

# Polyglot

Department of  
Modern Languages  
and Classics

Volume 6  
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2014



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

## STUDENTS WIN SEVEN FULBRIGHTS AND OTHER STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS

MLC students received numerous prestigious study abroad fellowships, including a remarkable seven Fulbright awards.



Cori Fain



Joanna Robinson

Our Fulbright scholars are **Haglaeeth Contreras**, a Spanish minor, who will assist English teachers in Malaysia, and **Cori Fain**, a Spanish major, who also will assist English teachers in Malaysia. **Sam Guggenheimer**, a German minor, will assist English teachers in Turkey. He spent his junior year studying abroad in Istanbul, Turkey, on a State Department Boren Scholarship. **Rachel Hunkler**, a 2013–14 Fulbright Scholar who assisted English teachers in Spain, has received a second Fulbright grant. Hunkler will remain in Spain for 2014–15 to assist with orienting and mentoring new Fulbright grantees to the country. Hunkler graduated with a Spanish major in 2013. **Lauren Marsh**, a Chinese minor, will conduct research on infant nutrition in China. German major **Joanna Robinson** will teach

in Austria and **Gabriele Taylor**, a German minor, will teach in Germany.

**Sarah Craddock**, **Alicia Rideout**, and **Byron Sacry**, all students of German, received scholarships from the Federation of German-American Clubs and spent 2013–14 studying in Germany.

Arabic students **Casey Ellis** and **Charlotte Sheridon** received AMIDEAST scholarships to study Arabic in Jordan in Fall 2014.

**Shelly Hines-Brooks** (Spanish) received the Sampere-Leonor A. Ulloa Scholarship, which covered tuition, room, and board for a four-week teacher training course in Madrid in summer 2013. ♦

## PROFESSOR WINS STATE AWARDS

**Dr. Rasma Lazda-Cazers**, Associate Professor in the German program, received two statewide teaching awards this year.

In February she received the Outstanding Post-Secondary Teacher Award from the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers (AAFLT), an award she also received in 2003. Winners are selected from among all foreign language teachers working in post-secondary education in Alabama.

It is a striking tribute to the quality of teaching in MLC that Lazda-Cazers is the fourth MLC faculty member in a row to be honored by AAFLT. In 2013 **William Worden**, Associate Professor of Spanish, won the Post-Secondary Teacher award; in 2012 **Metka Zupančič**, Professor of French, received it; and in 2011 **Douglas Lightfoot**, Associate Professor of German, was the AAFLT Annual Nominee for SCOLT (Southern Conference on Language Teaching) Teacher of the Year Award.

In March Professor Lazda-Cazers also received the Dr. Barbara Fischer Education Award from the Alabama-Germany Partnership (AGP), an organization that fosters educational, cultural, and business ties between Alabama and Germany. This award recognizes annually an educator who promotes the teaching of German language and culture.

AGP board member Dr. **Thomas Fox** officially presented Lazda-Cazers with the Barbara Fischer Award during the Alabama Germany Partnership banquet this year. He recognized her for undergoing rigorous training to become an examiner for the prestigious German Goethe Institute, which allowed UA to become an official Goethe Institute test center that can provide internationally recognized language certification; for serving two years as vice president and two years as president of the Alabama chapter of the American Association of Teachers



Rasma Lazda-Cazers

*continued on next page*



Thomas C. Fox, Chair

## NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

The 2013–14 academic year was another excellent one for the Department of Modern Languages and Classics. One faculty member published a book and received an award for Distinguished Achievement in Engaged Scholarship; another received two state-wide teaching awards. We bid farewell to Professor Elaine Martin after 32 years of service. Our students won a top UA Premier Award, several Dean's Awards, and numerous national and international awards including an unprecedented seven from Fulbright. Our graduate students organized a very successful fourth annual conference. MLC sponsored a symposium on Post-Dictatorships in Latin America, and also a forum on events in Ukraine. We also sponsored 12 additional lectures from distinguished outside scholars.

The department added four new smart classrooms. We hosted French, German, and Spanish Language Days, which together brought approximately 1500 high school students and their teachers to campus for a day of competitions and activities in the target language. We continued our service-learning activities, locally through Spanish Outreach and internationally with trips to Ecuador and Costa Rica in summer 2013. Departmental faculty administered the semester-long Alabama-in-Cuba program, played a leading role in the new A&S Greece initiative, and, in the summers of 2013 and 2014, also led students to China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain. I invite you to read more about these and other activities in the following pages of *Polyglot*. ♦

### LAZDA-CAZERS, continued

of German; for founding and directing the Alabama in Berlin summer abroad program; for directing German Day for ten years at UA, which brings 400 high school students to campus annually; for organizing numerous weekend German language immersion programs; and for facilitating numerous cultural exchanges both in Alabama and abroad.

