

The Newsletter of the Department of
Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures,
The University of Tennessee

Fall 2008

A Message from the Head of the Department:



EREC R. KOCH

Dear Friends, Students, and Colleagues:

The 2007-08 academic year was an eventful and exciting one in the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures. Our faculty continued its record of extraordinary scholarly productivity, and our students, graduate and undergraduate, continued to prosper in courses at the cutting-edge of instruction in language, literature, and culture. Ours is a truly collegial academic community.

This year we are delighted to welcome Dr. Verónica Loureiro-Rodríguez, Assistant Professor, to the Spanish section of MFL. An accomplished sociolinguist, Dr. Loureiro-Rodríguez completed her Ph.D in Spanish Linguistics with emphasis on Second Language Acquisition at the University of California-Davis in summer 2008. Her research focuses on sociolinguistics, bilingual communities, language ideologies, bilingual education, and second language acquisition in Galicia and the United States. Dr. Loureiro-Rodríguez will apply her administrative and pedagogical talents

to the first-year Spanish program, which she has already re-shaped in important ways, while she pursues an ambitious research agenda. We are most fortunate to have recruited such a talented colleague.

It is also a pleasure to report that members of MFL continue to receive broad recognition within the university. Ms. Beth Cole, Accounting Specialist II, was honored at the Chancellor's Banquet with the 2007 Outstanding Customer Service Award, and Ms. Ingrid McMillen, Administrative Specialist II, received the 2008 Mary Lynn Glustoff Award for the outstanding staff member in the College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Michael Handelsman received the prestigious Jefferson Award (2007), the highest academic honor at the university, for his remarkable research accomplishments. He was also reappointed as Distinguished Professor in the Humanities (2008). Professor Greg Kaplan received a well merited promotion to the rank of full professor. Our faculty continues to receive grants that support their original, important, and cutting-edge research. Of note is the Project Rite grant (2007) awarded to Professor Dolly Young and Doug Canfield, Language Resource Center Coordinator, who are exploring highly creative uses of Second Life simulation in foreign language instruction. MFL colleagues are widely recognized beyond the walls of UTK for their expertise: Professor Michael Handelsman was selected to serve as President of the Andean Commission for Evaluation and Accreditation of Higher Education (2008), and Professor Chris Holmlund served on the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2007). Doug Canfield has been appointed co-editor of the *IALLT Journal*. Our students fared equally impressively. Among graduate students, Kodjo Adabra (GTA French) published two novels last year, *L'Exilé* and *Identité*, and Gabriel Saxton-Ruiz was awarded a GTA@itc grant (2007). Stephen Ellis, an undergraduate major in Spanish and Political Science, was recognized as the top graduate of the College of Arts & Sciences at 2008 commencement. Theresa Diroff, top College Scholar for the 2008 graduating class, was co-mentored by Professor Millie Gimmel.

The MFL faculty continues its impressive record of research and publication, placing over 30 peer-reviewed journal articles during the past academic year, a truly impressive total. Those colleagues have also given 58 scholarly papers at major conferences in the United States and abroad. We also had a number of new books published in the 2007-08 academic year: Nuria Cruz-Camara, *El laberinto intertextual de Carmen Martín Gaité*; Michael Handelsman, *Benjamín Carrión: estudio introductorio, selección y notas*; Gregory Kaplan, *El culto a San Millán en Valderredible, Cantabria*; and Erec R. Koch, *The Aesthetic Body: Passion, Sensibility, and Corporeality in Seventeenth-Century France*. All are important contributions, but Professor Kaplan's has already garnered significant critical attention: his study has been nominated for the prestigious "La corónica" Book Award, an annual international prize for the best monograph published on medieval Iberian language, literature, and cultural studies.

