weis.
- Summer 2013: Oviedo (Spain) program led by Professor Badiane.
- Summer 2013: Cusco (Peru) program led by Professor McCune.
- Summer 2013: Rwanda program led by Professor Béa Gallimore.

**Faculty Presentations and Work Overseas**
*Rita Cavigioli* delivered a paper, “Age studies e generazioni. Giovani e anziani a confronto,” at the Seminario Passaggi di età, passaggi di vita organized by the Società Italiana delle Letterate in Rome in June 2012. In addition, she presented a paper, “Later Life Artistic Creativity: An Interdisciplinary Experience at an Italian University of the Third Age,” at the Canadian Society for Italian Studies International Conference, at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, in June 2013.


Marcos-Llinás presented a paper titled “Beliefs, Language Anxiety, and Motivation in Learning Catalan as a Third Language,” at the European Second Language Association Convention in Poznan, Poland, in September 2012.

*Daniel Sipe* gave a paper titled “Living Fiction: Cabet’s American Utopia” at the Utopian Studies Conference in Toronto in October 2012.


*Valerie Kaussen* (with Lisa Saffran, School of Public Health) went to Accra, Ghana, and Lomé, Togo, to conduct site visits for the Office of Study Abroad, with the intention of eventually offering a course on video and
advocacy in Ghana. She also gave a talk at the U.S. Embassy in Lomé on international non-governmental organizations and visual culture in January 2013.

Erick Blandón lectured on the poetry of the ’70s in Nicaragua at the Instituto de Cultura Hispánica in Managua in July 2013. He and graduate student Aliuska Molina Placeres were both invited to participate in the Ninth International Poetry Festival in Nicaragua to honor famous Nicaraguan poet Ernesto Cardinal and many other poets from around the world in February 2013.

Demetrio Anzaldo-González presented a paper, “¡Yo también escribo con la tinta de mi sangre! De cuando Gloria Anzaldúa conoció su ser,” at the Segundo Coloquio Internacional de Escrituras Sáfricas, organized by the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Azcapotzalco, the Centro de Estudios Interdisciplinarios de Género de la Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México y el Foro Cultural Voces en Tinta, in Mexico City, in February 2013. In addition, he visited study-abroad programs in Seville and Alicante, Spain, in March. While in Spain, he presented two papers: the first, “Silencios sonoros en la página en blanco in Tili Tlapalli/The Path of the Red and Black Ink,” for the Council on International Education Exchange at the University of Seville, and the second, “Vida y arte en la obra de Gloria Anzaldúa” at the Universitat d’Alacant, Departamento de Traducción e Interpretación.

Cordones-Cook traveled to Cuba in February, to participate in the International Book Fair in Havana. The fair featured several of her documentaries on the works of prominent Cuban artists and intellectuals: Nancy Morejón: Paisajes celebres; Un libro único de Estévez; Ediciones Vigía: Poéticas visuales; and La Havana expuesta, Un diseño de Estévez. Moreover, in January, the latter two documentaries were screened in Berlin, at the Instituto Cervantes with the participation of the Iberoamericanisches Institute, where Cordones-Cook made a presentation about Cuba’s Ediciones Vigía. While in Berlin, she was also invited by Humboldt University to make a presentation on Cuban writer Georgina Herrera and to show her documentary Cimarroneando con GH. Another documentary, Nancy Morejón: Famous Landscapes, was featured at an international congress devoted to Cuban issues at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel in May.

Guadalupe Pérez-Anzaldo presented a paper, “(Re)elaboración y resignificación del imaginario maternal patriarcal en los cuentos mexicanos contemporáneos escritos por mujeres,” at II Coloquio Internacional: Prototipos, cuerpo, género y escritura, held in Morelia, Michoacán, México, in June 2012. She presented a second paper, “Especulares identidades enmascaradas en el cuento Bien Pretty de Sandra Cisneros,” at the Universitat d’Alacant, Departamento de Traducción e Interpretación, in Alicante, Spain, in March 2013. In addition, she presented a third paper, “El infierno: representación de la narcoviolencia en México,” at the II Congreso Internacional: Historia, Literatura y Arte en el cine español y portugués held at the Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, in June 2013.

Lazzaro-Weis was invited in June 2013 to be the external adviser for the doctoral dissertation of a student at the National University of Ireland, Cork. The student works in the field of Italian women’s literature.

