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Message from the Chair



Department Chair
Cristina Moreiras-Menor

The past year has been a busy and exciting one for students and faculty in Romance Languages and Literatures (RLL). We worked hard to incorporate constructive feedback from external reviewers, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA), and students into our undergraduate curriculum. We have broadened our course offerings to include more classes on culture, film, visual arts, creative writing, and language practice (conversational and writing skills). We have created larger classes, exposing more students to faculty lectures, while still practicing conversation and reading in their target language. We are in the process of creating courses on great authors in Romance languages in translation, so students who may not wish to concentrate or minor in one of our national traditions can nevertheless be exposed to pivotal work.

This past year we organized an outstanding program of talks and workshops, inviting distinguished scholars from around the U.S. and the world. Among them we enjoyed the visits of María Mercedes Carrión (Emory U), Roberto Dainotto (Duke U), Dwight Reynolds

(UC, Santa Barbara), Rafael Castillo Zapata (U of Central Venezuela), Nadine Kuperty-Tsur (Tel Aviv U), Enrico Palandri (University College London), and Chilean writer Lina Meruane. We also had the pleasure of hosting two exceptional intellectuals. Professor Samuel Weber (Northwestern U) joined us in February for our Hayward Keniston Lecture, which is our opportunity to remember and celebrate the intellectual life of renowned hispanist Professor Hayward Keniston, who was Domingo Faustino Sarmiento University Professor and served as dean of LSA at the University of Michigan from 1945-1951. We also enjoyed having philosopher Jacques Rancière with us. RLL graduate students invited him as the keynote speaker of their annual Charles Fraker Conference and to give a workshop. Finally, we had the wonderful opportunity to co-sponsor a series of lectures, dedicated to the Mediterranean, with the Center for European Studies (CES). Our colleague Karla Mallette was a key organizer of this series.

RLL faculty have also been busy with research and writing. Karla Mallette, Alison Cornish, Frieda Ekotto, Gareth Williams and I have recently published books. David Caron has co-edited a book with a former graduate student, Sharon Marquart (U Houston) (please see pg. 3 for more details). Giorgio Bertellini won the Robert K. Martin Prize for best book published by a member of the Canadian Association for American Studies (CAAS), and Karla Mallette received the 13th Annual Susanne M. Glasscock Humanities Book Prize for Interdisciplinary Scholarship, awarded by the Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research at Texas A&M University. A significant number of faculty in the language program have received awards as a result of their excellent work. María Dorantes, Tatiana Calixto, Romana Habekovic, Carla Iglesias, Andy Noverr, Dennis Pollard, and Amarillys Rodriguez have either received funds to develop projects related to teaching or have been selected to travel with students abroad.

By way of introduction, I would just like to say that this year we have hired three outstanding scholars and teachers in Spanish and Portuguese (please see pgs. 4-5 for details). Since we have one of the most popular minor/concentrations in LSA, the College is providing resources for us to expand offerings. Our plan now is to start building a minor in Portuguese, as well as a combined minor in Spanish and Portuguese. Professor Fernando Arenas will greatly help with this important task. I am also happy to announce that this year we have two faculty searches in progress: one in Mediterranean studies and one in sociolinguistics. For the former we are interested in a scholar whose expertise covers either two Romance languages and cultures, or one Romance and one Mediterranean language and culture.

As you can imagine, one of RLL's priorities is teaching our outstanding concentrators and minors and our excellent group of graduate students. I am happy to report that we currently have about 700 minors and concentrators. I would like to congratulate the 240 concentrators and minors who graduated in winter 2011 and those who won RLL awards. I would also like to congratulate our six graduate students who successfully defended their dissertations last academic year.

As always, I want to take this opportunity to show my and my colleagues' deep gratitude to our donors. Your generosity and support is what allows us to support our students with scholarships, internships, stipends, awards, and fellowships. We would love to hear from you and receive your input on some of the projects described in this newsletter. So please stop by the MLB if you are ever in Ann Arbor, or send us an alumni update to include in "Alumni News."