MFLL continues to provide a vibrant environment for all of its students, undergraduate and graduate. This year the Department hosted a number of important events. The History and Philosophy of Science and Technology Research Seminar and Colloquy, headed by Professor Millie Gimmel last academic year, hosted two notable historians of science during the 2007-08 academic year: Professor Peter Dear from Cornell University and Professor Carolyn Merchant from UC Berkeley. Both spent two days on campus; they interacted with faculty and gave public lectures. Austrian writer Lilian Faschinger, winner of the prestigious Glaser Prize for her recent crime novel *Stadt der Verlierer (Town of Losers)*, spoke and read from her works during a well-attended campus visit last year organized by Professors Stefanie Ohnesorg and Maria Stehle. Professor Dawn Duke organized an important colloquium on "Women Writers from Brazil" (2007), which featured Miriam Alves, who has the distinction of being the leading Afro-Brazilian female poet of today, and Maria da Conceição Evaristo, who is recognized as the leading female Afro-Brazilian writer of consciousness. Professor Chris Holmlund helped organize the "Citizenship, Literacy, Media" Film and Speaker Series, with such celebrated documentary film makers as PBS's Tamara Rosenberg. Professor Óscar Rivera-Rodas organized the 16th annual "Jornadas Internacionales de Teatro Latinoamericano" and the third annual "Jornadas Internacionales de Poesía Latinoamericana" in Puebla, Mexico, this summer. Those events honored and were attended by, respectively, dramatist Marcela del Río and poet Dolores Castro Varela. Our exciting annual Japanese Speech Contest, organized by Professor Jon LaCure and Mahagi LaCure, drew 60 competitors at all language levels and a crowd of over 100 spectators. These events supplemented our regularly running film series and language tables for the Chinese, Japanese, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish programs.

Defying national trends, our undergraduate and graduate programs continue to grow at impressive rates. Our undergraduate study abroad programs in Brazil, Mexico, Spain, Italy, Germany, and France are thriving and reached new peaks in enrollment last academic year. We are fostering similar opportunities for our graduate students at major universities in Germany as well as with the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Ecuador. Our innovative course offerings for undergraduate and graduate students prepare them for a globalizing world. Again last May, we recognized the extraordinary accomplishments of our students at our fourth annual honors assembly. We list those award recipients in the table below.

Finally, I ask our alumni and friends to update us on their news. As you can see, we have a growing section dedicated to former students and friends of MFLL. We urge all of you to send us updates for future newsletters. I would welcome your email: erkoch@utk.edu.

Erec R Koch
 Professor of French and Head
 Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures

*WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT
 OF Modern foreign languages
 and literatures*



Verónica Loureiro-Rodríguez
 Assistant Professor in Spanish

MFLL: Making Orange Green



In an effort to follow principles of good environmental conservation, future issues of the MFLL Newsletter will also be made available online. If you would like to contribute to this effort by electing to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter instead of the paper one, please send your request to lrc@utk.edu from the e-mail address you would like your copy sent to.

To view the 2008 Department of MFLL newsletter on-line (or to download a PDF file of the newsletter), please visit the following link:
<http://web.utk.edu/~mfll/news/newsletter>

FACULTY NOTES

Kathryn Atkins-Roberson (French) was invited to present at two conferences this summer. She presented at the National TPRS Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) and at the Academy for Instructional Excellence sponsored by the UT Center for Literacy Studies. The Center for Literacy Studies provides professional development to ESOL teachers across the state. She made a training video on TPRS for Tennessee adult education teachers. She also attended the MTSU Summer Language Institute using TPRS.

Harriet Wood Bowden (Spanish) had a paper accepted in the journal *Language Learning* for publication in March 2009: "Concurrent Verbalizations, Pedagogical Conditions and Reactivity: Two CALL Studies," co-authored with Sanz, Lin, Lado and Stafford. In March she presented a paper entitled "The Processing of Inflectional Morphology in L1 and L2 Spanish: Memorization vs. On-line Computation" at the annual conference of the American Association for Applied Linguistics in Washington, DC.

Flavia Brizio-Skov (Italian) presented a paper on the Western Genre and organized three sessions on Media, Violence and Spectatorship at the AATI-AAIS INTERNATIONAL Conference of Taormina, Sicily. She was invited to present a paper at a "Colloque littéraire européen" in Paris organized

by the Maison des Ecrivains Etrangers et des Traducteurs de Saint-Nazaire. She also received a "Ready for the World" grant to organize a visit by a scholar from Genoa, who delivered three lectures in October. She continues to be an active member of the editorial board of *Studies in European Cinema* and is completing a book on popular culture and Italian cinema.

Ed Campion's (French) research interests now deal largely with Francophone writers from Africa and the Caribbean and with French-language writings on race and colonialism. In July, he read a paper on the Senegalese writer Senghor at a conference held in Helsinki, Finland. He is preparing a book on the influence of the French theologian Teilhard de Chardin on Senghor.

