

Department Head Message

A Message from the Head of the Department

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Dear Friends, Students, and Colleagues:

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The 2008-2009 academic year was eventful for the students, faculty, and staff of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures. Our faculty continued its extraordinary record of 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. As many of you know, we face considerable fiscal challenges at UTK, but we are dedicating ourselves to a future of exemplary academic programs. It is a pleasure to report that once again members of the MFL faculty received broad recognition for their many accomplishments. Three of our faculty were honored at the Chancellor's Banquet: Dan Magilow, Assistant Professor of German, was awarded the Chancellor's Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement Award, which is conferred on the tenured or tenure-track UTK faculty members who have received international recognition in their fields and show professional promise for their research and creative achievement; John Romeiser, Professor of French, received the Chancellor's Alumni Public Service Award, which recognizes his substantial contributions to the community and state through his work with the East Tennessee Veterans Association; Millie Gimmel, Assistant Professor of Spanish, received the Chancellor's Excellence in Advising Award, which acknowledges contributions to that aspect of our students' formation. Professor Gimmel was also awarded a coveted National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend to pursue her compelling research on the mutual imbrications of New World and European medical practices in early modern Latin America. Dolly Young, Professor of Spanish, was the recipient of the Tennessee Foreign Language Teachers Association's Jacqueline Elliott Award, which recognizes her as Tennessee's top contributor to foreign language study. Finally, Chris Holmlund, Professor of French and Cinema Studies, was elected President of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), the foremost international organization in film studies.



Our students' accomplishments are equally impressive. Graduate students Alberto Rivera Vaca (Spanish) and Noah Soltau (German) received, respectively, the J. Wallace and Katie Dean and Herman Spivey fellowships. Janet R. Salata, a French major, was named a top graduate in the Spring 2009 graduating class of the College of Arts and Sciences. This honor is conferred on undergraduate students who achieve the highest grade point average within their respective divisions; Ms. Salata achieved one of the highest GPAs in the humanities division of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The MFL faculty continues its impressive record of research and publication by placing over 40 peer-reviewed journal articles during the past academic year, a truly extraordinary total. Those colleagues have also given more than 50 scholarly papers at major conferences in the United States and abroad. In many cases, our faculty were invited to be plenary speakers. We also had a number of new books published since our last newsletter: *In Her Father's Eyes: A Slovak Childhood in the Shadow of the Holocaust*, edited and translated by Dan Magilow; *American Cinema of the 1990s: Themes and Variations*, edited by Christine Holmlund; *Literary Passion, Ideological Commitment: Toward a Legacy of Afro-Cuban and Afro-Brazilian Women Writers*, by Dawn Duke; a special issue of *FLANNALS*, co-edited by Dolly Young; *The Quill and the Scalpel: Nabokov's Art and the Worlds of Science*, by Stephen Blackwell; and *Valderredible, Cantabria (España): La cuna de la lengua española*, by Gregory Kaplan.

MFL continues to provide a vibrant environment for all of its students, undergraduate and graduate. This year the Department hosted a number of important events, of which I can cite only a sample. In November 2008, Stephen Blackwell, Associate Professor of Russian, organized a highly successful interdisciplinary symposium on "Academic Evolution and Hybridization: Literature and The Sciences." Flavia Brizio-Skov, Professor of Italian, organized a fascinating lecture series addressing the Italian perspective on American political culture, with the lectures given by historian Massimo Rubboli of the University of Genoa. As part of a team-taught interdisciplinary course that she offered with colleagues John Romeiser (French) and Gregory Kaplan (Spanish), Nuria Cruz-Cámara, Associate Professor of Spanish, brought historians and literary scholars specializing in the Spanish Civil War to UTK for a series of intriguing talks. Óscar Rivéra-Rodas, Professor of Spanish, offered this year's iterations of his internationally renowned "Jornadas Internacionales de Teatro Latinoamericano" and

"Jornadas Internacionales de Poesía Latinoamericana" in Puebla, Mexico. Our exciting annual Japanese Speech Contest, organized by Professor Jon LaCure, Associate Professor of Japanese, and Mahagi LaCure, Lecturer in Japanese, 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 French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish sections.