With best wishes,

Cristina Moreiras-Menor, Chair

Department Chair: Cristina Moreiras-Menor
Associate Chair: Alejandro Herrero-Olaizola

Graduate Chair: Vincenzo Binetti
Editor/Designer: April Caldwell

Celebrating

Recent Faculty Publications



Terms of Inclusion: Black Intellectuals in Twentieth-Century Brazil (The University of North Carolina Press; Chapel Hill: 2011) by Professor Paulina Alberto. In this history of black thought and racial activism in twentieth-century Brazil, Alberto demonstrates that black intellectuals, and not just elite white Brazilians, shaped discourses about race relations and the cultural and political terms of inclusion in their modern nation.

Lusophone Africa: Beyond Independence (University of Minnesota Press; Minneapolis: 2011) by Professor Fernando Arenas. *Lusophone Africa: Beyond Independence* is a study of the contemporary cultural production of Portuguese-speaking Africa and its critical engagement with globalization in the aftermath of colonialism, especially since the advent of multiparty politics and market-oriented economies.

Les revenantes: Charlotte Delbo, la voix d'une communauté à jamais déportée (Presses Universitaires du Mirail: 2011) by Professors David Caron and Sharon Marquart (U of Houston). Poet and playwright survivor of the Nazi camps, Charlotte Delbo is the author of texts whose beauty and depth make it the equal of Primo Levi or Robert Antelme. This volume is one of the first books in French devoted to an author whose exceptional work allows us to rethink the camps and the literature of testimony.

Vernacular Translation in Dante's Literature: Illiterate Literature (Cambridge University Press; New York: 2011) by Professor Alison Cornish. Translation and commentary are often associated with institutions and patronage; but in Italy around the time of Dante, widespread vernacular translation was mostly on the spontaneous initiative of individuals. While Dante is usually the starting point for histories of vernacular translation in Europe, this book demonstrates that the Divine Comedy places itself in opposition to a vast vernacular literature already in circulation among its readers.

Race and Sex Across the French Atlantic: The Color of Black in Literary, Philosophical and Theater Discourse (Lexington Books; Maryland: 2010) by Professor Frieda Ekotto. Placing Jean Genet, writer of the masterpiece *Les Nègres*, in the context of Negritude movement, *Race and Sex Across the French Atlantic* equally reveals and examines blackness within the African-American dialogue with a white French author's provocative questions about race: "Is a black man always black?" and even more fundamentally, "What is blackness?"

Voix du monde: Nouvelles francophones (Presses Universitaires de Bordeaux; Pessac: 2011) by Professors Frieda Ekotto and Bénédicte Boisseron (U of Montana). The French language has continued to grow globally. Fourteen authors from Francophone Africa, the Caribbean, America, and Europe have contributed to this collection of stories that pays tribute to French literature.

European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean: Toward a New Philology and a Counter-Orientalism (University of Pennsylvania Press; Philadelphia: 2010) by Professor Karla Mallette. *European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean* examines Orientalist philological scholarship of southern Europe produced between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth century, focusing on Italy, Spain, and Malta.

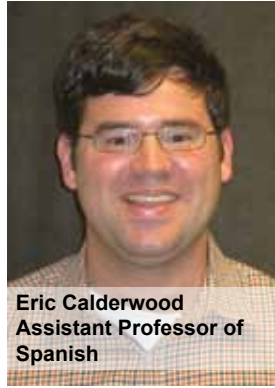
La estela del tiempo: Imagen e historicidad en el cine español contemporáneo (Iberameicana/Vervuert; Madrid: 2011) by Professor Cristina Moreiras-Menor. Focusing on contemporary Spanish cinema, this book presents a detailed analysis of extensive reflection on some films by Luis Buñuel, Jaime Chavarrí, Ricardo Franco, Mario Camus, Alex de la Iglesia, and Mercedes Álvarez to discuss cultural and historical memory in contemporary Spain.