"Dr. Lazda's extensive extra-curricular engagement for German education projects may well be unparalleled in the state of Alabama," Fox said. "She is an ideal recipient, and it is also very fitting that she was a colleague and close friend of Barbara Fischer."

A native of Germany, Lazda-Cazers studied at the University of Münster and the University of Minnesota, where she received her doctorate. After working as an Assistant Professor at Baylor University, she joined The University of Alabama faculty in 2002. ♦

In addition to the prestigious study abroad fellowships listed on page one, MLC students distinguished themselves in numerous fashions.

- ♦ Samuel Hand (French major) and Garrett Taylor (Spanish major) each received the Dean's Award of Merit.
- ♦ Sumeet Dang (German minor), Joseph Gamble (French minor), Austin Hardaway (Spanish major), Martin Kamper (Spanish major), Ian McQuiston (German major), Laurel Wilson (French minor), and Daniel Wright (Spanish minor) were all Distinguished Undergraduate Scholars (Grades of A or A+ in every class).
- ♦ The American Council of Teachers of Russian Post-Secondary Russian Scholar Laureate was Jenny Shelton.
- ♦ Ian McQuiston (German) received the Phi Beta Kappa Allen J. Going prize.
- ♦ Olivia Bensinger (Spanish major) has been accepted at Harvard Law School.
- ♦ Eric Bordlee (Italian) and Garrett Taylor (Spanish major) received Outstanding Senior Awards from the UA National Alumni Association.
- ♦ Mary Sellers Shaw (Spanish minor) received the Morris Lehman Mayer UA Premier Award.
- ♦ MLC graduate students hosted the fourth annual Alabama Modern Languages conference.
- ♦ Caroline Beard (Spanish) has received a Graduate Council Fellowship for 2014–15.
- ♦ Shelly Hines-Brooks (Spanish) held a Graduate Council Fellowship in 2013–14.
- ♦ Valencia Tamper (Spanish) received a Southern Regional Education Board Award for 2014–15.



Ian McQuiston

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



**Dr. Arthur Spears**, chair of Anthropology and Presidential Professor at City University of New York (CUNY), presented two very well-attended lectures. Dr. Spears is one of the best known and well-published African American linguists in the United States, with established expertise both in creole dialects of the Caribbean and in African American English. A second highly distinguished linguist, **Dr. Claire Kramsch**, spoke in February on “Foreign language study in an age of globalization.” Dr. Kramsch is Professor of German and Education at the University of California, Berkeley, where she founded the Berkeley Language Center.

MLC hosted **Dr. T. Corey Brennan**, Associate Professor of Classics at Rutgers University, in October. He spoke on discoveries he made during his tenure as director of the American Academy at Rome. In March **Dr. Spy-**

**African American English: Race, Grammar and History**  
a free public lecture by  
**Dr. Arthur Spears**  
Presidential Professor, City University of New York (CUNY)

**Wednesday, April 9, 2014**  
**4:30 PM** (reception following)  
120 Farrah Hall  
(University Blvd and 4th Ave)  
University of Alabama

sponsored by  
the College of Arts & Sciences  
and the departments of  
Modern Languages & Classics  
English  
American Studies  
Gender & Race  
Anthropology

**ros Pavlides**, a Professor and Dean at Aristotle University, Greece, spoke on “Hidden Earthquakes on the Troy Fault: an Archaeo-Seismological Approach.” In April **Dr. Stephen Fleck**, Professor of French at California State University-Long Beach, presented a lecture on Moliere.

**Mr. Duk Kim**, Director of Business Development for the Montgomery Korean Association, spoke last November on Korean business and cultural ties in Alabama.

The one-day symposium “Thinking the Past/Re-Mapping the Present: Latin American Post-Dictatorships in Narrative(s) and Film” brought 14 distinguished scholars together from five different universities last October. The Alabama Modern Language conference, organized by our graduate students in February, featured 39 lectures by speakers from 12 different universities.

German-Indian author **Anant Kumar** visited in August for a reading.

Our three tenure track searches brought six additional visitors who spoke on Classical history, Italian studies, and Spanish linguistics. ♦

Our department is very active in outreach, locally, state-wide, and even internationally. Here are some of the many examples.

Founded by **Michael Schnepf** and currently run by **Shirin Posner**, our Spanish Outreach course enrolls 16 students each semester. They are assigned to work in local schools six hours per week, where they tutor and translate. Furthermore, over the past seven years **Rafael Alvarez** has served as a liaison at Flatwoods Elementary School, which has the highest Spanish speaking population of any school in both the Tuscaloosa City and County Schools. **Karina Vázquez** has taken her SP 353 class to Holt Elementary School to perform interactive plays with Hispanic students, and recently her students began giving Spanish-language tours of the Alabama Museum of Natural History at UA. Vazquez and Posner have also accompanied UA students on service learning trips to Ecuador and Costa Rica.