Badianie was invited to teach a three-week course on Afro-Caribbean literature at the Université Gaston Berger, in St. Louis, Senegal, June 2013.


Joseph Otabela worked as a visiting professor during his leave in academic year 2012–13 in the Department of Modern Languages at the University of Ghana in Legon, where he taught courses in Spanish and Afro-Hispanic literature.

In the context of her dissertation research, doctoral student Ana Zapata-Calle, who is working under the mentorship of Professor Cordones-Cook, participated in a week-long program in Cuba in June. The program was organized by the Simunye Association under the auspices of the People-to-People Partnership Fund for Reconciliation and Development. Zapata-Calle had the opportunity to interact with Afro-Cuban historians, writers, filmmakers, dancers, sculptors, painters, and other artists whose work relates to the representation of the Afro-Cuban culture and the arts. She also visited such institutions and museums in Havana as the Yoruba Association, La Casa Africa, La Casa de las Américas, and the Literacy Museum.
Loving What We Do: Teaching, Mentoring, Researching, and Serving

The department is composed of dedicated faculty, graduate students, and instructors who take a great deal of pride in advancing the mission of the University in every imaginable way.

Faculty

Spanish Assistant Teaching Professors Dawn Heston and Jacquelyn Sandone offered a joint presentation on the use of contemporary technologies as a means of communication at the Missouri Modern Languages, Modern Technologies Conference in Springfield, Mo., in June.

Heston and Sandone work closely with the Honors College, as does coordinator Lorna McCune. In fall 2012 and spring 2013, Heston taught the honors section of 1200; McCune taught the section of 1200. These sections included co-organized with Lorna McCune. In fall 2012 and spring 2013, McCune taught the honors section of the first- and third-year level French courses.

Spanish Associate Teaching Professor Mónica Marcos-Llinás translated a collection of five folktale by Antoni M. Alcover titled, Cinc rondalles malordiuques d’Antoni Maria Alcover, in Catalan and English, in September 2012. She also presented a paper, “Translating Folk Tales from Antoni M. Alcover” at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington in April 2012. She received a grant from the A&S Student Council to bring a speaker from Mallorca, Spain, next year to the Catalan Symposium.

Spanish Associate Teaching Professor Demetrio Anzaldo wrote an article, “Continuidad, alteridad y desafío de la poesía,” to be published in an anthology honoring renowned Mexican poet José Emilio Pacheco by the Autonomous National University of Mexico.

French coordinator Annice Wetzel received a grant from the A&S Student Council to buy several classroom sets of readers for the elementary French sequence. She also worked with the library to acquire an online French dictionary. She continues to teach the honors section of the first- and third-year level French courses.

Spanish Associate Teaching Professor Mar Soria López co-organized with Charles Presberg a graduate-student workshop called The Job Market, in October 2012. She presented a paper titled “Classing the Francoist Nation: Spanishness, ‘Old Cinema,’ and the Working Class,” at the Midwest Modern Language Association in Cincinnati, in November 2012. Further, she was awarded a Research Council Summer Fellowship that enabled her to spend a summer doing archival work in Spain. Her research has also received support through a Richard Wallace Faculty Incentive Grant.

Spanish Assistant Professor Guadalupe Pérez-Anzaldo published three articles last year. The first, “Prostitución y maternidad en Por si no te vuelvo a ver. Resignificaciones y transgresiones de la mujer mexicana,” appeared in summer 2012. The second, “Por si no te vuelvo a ver: más allá de la imagen estigmatizada de la mujer pública en la literatura mexicana,” was published in fall 2012, as was “Los peligros de ser mujer periodista y/o defensora de los derechos humanos en México.” She presented a paper, “Identidades enmascaradas recurren tes en el cuento ‘Bien Pretty’ de Sandra Cisneros,” at the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies in Miami, in March 2012.