The Mexican Exception: Sovereignty, Police, and Democracy (Palgrave Macmillan; New York: 2011) by Professor Gareth Williams. The war on drugs has opened up a discussion on whether Mexico is living a state of exception or even becoming a failed state. This book argues that sovereign exceptionality has always been central to Mexican modernity. In this book Williams maps out political and cultural counter-genealogies in order to shed light on the workings of the constitutive couple of democracy (equality and freedom) in modern and contemporary Mexico.

* Cover photo, "Arches over Arno," is courtesy of the 2011 La settimana della lingua italiana photo contest winner, Kyle Dorso (UM).

New Faculty

Eric Calderwood



Eric Calderwood received his Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures from Harvard University in 2011. He has also studied and done research at Brown University, the University of Chile, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, the Arabic Language Institute of Fez (Morocco), the University of Damascus (Syria), 'Abd al-Malik al-Sa'adi University in Tetouan (Morocco), and the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) in Madrid.

Calderwood's work explores the politics of representing the past in modern Spanish and Arabic literature and culture. His research is primarily focused on Spanish colonialism in Morocco (1859-1956), as represented by Spanish and Moroccan writers, but he is also interested in Spanish and Arabic historiography, Spanish and Arabic travel narratives, the

history of *convivencia*, and the emergence of an *al-Andalus* "culture industry" (consisting of museums, festivals, and tourist routes) in twentieth-century Spain, Morocco, Algeria, and Syria. Though his research focuses mostly on the nineteenth century, it responds to the changing ethnic and religious demographics of the contemporary Spanish citizenry and also reflects a concern for Spain and Morocco's continuing roles as thresholds between Europe and Africa, and between Christianity and Islam.

In addition to his scholarly interests, Calderwood also writes literary essays and other forms of creative non-fiction for popular magazines and newspapers.

Daniel Nemser



Daniel Nemser received a M.A. in Latin American Studies in 2006 and a Ph.D. in Hispanic Languages and Literatures in 2011 from the University of California, Berkeley. His research focuses on colonial Latin American literatures and cultures, race and indigenous studies, and history and historiography.

Nemser is currently working on a book project about *mestizaje* (racial and/or cultural mixing), a familiar concept that plays a key role in the construction of identity in Latin America today. This project is an attempt to complicate conventional histories that treat *mestizaje*, explicitly or implicitly, as a single, linear process that begins with the conquest. By considering the ways in which mixing and purity are themselves constructed and contested across the colonial period, in such varied sites as the chemical composition of an indigenous alcoholic beverage called

pulque and the space-time of Nahua (Aztec) pictorial genealogies, Nemser traces a genealogy of colonial *mestizajes* and analyzes their tactical and strategic operations in the field of what the literary critic Ángel Rama famously called the "lettered city."

At the same time, he is engaged in several other projects, including a study of the seventeenth-century intellectual Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora and the colonial origins of Mexican archaeology; and an analysis of miracle, conversion, and death in the extraction economy of early Spanish colonialism. In broad terms, what ties Nemser's interests together is the fact of colonialism. From this perspective, he is interested in political movements in Latin America today, such as that of the Zapatistas in Chiapas and beyond, as contemporary manifestations of the long history of struggle against colonial violence.

In Remembrance

With great sadness, we note the passing of Guy R. Mermier, emeritus of French in RLL on March 23, 2011. Professor Mermier's area of research included medieval French literature. He came to the University of Michigan in 1961 as an instructor in French and joined the faculty in 1963. He retired in 1998. To learn more about the life and legacy of Professor Mermier please visit http://ur.umich.edu/1011/Apr11_11/obituaries.

Fernando Arenas



Fernando Arenas is professor of Lusophone African, Brazilian, and Portuguese Studies with an emphasis on literature, film, and popular music, which he studies through an interdisciplinary and theoretical prism centering on the dyad of post-colonialism and globalization. Fernando holds a dual appointment between the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies. He received his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley in 1994. He taught for 16 years in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of *Utopias of Otherness: Nationhood and Subjectivity in Portugal and Brazil* (University of Minnesota Press, 2003) and co-editor together with Susan C. Quinlan of *Lusosex: Gender and Sexuality in the Portuguese-Speaking World* (University of Minnesota Press, 2002). He has been a visiting professor at Universidade Federal Fluminense (Rio de Janeiro) and at Harvard University. In 2005-06 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for the completion of the book manuscript, *Lusophone*