Nuria Cruz-Cámara's (Spanish) book *El laberinto intertextual de Carmen Martín Gaité* was published by Juan de la Cuesta. Her article "Un icono femenino de la revolución: Heroínas de Federica Montseny" has been published in *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies*, and "La doctrina socialista y el público en *Una mujer por caminos de España* de Martínez Sierra" was accepted for publication in *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*. During the summer, she received a Professional Development Award to conduct research at the Biblioteca Nacional (Madrid) on the works of Spanish female politician-writers (1900-1939).

Les Essif (French) organized two panels and presented a paper at the Comparative Drama Conference, published

an article in *Text and Presentation*, revised an essay for an edited volume, submitted an NEH grant proposal, and continued work on his book project, "Images of American 'Unculture' in Contemporary French Theatre." He also directed the French-language play, "La Guerre de Troie: ça sert à quoi?," which was performed by his students at the Carousel Theatre.

Millie Gimmel (Spanish) published an article in the *Journal of the History of Ideas*, had another accepted in *Colonial Latin American Review* and delivered a paper at the Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples conference. She received a Chancellor's Award to Pursue External Funding, was a finalist for the Chancellor's advising award and a mentor for a McNair Scholar. This year she is a UT nominee for the NEH summer stipend.

Michael Handelsman (Spanish) presented conference papers in Ecuador and Chile and delivered a keynote address on mestizaje during a Ph.D. graduation ceremony at the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar in Quito during summer 2008. Handelsman is completing an edited volume of essays on globalization with Professor Olaf Berwald of the University of North Dakota. In Spring 2008, Handelsman received the Jefferson Prize for Research and Creative Activity and was reappointed Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at UT. He is currently chairing the Comisión Andina de Evaluación y Acreditación for the Andean University system in Ecuador and Bolivia.

Christine Holmlund's (French) third anthology, *American Cinema of the 1990s*, the first book to focus specifically on 1990's films, was published this fall by Rutgers University Press. Holmlund's introduction surveys production, exhibition, economic, social, and historical trends; her concluding essay analyzes millennial masculinity in eight films from 1999. Her essay on Pam Grier was reprinted in *Screening Genders* (Rutgers Depth of Field series). She will give a plenary presentation at the Film and History Association of Australia and New Zealand conference in November. Last spring she organized panels on Sylvester Stallone at the SCMS conference in Philadelphia, and a Ready for the World series with Mike Skladany (Sociology) titled "What Was the Black Panther Party?"

Noriko Horiguchi completed her book manuscript, *Women and Empire in Modern Japanese Literature* (290 pages) upon her return from a Visiting Scholarship at the University of Tokyo in 2007. It is currently under review by the University of Minnesota Press and Routledge. Her article, "Idōsuru josei noshintai: Hayashi Fumiko gensaku Naruse Mikio honan eiga o megutte" (Female Bodies in Motion: Naruse Mikio's Film Adaptation of Hayashi Fumiko's Novels) was published in *RIM* 9.3 (January 2008): 36-48. Horiguchi was nominated for a Convocation Teaching Award this fall.

Gregory Kaplan (Spanish) presented a paper in July at the International Medieval

Congress, held at the University of Leeds (England). He also published two articles, "Jewish Tendencies in *Converso* Humor: A Psychoanalytical Approach" and "Notas sobre la Peña Horacada," the latter of which deals with a topic from his current book project on the origins of the Spanish language in Cantabria (a region in northern Spain).

Erec R. Koch's (French) book, *The Aesthetic Body: Sensibility, Passion, and Corporeality in Seventeenth-Century France* was published this year, and he also had an essay on rhetorical perfection appear in *EMF: Studies in Early Modern France*. Professor Koch gave invited talks at UCLA and the Sorbonne, and he was a keynote speaker at the 2008 NASSCFL conference at Lafayette College.

Katherine Kong (French) gave a paper on "Marguerite's Mirouer and the Translations of Authority" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI in May 2008. In November, she gave a paper on "Gender and polemic in the querelle du Roman de la Rose" at the Western Society for French History in Quebec City, Canada. She is an ongoing participant in the UTK Faculty Research Seminar on "Renaissance Humanisms."

