The Chairs
Elizabeth Ametsbichler and Jannine Montauban, co-chairs:
Once again, we come to the close of an academic year. It is always exciting to see our graduating seniors embracing a new phase in their lives as they start new jobs, study abroad programs, internships, teaching positions, and graduate programs. We all in MCLL wish them the best of luck for the future! We would also like to say goodbye and send our best wishes to this year’s Teaching Assistants: Ellina Sattarova and Mario Roither in German and Lucie Jammes and Seth Barnes in French. We are sad to say goodbye to Visiting Adjunct Assistant Professor Sonia Balasch who became an integral part of the department this past year. All our best for her in her new position!

MCLL is very grateful to alumni and friends who have so graciously and generously supported the department with their donations over the years. Such gifts help us to enhance our students’ experience in the classroom and in study abroad programs.

We are happy to report that Foreign Language Day (March 1) was again successful. Glacier High School (Kalispell) sent the most students this year, forty-six, closely followed by Bozeman with forty-four. In total, 368 students participated. Of the twenty-nine chaperones, thirteen were UM alumni.

Next semester, MCLL once again will house the Arabic program. We look forward to working with them and heartily welcome them back.

We just received news about promotions and merit awards that will begin with the next AY contract. Our congratulations to Clint Walker who will be promoted to Associate Professor and to Eduardo Chirinos and Ona Renner-Fahey who will receive merit awards.

We would like to wish everyone a restful and productive summer. See you in the fall!

Classics
Ellen Boland was chosen as the section’s Outstanding Senior for Mortar Board. She has been a Presidential Leadership Scholar at the Davidson Honors College and next fall will begin graduate school in Classics at the University of Colorado-Boulder.


Linda Gillison, Professor, will participate in the Green Thread Initiative this summer.
**Matt Semanoff, Associate Professor**, was granted sabbatical leave for AY 2013-2014 to conduct research on fantastic and romantic ethnographic descriptions of the cultures on the extreme borders of the Greek world.

2013 Greece Study Abroad photo courtesy of Matt Semanoff

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**French**

The Outstanding Senior chosen for the French Section is **Ilse Mehus** who has been awarded a Teaching Assistantship in France for AY 2013-2014. Two Robert M. Burgess Memorial Scholarships were awarded to French students **Samuel Ryan** and **Kari Shelkey**. A Marguerite Ephron was awarded to **Kara Doescher**, and **Michelle Maddock** received the Edith B. Hamilton Memorial Scholarship, all from MCLL.

**Bénédicte Boisseron, Associate Professor**, conducted research on the history of food in Guadeloupe, in the French Antilles in January. Her research, supported by a generous UM grant, is part of her new book project that focuses on food and (post-)colonialism in the Caribbean. Her book manuscript, *Creole Renegade: The Rhetoric of Betrayal and Guilt in the Caribbean Diaspora* is under contract with the University Press of Florida.

**Michel Valentin, Professor**, was a participant and respondent at the Colloquium of the Northern Rockies Psychoanalytic Institute (NRPI), “Listening for the Unconscious: Radical Dialogue between Schools of Thought,” in Livingston (MT) April 12-13.

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**German**

Two recent German graduates (December 2012) have received Fulbright Scholarship award notifications to teach English in Germany next year: **Paul Asleson** and **Alice Kребill**. Paul was also selected for the Teach for America program, which he will defer for one year. **Ellina Sattarova** is receiving her M.A. this month and has been accepted into a PhD program in Film and Slavic Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. The Outstanding Senior in German is **Chelsea Seddon**. **Irvan Bubic** was awarded the Rose Southworth Megee Scholarship from the College of Arts and Sciences, and **Erin Hasty** received the CAS Helen J. Olson scholarship. Erin also was recently accepted to the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) internXchange program. She is one of fourteen students from the U.S. and Canada who will spend six weeks at the *Freie Universität Berlin* before conducting an intensive five-week internship in public relations in Berlin.

**Robert W. Acker, Professor Emeritus and former MCLL Chair**, was recently elected to serve as the first president of the newly constituted UM Retirees’ Association: [www.umt.edu/retirees](http://www.umt.edu/retirees)

**Elizabeth Ametsbichler, Professor** and UM Student Fulbright Program Advisor is happy to report that eight UM students have received award notifications for AY 2013-2014.

**Hiltrud Arens, Professor**, is currently teaching at the University of Potsdam, one of UM’s partner universities, supported in part by the Office of International Programs.

**Marty Marko, Associate Professor**, remains actively involved with the Montana Association of Language Teachers. He attended MALT’s spring meeting April 5-6 in Big Sky, where he had the chance to meet and network with language teachers and professionals across the state. Marty would like to encourage MCLL faculty to keep strong ties with our teaching colleagues in Montana, as it is important for the success of language programs at all levels in Big Sky Country. Marty is also editor of the *MALT Bulletin*. 
Japanese

Rob Tuck and Brian Dowdle, Assistant Professors, served as co-advisors this year for the Japanese Student Association (JSA). Japanese major Eugene Elzinga, the current president of JSA, was nominated for an Outstanding Student Leadership Award at UM this spring. The JSA was itself nominated for a Sentinel Service Award. Claire Froelich was chosen as the section’s outstanding senior for Mortar Board. She is the recipient of numerous scholarships from MCLL, as well as the Japanese government for Study Abroad in Japan. Randi Edwards has received a Mortar Board award for her outstanding service to JSA. She has been hired as a JET Assistant Language Teacher and will leave for Japan at the end of August. Also, Monica Reid received a Marguerite Ephron Scholarship and Abby Eckstein received a Robert M. Burgess Scholarship from MCLL.