Africa: Beyond Independence (University of Minnesota Press, 2011). Currently he has several research projects: (1) on the contemporary cultural production of African immigrants and their descendants in Portugal in order to analyze the emergence of Afro-diasporic identities that are re-defining the boundaries between postcolonial Portugal and its former African colonies; (2) a comparative study of the cinema of urban violence in Brazil and South Africa; (3) an expansion of the book chapter on the globalization of Cape Verdean music featured in *Lusophone Africa* to be converted into an autonomous book.

Focus on Faculty

Professors Vincenzo Binetti (Italian), Juli Highfill (Spanish), and Peggy McCracken (French) each won a Michigan Humanities Award.

French Lecturer Rachael Criso was quoted in the March 3, 2011 issue of Bloomberg Businessweek regarding Euroasia Now!, a program that matches undergraduates with international internship opportunities, http://www.businessweek.com/bschools/content/mar2011/bs2011031_642605_page_3.htm.

French Lecturer Sabine Gabaron assisted Olivia and Hill Press with the "Correlations" portions of their French textbooks. She also worked with UM Professor Zeynep Devrim Gürsel to translate and write subtitles for a documentary on Turkey and its relationship to Europe.

Professor of Spanish Enrique Garcia was elected the 2011 Senior Fellow for the Michigan Society of Fellows.

Professor of Spanish Larry LaFountain-Stokes was selected as the new Director of the Latina/o Studies program in American Culture.

Professor of Italian Karla Mallette's book *European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean: Toward a New Philology and a Counter-Orientalism* (University of Pennsylvania Press; Philadelphia: 2010) won the Susanne M. Glasscock Humanities Book Prize for Interdisciplinary Scholarship (Texas A&M University). She also became interim director of the Center for European Studies-European Union Center for 2011-2012.



RLL Spanish Coordinator Dennis Pollard and Germanic Languages Lecturer Janet Van Valkenburg at the UM winter 2011 graduation ceremony

Spanish 232 Coordinator Andy Noverr received a Faculty Development Fund Grant from the CRLT to investigate how to further the University's goals to internationalize the undergraduate experience in the culturally unique environment of Santiago de Compostela.

Professor William Paulson, E. L. Walter Collegiate Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, was awarded a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to teach two Mellon Dissertation Seminars in the Humanities on the topic of "Science Studies, Cultural Theory, and Scholarly Writing." The first seminar was held in June and July 2011 and brought together twelve Ph.D. candidates from eight different Michigan departments, including Rachel TenHaaf of Romance Languages and Literatures. As part of the grant, each graduate student received a summer stipend to provide support both for the period of the seminar and for dissertation research during May and August. The second edition of the seminar will take place in either 2012 or 2013.

In Her Own Words: Katherine Cook



Famous windmills from Don Quixote, La Mancha, Spain

UM student Katherine Cook (double concentrator in Romance Languages and Literatures, studying Spanish and French, and Organizational Studies) talks about her recent trip to Madrid and one of the most memorable moments of her life

With the generous aid of the Vincenti Study Abroad Scholarship, I was able to spend my winter term 2011 in Madrid, Spain. It is difficult to condense that experience except to offer a line by a Spanish poet, Antonio Machado, which roughly translates as “your path [of life] is made by walking.”

communication skills and taught me to speak on subjects far beyond basic everyday conversation.

As I return to my junior year at Michigan, I have an augmented interest in global civic duty and a full fluency in Spanish. These will help me academically but they will also be invaluable as an executive board member of PALMA (Proyecto Avance: Latino Mentoring Association), my extra-curricular community service.

My semester abroad in Madrid provided a rigorous academic curriculum as well as an invaluable professional experience. Together they were a path far beyond anything that I could have ever dreamed. I could never have imagined how much studying abroad would expand my global perspective and pique my intellectual curiosity. Most of all, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Vincenti Scholarship for this opportunity. My “walk,” as Machado has called it, was full of learning, insights, friendships, professional experiences, and growth.