David Lee's (German) article on a controversial German film from 1938 appears in the Fall issue of *Monatshefte*. He is currently at work on an article on the unlikely relationship between German anacreontic and martial poetry at mid 18th century

and the questions this raises about the Enlightenment project and war. An edition of and notes to the correspondence between two German writers between 1745 and 1765 is a continuing preoccupation.

Verónica Loureiro-Rodríguez (Spanish) collaborated in the volume *Bilingualism and Identity: Spanish at the Crossroads with other Languages*, published by John Benjamins, with a chapter entitled "Conflicting values at conflicting ages. Linguistic Ideologies in Galician adolescents." She also finished her doctoral dissertation at the University of California, Davis: *Language attitudes and values among Galician adolescents*.

Daniel H. Magilow (German) recently published *In Her Father's Eyes: A Childhood Extinguished by the Holocaust* (Rutgers University Press, 2008), an edition of a photographically illustrated baby book for a young Slovak Jew who died in the Holocaust. He also curated an exhibition about the same subject matter that opened at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, D.C. and that was on display at Hodges Library in Knoxville during the fall 2008 semester.

Mary McAlpin (French) gave two talks, including a presentation at the South-Eastern American Society for 18th-Century Studies Conference, where she was elected President for 2008-09. She was advisory editor for *New Perspectives on the 18th Century* and Co-President of the U.T. Association of Women

Faculty. She published a book review and continued work on her second monograph, *Montpellier Vitalism and the Decline of Women in the Literature of the French Enlightenment*. **Maria Stehle** (German), with the help of a Professional Development Grant, spent most of the summer in Berlin, Germany where she conducted research for her book project tentatively titled "My World is a Ghetto: Cityscapes and Identifications in Germany. Representations of 'ghettos' in literary texts, films, and popular music offer ways to explore the changing cultures and politics of German cityscapes at the beginning of the 21st century."

Dolly Young (Spanish) gave a keynote on Intercultural Communication for the Wiley Faculty Network in Puerto Rico in April. She spent her summer working on a special issue on Language Anxiety and FL Learning Disabilities, completed writing her first-year Spanish textbook, *Vívelo*, and spent the last two weeks of July in a FL program for Spanish teachers in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Her article on Blended Learning was published this fall in CALICO.

ALUMNI NEWS

Ashley Brown graduated with degrees in French & Anthropology (2008), after which she received her TEFL certificate. She is currently in South Korea, where she teaches English.



In Memoriam

Dale Collins distinguished himself as one of UT's finest students while studying for his BA and MA. He graduated with highest honors in Spanish and Portuguese as both an undergraduate (B.A. 1983) and graduate student (M.A. 1986). Dale went on to complete his PhD in Spanish and Portuguese at Indiana University where he graduated in 1993. He was immediately hired as an Assistant Professor at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina, and he had a successful career there until his sudden passing on September 3, 2008. Dale will be remembered for his intelligence, wit, and profound kindness to both friends and strangers.

Kesi (Thomas) Garcia (B.A. Spanish 2004) taught Spanish for three years at Gibbs High School and is currently teaching Spanish at Seymour High School and writing a bi-monthly article and blogging for the Knoxville News Sentinel. She also blogs on Latino culture and history for Hispanic Heritage Month and has posted a blog for members of Knoxville's Latino community to share stories of their homelands, culture, etc.

(<http://blogs.knoxnews.com/k>

[nx/columnists/garcia/2008/09/knoxville-latino.html](http://blogs.knoxnews.com/knoxville-latino.html)).

Megan Gonzalez (M.A. Spanish 2008) got married this summer and is currently teaching Spanish part-time at ETSU.

Bethanie Haynes (B.A. French 2008) was hired as a summer intern at Crawford and Company in the Catastrophe Services Department after her graduation in May. Her internship ended in September, when she traveled to France for an assistantship through the French government to teach English in the small town of Neufchateau, near Germany. After her assistantship, she was invited back to work with Crawford and Company.

Travis Lee (B.A. French 2008) reports that he is currently teaching English in Wuhan, China at the Wuhan University of Science and Engineering. According to Travis, "although I have only been here about a week, I like it and encourage others to take time off and go abroad, even if you go to a place where you stand out and don't speak the local language."