Italian Associate Professor Roberta Tabanelli published a film studies textbook, Bianco e nero. Film Study Program (co-written with C. Villa) in January 2013. She also published an article, “The Violence of History in Marco Bechi’s Argentina,” in New Cinemas: Journal of Contemporary Film in fall 2012. She presented, “Saverio Costanzo’s Private: A Case Study of Transnational Cinema,” at the fourth annual film symposium on New Trends in Modern and Contemporary Italian Cinema in Bloomington, Ind., in April 2013. Her research has been supported by an Arts and Science Alumni Organization Faculty Incentive Grant. She continues to work as a manuscript reviewer for Continuum Publishing, Cognella Aca-

Professors Mamadou Badiane, Charles Presberg, and Flore Zéphir, and graduate students Noelia Martínez-Esteban and Danilo León at the A&S Banquet, March 9, 2013.

 honors section of 1100. These sections included enhanced opportunities for students to communicate in the target language outside of the classroom, while integrating authentic video materials. Students in Spanish 1100 read a novella titled El misterio de la llave; in 1200, they read a short novel and watched the film Mila-
Badiane
Spanish Associate Professor

in Brazilian cinema for the introduction on the history of music edited collection of film reviews with contemporary feminist cinema and ing chapters in 2013. The first focuses grave Macmillan titled “Cinematic Por

Draper
Portuguese Associate Professor research, The Evil of the Conquest, at was also invited to present his latest Foreign Language Conference in Lex

y lo diabólico: pautas para aproximar

He presented a paper, “El conquistador of Peru


Spanish Associate Professor Asier Alcázar is collaborating on a Festschrift and on the Encyclopedia of Hispanic Linguistics to be published by Routledge. The Syntax of Imperatives, a monograph with Professor Mario Saltarelli, is in production with Cambridge University Press and will be released shortly. He has already begun research for his third monograph on Spanish linguistics.

Spanish Associate Professor Iván Reyna published True Account of the Conquest of Peru with Peter Lang in 2013. He presented a paper, “El conquistador y lo diabólico: pautas para aproximarnos al conquistador,” at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington in April 2013. Moreover, he was also invited to present his latest research, “El Evíl del Conquista,” at Truman State University in March.

Portuguese Associate Professor Jack Draper published a chapter with Palgrave Macmillan titled “Cinematic Portrayals of Teen Girls in Brazil’s Urban Peripheries.” He also has two forthcoming chapters in 2013. The first focuses on contemporary feminist cinema and representations of children and adolescents in Brazilian film. The second is an edited collection of film reviews with an introduction on the history of music in Brazilian cinema for the Directory of World Cinema: Brazil.

Spanish Associate Professor Mamadou Badiane wrote an article, “Caribbean Cultural Conflicts: Négritude, Antillanité, and Créolité,” to be published by the Mid-Atlantic Writers Association.


In fall 2012, he taught a capstone course on the anti-slavery novel and organized for his class a Skype presentation by Puerto Rican writer Ana Lydia Vega. In April 2013, he presented a paper titled “Return of the Rhythm: American Influences in Modern Africa” at the College Language Association Conference in Kentucky.

Spanish Associate Professor Erick Blandón published “El autor y su obra: Erick Blandón” with the Series of Poesía Moderna de the Ediciones Festival Internacional de Poesía de Granada, in Mana

In October 2012, he presented a paper titled “The Syntax of Imperatives” at the Conference, November 2012.

In 2013. In addition, in July 2012, he gave two interviews in Managua on his work as a writer. He is on research leave this academic year to complete his book project on the work of the Latin American poet Carlos Martínez Rivas.

During 2012–13, French Associate Professor Valerie Kaussen held a Research Council leave, which she devoted to her book manuscript, Zooming In: The Politics of Visibility in Post-earthquake Haiti, a study of the use of new and traditional media in Haiti follow-

ing the 2010 earthquake. She presented at the Haitian Studies Association Conference in New York in November 2012, and in April 2013, at a conference on global Haiti at the University of Florida, Gainesville. She continues to assist in the implementation of the digital global studies undergraduate certificate program, initiated with a grant from the provost’s MU Advantage program. Her article “Do-it-Yourself: International Aid and the Neoliberal Ethos” published in the Tent Camps of Port-au-Prince,” appeared in a collection titled Tectonic Shifts: Haiti Since the Earthquake. Last year at Harvard University, she presented material from this article at a symposium and book launch for Tectonic Shifts.

Associate Spanish Professor Charles Presberg’s review of Frederick de Armas’ book Don Quixote Among the Saracens appeared in the most-recent edition of Revista de Estudios Hispánicos (March 2013). He is completing his book-length study, Cervantes and the Art of Madness. In October 2012, he helped Professor Mar Soría López coordinate a professional workshop for graduate students on key elements of the job search: the CV, the interview, and the offer. He is currently organizing the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature, to be held on campus Nov. 21–23, 2013.