I decided, as a double concentrator in Romance Languages and Literatures and Organizational Studies, that a semester abroad would be a good “walk” to take, but this walk was far beyond anything I could have imagined.

The Madrid program included possible internship opportunities at Spanish companies. I sent applications in Spanish and English during my December 2010 final exams and I was lucky enough to be selected as a communications intern at Club de Madrid, an independent non-profit organization composed of 80 former presidents and prime ministers including former President Clinton.

Club de Madrid’s mission is to promote democracy around the world. It focuses its efforts in two areas: ethical governance and crisis/post-crisis assistance. While attending classes in Madrid, I committed 15 hours a week and worked directly for the communications officer.

My most memorable day at Club de Madrid was the day of the board of directors meeting in April 2011. I was responsible for the event’s communications and logistics. Unfortunately, Chandrika Kumaratunga, former President of Sri Lanka (1994-2005), was delayed in arriving, and I was personally responsible for escorting her to the meeting.

President Kumaratunga, the first female president of Sri Lanka, is a truly heroic figure. She lost both her father and her husband to political assassinations, and she herself survived an assassination attempt. Sitting in a cab talking with her was fascinating and inspiring. I don’t think I’ll ever forget that cab ride or her wise words.

In addition to my study abroad program classes, I took two classes at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. The classes were taught in Spanish and I was expected to speak and write entirely in Spanish. It took me some time to get up the nerve to comment in a classroom full of Spaniards. When I finally did, it served to polish my



Templo de Debod, Madrid, Spain



Segovia, Spain

* All photos in this article are courtesy of Katherine Cook.

Finding your Ideal Career Path with I-Plan

Errol Wint, former Career Center advisor and currently assistant director of admissions, diversity recruitment at the University of Louisville gives some insight into how students can develop the perfect career

“Your options are limitless! You can do whatever you want to do!”

Limitless is pretty vast terrain. Without a map and a plan, it could be like wandering through a desert searching haphazardly for water. The most effective way of translating your Romance language degree into a career can be explained through I-Plan, a conceptual model used in the UM Career Center to help students chart their career development and strategically plan their career steps. The map consists of three main parts: Your Story, Your Presentation, Your Community. By taking the time to develop each part, you will help yourself advance in finding the ideal career. Here are some common questions from Romance language students with short answers that apply the I-Plan model.

Do employers value my study abroad experience?

YOUR PRESENTATION: Yes! But it is important that you translate your experience effectively, moving away from lofty words such as “incredible” and “awesome”, to more tangible speech like “I learned how to adapt to a new environment while taking the initiative to effectively communicate in a new language with people from different cultural backgrounds.”

Everybody asks me what I plan on doing with a Romance language concentration. Am I at a disadvantage when it comes to job searching?

YOUR STORY: No! Through your concentration alone you bring a variety of valued skills. However, you bring even more through your extracurricular activities and work experiences. By understanding your interests and being aware of your strengths, you can better communicate your value and be competitive for that position you’ve been eyeing. But don’t forget, it’s important to be able to translate those interests and skills through the resume, cover letter, and interview.

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Language, Culture, and Soccer

Alumna Bethany Neigebauer (BS '10 Architecture and BA '10 Italian) explains how soccer gave her insight into Italian culture and the lives of Italian women

When I first arrived in Florence, Italy for my study abroad program, there were so many options. The students in the program were invited to teach, play sports, and even work for the mayor of Sesto Fiorentino. I decided to teach English at the local high school and play on the local soccer team, since I’d played soccer for 12 years when I was younger and wanted to play again.

The first few weeks on the Sesto Fiorentino women’s soccer team were a challenge. My Italian was good, but not necessarily good enough to keep up with local slang. As time went on, I got to know the women very well. The team was made up of girls from 18-28. Female teams are less common in Italy, so they are rarely divided by age.

After a month or so, the girls began to invite me to dinner with them, introduce me to their children (the few that had children), and accept me as a teammate. By the end of the season, I was attending all the group dinners we had after practice, starting in the once-a-week games, and actually becoming friends with the girls. I will never forget when at one of the team dinners, I taught and was taught tongue twisters in English and Italian. One girl even tried to teach me Italian gibberish.