Caitie Oyler (B.A. French-Language and World Business 2008) is currently an "assistante d'anglais" at the Lycée Mézeray in Argentan.

Lisa Stone (B.A. Spanish, 1996) received her M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction in 1997. Since then, she has been teaching Spanish and is currently in her eighth year at Sevier County High School. She sponsors the Spanish Club at Sevier County, which is active in local service projects for the Hispanic community. Last year the faculty and administration

awarded her the honor of SCHS Teacher of the Year. She has led four student trips to Europe (including two London-Paris-Madrid tours) and Costa Rica. Her travels also include summer mission trips to Honduras, Guatemala, and Ecuador, where she serves as youth sponsor and interpreter.

GRADUATE STUDENT NOTES

Kodjo Adabra (GTA French) presented a paper on March 8, 2008 at the French Conference of Louisiana State University on the topic: "Anatomie des tenants et aboutissants de la francophonie face à la mondialisation linguistique: le chemin de la survie de la langue française." In May, he published his second novel, *Identité*, in France.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Ana Luisa Salinas, Spanish Lecturer) and head of the Cultural Committee of HOLA, helped to organize the HOLA, Hispanic Heritage Festival which was held on September 27 in Knoxville. This was the third year at Market Square Garden, and visitors enjoyed music, food and culture from Spanish speaking countries in addition to other attractions for children and adults. Salinas was in charge of the Parade of Nations, in which more than 15 countries were represented and dressed in their native costumes, and where some performed typical dances from their

countries. On October 13, Salinas helped to organize "Meet the Writers," at Barnes and Noble Bookstore, where Dr. Michael Handelsman, Dr. Nuria Cruz Camara, Dr. Maragarita Merino, and Dr. Gregory Kaplan presented their recently published books.

Kimberly Stafford (Spanish Lecturer) organized an event from the ground up to celebrate a couple of dance forms that have been a part of her life for over 30 years. She began clogging professionally when she was five-years-old and has competed and performed all over this country and in Canada. She decided it was time to share her life-long love with Knoxville. She created **The Sizzlin' Stomp** (www.thesizzlinstomp.com) to celebrate her love of dance with other dancers and to give those that have never danced the opportunity to learn from some of the best instructors in the US and Canada. Her current task is fundraising. She is accepting donations, holding a couple of contests on her website and attempting to solicit sponsorship and support from local merchants/vendors.

SPOTLIGHT ON TECHNOLOGY

Submitted by **Dolly Young** (Professor of Spanish) **Doug Canfield** (Coordinator, Language Resource Center)

Second Life is a virtual environment that can potentially engage learners in tasks that require them to use the FL for a specific purpose, such as shopping at a grocery store with a classmate and keeping within a specific

budget, meeting a fellow avatar in a university building and interviewing him/her, exploring a town and designing an agenda for two based on shared interests and what the town can offer. With this in mind, Dr. Dolly Young and Doug Canfield, Coordinator of the LRC, received a RITE grant from ITC to support a pilot study in the spring of 2008. The grant permitted the university to purchase a small plot of land in Second Life. In the spring of 2008, four SL Tasks were integrated into the first-year curriculum of six sections of Intensive Spanish 111-112. Doug Canfield wrote a Second Life manual for instructors and students and designed the virtual auditorium, office space and transporting area in SL. Harriette Spiegel created an in-world audiovisual orientation to each task. Dr. Dolly Young, with feedback from the 111-112 instructors, Alejandra Galindo, Kathy Knight and Patricia Harriman, designed the four tasks. The design criteria for the tasks included ensuring that the task a) had a problem-solving element, b) was interactive (students had to use Spanish to express themselves orally or in writing), c) was collaborative (students had to depend on each other to complete aspects of the task), d) had a specific purpose, and e) included an accountability component (some aspect of the task had to be submitted to their instructor). After finishing each task, students completed a questionnaire to gauge their immediate perceptions of the task. At the end of the semester, students completed

a 40-item Likert scale questionnaire. In addition, instructors offered written feedback after the tasks. An analysis of the data indicated that as long as the technological aspects functioned well, students found SL motivating, engaging and beneficial to language learning.