Italian Professor Rita Cavigioli presented 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 Annual Conference, at Seattle University, in October 2012. She is on research leave during academic year 2013–14 to work on her new book about later-life creativity. Her research has received support through a Faculty International Travel Grant from the MU Research Council, which enabled her to travel to Italy in summer 2013.

Spanish Professor Juanamaria Cordones-Cook published two books last year. The first is a critical anthology titled Del palenque a la escena: Antología del teatro afro-latinoamericano in summer 2012. The second, La Habana Ex-
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Puesta, is a bilingual anthology of the Cuban poet Nancy Morejón. Her documentary work on the Havana Black Renaissance and on the Cuban Black Intelligentsia continues to receive rave reviews. Indeed, several of her documentary have been featured overseas at conferences, as well as in the U.S., in New York, California, Washington D.C., and Michigan. Her work has been supported primarily by grants from the Mizzou Advantage program.

French Professor Carol Lazzaro-Weis was re-elected president of the American Association for Italian Studies for a third term. She organized the AASS annual conference at the University of Oregon in April. Her annotated edition with critical introduction (both in French) of Victor Tixier’s Voyages aux Prairies Osages, Louisiane et Missouri was published in September 2012. Her article “Calvino’s Women” was published in Approaches to Teaching the Works of Italo Calvino in June. During Canada Days in March, she introduced the movie Monsieur Jourdain, sponsored by the Canadian Studies Program. In spring 2013, she directed English and French major Lamia Alafaircet’s senior honors thesis, “Race, Gender, and the Limits of Physicality in Claire de Duras Ourika and Nella Larsen’s Quicksand.” She is on leave this semester to complete a monograph on women writers and the historical novel.

French Professor Mary Jo Muratore devoted her research leave during academic year 2012–13 to a new book project, provisionally titled The Semiotics of Reflexive Discourse: Subversion and Subterfuge in Molière’s Comic Universe. Her two articles “Difference Defrocked: The Triumph of Tradition in Bernardin de Saint-Pierre’s Paul et Virginia,” and “The Perils of Plausibility in Balzac’s Facino Cane,” co-written with former student Pari Jafari, have appeared, respectively, in Neohelicon: Acta Comparationis Litterarum Universarum and in Romance Notes. Muratore has accepted the invitation to contribute to a special double volume on Discourses of Madness to be published by Springer. She has, in recent months, joined the editorial boards of Linguistics, Culture & Education, and Advances in Literary Study. She has accepted the invitation to serve as managing editor of a forthcoming journal, Édxgèse: Journal of Contemporary Studies in Applied Literary Theory, to be co-published in Belgium and the U.S.

Spanish Professor Michael Ugarte continues to work on translations of Afro-Spanish literature: Nativas, a novel by Cameroonian writer Inongo-Vi-Makomé, and Lóbela, a collection of poetry by Justo Bolekia. He is also working on a book-length project, Muffled Subaltern Voices from African Spain/Spanish Africa, that will begin with an exploration of Pérez Galdós’ representations of Africa. His essay on the subject is being considered for a collection titled Empire’s End. In October 2012, he presented a paper titled “How Do Migrants Become Exiles and How Do Exiles Become Refugees” at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

French Professor Flore Zéphir was invited by the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University to be a speaker at its Crossing Borders: Immigration and Gender in the Americas conference in April. She presented on the second-generation Haitian immigrants in the United States. She is working on an article dealing with the Creole language in the education system of post-earthquake Haiti.

Instructors and Graduate Students

During summer 2012, Spanish Assistant Instructor María Taub, PhD ’11, was invited by Ben Gunther from Florida State University to participate in a workshop. Gunther leads Theater with a Mission, an organization that is now beginning to showcase El Nuevo Mundo Descubierto por Cristóbal Colón by Lope de Vega in English. The workshop studied this Golden Age play during fall 2012 through a series of electronic exchanges; and in November 2012, it convened in Nashville at The American Society for Theatre Research. Among her contributions to the workshop was a paper titled “Encuentro poético en El Nuevo Mundo descubierto por Cristóbal Colón.” In addition, she contributed an article, “Love and Fury: The Evolution of Fresa in Arauco Tamed of Lope de Vega,” to a monograph on early modern Spanish theater, currently under review for publication.