No matter how hard it was to become a part of the team in the beginning, I wouldn’t trade my time with the Sesto Fiorentino women’s soccer team for anything. It was the best way for me to learn culture, language and just a little bit of what it means to be Italian.



Bethany Neigebauer in her Sesto Fiorentino uniform

* Photo courtesy of Bethany Neigebauer.

Letter from the Graduate Chair



18th Annual Charles Fraker Conference Graduate Committee

The RLL graduate program welcomes this year, a new cohort of outstanding and enthusiastic graduate students: Shannon Dowd, Silvina Yi, Paige Rafoth, Juanita Bernal, Catalina Esguerra, Susan Abraham, Lucia Naser, Mariano Olmedo Gomez, Jocelyn Frelier, Roberto Mosciatti, and Mattia Beghelli. Our community will certainly be enriched by their presence and we are all looking forward to working with them in the future.

During this past academic year, our graduate students have been very active in organizing public events, conferences, workshops, film series, and inviting international speakers to

the department, while at the same time successfully fulfilling their academic requirements and pursuing their research projects here in the United States and abroad. Their commitment and vitality have contributed enormously to enhance the intellectual atmosphere of our department as a whole and we are all very proud of their accomplishments and professionalism. For the coming academic year our graduate students will be organizing, among other things, their Annual Charles Fraker Conference, slated for February 9-11, 2012. We are sure that this conference will be, as in the previous years, a very successful and intellectually stimulating public event and we are all very excited to learn more about it.

We wish an excellent and productive year to all our graduate students!

Best,

Vincenzo Binetti
Professor of Italian, Graduate Chair

Challenges in Transition: Creating *Tiresias*, Issue 5

RLL graduate students David Collinge and Shannon Dowd explain how the new editorial team of RLL's graduate student journal, *Tiresias*, channeled tensions and difficulties into an interesting topic

Over the past year, *Tiresias* has gone through a number of changes and challenges as students who worked on the journal's early issues have moved on to different projects and places. As *Tiresias* transitioned to a new editorial team, we discussed the tension, or the double blind, that characterized almost every problem we considered as a journal topic. Many of the issues we discussed involved sets of ideas such as individuals/communities, intellectual practices/political practices, and older/newer generations. While we talked and added to a growing list of idea-pairs, Christian Kroll pointed out that in the middle of it all was tension or impossibility itself.

The idea resonated with the group's theoretical interests as well as with our own experience of being between one country/language and another, between professions, between institutional and non-institutional spaces, etc. Abigail Celis jumpstarted the writing process, which several of us ended up working on before it reached its current state as the call for the fifth issue of *Tiresias*: "Systole to Diastole: Interventions in Fluid Spaces." For our title we borrowed the image of the two phases of the heartbeat as a figure for the separate but necessarily intertwined nature of many of the issues that interest us.

Currently we are preparing visual materials for the design of the fifth issue while planning for its release in winter 2012. The release will involve a presentation of creative works from the journal and a debate involving one or more of the articles published therein. One of our goals is to invite artists and scholars that have contributed to *Tiresias* to this event. The fifth issue will also contain a published version of Samuel Weber's Keniston lecture, "The Singularity of Literary Cognition," in addition to transcriptions of the seminar discussions on political theory and practice that took place in RLL with Colectivo Situaciones in January 2011.

We would like to take this chance to thank the faculty members that have acted as advisors for *Tiresias* since its inception: Professors Cristina Moreiras-Menor, Jarrod Hayes, Kate Jenckes, and Daniel Noemi. Professors Javier Sanjinés and Gustavo Verdesio are currently serving as advisors for the upcoming issue. We greatly appreciate your involvement!