For the past six years **Rasma Lazda** has led weekend immersion programs for high school students of German. Lazda, along with **Douglas Lightfoot**, **Metka Zupančič**, **Ignacio Rodeño**, and **Karina Vázquez**, has also served as an officer in the state chapter of national foreign language teacher’s organizations. MLC faculty members organize language days for French, German, Latin, and Spanish.

These are attended by high school students from around Alabama and attract up to 2000 students to campus every year.

Last but not least, for 2013–14 **Koji Arizumi** helped secure a grant from the Japan Foundation for a Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) coordinator. The JOI coordinator, **Yumi Miyatake**, arrived in Tuscaloosa in August 2013 and spent the year introducing Japanese language and culture to K–12 schools in Tuscaloosa and Birmingham. The JOI coordinator is one of only eight in the USA, and is continuing this year. ♦



Yumi Miyatake

Dr. **Koji Arizumi** was President of the South Central Association of Teachers of Japanese, a board member of the National Association of Self-Instructional Language Programs, and led a summer abroad program to Japan in 2013 and 2014.

Dr. **Ana Corbalan** published three articles, three book chapters, and a book review while having four further refereed essays and two co-edited books accepted for publication. She received two internal grants and delivered papers at five conferences.

Dr. **Isabelle Drewelow** published two articles on the impact of foreign language learning on stereotypical cultural representations and on graduate teaching assistants' perspectives on their roles in a foreign language hybrid course. She had an article accepted and received a teaching grant from Arts and Sciences for \$2000.

Dr. **Andrew Drozd** published five book reviews and was elected to the Council of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Drozd has also agreed to serve on the Book Award Committee for the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies and to serve as a mentor for the mentoring program of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

Dr. **Barbara Godorecci** delivered a paper entitled "The Test of Translation: Petrarch's Re-writing of Boccaccio's One-Hundredth Novella" at the MLA Conference in Chicago in January 2014. Dr. Godorecci also has one book review forthcoming in *Italian Quarterly*, and has completed a manuscript of original poetry titled *Tempo Empowered/tempo emarginato* while on sabbatical leave last spring.

Dr. **Maurizio Godorecci** published an article and a translation in *Journal of Italian Translation*, vol. 8 (2013) and his bilingual chapbook of poetry *Lu café de Angele"/"Angelo's Café* will be published by Columbia University.

Dr. **Rasma Lazda-Cazers** received teacher of the year awards from the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers and from the Alabama-Germany Partnership.

Dr. **Douglas Lightfoot** was President of the state chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, an executive board member of the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers, and a founding board member of the Alabama World Languages Education Foundation. He received an internal and an external grant and led a study abroad program to Germany in summer 2013.

## Aprendices, fabriqueras y obreros. El trabajo industrial en la narrativa argentina del siglo XX (1930–2007) Buenos Aires: Editorial Biblos

**Karina Elizabeth Vázquez**

The book offers the first systematic analytical approach to the cultural/literary representations of industrial labor and blue-collar workers in Argentina, particularly Buenos Aires. Following a methodological approach to cultural industries and literary systems, Vázquez provides an insight on the relationship between culture, literature and social reality as it is figured in the literary representations of industrial work and the construction of working classes identities. It has six chapters which study the years of the Depression (1930–45); the advent and political predominance of Peronismo (1945–76); the impact of a brutal military dictatorship (1976–83) and its aftermath with the implementation of neoliberal policies and the subsequent social crisis (1990–2003). The author combines strict literary analysis with socio-historic exploration, adding a new dimension to a growing body of studies that addresses the relationship of state and cultural production in Latin America. ♦





Dr. **Carmen Mayer-Robin** has published the following article in *Dix-Neuf*: “‘L’heureuse aurore prochaine’: From Narrative Vision in Émile Zola’s *Travail* (1901) to Filmic Utopia in Henri Pouctal’s Silent Film Adaptation (1920).”

Dr. **Sarah Moody** published three articles on Delmira Agustini, Rubén Darío, and Mário Pederneiras. She also continued work on her book project, which received UA summer funding for travel to archives in Lima, Buenos Aires, and Montevideo.

Dr. **Erin O’Rourke** presented at an international Spanish linguistics conference in Spring 2014, and has a co-authored book chapter on code-switching to appear in MIT press in Fall 2014. She also had a co-authored article accepted on Amazonian Spanish language contact.