Spanish doctoral student Tomás Nicolelás presented “Identidades en transición, el devenir del emigrante español en el siglo XX” at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, in October 2012. His article, “Campo de los almendros, el recuerdo de una memoria olvidada,” has been accepted for publication in the St. Louis University online journal Confluence.

Spanish doctoral student José Carreño Medina, a creative writer, published two poems in the Utah Foreign Language Review, Vol. 20, 2012; he also published poems in Lost in Translation, Vol. 6, 2013, an online publication by international graduate students at MU. His review of Blandón’s 2011 book, Discursos transversales: la recepción de Rubén Darío en Nicaragua, was published in Habana Elegante, Vol. 52, fall 2012.

French doctoral student Virginie Ems-Bléneau presented two conference papers in the spring. The first
was “From the Inside Out: Reversed Representation of the Outsider in Le Clézo’s Révolutions,” at the Image of the Outsider Conference of the Society for Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery in Colorado Springs in March. The second paper, “Liberté, (dés)humanité, fraternité : les métaphores de/et la déshumanisation dans l’Art français de la guerre,” was presented at the French and Spanish Graduate Student Symposium at Saint Louis University in April. Her travels have been supported by a travel grant from the Missouri Graduate Professional Council. The first paper will be published later this year in the Proceedings of the 2013 Society for Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery.

French doctoral student Scott Gossett presented a paper, “Cajuns in Contact,” at the Annual Research and Creativity Forum held at MU in March and at the French and Spanish Graduate Student Symposium at Saint Louis University in April.

French doctoral student Tomaz Cunningham presented a paper, “In Search of Charlotte Corday: Erasing and Misrepresenting the Feminine in French Romantic Literature,” at the Annual Research and Creativity Forum held at MU in March.

French doctoral student Elisabeth Aguilar presented a paper, “Image of the Outsider,” at two professional conferences: at the Image of the Outsider Conference of the Society for Interdisciplinary Study for Social Imagery in Colorado Springs in March 2013, and at the French and Graduate Student Symposium at Saint Louis University in April 2013. Her travels have been supported by a travel grant from the Graduate Professional Council.

French doctoral student Alyssa Smith presented a paper, “La Solicitud du visuel comme stratégie narrative pour soutenir l’auditoire dans La femme sans sépulture d’Assia Djebar,” at the Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures, hosted by the University of Cincinnati in April.

French doctoral student Aurélia Mouzet presented a paper, “Postcolonial Autobiography: Force majeure?” at the University of Cincinnati in April. The first paper was supported by a travel grant from the Missouri Graduate Professional Council.

Linda Keown (now retired), Dawn Heston, and Lorna McCune, who taught in fall 2013 the elementary Spanish honors classes, took full advantage of the Cultural Bricolage Conference held in November 2012. Their students were able to visit with conference lead organizer Cordones-Cook and previewed one of the documentaries about Ediciones Vigia in Cuba. Then they were treated to a tour of the Cuban art exhibit in the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology. Inspired by these visits, Keown encouraged her students to select an artist from the Spanish-speaking world and pick a portrait painted by the artist. The students had to become that person and write a poem about themselves. They were then asked to make a book in the Vigia style and incorporate the artwork and poem in the book. Likewise, students in elementary Spanish classes, at the encouragement of Heston, McCune, and Sandone (who replaced Keown) went to see the movie NO!, which was featured at the True/False Film Festival in February 2013). The film centered on the tumultuous political history of Chile. Students met with the film’s director and were able to continue their discussion of the film with Carlos Martínez Villar, an MU undergraduate originally from Chile.

Megan Moore taught a course on the French Renaissance in spring 2013. She went the extra mile in several senses when she organized a research trip with her undergraduate students to the Newberry Library in Chicago. Moore’s students attended a special meeting with Paul Gehl, curator of the Wing Collection, during which they were able to use authentic materials and archives from the French Renaissance, and to learn from renowned scholars working in the humanist book tradition. The Newberry Library trip was funded by the Committee on Medieval and Renaissance Studies through the Newberry Consortium Funds; by the office of Jim Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies; and by the romance languages department.
By Flore Zéphir

Faculty

Another perfect record! In September 2012, our department presented four colleagues for tenure and promotion. 