STUDY ABROAD

In the MFL upper-division Alicante (Spain) summer program, sixteen students were enrolled in both Spanish 422, Advanced Grammar and 461/491, Readings in Spanish Prose Fiction. Students lived one-per-household in Spanish homes, participated in cultural events and excursions, and attended Alicante's annual Fiesta de las Hogueras, the traditional fair in which four days of parades and celebrations of local cultural end with the ritual burning of gigantic paper statues in public squares. The beach was splendid, and students alternated conscientious study with much-needed seaside recreation. Classes, taught by **Dr. Bryant Creel**, started on May 26 and ended June 27. For information on the 2009 Alicante program, contact **Dr. Luis Cano** (lcano@utk.edu).

Dr. Dawn Duke led the UT in Spain lower-division program to Spain, which was held in Salamanca from May to June. In addition to completing Spanish 211-212, the twenty eight students who participated visited Madrid, Toledo, and Santander. For information on the 2009 UT in Spain program, which will be held for the first time in Santander, contact **Dr.**

Gregory Kaplan,
gkaplan@utk.edu.

Berlin will again be the subject of a team-taught course in the spring that culminates in a mini-term trip to the city. **Dr. David Lee** took thirteen students in May. Students are responsible for part of the itinerary, which this year included a performance of the opera *Mahagonny* at the Komische Oper and a visit to the TV studios of Deutsche Welle. For information on the 2009 Berlin program, contact **Dr. Maria Stehle** (mstehle@utk.edu).



The June 2008 UT in Paris program once again took the City of Light by storm, twenty-four students strong. A stately classroom building across from the Jardin du Luxembourg, where an intermediate French course and one on contemporary France were offered, served as the academic home for the group. **Dr. John Romeiser** and **GTA Kodjo Adabra** accompanied the students and led the classes. Weekend trips took the group to the Châteaux in the Loire River Valley, where students and program leaders biked, boated, sampled wine, and visited such castles as Blois, Chambord, and Chenonceau,

and to Mont-Saint-Michel and the Normandy Beaches. Plans are currently underway for the fourth UT in Paris program, tentatively scheduled for June 6-27, 2009. Please contact **Dr. Romeiser** (jromeise@utk.edu) or **Kodjo Adabra** (kadabra@utk.edu) for further information.

Dr. Sal DiMaria led the Urbino summer program to Italy for the twenty first consecutive year. The five-week program gave students the opportunity to live and study in the Renaissance town of Urbino. During the weekends, students visited several Italian cities, including Assisi, Venice, Florence, and Rome. Twenty five students took advantage of the free weekend to travel on their own to various parts of Italy. They all went to see a great performance of Puccini's *Tosca* at the famous Sferisterio of Macerata. For information on the 2009 Urbino program, contact **Dr. Sal DiMaria** (sdimaria@utk.edu).



David Lee Retirement

Following 38 years of distinguished service to the department, university and profession, Dr. David Lee will retire at the end of this calendar year. Professor Lee came to UT Knoxville from Fisk University where he had served for two years as Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages. After the retirement of Henry Kratz as Head of Germanic and Slavic Languages,

David again served as Head of this Department for eleven years.

Within one year of his arrival here, David called the founding meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG). Over a span of decades, David remained critical to the success of Tennessee AATG in a wide variety of roles. He was an early President of the chapter, served as local representative for its Placement Information Center, and as member and chair of the Testing Awards Program. By proposing and supporting the immensely successful statewide German Festival (Frühlingsfest) for high school German students, he promoted and encouraged thousands of German students to excellence and strengthened scores German programs around the state. He served for seven years as Advisory Board Member to the Consortium for German in the Southeast, a program that sponsors yearly refresher seminars for German high school and college teachers in the region. In recognition of his service to the profession, the German government awarded him the Federal Republic of Germany Friendship Award and the American Association of Teachers of German followed this with the coveted Certificate of Merit.

David Lee also assumed other valuable roles of professional leadership. In the AAUP, he chaired the Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, edited the Newsletter, served as Secretary, Treasurer, State Chapter President and State Delegate to the National Convention. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa as an undergraduate at Princeton, he was President of the chapter here and has served for a decade as transcript evaluator for new inductees.