Over the last year, Dr. **Michael D. Picone** published three articles, delivered papers at five national and international conferences, and led a study abroad program to France.

Dr. **Claudia Romanelli** had an article on Pasolini’s contribution to the writing of Fellini’s *Nights of Cabiria* accepted by *The Italianist Film Issue* and delivered papers at the Screenwriting Research Network International Conference (UW-Madison) and the American Association for Italian Studies International Conference (Zurich, Switzerland). She was recently hired as Assistant Professor of Italian.

Dr. **Michael Schnepf** led a semester long program to Cuba and helped organize two faculty trips as well as a trip of the A&S Leadership Board. He published an article on Galdos, continued to serve as a reader for several journals related to Galdos studies, and spent the summer in Madrid working at the Biblioteca Nacional on the marginalia found in the original manuscripts and galley proofs of Galdos’s novels.



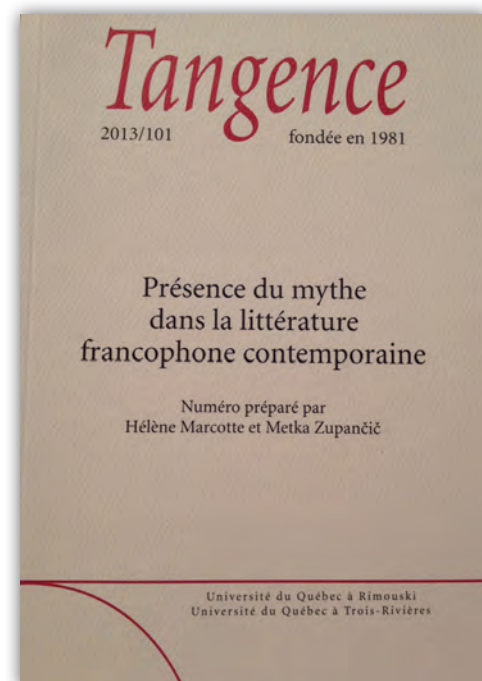
Dr. **Kirk Summers** published an article entitled “The Theoretical Rationale for the Reformed Consistory: Two Key Works of Theodore Beza,” in the 2014 issue of the *Archive for Reformation History*.

Dr. **Tatiana Summers** is the liaison between UA and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She took the first group of UA professors to Thessaloniki this May, gave two presentations at Aristotle University, one on “Women and the Birth of Democracy” and the other on “Female Inferiority—The Origin of the Idea,” and also led a study abroad program to Greece.

Dr. **Karina E. Vázquez** published a book, a book chapter, and two articles. She received the University of Alabama Council for Community-Based Partnerships’ *Distinguished Achievement in Engaged Scholarship* award.

Dr. **Xiang Zhang** served on the board of Directors of the Alabama Chinese Language Teachers Association and led trips to China in summer 2013 and 2014.

Dr. **Metka Zupančič** served as the Vice-President of the Alabama Association of Teachers in French. She co-edited an issue of the journal *Tangence*, published six peer-reviewed articles, one book review, and seven lengthy encyclopedia entries.



## ARABIC

A new Arabic instructor, Ms. **Tami Newberry**, joined the MLC in Fall 2013. Under her leadership, students of Arabic gained a new viewpoint of Arabic language and culture. She was very enthusiastic in developing new teaching strategies and rebuilding the online Arabic curriculum using a new textbook.

Arabic language students **Casey Ellis** and **Charlotte Sheridon** both were awarded AmidEast scholarships to study Arabic in Jordan in Fall 2014.

## CHINESE

Ms. **Ning Yang**, who had been developing online Chinese with **Laurie Arizumi**, joined the staff as a new in-class instructor this year. The UA Chinese Program has been growing tremendously. The enrollment of the lower-level Chinese class has increased, and we will be ready to offer 400-level classes in the near future.

## CLASSICS

The Classics program marks the retirement of its senior faculty member, Dr. **O. Kimball Armayor** and announces the hiring of **Dr. Kelly Shannon**, DPhil (Oxford) to fill the

vacant position. Dr. Shannon specializes in Roman historiography and brings a wealth of talent to the department. The program also hosted two guest-speakers: Dr. **T. Corey Brennan**, Associate Professor of Classics at Rutgers University, on October 4, 2013, who delivered a talk entitled, "New Light on Old Papal Rome: Recent Finds from the Archive of the Boncompagni Ludovisi;" and Dr. **Spyro Pavlides**, Dean of Sciences at

Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece, who spoke on geological phenomena around Troy and Santorini.