The MFL faculty also completed its strategic plan last academic year. This plan will serve as our road map for the future, and we are truly excited at the prospect of the academic initiatives towards which we will work. The plan aims at strengthening our individual sections while building bridges among them: we have created faculty research-teaching groups that unite faculty and graduate students in targeted areas of shared interest, such as Latin American studies, cinema studies, and literature and science, and that advance both research projects and the creation of new courses; we have designed and begun teaching more team-taught courses; we have launched a technology roundtable that meets four times a year and at which faculty and students present technological pedagogical initiatives that will enhance all of our courses; we have started a regular faculty works-in-progress series, in which faculty have already discovered areas of shared research interest. I believe that these and other initiatives will foster a sense of common purpose and shared vision for our students, staff, and faculty.

Defying national trends, our undergraduate and graduate programs continue to grow at impressive rates. Our recent study shows that MFL credit-hour production has increased by 15% in the past 5 years-this at a time when the number of our professorial faculty is actually dropping. Our undergraduate study abroad programs in 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 undergraduates and graduates continue to prepare students for a globalizing world. Last May we once again recognized the extraordinary accomplishments of our students at our fifth annual open house and awards ceremony. We list those award recipients in the table below.

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 MFL. We urge all of you to send us updates for future newsletters. Finally, I must announce that this will be the last print version of our newsletter. ***Beginning next year, we would like to email you a link to our annual newsletter, and we ask you to report your email address to us.*** In order to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, please send your request to lrc@utk.edu from the e-mail address to which you would like your copy sent. If you do not have email, please let us know-by conventional mail or by calling Ms. Cheryl Acree at 865-974-2312, and we will, in these exceptional circumstances, print out a hard copy to be mailed to you.

As always, I would welcome your e-mail: erkoch@utk.edu

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

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Stephen Blackwell's (Russian) book, *The Quill and the Scalpel: Nabokov's Art and the Worlds of Science*, was published by Ohio State University Press. This study examines the overlapping domains of art and science in the fiction of the Russian-American author Vladimir Nabokov. His article on "Nabokov's Fugitive Sense" appeared in a collection published by Peter Lang. Dr. Blackwell received the 2008/2009 University Studies Award for Outstanding Contributions to Interdisciplinary Scholarship.

Alumni News

Faculty Research Seminar

Harriet Wood Bowden (Spanish) had a paper published in *Language Learning*, entitled "Concurrent Verbalizations, Pedagogical Conditions and Reactivity: Two CALL Studies," co-authored with Sanz, Lin, Lado and Stafford. In March, she presented a paper at the annual conference of the American Association for Applied Linguistics in Denver, CO, entitled "L1 and L2 Processing of Gender and Number Inflectional Morphology: An ERP study of Spanish." She also presented a workshop on writing in language classes at the annual MFL pre-service training for instructors and GTAs.

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Flavia Brizio-Skov (Italian) was invited to present a paper and to organize a panel on new Italian detective fiction at an International Seminar held in La Spezia, Italy, in June. She received her second Ready for the World grant to organize the visit of an outstanding scholar from the University of Genoa, Italy, who delivered three lectures at UT in October. She continues to be an active member of the editorial board of *Studies in European Cinema* and her book on Italian post-war popular culture and cinema has been accepted for publication by Tauris Publishers, UK.

Community Outreach

Faculty Spotlight

Ed Champion's (French) research interests now deal largely with Francophone writers from Africa and the Caribbean and with French-language writings on race and colonialism. He is preparing a book on the influence of the French theologian Teilhard de Chardin on Senghor.

Outstanding Students

Advanced Degrees Conferred

Nuria Cruz-Cámara's (Spanish) article "La doctrina socialista y el público en *Una mujer por caminos de España* de María Martínez Sierra" was published in *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*. In June, she presented the paper "Constancia de la Mora's Autobiography and the Sources of Spanish Feminism" at the 7th European Feminist Research Conference, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. She received a \$5,000 grant from Ready For the World to organize the colloquium "Interdisciplinary Speakers and the Spanish Civil War" and to bring guest speakers to her team-taught course on the Spanish Civil War.