Rita Cavigioli was promoted to full professor and Asier Alcázar, Daniel Sipe, and Roberta Tabanelli were promoted to associate professor with tenure. Joseph Otabela was promoted to associate teaching professor. Congratulations to all!

Juanamaria Cordones-Cook has produced several award-winning film documentaries. Battle: Change from Within, co-produced with Julie Middleton and Barbara Williamson, won the prestigious Telly Award in March 2013, as well as the Best Heartland Feature Documentary Award at the Kansas City Film Festival, in April. The documentary narrates the professional life of Eliot Battle, a pioneering African-American educator in Columbia who was deeply involved in the integration of Columbia Public Schools. Both the documentary and its success are timely, indeed, as Battle passed away on June 11, 2013. All members of our department mourn his death, but we find comfort in knowing that Juanamaria, was able to capture his legacy in such a tangible way. Moreover, three of Juanamaria’s documentaries dealing with Cuban artists and writers, Visual Poetics, The Making of a One-of-a-kind Book by Estevez, and Havana on Display were featured at the Center for Cuban Studies in New York, as part of their summer film series in June. Another documentary, Ediciones Vigía, was chosen for screening at the Latin American Studies Association Film Festival in Washington, D.C., in May.

Carol Lazzaro-Weis received the 2013 Gold Chalk Award from the Graduate Professional Council. Carol was nominated by her doctoral student Tomaz Cunningham.

Michael Ugarte received the 2013 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award from the Mizzou Graduate Student Association. Michael was nominated by his graduate student Carlos Cortés.

Demetrio Anzaldo-González received the 2013 Faculty Achievement Award in Diversity given by the Office of Student Affairs. Vice Chancellor Cathy Scroggs surprised Demetrio with his award at our March 2013 faculty meeting.

Daniel Sipe was recognized as a Teacher of the Month for March 2013 by Pi Beta Phi.

by French doctoral student Scott Gossett received a Carrie Wilkins Fellowship in Romance Languages from our department in fall 2012.

Spanish doctoral student Tómas Nicolás received the 2013 Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Mizzou Graduate Student Association. Tómas was nominated by fellow student Pablo Serna.

Spanish doctoral student Helena Besovic received a Jacob Warshaw Scholarship from our department in fall 2012.

Spanish doctoral student José Carreño Medina received a Jacob Warshaw Scholarship from our department in fall 2012. José, who is completing his dissertation under the mentorship of Professor Erick Blandón, has accepted a position at Truman State University.

French doctoral student Virginie Ems-Bléneau received a Kernan Whitworth Award for Excellence in French from our department in fall 2012.

French doctoral student Scott Gossett received a Carrie Wilkins Fellowship in Romance Languages from our department in fall 2012.

Spanish doctoral student and graduate instructor Nelson Danilo León received a 2013 Green Chalk Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistants from
the Arts and Science Student Council. He also passed his comprehensive exams with flying colors and is now writing his dissertation under the mentorship of Professor Michael Ugarte.

Portuguese assistant instructor Jill Hartleip received a 2013 Green Chalk Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistants from the Arts and Science Student Council.

French doctoral student and graduate instructor Tomaz Cunningham was recognized as a Teacher of the Month for March 2013 by Pi Beta Phi. Tomaz, who is completing his dissertation under the mentorship of Carol Lazzaro-Weis, has accepted a position at Jackson State University.

Aurélia Mouzet, a French exchange student from Nanterre, who began her doctoral studies in our department this fall, received a TA Choice Award by the Missouri Student Association both in fall 2012 and in spring 2013.

French doctoral student and graduate instructor Alyssa Smith received a TA Choice Award from the Missouri Student Association in spring 2013.

French doctoral student and graduate instructor Courtney Webster received a TA Choice Award from the Missouri Student Association in spring 2013.

Spanish graduate student Reina Drake earned her master of arts in Spanish in spring 2013, and she is continuing in our doctoral program.

Spanish graduate student Pablo Serna earned his master of arts in spring 2013.

Spanish graduate student Daniel García Vieyra earned his master of arts in Spanish in spring 2013.