Several Classics majors were inducted into the Eta Sigma Phi society in two separate ceremonies over the past year. The program gave out two achievement awards this year, both to **Alex Vawter**, for Outstanding Student in Greek, and Outstanding Student in Latin. Ms. Vawter is graduating and has accepted a fellowship to study Classics and Early Church History at Notre Dame. Many other Classics majors attended the various symposia instituted by our Latin instructor **Alecia Chatham**. We hope that this successful series will become a permanent part of the life of the program.



Dr. **Kirk Summers** published "The Theoretical Rationale for the Reformed Consistory: Two Key Works of Theodore Beza," in *Archive for Reformation History*. Dr. **Anastasia Tsakirpoulou-Summers** joined the delegation of faculty and administrators who visited Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece, in May 2014, and presented a paper on women in Athenian democracy. She also helped to organize this event.

## CRITICAL LANGUAGES CENTER (CLC)

The Critical Languages Center joined in the celebration of the **50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement**, and its "THROUGH THE DOORS: Diversity of the World and Intercultural Connection (DWIC)" with a series of events during International Education Week. The kick-off event was "Insight into Korean Business" with guest lecturer, Mr. **Duk Kim**, the director of business development for the Montgomery Korean Association.

Other events included a World Musical Performance at Ferguson Plaza, the Annual CLC Exotic Food Tasting Trip, and International Movie Nights. Events were very successful to promote diversity and interest in culture and language among students and community.

The Korean language program is booming. **Samantha Kirby** and **Chris Chadwick** who took Korean classes at CLC have been accepted from the English Program in Korea (EPIK: <http://www.epik.go.kr/EPIK/html/main.jsp>) and are now performing as EPIK teachers in Korea. CLC is seeking a more advanced way to develop the evaluation system using a computerized ACTFL proficiency test this year. **Kevin Fox** passed the Advanced Low level.

This year's innovation is a totally new language class, **Beginning Modern Nahuatl** (CRL Critical Language 101). Nahuatl is an Aztec language spoken in certain places in Mexico.

MLC faculty members Dr. **Michael Picone**, Dr. **Ignacio Rodeno**, and Dr. **Karina Vazquez** were brave enough to join this class and learned a new language with Ms. **Liliana Scherlyn Hernandez Martinez**, who is a native speaker of this rare language. This was a totally experimental class and no other universities in the US have tried to develop Modern Nahuatl, even though a few schools offer classical Nahuatl.

## FRENCH

In the past academic year, the French Program hosted two guest speakers. Dr. **Stephen Fleck**, from CSU Long Beach, gave a lecture titled "Men in Tights, in Drag, and in Doctor's Robes: What Are Those Molière Protagonists Really up to?" (organized by Dr. **Robin**). Dr. **Arthur Spears**, from CUNY, NY, gave two lectures, "Haitian Creole: Language, Culture and Education," and "African American English: Race, Grammar and History" (organized by Dr. **Picone**).





and an Arts and Sciences Distinguished Undergraduate Scholar award. **Joanna Robinson** (BA 2014, FLLT-German and Anthropology) has a teaching assistantship awarded through the Austrian-American Educational Commission. Major **Eric Schulz** (double majoring with Mechanical Engineering) has an internship with Mercedes Benz, and a spring nomination for "Excellent Undergraduate" in the University's Undergraduate Magazine. German minor **Gabriele Taylor** received a Fulbright award to teach in Germany.

## ITALIAN

The Italian Program welcomes Dr. **Claudia Romanelli** as our newest Assistant Professor of Italian in Fall 2014. In the Fall we welcomed Ms. **Daniela Busciglio** to UA as our new full-time instructor in Italian.

On February 18, 2014 the UA Italian Club invited Drs. **Maurizio** and **Barbara Godorecci** to a poetry reading and discussion of *Tra li fjeume/Between Rivers*. There was a lively discussion with club members regarding dialects and the Italian language and questions of translation.

**Barbara Godorecci** presented a paper entitled "The Test of Translation: Petrarch's Re-writing of Boccaccio's One-Hundredth Novella" at the 2014 MLA Conference in Chicago.

**Maurizio Godorecci** has had two publications come out this year. The first, a translation of "Il torto e il diritto delle traduzioni"—"Translations' Right and Wrong"—the first English translation of the seminal text by Giovanni Gentile; and the second, an essay on the theory and practice of translation, entitled "Giovanni Gentile: Translation at a

Crossroads." Both appear in the *Journal of Italian Translation (JIT)*, [Volume VIII, Number 1: 2013].

**Gabriella Merriam** served as a member of the College Board Committee responsible for the

development of the SAT Subject Test in Italian at the ETS campus in Princeton, New Jersey. She is currently working with Dr. **Philip Delannoy** on a second Italian grammar book, and will be directing the UA-in-Italy: Language and Culture summer program in Florence again this year. Gabriella also serves on the Campus Security and Safety Committee at UA.