Faculty and Staff Awards

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Sébastien Dubreil's (French) article "Virtual Learning Environments for a Real (Transcultural) Dialogue: Toward New Pedagogies in Culture Teaching" appeared in September 2009 as the featured article for the English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics resource website published by Cambridge University Press. In this article on intercultural learning, Dubreil lays down the theoretical background and rationale for an international telecollaborative project in which he is involved. The project looks at ways of teaching and learning culture through an online learning environment, as well as how the learning outcomes can be assessed. You can find it on the web at <http://www.cambridge.org/elt/resources/appliedlinguistics/intercultural.htm>.

Dawn Duke (Spanish) published "From 'Yélida' to Movimiento de Mujeres Dominicano-Haitianas: Gendering Problems of Whiteness in the Dominican Republic," in *At Home and Abroad: Historicizing Twentieth-Century Whiteness in Literature and Performance*. (ed. La Vinya Jennings, U of Tennessee P). She received a Professional Development Award for summer research in Brazil on her book project "Afro-Brazilian Women Writers Speak." Her paper "Black Movement Militancy in Panama: SAMAAP's Reliance on an Identity of West Indianness" was accepted for publication in *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies (LACES)* and "The Triumph Within: Carolina Maria de Jesus and Strategies for Black Female Empowerment in Brazil" was accepted for publication in *Critical Perspectives on Afro-Latin American Literature*.

Les Essif (French) wrote a tribute to a French scholar for a French publication, and a preface and a lead article for a collection of essays on pedagogical uses of theatre. He also organized a panel on new directions in French theatre with two French doctoral students (Sarah Lloyd and Sandra Soares) for the Comparative Drama Conference, had an article accepted by *Text and Presentation*, and continued work on his book project, "American Unculture on the French Stage."

Millie Gimmel (Spanish) was awarded a Professional Development Award from UT and a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support archival research in Mexico. She spent two weeks in Mexico this summer and will spend two months there in 2010. While in

Mexico she delivered an invited paper at the International Congress of Americanists. Currently, she has two articles under review and a third invited article in progress. She received a 2009 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Advising and was Quest Scholar of the Week in January.

Michael Handelsman (Spanish) completed a co-edited volume of essays on globalization and the humanities with German Professor Olaf Berwald of the University of North Dakota titled: *Globalization and its Apparitions. Intercultural Engagements and Disengagements Seen from the South and North*. In March, Handelsman was invited to lecture on contemporary Ecuadorian literature and culture in Geneva (United Nations), Brussels (Ecuadorian Embassy), Paris (La Maison de L' Amerique Latine), and London (University of Westminster and the Canning House). Handelsman was appointed as a Faculty Associate at UTK's Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy.

Christine Holmlund (French) was elected to a six year term as President (President-Elect, President, Past President) of the Society of Cinema and Media Studies, the largest international society devoted to the study of moving images. This year she published an anthology, *American Film of the 1990s* (Rutgers UP), and an essay on Harvey Keitel's collaborations with Jane Campion, "We Are the Piano" (Wayne State UP). She delivered keynote addresses at the Film and History Association of Australia and New Zealand and the Midwest Undergraduate Film Conference. She also joined the inaugural editorial board of *Celebrity Studies*.

Gregory Kaplan (Spanish) published a book, *Valderredible, Cantabria (España): La cuna de la lengua española* (Santander, Spain) in which he presents a variety of evidence (toponyms, inscriptions, features of medieval and modern Spanish, etc.) that establishes the Cantabrian origins of the Spanish language. He also published an article, "La Cantabria rupestre: Un análisis de la Peña Horacada (Cantabria, España)," in *Cuaderno Internacional de Estudios Humanísticos y Literatura*. During the summer, he directed the UT in Spain study abroad program.

Erec R. Koch's (French) book, *The Aesthetic Body: Sensibility, Passion, and Corporeality in Seventeenth-Century France*, was published this year by the University of Delaware Press. He also had articles on Descartes and on rhetoric and *aurality* appear in, respectively, *La littérature, le xvii^e siècle et nous: dialogue transatlantique* and *EMF: Studies in Early Modern France*.