Spanish graduate student Ángel Miguel Bahena, slated to receive his master of arts degree with an emphasis on language teaching in December 2013, began a full-time Spanish teaching position at Mexico High School in Mexico, Mo.

Spanish doctoral student Wendy McBurney passed her comprehensive exams with flying colors and is now writing her dissertation under the mentorship of Professor Mamadou Badiane.

**Undergraduate Students**

In February 2012, our department nominated several students for scholarships given by the College of Arts and Science. We are happy to report that we had several winners: Joelle Batal, a Spanish and international studies major, received the Ruth Earline Taylor Allen Scholarship. Brian Willcox, a mathematics major and Spanish student, received the Ralph K. and Maxine J. Hibbs Scholarship. Carlie Lavallee, a French, linguistics, and international studies major, received the Armon F. Yanders Scholarship. Elliot Watkins, an economics major and French student, received the Ralph K. and Maxine J. Hibbs Scholarship. Pari Jafari, a biological sciences, Latin, and French major, received the Ruth Earline Taylor Allen Scholarship. In addition, Kristen Carranza, an English and Spanish major, received the Harryette J. Campbell Scholarship; Enrique Mejia, also an English and Spanish major, received the Ruth Earline Taylor Allen Scholarship.

Honors student Dennis Barrett, an international business and international studies major who took four French classes with Professor Daniel Sipe and participated in the Lyon Summer Study Abroad Program, graduated with honors in May. Likewise, honors student Miranda Metheny, a journalism, Spanish, and international studies major, graduated with honors in May. Miranda studied abroad in three different programs in Spain, Norway, and Germany, and she studied five foreign languages: namely Spanish, Catalan, German, Basque, and Norwegian. Bridget Kapp, a journalism major and Spanish minor, graduated with honors in May. For the next two years, Bridget will be teaching for Teach for America in Kansas City. French students Cassie Fels and Sarah Campbell were nominated for membership in the Kappa Alpha Society in March. Cassie invited Professor Juan Wang to attend the scholarship ceremony; Sarah invited Professor Lazzaro-Weis to attend the ceremony. Both students recognize these respective professors as having had a large impact on their academic careers.

Meenakshi Dalal, a journalism and French student enrolled in the Honors College, was selected to be an intern with the United Nations Alliance of Civilization in New York City in the spring 2013 semester. She helped manage the operations of the Alliance’s Global Experts online resources and provided daily support to its broader media program. Meenakshi was able to use her French language skills, as her direct supervisors were native French speakers. Moreover, she spent a week in Jordan attending a training program for journalists. There, she helped provide translation for French-speaking reporters. The Honors College and the Vice Provost’s Office for Undergraduate Studies helped defray the costs of traveling to, and living in, New York.

Professor Michel Ugarte and his student Joelle Batal, recipient of the Ruth Earline Taylor Allen Scholarship.
We welcome the birth of the newest members of our departmental community. Tarex Robert Rojas-Timmermann, born on Nov. 3, 2012, is the son of Spanish graduate student Karen Rojas and David Timmermann. Maelle Ugarte, born on Nov. 17, 2012, is the granddaughter of Spanish Professor Michael Ugarte. Julián Serna, born on Feb. 13, 2013, is the son of Spanish graduate student Pablo Serna and his wife Erica. Sawyer Ryley Bolinger, born on June 17, 2013, is the granddaughter of our administrative assistant Brenda Klemme.

Elizabeth Ramey, MA ’12, and Spanish doctoral student Tomás Nicolás married in Bejar, Spain, on Dec. 22, 2012; they also held a ceremony in Kansas City on Jan. 19, 2013.

French doctoral student Scott Gossett married Kelly Korst, MSW ’12, on April 27, 2013.

Spanish graduate student Ángel Miguel Bahena married Lucy Santamaria in Overland Park, Kans., on June 22, 2013.

Paul Miller, the son of our administrative associate Marcia Reeves, graduated in December 2012, with a major in anthropology.

Iván Reyna (or Iván-cito as he is known to many of us), the son of Spanish Professor Iván Reyna and his wife Spanish Assistant Instructor Rosa Morales, graduated from Rock Bridge High School in May. He is now a freshman at MU, planning to major in film studies.

Michael Presberg, the son of Spanish Professor Charles Presberg, has been attending MU for a year. He is majoring in film studies and earned membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. This fall, his brother