**Claudia Romanelli** has an article entitled "Pasolini collaboratore di Fellini: Analisi del contributo dato da Pier Paolo Pasolini alla scrittura de *Le notti di Cabiria*" forthcoming in the Film Issue of *The Italianist*, and has submitted another article for publication in the journal *Film History*. Dr. Romanelli presented a paper, "Pasolini Writes Fellini," at the Sixth International Screenwriting Research Network Conference at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August 2013, and will be presenting another paper, "Ibridismo letterario e culturale ne *Il padre selvaggio* di Pier Paolo Pasolini," at the American Association for Italian Studies (AAIS) conference in Zurich, Switzerland in May 2014. Dr. Romanelli is the faculty advisor for the Italian Club.

We congratulate our ten "Most Outstanding in Italian" award recipients for this academic year: **Michael Byrd, Elizabeth Patton, Elizabeth DiSalvo, Carissa Schreiber, Emily Gaetano, Georgia Smith, Kayla Gann, Angela Szasz, Abraham Ortiz, and Emily Williams**. The following three students in Italian have been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa: **Elizabeth S. Abernathy, Casey M. Stephenson, and Matthew J. Lollar**. Congratulations to **Eric Bordlee**, recipient of the "2014 Outstanding Senior Award" sponsored by the UA National Alumni Association. Eric has also been honored as an A&S Student Ambassador for 2013–14.

In other student news, Ms. **Kelsey Hackler** is pursuing an M.A. degree in Italian at the University of Florida. Auguri a tutti!

## JAPANESE

The University of Alabama was a recipient of the Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) Program by the Japan Foundation and Laurasian Institution for 2013–15, with help from the Tuscaloosa Sister City Commission (Director, **Lisa Keyes**). Ms. **Yumi Miyatake**, the appointed JOI coordinator, arrived in August 2013 and started introducing Japanese culture to various schools in West Alabama including UA. We are honored to have this opportunity, for only eight JOI representatives were sent to the US this year. Dr. Koji Arizumi is Ms. Miyatake's local supervisor.

It was an extremely successful year for UA Japanese faculty and the Japan America Cultural Exchange Club's second annual Japanese Fall Festival. The event drew a huge crowd at Ferguson Center.





**Chika Kobayashi, Koji Arizumi** and **Yuria Blackwood** (Head Japanese Online tutor) took several students to the sixth **South Central Japanese Speech Contest** at Tougaloo College, Mississippi on April 5, 2014. JA302 student **Ashley Haugland** won the “Judge’s Special Award.”

The University of Alabama was accepted as a representative school for the Japanese government’s “KAKEHASHI” project for 2014. UA will send 21 students all expenses paid to Japan for ten days in July to August. This is an honor for our university to send representatives of the American education system to Japan. Many chosen students were students of MLC Japanese.

Many third and fourth year students took the JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) in December 2013. **Kelsey Yates** (fourth year) and **Lin Cen** (third year) passed N2 (the second highest level). **Zhixin Tan, Conor Yanul,** and **Nicholas Crenshaw** (all fourth year) passed N1 (the highest level). This is extremely rare since many people who passed N1 are post-graduate college level. Many professors in other universities in the South are amazed at our high level.

Online Japanese, under **Laurie Arizumi**, continues to grow with nearly 40 students. During the summer, Laurie will begin developing online JA 201 and then online JA 202 to draw even more distance learners and Early College students.

## RUSSIAN

The Russian program had two students participate in intensive programs in the past year. **Jenny Shelton** participated in the summer program at the University of Pittsburgh and **Jennifer Landry** participated in a study-abroad summer program in Irkutsk. Landry was also inducted into Dobro Slovo in April and Shelton was recognized as the ACTR Post-Secondary Russian Scholar Laureate and was honored on stage at the ceremony held by the College of Arts and Sciences. This year’s winners of the Strong Memorial Scholarship were **Campbell A. Dobbs** and **Rachel A. Brasier**.

The Strong Memorial Scholarship has been transformed into an endowed scholarship in the past year. The College of Arts and Sciences contributed the necessary funds to raise the Russian Gift Fund to an endowed fund and this secures the future of the scholarship for the foreseeable future.

Current events in Eastern Europe caused quite a stir on campus and in order to meet the requests for information the Russian program set up a forum on the current situation in Ukraine in March. Participating in the forum were Dr. **Barbara Chotiner** (Political Science) and Dr. **Margaret Peacock** (History) and **Andrew M. Drozd** (MLC).

Finally, the Russian program notes that its long-time colleague and supporter in Political Science, Dr. **Barbara Chotiner**, has retired from the University of Alabama. The program wishes her all the best.