Katherine Kong (French) presented a paper on "Writing Love in the Thirteenth *Nouvelle*: Marguerite de Navarre's Epistolary Fictions," at the annual International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI in May. She also presided over sessions at the Marco Symposium on "Humanism and its Economies" and the Marco Medieval Manuscripts Workshop in the spring. Professor Kong's book, *Lettering the Self in Medieval and Early Modern France*, was accepted for publication with the Gallica Series at Boydell & Brewer.

Daniel H. Magilow's (German) book, *In Her Father's Eyes: A Childhood Extinguished by the Holocaust*, appeared in November 2008 and he spent significant time in 2008-2009 promoting it with a companion traveling exhibition. On April 4, 2009, a leading Slovak newspaper, Pravda, profiled Dr. Magilow's work in a special centerspread. Dr. Magilow recently published an article, "Children's Photos: Early Photos of Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler," and he spent the summer working on an essay about Jews in interwar German cinema, specifically a 1927 film, now long-forgotten, called *Familihtag im Hause Prellstein* (Family Day at the Prellstein's).

Mary McAlpin (French) had an article, "The Rape of Cécile and the Triumph of Love in the *Liaisons dangereuses*," appear in *Eighteenth-Century Studies*. She served as President of the South-Eastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and as advisory editor for the journal *New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century*. She was elected to the MLA Divisional Committee for eighteenth-century French Studies and, thanks to a UT Faculty Development Grant, spent the summer pursuing her research into eighteenth-century conceptions of female physiology at the Bibliothèque Universitaire de Médecine de Montpellier.

Natalia Pervukhin (Russian) reviewed the Dissertation "Orphic Text In Russian Post-Symbolist Poetry" by Mr. Edward Waysband (Hebrew University of Jerusalem). Her two articles on Russian labor camp life "Abez" and on the picaresque novels by Ilia Ilf and E. Petrov were accepted for publication by the journal *Slovo/Word*. She organized a panel "Literary dialogues in Emigration" and round table "Underground Poets in Moscow of the 1950s and 1960s" for the AAASS Convention in Boston in November, at which she was also a participant. She also served as a chair at the panel "Others Writing Herzen's Life: Then and Now."

Óscar Rivera-Rodas (Spanish) was chosen to be a keynote speaker on three occasions in 2009. In June, he was invited by the government of the Dominican Republic to deliver two keynote addresses on the Dominican dramatist Franklin Domínguez, one at the Academia Dominicana de la Lengua and another at the VI Festival Internacional de Teatro in Santo Domingo. In August, he was invited by the Fundación Simón I. Patiño (Geneva, Switzerland) to deliver a keynote address on literary criticism and new Bolivian narrative at the Simón I. Patiño Cultural Center, in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Professor Rivera-Rodas also published an essay, "Rosario Castellanos y los discursos de identidad," in vol. XX/1 of *Literatura Mexicana*.

Euridice Silva's (Portuguese) ongoing research is focused on Brazilian theater and popular culture, with a special recent emphasis on multi-mediatic representations, adaptations and interconnections of literature, theatrical performance, film, TV, the plastic arts, music, and photography. His research is informed by modern theories and discourses of national identity, alterity, contemporary art, cultural semiotics and issues of gender and race. Dr. Silva continues to serve as chair of the Portuguese Section, supervisor of the Portuguese language lower division, academic and programs abroad adviser and as library liaison for Portuguese and the Latin American Studies IDP.

Maria Stehle (German) was invited to attend an international conference on "Questioning the Crisis of Multiculturalism in Europe" in Ireland. The conference will result in the publication of her paper entitled "*White Ghettos: The 'Crisis of Multiculturalism' in Post-Unification Germany.*" She attended a conference in Colorado, gave an invited talk in California, and co-organized a workshop at the Technical University in Berlin in the summer of 2009. She is currently on research leave to complete her book manuscript tentatively titled *Provincial, National, Translocal: "Ghettos," Cityscapes, and Representation in 21st Century Germany.*

Dolly Young (Spanish) was awarded the TFLTA Jacqueline Elliott Award last year. She edited a special issue of *Foreign Language Annals* on "Special Needs Learners and Language Anxiety," which was published in the spring. She and her co-editor were showcased in the spring issue of *The Language Educator*. She presented on her research on Second Life at the American Association of Applied Linguists in April, and was invited to talk on "Language Acquisition and Literacy Development" for a THEC funded program titled, "Pathways to School Readiness" in June. She is currently writing the activity manual that corresponds to her first-year Spanish textbook, *Vívelo*, which debuts in January of 2010. She participated in an Applied Linguistics Seminar at Penn State this summer, which resulted in a presentation on "FL Classroom Assessment" at the MFL departmental preservice in August.