Rob Tuck was successful in obtaining research grants from UM’s Yamaguchi Fund and an external grant from the Association of Asian Studies. He will use the funds to do archival research in Tokyo over the summer.

This summer, Brian Dowdle has been invited to participate in a summer institute titled “Histories of the Japanese Book: Past, Present, Future” to be held at the University of California, Santa Barbara, May 31 - June 2. He will present an ongoing research project on nineteenth-century literature and the printing industry in Japan.

Russian

In April, Renee Stillings, the Director of the School of Russian and Asian Studies, an organization that designs and oversees study abroad programs across Eurasia, spoke to Russian language classes about study abroad opportunities. Later that month, Thomas Seifrid, the chair of the Slavic department at the University of Southern California (and UM alumnus), gave a public lecture at UM on Anna Karenina.

Two Russian students will start PhD programs in Slavic in fall 2013. Justin Trifiro, currently studying in St. Petersburg on a Gilman Scholarship, has been granted a Presidential Scholarship at the University of Southern California. He is also the Outstanding Senior in Russian. Taylor Keister has been offered graduate school funding at the University of Kansas. Two Russian students, Mark Jackson and Greta Starrett have received Fulbright Scholarship award notifications. Mark will be teaching English in Kazakhstan and Greta in Georgia. Travis Vincent is an alternate for an award to conduct research in Russia. Again this year, Russian students distinguished themselves in the annual national essay contest sponsored by the American Council of Teachers of Russian. With fifty-five colleges and universities competing, Dakota Whistler won a second-place medal and Justin Davis an Honorable Mention. He also was awarded the Phil Maloney Memorial Scholarship (MCLL). Anastasia Gore and Matthew Cassel each received a Robert M. Burgess Memorial Scholarship (MCLL).

This semester, Ona Renner-Fahey, Associate Professor, presented a lecture titled “The Roots of Russian Folk Belief” for the Alumni Association Community Lecture Series "Russia on the Oval.” This spring, she also taught a MOLLI course for the first time: “Inspiration and Poetic Creation in 20th-century Russian Literature.”
In April, **Clint Walker, Assistant Professor**, gave a paper on the writer Andrei Platonov’s conception of love in the 1930s at the Symposium in Honor of Judith Kornblatt at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also presented a talk for the “Russian on the Oval” series, titled “The Other Russian Revolution: How Russia Revolutionized the Arts.” In February, he gave a presentation for the Film Studies Faculty Seminar entitled “The Legacy of Stalinism in Russian and Soviet Cinema.”

**Spanish**

**Jane Reynolds** is the Outstanding Senior in Spanish. She will start the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology at UM this coming fall.

**Sonia Balasch, Visiting Adjunct Assistant Professor**, attended the 24th Conference on Spanish in the United States and the 9th Conference on Spanish in Contact with Other Languages at the University of Texas Pan American in McAllen on March 6-9, 2013. She was part of the panel "Code-switching in New Mexico" and presented the paper: "La marca diferencial de objeto en español en contacto con inglés y en español exento de este contacto.”

**Maria J. Bustos Fernandez, Professor**, was granted a Mini-Sabbatical to attend a two-week workshop, “Introduction to Discourse analysis,” as part of the 43rd University of Essex Summer School in Social Sciences in July.

**Eduardo Chirinos, Professor**, published a new poetry book titled *35 lecciones de biología (y tres crónicas didácticas)* in Granada, Spain (Valparaíso, 2013) and two academic articles: “Del poema largo y sus alrededores.” *Cuadernos Hispanoamericanos* 753 (2013): 59-77 and “Medir y pesar a Cisneros a este lado del canal.” *Libros & Artes. Revista de Cultura de la Biblioteca Nacional del Perú* 58-59 (2012): 20-21. In March, he participated in the *Colloque international “Le soufflé long...”* (Toulouse, France) where he presented the paper “Del poema largo y sus alrededores: un acercamiento a las estrategias de Altazor, Muerte sin fin y Piedra de sol.” In April, he gave two poetry readings in Spain: one in Granada (organized by the Cátedra García Lorca and the Secretariado de Extensión Universitaria de la Universidad de Granada), and one in Málaga (organized by Centro Cultural “Generación del 27” and Dickinson College). Also in April, he visited Kenyon College (Ohio), where he gave a poetry reading accompanied by his English translator Gary J. Racz, and Tufts University, where he presented the conference "Poesía visual y la poesía fonética en la post-vanguardia hispanoamericana" and read poetry.

**Clary Loisel, Professor**, directed a successful Study Abroad Program in Santiago de Chile. Students attended the Universidad Mayor in Santiago de Chile and completed several academic activities and participated in cultural events.

**Jannine Montauban, Professor**, gave a paper titled “Ecos y discursos especulares en El muerto disimulado de Ángela de Azevedo” at the 2013 Association for Hispanic Classical Theater Symposium on Golden Age Theater at El Paso, Texas (March 7-9).

Professor Montauban and Professor Chirinos’s book-length translation titled *A Blue Monk Eats Pink Raisins. Poems by José Garcia Villa* appeared in April 2013 (Madrid: Visor). This is the first time the poems by this Filipino author appear in Spanish.