David has repeatedly distinguished himself in the classroom, both here and abroad. He has led student groups to Berlin in the highly interdisciplinary course, Berlin-A City of Scars, an experience that made students ready for the world before that slogan became fashionable. In Fall 2003, he was the Faculty Director of the UT Study Program at the University of Swansea in Wales. Closer to home, he regularly teaches our very popular German Film course, for which he has amassed an impressive collection of films, teaches the bibliography course for graduate students of German and French, a critical component of their future research work, and teaches an impressive range of courses focusing on the German Enlightenment, Rococco, Storm and Stress, and Classicism, with a special emphasis on Goethe.

Shortly after coming to UT, David garnered a coveted ACLS grant enabling him to develop and publish important articles on Goethe's late masterwork *West-östlicher Divan*. Extending his interest in poetry, he has worked on lyric poetry ranging across two centuries from Karl Wilhelm Ramler to Gottfried Benn. Further exhibiting his breadth of scholarship, he organized an important conference celebrating Henry Kratz' career and, together with Ulrich Goebel, shepherded an important *Festschrift* to completion: *The Ring of Words in Medieval Literature*. David's most recent work focuses on preparing for publication the complete correspondence of Karl Wilhelm Ramler and Ludwig Gleim in the last decades of the eighteenth century. This very extensive body of letters between two of the most insightful, knowledgeable and admittedly gossipy figures of this period holds the key to understanding many of the undercurrents in this formational period of modern German literature.

However impressive these achievements are, a list of David Lee's distinguished accomplishments in service to the profession, in classroom teaching, in mentoring a host of MA and PhD students to the completion of their studies, and in publication of notable research in an intensely researched field barely touches the essence of the colleague who has been bastion of discerning and vigorous leadership, stability, good sense, wise advice, thoughtful reflection, supportive collegiality and friendship to me and so many others in and outside this University. We are the richer for having had the privilege of working with him over the decades, look forward to his continued involvement in the German section in the post-retirement phase, and will be deeply grateful to find another colleague in the future who can match his talents, his accomplishments and his humanity.

Submitted by Jeff Mellor (German)

Faculty spotlight

Óscar Rivera-Rodas (Professor of Spanish)



After several decades of excellence in the profession, Dr. Óscar Rivera-Rodas shows no signs of slowing down. He is still publishing extensively, and continues organizing in Puebla, Mexico, the highly successful international conferences he started, namely, the *Jornadas de teatro* and the *Jornadas de poesía*.

I would venture to say that Óscar considers himself first and foremost a scholar. His list of publications is astounding and celebrated nationally and internationally. In 2008 alone he has published an article on the Venezuelan author Mariano Picón Salas in the prestigious Cuban journal *Revista Casa de las Américas*, the prologue of the complete poetry works of Puebla's unofficial poet laureate Gilberto Castellanos, and an article included in a book dedicated to the well-known scholar and author José Pascual Buxó, issued by U.N.A.M.

In 2009, the *XVIII Jornadas de Teatro* and the *IV Jornadas de Poesía* will take place. Throughout the years these two conferences have featured world-renowned scholars and outstanding graduate students in the area of Latin American literature and culture. More remarkably, the *Jornadas* have served to pay homage to many of the most important authors and personalities in the world of poetry and theatre in Latin America. The chosen ones for next year are Gilberto Castellanos in poetry and Puebla's own Manuel Reygadas, who during a long and distinguished career has written, produced, and starred in countless plays both in Mexico and abroad. Having witnessed the success of these conferences first hand, I am sure they will continue for many years to come.

As if these accomplishments were not proof enough of Óscar's excellence, he also receives international recognition. He has been invited by the *VI Festival Internacional de Teatro de Santo Domingo* (Dominican Republic, March 2009) as a keynote speaker to give presentations on the Dominican playwright Franklin Domínguez and about Mexican theater. The government of the State of Puebla has also invited him to present Gilberto Castellanos's book in May 2009.

Óscar Rivera-Rodas's career is an example of dedication and brilliance that has gained him recognition and admiration both nationally and internationally. It is imperative to point out that Óscar is very aware of his role as an ambassador for the University of Tennessee, a role he carries out with dignity and generosity. He truly is an inspiration to me and others in a profession in which complacency can easily set in.

Submitted by Álvaro A. Ayo (Spanish)

Advanced Degrees Conferred...

Fall 2007Ph.D.