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Delie Bancroft (Spanish 2009) is pursuing his MS in Secondary Teaching at UT and teaching Spanish as part of his professional internship at Bearden High School. After the school year he will be moving to Costa Rica to attain his ESL certification.

Ben Bates (French 2009) is beginning his MA in French at Indiana University.

Amanda Berry (French, LWB 2009) was accepted to join Teach For America, a national teacher corps of recent college graduates who commit two years to teach and to effect change in under-resourced urban and rural public schools. She spent the summer training in Atlanta and she is now teaching French at Cane Ridge High School in Nashville, TN.

Eric Beuerlein (French 2009) is beginning his MA in French at Indiana University.

Erin Czarra (French 2005), a graduate student at the University of Memphis on the French track of the I MBA, interned in Paris this past summer and has been selected by the U.S. Department of State to serve as a Foreign Affairs Campus Coordinator for 2009-2010. This position will involve organizing events to familiarize students with the Department of State's mission and career opportunities, as well as assisting students who are interested in applying for internships. For more information, contact Erin (eczarra@memphis.edu).

McKenzie Cantrell (Spanish, Legal Studies, and Political Science 2009) is currently attending The University of Louisville-Brandeis School of Law.

Adam Eggenberger (Spanish, LWB 2009) is employed as a Delivery Operations Team Lead in Poughkeepsie, NY. He manages a team that supports the logistic operations for IBM Mainframe Servers throughout the world.

Ann Katherine Eley (Spanish, LWB 2009) began working with UT as an Undergraduate Admissions Counselor. She plans to begin graduate school next year.

Stephen Ellis (Spanish, Political Science 2009) is a graduate student at Georgia Tech and will be graduating in December with an MS in International Affairs, after which he will be moving to the Washington, D.C. area.

Kelly Pruett Epperson (Spanish 2009) is currently a teaching intern at Powell High School, where she teaches Spanish II.

James Gilman (Spanish, Child and Family Studies, 2009) is working at East Tennessee Children's Hospital as a Spanish interpreter.

Michal Grivetti (Spanish, LWB 2009) is currently working full time with Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church as the High School youth intern. He works with high school youth and the Hispanic community through community gardening.

Tracy Igberaese (French, LWB 2009) is currently embarking on an eleven month Global MBA program through Webster University. She will be spending the next eleven months studying at Webster University's campuses in five international business capitals: Geneva, London, Leiden, Chengdu, and Vienna.

Claire Jones (French 2009) is working as a French Government Teaching Assistant in France.

Erin O'Brien (French 2009) is teaching English in Deauville, France with the assistance of an award from the Nashville Alliance Française.

Blake Nelson (Spanish 2009) served during the summer as a translator and interpreter for Helena Chemical Company in Memphis, TN. He translated presentations, product brochures, product labels, and other materials from English to Spanish. He also served as an interpreter for a four day international training seminar in Memphis for visitors from Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Spain, and Brazil.

Jenny Salata (French 2009) will be a Lecturer in the English department as part of the UT French graduate program exchange at the University Lille 3 in Lille, France, where she will also begin her MA in French.

Erin (Cox) Smith (French 2006) is starting the MA program in Education at Northeastern University this fall. She has been teaching as a Writing Specialist at the Learning Center at Roane State Community College.

Allison Hope Weems (PhD, first concentration in French and a second in linguistics, 2009) is now employed in the French department at UT. This fall, she is teaching three sections of FR 111 and one of FR 333.

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Faculty Research Seminar

The Latin American and Caribbean Literatures faculty (**Professors Cano, Duke, Gimmel, Handelsman, and Rivera-Rodas**) received a Faculty Research Seminar grant of \$5K from UTK's Humanities Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year to develop research projects that rethink the literary history of the region. The collective research project will also produce a new graduate curriculum focused on colonization, cosmopolitanism, and decolonization. The LACL faculty group will invite to its seminar discussions those PhD students in MFL and faculty from other programs who are working on themes relevant to Latin American and Caribbean literatures, histories, and societies.