## SPANISH

The Spanish section had a very successful year, with increasing enrollments in all levels of classes resulting in greater numbers of Spanish minors and majors. The study abroad programs—Alabama in Spain, directed by Dr. **Cano**, and Alabama in Cuba, directed by Dr. **Schnepf**—remain very popular with undergraduates. The Spanish Club offered a variety of activities for students to practice their Spanish outside the classroom, including dance and cooking lessons, poetry slams, and the Spanish Film Series.

Editorial Biblos in Buenos Aires published *Aprendices, fabriqueras y obreros. El trabajo industrial en la narrativa argentina del siglo XX (1930–2007)*, a book written by Dr. **Karina Vázquez**. Dr. Vázquez also arranged for her students to offer guided tours in Spanish at the Alabama Museum of Natural History at UA; they also performed plays and hosted a Scrabble event at Holt Elementary School. As a result of this extensive community involvement, Dr. Vázquez was named a Distinguished Community-Engaged Scholar-Faculty by UA’s Center for Community Based Partnerships.

Drs. **Vázquez** and **Baquero-Pecino** co-organized an Interdisciplinary Symposium on Latin American Post-Dictatorships in which UA students and professors exchanged research projects with faculty and students from other universities. In addition to faculty presentations by Drs. Vázquez, Baquero-Pecino, and **Rojas-Arce**, UA students presenting at the symposium included **Sarah Langcuster, Seth Roberts,** and **Gabbi Wilson**.

The Spanish Clubs Convention, co-organized by Drs. **Moody** and **O’Rourke**, brought hundreds of high school students to campus for a day of competitions and artistic presentations focused on the Spanish language and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

Dr. **Sarah Moody** received a grant from the Research Grants Committee. Drs. **Vázquez** and **Worden** spent a week in Havana participating in the Alabama-Cuba initiative. Dr. **Shirin Posner** observed UA students tutoring in local schools in her role as Director of the Spanish Outreach program; she also served as an AP Table Leader for the Spanish Language and Culture Exam. Drs. **Moody, Rodeño, Vázquez,** and **Baquero-Pecino** all presented papers at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) conference in Chicago. ♦



**Ana Capanegra** (PhD Spanish, 2014) has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Romance Languages at the University of West Alabama. In addition to teaching Spanish, Ana will work with UWA's College of Education to help train Spanish teachers.



*Vivian Chen and Ben Dawson*

**Ben Dawson** (1999 Classics major, Business minor) currently resides near Sacramento, CA and works for Capital Corrugated. "I'm still making boxes," he says, "but I write the best emails in the company, referencing the wine-dark sea and referring to my underlings as hoplites." He is married to Vivian Chen, who is wrapping up a veterinary pathology residency there. As fate would have it, Vivian is sister to **Frances Chen** (2005 Classics), who resides in LA while she completes a pediatric cardiology fellowship. Ben spends his free time racing cars with a team and actually stood on the victory podium at Laguna Seca for his prowess in an Opel GT, aka the Tinyvette.

**Michael Dillon** (PhD Spanish, 2005) is an Associate Professor of Spanish and Chair of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages at Morehouse College in Atlanta. Before beginning at Morehouse, Michael spent seven years at Piedmont College in Georgia, where he was promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor and where he was also the Instructional Technology Coordinator. Michael's field of expertise is Latin American Cinema, specifically Ecuadorean cinema and film posters. The Ecuadorean National Film Archive recently published his book *Ecuadorean Film Poster 1963–2013*. As Chair of his department, Michael is active in promoting languages while serving as a bridge between students, faculty and administration.

**Ally Firestone** (MA Spanish, 2014) will be teaching Spanish at Rockmart High School in Georgia.



*Romy and Joshua Frank*

**Romy (Proschmann) Frank** (MA German, 2008; MA English as a Second Language, 2011) has been working since 2012 at the Vanderbilt University

English Center. She teaches courses like Academic Speaking and Academic Writing, as well as discipline-specific English courses in Education and Law to international students. She is also one of two Assessment Coordinators.

**Joshua Frank** (BA German and Philosophy 2009, University Honors Program, summa cum laude, University Scholars Program; MA German 2011) is currently completing exams in his final semester at Vanderbilt Law School and graduates in May, 2014. Afterwards, he sits for the Tennessee bar in July and begins work as an associate at Barrett Johnston, LLC in Nashville in the fall, where his work will consist of civil litigation with a focus on employment and civil rights law.



*Donald E. Hall*

**Donald E. Hall** (BA German and Political Science, 1981), University of Illinois (MA Comparative Literature, 1984), and The University of Maryland (PhD English, 1991). He taught in the English Department of California State University–Northridge for 13 years,

held an endowed research chair and chaired the Department of English at West Virginia University until 2011, and has served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Lehigh University since 2011. He is the author or editor of 11 books, including *The Routledge Queer Studies Reader*, and currently sits on the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association.