Meet the New Graduate Students



Susan Abraham (Spanish)
BA, Wesleyan Univ
MA, Univ Illinois at Chicago

Interests: Medieval and early modern Ibero-Muslim and Judaic studies; Mediterranean studies



Catalina Esguerra (Spanish)
BA, College of William and Mary
MA, American Univ

Interests: memory, trauma, space, tensions of memorialization and resistance in post-dictatorship Southern Cone



Mariano Olmedo Gomez (Spanish)
BA, MA Univ Autónoma de Madrid

Interests: Early modern Spanish literature, 17th century narrative forms deriving from Cervantes, comparative culture studies



Mattia Beghelli (Italian)
BA, Univ degli Studi di Verona
MA, Ohio State Univ

Interests: cinema and contemporary Italian literature



Jocelyn Frelier (French)
BA, Univ of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Interests: women's studies, Belle Epoque France, early 21st century French literature, and Francophone North African literature



Paige Rafoth (Spanish)
BA, Case Western Reserve Univ

Interests: Contemporary Mexican literature, cultural production of autonomous Mexican social movements, the state and neoliberalism



Juanita Bernal (Spanish)
BA, MA, Univ de Los Andes

Interests: 20th century Latin American literature, Italian culture, and transatlantic flows between them



Roberto Mosciatti (Italian)
BA, Univ degli Studi Macerata

Interests: philosophy, political theory, and literature



Silvina Yi (Spanish)
BA, Univ of California, San Diego

Interests: contemporary Peninsular and Latin American literature and film



Shannon Dowd (Spanish)
BA, Univ Michigan

Interests: contemporary Latin American literature, critical theory, translation



Lucía Naser Rocha (Spanish)
BA, Univ Federal da Bahia
MA, Univ de la República

Interests: performing arts and politics of aesthetics

We also offer our best wishes to the following PhD recipients this year:

Mariam Colón Pizarro (Spanish)
Assistant Professor, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez

Javier Entrambasaguas (Spanish)
Postdoctoral Lecturer, University of Michigan

Jennifer Solheim (French)

Sarah Cyganiak (Spanish)
Assistant Professor, Carthage College

Alejandro Quin (Spanish)
Assistant Professor, Michigan Technological University

Robert Wells (Spanish)
Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

18th Annual Charles Fraker Conference

"Caring, Protecting, Policing: Unveiling the Rhetorics of the Guardian"

February 9-10, 2012

For more information, please visit <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/rll/fraker/2012-Fraker-Call-for-Papers.pdf>

5th Call for Papers for *Tiresias* Review

"Systole to Diastole: Interventions in Fluid Spaces"

Deadline: January 4, 2012

Submissions to tiresiasonline@umich.edu

For submission details visit <http://lsa.umich.edu/rll/tiresias/call.html>

The Mediterranean Perspective on Global History and Culture

If you are not a member of the UM Alumni Association, it is easy to join. Simply visit the website <http://alumni.umich.edu/>, or call the Association directly at (734) 764-0384 or (800) 847-4764.



Michèle Hannoosh
Professor of French and Coordinator of "The Mediterranean Perspective on Global History and Culture" in Cadiz, Spain

The Department is excited to be taking part, with three other units on campus, in a major new initiative to make UM a center for study of the Mediterranean. Entitled "The Mediterranean Perspective on Global History and Culture," and spear-headed by RLL Professor of French Michèle Hannoosh, the proposal was one of five selected in a campus-wide competition held under the auspices of the Provost's Interdisciplinary Faculty Initiative. The Initiative is meant to bring emerging interdisciplinary research to UM and to increase tenure-track faculty involvement in the University's teaching mission. Four tenure-track faculty positions have been approved for the Mediterranean project, one for each of the participating units: RLL, the Department of History of Art,

the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and the Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.

The Mediterranean holds particular importance for understanding today's world. It is home to the longest continuous interactions among Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. It is the meeting-point of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Its civilizations profoundly contributed to the evolution of knowledge and institutions at the basis of modern Western society, in science, medicine, law, philosophy, mathematics, literature, the arts, and politics. It also contains some of the world's most precious commodities.