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Kodjo Adabra (GTA French) presented a paper in March on Tunisian Tlatli's movie *Silences of the Palace* at the 20th and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium at the University of Minnesota. He also made a presentation at the 56th Annual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference in October 2009. This summer he was nominated as a Peer-Reviewer for the post-graduate journal *E-pisteme* which focuses on the field of francophone literature.

Noah Soltau (German) received a 2009-10 Herman E. Spivey Humanities Graduate Fellowship.

Alberto Rivera Vaca (Spanish) received a 2009-10 J. Wallace and Katie Dean Graduate Fellowship. These fellowships are highly competitive and are awarded by the UT Graduate School on the basis of academic merit and potential for scholarship.

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A New Environment to Learn French Culture

"Quelle belle chose," he replied, "quelle belle chose que tu parles le français." As the semester was nearing its end, these were the words of a French student from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Électronique, Informatique et Radiocommunications de Bordeaux (ENSEIRB) to one of the twenty UT students engaged in an innovative telecollaborative project between the two schools. It is indeed such a beautiful, useful, and powerful asset to be able to speak several languages and, in the spirit of UT's "Ready for the World" initiative, to be able to engage in an actual dialogue that breaks linguistic and cultural boundaries. The partnership between UT and ENSEIRB, an engineering school located in Southwestern France, has developed over the last three years under the initiative of **Dr. Sébastien Dubreil**. The objective is to provide a context within which learners can engage in a true, meaningful intercultural dialogue, as well as foster intercultural learning. Within the framework of a contemporary culture class, French and American students take advantage of online communication technology (webcams, videoconferencing, collaborative web-design) to create an online community of learners in which they explore both French and American cultures. During weekly dialogues, groups of four students (2 French - 2 American) explore a cultural topic of their choice, as if they were a team of comparative anthropologists. At the end of the semester, groups present the results of their investigation on a website. Over the course of the semester, not only are students learning about both cultures, they also have a chance to examine in-depth their own and their partners' cultural values, attitudes, beliefs, and perspectives. Thus students begin to understand and appreciate cultural difference in a more complex, sophisticated, positive, and non-judgmental manner. They are also given the opportunity to exist in a truly multilingual and multicultural environment - a daily reality for so many people throughout the world - thereby giving them skills to become educated global citizens. In addition, students' proficiency in French increases as they are participating in real conversations in the French language. Overall, this is a challenging but rewarding experience as the aforementioned American student noted: "It was a big compliment. Sometimes, it seems the beauty is in the trying, not the fear."

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Study Abroad

Study Abroad in Alicante, 2009

In the MFLL upper-division Alicante (Spain) summer program, fifteen students were enrolled in Spanish 423, Advanced Conversation and Composition, and 461/491, Women Writers in the Hispanic world. 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 culture culminate in 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. Luis C. Cano**, started on May 25 and ended on June 27. For information on the 2010 Alicante program, contact **Dr. Bryant Creel** (bcreel@utk.edu).



To view more pictures of Alicante Study Abroad Summer 2009, click [here](#).

Study Abroad in Paris, 2009

The June 2009 UT in Paris program once again took the City of Light by storm with a contingent of twenty-three undergraduates. 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 Graduate Teaching Associate **Kodjo Adabra** accompanied the students and led the classes. Students lived and took their meals with French families and also were responsible for giving short lectures during our site visits in and around Paris.



Weekend trips took the group to the châteaux in the Loire River Valley, where students and program leaders sampled wine and visited such castles as Amboise, Chambord, and Chenonceau, and also to St-Malo, Mont-St-Michel, and the Normandy Beaches. For the first time in its history, the students and instructors got to make the crossing to the Mont on foot. En route they learned about the estuary's plant and marine life, as well as the infamous quicksand in the Mont-St-Michel bay. No lives were lost during the crossing, although several of us learned that the quicksand was more than just a legend.

Plans are currently underway for the fifth UT in Paris program, tentatively scheduled for June 5-26, 2010. For further information, contact **Dr. Romeiser** (jromeise@utk.edu).