Cristina Campos (1st concentration-Spanish, 2nd concentration-French)
Dissertation: *Pasión y deseo: del amor y la sexualidad en poemas selectos de Octavio Paz y Rosario Castellanos*
Director: Dr. Óscar Rivera-Rodas

El-Zine, Nesrine (1st concentration-French)

Dissertation: *L'Enseignement de la langue française dans les universités yéménites, son passé et son avenir. Etude historique, sociale, analytique et critique*
Director: Paul Barrette

M.A.

Irina Bobrovitskaya (French)
Megan Gonzalez (Spanish)

Spring 2008Ph.D.

Negrisanu, Raluca (1st concentration-German, 2nd concentration-Applied Linguistics)
Dissertation: Aspects of first language attrition: A case study of German Immigrants in East Tennessee
Director: Dr. Chauncey Mellor

Celaya, Lori (1st concentration-Spanish, 2nd concentration-Portuguese)

Dissertation: *Mexico visto desde la literatura de su frontera norte: identidades propias de la transculturación y la migración*
Director: Dr. Michael Handelsman

M.A.

Hanson, Jessica (Spanish)

Summer 2008M.A.

Blair, Bradley (German)
Holt, Belgica (Spanish)
Kamyshkova, Maria (French)
Oran, Kara (French)
Rouskova, Romana (German)
Schonagen, Mary (German)
Schulz, David (German)

Outstanding Students Honored
May 2008

Outstanding Graduating Seniors

Ryan Linger (German)
Claire O'Neill (French)
Nancy Richards (Spanish)
Courtney Seiler (Spanish)
Mona Sheth (Spanish)

Recognition of Superior Excellence in the Study of Italian

Krista Danko
Scott Kapuscinky

Recognition of Excellence in French Studies

Bethany Haynes (LWB)
Andrew Kay
Trent Hoy

Outstanding Undergraduate Student

Kim Bartholomew

Outstanding Graduating Senior with Minor Concentration in Portuguese

Blake Dockery (LWB)

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William Hembree Jonathan Sparger
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Manjit Bhatti Stephanie Morrissey

Ariel Brassil Noah Soltau

Sarah Cleeton Stephanie Paluda

Charles Cochran Jennifer Pesek

Tammy Collins Kathleen Schuster

Donna Hill Shea Soma

Ryan Linger Zsuzsanna Zádori-Roth

Dennis Randall Shackley Memorial Scholarship

Lisa Hamric

Outstanding College Scholar with

Major in German

Randall Meyer

Best Paper by Graduate Student in German

David Schulz Zsuzsanna Zádori-Roth

Excellence in Teaching in German Award

Ronald Eric Johnson

Zsuzsanna Zádori-Roth

Students Selected for German Graduate Exchange Programs in 2007-2008

Manjit Bhatti (at U of Karlsruhe)

Tammy Collins (at U of Stuttgart)

Nicole Noeller (from U of Mannheim)

Sylvia Schubert (from U of Stuttgart)

David Schulz (from U of Tübingen)

Kathleen Schuster (at U of Mannheim)

Noah Soltau (at U of Tübingen)

Outstanding LWB - Graduates

Mollie Hyde (Chinese)

Candace Wade (Spanish)

Caitlin Oyler (French)

Recognition for achieving one of the highest GPA's in the social sciences division of the College of Arts and Sciences (among Spring 2008 graduates):

Stephen Ellis (double major in Political Science and Spanish)

FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

Beth Cole, Accounting Specialist II, received this year's Extraordinary Customer Service Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the department in matters ranging from budget to personnel.



Michael Handelsman, Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, received the 2008 Jefferson Prize in recognition of his exceptional contributions to research, teaching, and service.



Ingrid McMillen, Administrative Specialist II, has been given this year's Mary Lynn Glustoff Award. This award is presented annually to one staff member in Arts and Sciences who exemplifies outstanding customer service, positive attitude, strong work ethic, and efficient and productive work habits.



Dolly J. Young (Spanish) was awarded the 2008 Jacqueline Elliot Award by the Tennessee Foreign Language Teachers Association, which recognizes a higher education World Language educator for outstanding service to the profession. Jacqueline Elliott, UTK professor emerita in French, founded the TFLTA in the late 1960's.



We gratefully acknowledge the following donors

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