The interconnected histories of Mediterranean cultures have, in modern times, become eclipsed by division and conflict in the geopolitical sphere, and by disciplinary boundaries within the academy, based on national, ethnic, religious, linguistic, or continental interests. Recently, however, scholars have begun to examine the connections and contacts made possible by the sea — through trade, travel, conquest, and the like —, making the Mediterranean an ideal site for studying the porosity of cultures and the intercultural dynamics that national, sectarian, and linguistic histories often obscure. Centered on a body of water which facilitates exchange and, in this way, *unites*, this conception of the Mediterranean represents an alternative model to the divided, and divisive, ones based on religion, ethnicity, nation, language, or continent. The societies of the Mediterranean bear witness to many core legacies of pluralism over the course of their histories, right up to the present day: in literature, music, art and architecture; in forms of knowledge, notably philosophy, science, and medicine; in social practices, customs and diet; and many more.

Our project will bring to UM a group of scholars in the arts, humanities, and social sciences to study the Mediterranean as an inclusive medium of contact and exchange, a region whose transnational and transcultural histories are especially relevant for understanding global relations in the world today. RLL will seek a scholar in comparative Romance studies whose work centers on the Mediterranean, thus complementing our existing strengths in this area and contributing to the cross-linguistic strength of the department.

Nicolae Babuts (PhD French, 1967) Began teaching French language and literature at Syracuse University after graduation and did so for more than 30 years. "I am now retired, as emeritus Professor of French. I credit my professors in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at UM for giving me an excellent grounding in literature and literary criticism. In particular I wish to thank Professor James C. O'Neill and the late Professor Robert J. Niess for their help, which was crucial. I also remember fondly Professors Roy J. Nelson, Guy Mermier, and Floyd Gray. My main interests have been in the areas of nineteenth-century French literature and cognitive studies."

Babuts has recently published *Mimesis in a Cognitive Perspective Mallarme, Flaubert and Eminescu* (Transaction Publishers, 2011).

Sue Rhoades Devendorf (BA French and Spanish, 1977) Sue was part of the 1975 summer program in Salamanca, Spain and the 1975-1976 Junior Year Abroad Program in Aix-en-Provence, France. She returned to Aix in 2006 while her daughter was studying abroad in Luxembourg; and stayed with classmate Mary Salutz Morigault. It was wonderful to see Aix after 30 years! After graduating from UM, Sue worked as a translator for Amway Corporation in Ada, MI and then for a French bank in Chicago, IL. Sue has worked for many years as a consultant to corporations and government entities, helping them with custom Human Resources applications. French and Spanish created a perfect foundation for learning computer languages. Sue currently lives on a lake in Howard, OH. Her interests include golf, water sports, travel, and gardening.

Beth Phillips Jensen (BA French, 1977) went on to get a J.D. and M.B.A., and has worked in management for most of her 30+ years professional career. While working for Abbott Laboratories, Beth traveled extensively on international business, where her foreign languages and Junior Year Abroad Program in Aix-en-Provence, France served her well. Beth has three grown children, who make her proud. She values her ongoing UM / Aix friendships with Mary and Sue, along with Dr. Eileen Murphy (who also lives in the Chicago area), and the English friends we made at Cuques in 1975.



Left to right: Sue Rhoades Devendorf (of Howard, OH), Beth Phillips Jensen (of Libertyville, IL), and Mary Salutz Morigault (of Mallemort, France), taken in Libertyville on 21 June 2011

Mary Salutz Morigault (BA French, 1977) Began teaching French immediately after graduating at a small high school in Milford, Michigan. Three years later, she married Marc, a French student she had met during her Junior Year Abroad, and moved back to the Provence region of France where she has been living ever since, apart from four years spent in the Loire Valley. Since teaching French in France was out of the question for an American in Provence, Mary began teaching her native languages in adult education, in-house and out. Today, she is a 'Professeuse Agrégée' at the Faculté des Sciences Economiques et de Gestion in Aix and Marseille. She loves babysitting for her brand new grandson, walking her labradors, reading the classics, and showing the sights to visiting friends and family.

Finding your Ideal Career Path with I-Plan

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I want to work in a job that will use my language skill, but I don't know where to start. I have some careers in mind, but I don't know how to get there.

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