To view more pictures of Paris Study Abroad Summer 2009, click [here](#).

Study Abroad in Spain, 2009

Dr. Gregory Kaplan led the UT in Spain lower-division program to Spain, which took place in Santander from May to June. In addition to completing Spanish 211-212, the sixteen students visited the cities of Madrid, Toledo, Bilbao, and San Sebastián, and hiked in the Picos de Europa. For information on the 2010 UT in Spain program, which will again be held in Santander at the prestigious Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo, contact **Dr. Álvaro Ayo** (aayo@utk.edu).



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Dr. Katherine Kong is one of the organizers for the annual Marco Symposium which will take place Friday, March 26 to Saturday, March 27 2010. This year's theme will be on constructions of Medieval France.

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Faculty Spotlight

Christine Holmlund (Professor of French)

I've continually enjoyed having Chris Holmlund as a colleague in Cinema Studies since she joined the faculty at UTK after having completed her Ph.D. at one of the Midwest Meccas of the movies, the University of Wisconsin. Chris was one of the first faculty members at UT who had been trained in film studies and who was hired to teach film as a part of her regular rotation of courses, and she's thrived since her arrival as an active scholar, an inspiring teacher, and an energetic colleague and administrator.



Chris has published nearly fifty articles and book chapters on experimental, documentary, and mainstream genre films made in Canada, Europe, Latin America, and the U.S. She's also an outstanding editor and collaborator, having co-edited a book with Cynthia Fuchs on lesbian and gay documentary films, another with Justin Wyatt on contemporary American independent film and, most recently, edited *American Cinema in the 1990s* in the prestigious Rutgers Screen Decades series. Her 2002 book, *Impossible Bodies*, is an important contribution on masculinity and femininity in the movies, written, according to one reviewer, in a "scholarly, yet witty and passionate" style. Her current projects include a book on stardom in action films and a reader on Sylvester Stallone.

Chris and I have also enjoyed working together in our central professional organization, the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, where she has regularly participated in memorable panels and performed her presentations with great vitality. I've heard a lot of them; one of the best was a panel of feminists defending the work of Clint Eastwood; Chris gave a great paper on *Tightrope*, a movie that still commands our attention. She also can give pretty passable impressions of action heroes from Stallone to her fellow Swede, Dolph Lundgren (Drago in *Rocky IV*). Lest all this seem too lighthearted, Chris is held in high esteem in SCMS: she served on the editorial board of *Cinema Journal*, a term as an elected member of the executive committee, and last spring, she was elected President of the organization. This fall she is playing a key role in the organizing of the 50th annual conference, to be held next spring in Los Angeles. Next year she will chair the conference program committee arranging the 51st annual conference, to be held in New Orleans.

The interdisciplinary programs at UT thrive largely on the passions of the faculty involved in them. Chris has not only taught enthusiastically a wide variety of cinema courses—Sexuality and Cinema, French Film, Latin American Film, American Film Genres, American Independent Film, and Action Film, among others—but she has also served in recent years as Chair of the Cinema Studies Program. As an administrator, she's molded a fabulous website that includes a section on what some of our former students are doing in film and television, and she's also shown a special talent at getting a wide variety of units to help support the visits of filmmakers and film scholars. She usually signs her emails to Cinema Studies minors, "yours in film fandom," which perfectly captures how enthusiastically she teaches, discusses, promotes, and writes about the art of the movies. It's a continual pleasure to work with someone who demonstrates so much energy and joy in her work.

Submitted by Charles Maland, Professor of English, Head of Department of English

Department Head Message

Outstanding Students Honored

Faculty Notes

Outstanding Graduating Seniors

Alumni News

Erec Beuerlein (French)

Jennifer Clancy (Spanish)

James Gilman (Spanish)

Kimberly Bartholomew (French)

Janet Salata (French)

Mckenzie Cantrell (Spanish)

Faculty Research Seminar

Recognition of Superior Excellence in the Study of Italian

Graduate Student Notes

Laura Herrera

Mark Chinetti

Spotlight on Technology

Outstanding Graduating Senior with Minor Concentration in Portuguese

Study Abroad

Talon Custer (Spanish)

