

# MCLL News

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Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures

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## The Chair

**Robert W. Acker, Professor** – Our semester has gotten off to a great start and we are once again serving a large number of students in very full classes. Even though we carry heavy teaching loads we continue to excel in our service and research commitments as witnessed below. My congratulations to all of you who serve the profession so admirably.

## Classics

**Linda Gillison, Professor** - Two of our advanced Classics students, Karra Cuplin and Lonnie Alexander, are spending the semester in Athens with The College Year in Athens. Lonnie may stay for the entire academic year. Karra will return in December. They will be studying Greek language (Modern, Ancient), Athenian Topography, and various art history, archaeology, and literary topics which relate to the Greek world—Prehistoric Aegean through Classical, Byzantine, and Modern. They are supported by scholarships from MCLL, Classics, and The College Year in Athens. They are the first UM-M students who have participated in this exciting and long-established program of study.

**Matthew Semanoff, Assistant Professor** - During spring semester, MCLG 295: Nature and Environment in Classical Antiquity will be offered as a sophomore seminar. In this class, students will explore how Greeks and Romans interacted with the world around them, how they described that world in prose, poetry, and other art, how they explained that world, and how they used it to explain themselves. Sources will include the poetry of Homer, Hesiod, Euripides, Lucretius, Virgil, and Ovid as well as the Natural Philosophy of the Pre-Socratics, Aristotle, Theophrastus, and Pliny the Elder. Topics covered over the semester will be: cosmogony, deforestation, evolution, famine, pre-industrial peasant economy, human interaction with the landscape through engineering, agriculture, etc.

In A Reading and Discussion Series on Jewish Literature I will be facilitating discussions on five

books dealing with the themes of estrangement and homecoming. The series was made possible through a grant from the American Library Association and Nextbook, and is hosted at the Missoula Public Library. The series includes discussions on Eva Hoffman's *Lost in Translation*, Saul Bellow's *Mr. Sammler's Planet*, Moacyr Scliar's *The Centaur in the Garden*, Allegra Goodman's *Kaaterskill Falls*, and André Aciman's *Out of Egypt*. Discussions will be held on, Oct. 4, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, and Dec. 6.

**Barbara Weinlich, Visiting Assistant Professor**, has just been informed that her article “The Story of a Poet’s Apologetic Emancipation” has been accepted for publication in a special issue of *Helios* (Lubbock, Tex.). Titled *Narrators and Narrative in Roman Elegy*, this issue will present readings of Roman Elegy through the lens of Mieke Bal, Gérard Genette, and Paul Ricoeur, and a response to the contributions by guest editor Duncan Kennedy (Bristol).

## German

**Marton Marko, Assistant Professor** - After meeting as a German conversation group in recent years, an assembly of students in the department and campus-wide involved with things German and Central European are currently working to formalize the German Club as a recognized ASUM-sponsored organization. The German Club will keep the department updated on developments toward official status and events which it will host during the fall and in the coming spring semester. Planned happenings for the fall thus far include a soccer match with the Cercle Francophone and a winter holiday party Central European-style toward the end of the semester. We are also hoping to host a German poetry slam where students, faculty, and all interested can feature their own compositions in German or the share some of their German-language favorites. A German film series is also in the planning for the spring semester. In the meanwhile, the German conversation group will continue its weekly meetings Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm at Bear’s Brew Café at 1221 Helen Avenue, a block west of campus. Students, faculty, staff, and members of the local community are all welcome

and encouraged to attend! If anyone is interested in planning collaborative events or would like more general information about what the German Club is up to this fall, please contact German Club advisor Marty Marko at [marton.marko@mso.umt.edu](mailto:marton.marko@mso.umt.edu) or drop by Marty's office in LA 435.

## Russian

~~Ona Renner-Fahey, Assistant Professor~~ - Russian Club has begun its weekly Conversation Table. Students, faculty, and any interested community members are welcome to drop in. All levels are welcome. Russian Conversation Table is held at World of Wings (WOW) across the foot bridge every Wednesday beginning at 5:30.

## Spanish

~~Maria Bustos, Professor~~ - Everything OK here in Argentina. I am preparing the course I will start in a couple of weeks in Salta (three hours from Tucuman where I am staying) and then in November I will teach a graduate seminar in Tucuman itself. At the same time I have gotten in touch with a research group called "Pensamiento Argentino" which is formed by professors from the Universidad Nacional de Tucuman and some graduate students. My goodness! These people are really informed on theory and many recent publications. So, far I have gone to only one of their meetings but I am already impressed at their level of discussions. So overall I am having a very good and enriching experience over here.

Next week I will be attending a meeting on Social Anthropology in Salta where people from all over Latin American are coming. I was not aware of this meeting so I did not send any abstract or prepare anything but I will attend, some of the people I know here have recommended this meeting so I will go anyways even if I don't read a paper.

Well, I will keep you posted on my activities here. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the department or the section needs anything from me. I am not on sabbatical!! So students are welcome to contact me and "use" me if necessary.

~~Eduardo Chirinos, Associate Professor~~ - This was a very productive summer for me. The 25th anniversary edition of my first poetry book, *Cuadernos de Horacio Morell*, (Lima: Editorial Estruendo Mudo / Universidad Sedes Sapientiae) came out in May. This hard cover edition includes not only my own drawings, but also critical

commentaries and testimonies by other Peruvian writers. The journal *Literal Latin American Voices* published translations of my poems and the Mexican journal, *Tragaluz* (Guadalajara, México) included my article on the famous Spanish poet María Victoria Atencia ("Debajo de cualquier belleza yace dormido un león") in its summer issue. From August 9-17, I was the guest writer at the Casa de Poesía Silva in Bogotá, Colombia, as part of their celebration of their 20th anniversary. Throughout the year, they will invite poets and critics from several Spanish American countries to discuss the current state of poetry in the Spanish speaking world. My activities as guest writer included several poetry readings in institutions like the Casa de Poesía Silva (August 10), Universidad de las Américas (August 14), Universidad Nacional (August 16), and in the city of Santa Marta (August 11), where I also gave a poetry Workshop on August 12. My visit ended with an academic presentation on contemporary Peruvian poetry entitled: "Poesía peruana entre la tradición y la orfandad," on August 17 at the Casa de Poesía Silva.

~~Clary Loisel, Associate Professor~~ - As part of the MCLL Study Abroad Program, I will serve as the director (from the Spanish Section) and take twelve students to Oaxaca, Mexico, for the spring semester 2007. All students will attend classes at the Instituto Cultural Oaxaca. Que viva México!

~~Kelly Noe, Lecturer~~ - Last week many representatives from the University of Montana participated in a three-day, three-city promotional tour visiting several high schools in Montana. Professor of French, Chris Anderson, and Lecturer of Spanish, Kelly Noe, represented the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures. The tour began in Helena, then went to Livingston, and concluded in Billings. Faculty and staff taught classes to Montanan high school students, hoping to motivate them to continue their studies at the college or university level. One focus of the tour was to communicate to Montanans that low-to-moderate income students with a desire to get a college education can find affordable ways to attend the University of Montana. For the UM representatives, one of the tour's highlights was boarding the 1950's rail car, the Silver Cloud, in Helena and riding through the scenic Montana countryside to the historical train depot at Livingston. Not only did the Silver Cloud Train Tour benefit high school students, but it also cemented new and old friendships between faculty, staff and administrators.