On February 28, 2014, **Melissa Henderson** successfully defended her MA thesis in French. Titled "La femme stendhalienne et l'amour courtois dans *Le Rouge et le noir*," it was directed by Dr. Carmen Mayer-Robin. Melissa is currently a PhD student in French literature, at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

**Brianne Kobeck** (PhD Spanish, 2013) will be starting in the Fall as an Assistant Professor of Spanish at Covenant College in Georgia.



*Florina Matu*

**Dr. Florina Matu** defended her dissertation "La honte et la culpabilité: destins de femmes dans les récits algériens du XXe et XXIe



siècle" in February 2012 (under the direction of Dr. Metka Zupančič). She spent two years teaching French at the University of Memphis, Tennessee, and recently started her appointment at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, as an Assistant Professor in French, a tenure-track position.

The Classics program congratulates former major **Ashley Phares** upon the completion of her studies in dental medicine at the University of Connecticut; recently married, she currently practices dentistry in Florida. Two other majors, **Christin Byars Smith** and **Jennifer Davis Joy**, have taken Latin teaching positions at Mountain Brook Jr. High and Altamont (Birmingham) respectively.

**Richard Newton**, who studied Japanese at UA, published the book *Dancing over Kyoto. A Memoir of Japan, China, and India*, under the pen name Richard Russell.



*Ismênia Sales de Souza holding award*

**Ismênia Sales de Souza** (PhD Spanish, 2007) is an Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado where she teaches Spanish literature and advanced Portuguese classes. In addition to publishing articles on 19th-century Spanish literature and on foreign language pedagogy, she is also writing a Portuguese textbook focused on advanced grammar and conversation. Ismênia has won several teaching awards at the Air Force Academy and has led cadets on study abroad programs both in Portugal and Brazil. She is the director of the National Portuguese Exams for the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), and also serves as a peer reviewer for *Hispania*, the official journal of the AATSP.

**Chelsea Tanous** defended her MA thesis entitled "Embodied activities and negotiation of meaning: A case study on French informal and classroom conversation," under the direction of Dr. Isabelle Drewelow, on March 7, 2014. Chelsea is currently pursuing a PhD in education at University of California, Santa Barbara. ♦

## NEW MLC FACES

The Department hired three new tenure-track professors during 2013–14:



Bryan Koronkiewicz,  
Spanish Linguistics.  
PhD, University of  
Illinois-Chicago



Claudia Romanelli,  
Italian Film. PhD,  
University of Wisconsin-  
Madison



Kelly Shannon, Classics.  
PhD, Oxford University

In addition, the department hired the following Instructors:

Xabier Granja, Elizabeth Grassman, Dani Peterson, Dr. Laura Rojas (all Spanish); Daniela Busciglio (Italian); Alecia Chatham (Classics); Dr. Safa Elnaili (Arabic); Mareen Fuchs (German); Ning Yang (Chinese).

## MLC DONORS

The Department would like to thank the following for their generous support during 2013–14:

For contributions to the Barbara Fischer Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund:

**Dr. Chelcy Bowles and William Peden**  
**Valerie J. Jones**  
**Patricia and Richard McNeil**

For scholarship support of German Day, German and Business, German and Engineering, and Study in Germany:  
**Mercedes Benz U.S. International**

For support of the Japanese Program:  
**Dr. Jack Perry Strong**

The University of Alabama  
Department of Modern Languages and Classics  
Box 870246  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0246

## ELAINE MARTIN RETIRES

Dr. Elaine Martin retired from the German program after 32 years of service. The program and the department thank her for her many contributions. These included serving as faculty advisor of the Hans and Sophie Scholl House (German House living learning community) for many years, as director of the German program, as a co-advisor for the German undergraduate program, and also as director of the World Literature program. Her research over the years centered on three topics: writings by women about the Nazi era, the filming of works from Romanticism, and the representations of terrorism in literature and film. In the course of her career at UA she presented 75 conference papers, gave 15 invited



*Elaine Martin*

lectures, edited a book of essays, and published 32 essays in various journals and collections of essays. She also published 24 book reviews and interviewed 25 German and Austrian women who had written about the Nazi era. She taught at many levels throughout the undergraduate and graduate curricula, with courses ranging from German as a foreign language, cinema, and literature, with class topics varying from Romanticism to the 20th century and terrorism. She also coordinated the October 2002 Southern Comparative Literature Association meeting on the UA campus. The faculty thank Elaine Martin for all

she has accomplished, and wish her the best as she continues actively researching. ♦