Community Outreach

Gerti Wunderlich Scholarship

Pace Rothery

Faculty Spotlight

Maria Harris Scholarship

Outstanding Students

Ariel Brassil

Charles Sebolt

Advanced Degrees Conferred

John C. Osborne Memorial Fellowship

Steffanie Morrissey

Faculty and Staff Awards

John L. and Elizabeth V. Kind Scholarship

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John Tyler Patty

Amanda Liverseidge

Sarah Krock

Charli Kearns

Thomas Daly

Donna Hill

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Erin Caracappa

Timothy Wentz

Jennifer Anne Rushing

Ulrike Sczesni

Reinhold Nordsieck Scholarship

Barry Hedgespeth

Joanna Broda-Schunck

Devlyn Tedesco

Sarah Maxwell

Excellence in Teaching in German Award

Roswitha Moldovi

Students Selected for German Graduate Exchange Programs in 2008-2009

Anja Seiler (from U of Karlsruhe)

Moritz Keller (from U of Tübingen)

Catherine Greer (at U of Stuttgart)

Roswitha Moldovi (from U of Stuttgart)

Joy Essigmann (at U of Mannheim)

Ryan Linger (at U of Tübingen)

Katharina Borgmann (from U of Mannheim)

Outstanding LWB - Graduate

Amanda Berry (French)

Recognition for achieving one of the highest GPA's in the College of Arts and Sciences (among Spring 2009 graduates)

Janet Salata (French)

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Department Head Message

Advanced Degrees Conferred

Faculty Notes

Summer 2009

Alumni News

M.A.
Audrey Alston (French)
Katharina Borgmann (German)
Moritz Keller (German)
Roswitha Moldovi (German)

Faculty Research Seminar

Graduate Student Notes

Spring 2009

Spotlight on Technology

M.A.
Alberto Rivera Vaca (Spanish)
Andrew Ray (Spanish)
Emily Pace (French)
Kathleen Rizy (French)
Noah Soltau (German)
Rachel Gammon (French)

Ph.D.
Jason L. Pettigrew (Spanish)
Dissertation: *La conciencia histórica en la poesía hispanoamericana*
Director: Dr. Óscar Rivera-Rodas

Study Abroad

Julia Weems (French)
Dissertation: *Illuminating les Années Noires Through the Testimonial Voices of Irène Némirovsky, Marguerite Duras, and Charlotte Delbo*
Director: Dr. John B. Romeiser

Community Outreach

Faculty Spotlight

Outstanding Students

Fall 2008

Advanced Degrees Conferred

M.A.
Abdoulaye Yansané (French)
Anthony Easter (Spanish)

Ph.D.
Fátima E. Buchert (French)
Dissertation: *L'Impératif Passé : la mémoire comme protagonista du théâtre de Michel Tremblay*
Director: Dr. Paul Barrette

Faculty and Staff Awards

Donors Acknowledgement

Department Head Message

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Faculty and Staff Awards

Stephen Blackwell (Associate Professor of Russian) has been awarded the 2008-2009 University Studies Program's Award for his contributions to interdisciplinary scholarship.



Millie Gimmel (Assistant Professor of Spanish) received The Chancellor's Excellence in Advising Award, which acknowledges contributions to that aspect of our student's formation. She was also awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend to pursue her research on the mutual imbrications of New World and European medical practices in early modern Latin America.



Dan Magilow (Assistant Professor of German) was awarded the Chancellor's Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement Award, which is conferred on the tenured or tenure-track UTK faculty members who have received international recognition in the fields and show professional promise for their research and creative achievement.



Dolly Young (Professor of 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 Elliot, UTK professor emerita in French, founded the TFLTA in the late 1960's.



John Romeiser (Professor of French) received the Chancellor's Alumni Public Service Award for his work with the East Tennessee Veterans Association.





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MFL: Making Orange Green



In an effort to follow principles of good environmental conservation, beginning in 2010, issues of the MFL Newsletter will not be printed and will only be available online. In order to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, please send your request to lrc@utk.edu from the e-mail address to which you would like your copy sent.

To view the 2009 Department of MFL newsletter on-line (or to download a PDF file of the newsletter), please visit the following link: web.utk.edu/~mfll/news/newsletter.

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