

MCLL News

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Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures

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The Chair

The semester is nearing the half-way point—how time flies! The first round of scheduling for the coming academic year has been completed, the Russian search is progressing well, and mid-terms are coming up next week. I encourage you all to contribute to the MALT Bulletin (see Marty's statement below). I would also encourage you to attend the MALT Spring Conference in Butte on April 27th and 28th—I think it is very important to foster good relations with our colleagues in the high schools. In that regard, don't forget—our **25th Annual Foreign Language Day** for high school students and their teachers is coming up on March 9. We are all looking forward to receiving our visitors from around the State—we have a wide variety of activities planned for them!

Classics

Jim Scott continues to translate the Latin Jesuit Index of the Rocky Mountain Missions primarily during the years of Fr. Pierre DeSmet. Scott is doing the Latin translation for Dr. Sally Thompson of the Regional Learning Project on campus.

French

Chris Anderson attended the Presidential Outreach Tour to Anaconda and Butte Central and was happy to find a former student teaching at Butte Central. Anaconda has a strong first year program in French destined to be eliminated.

What do we know about Time? A lecture by Dr. Etienne Klein, Atomic Energy Commission of France / Ecole Centrale-Paris, will be presented on Monday, March 12, 2007. It will be at 7:00 in GBB 123. This lecture will be presented in English and is free and open to the

public. It is sponsored by Alliance Francaise of Missoula.

German

Hiltrud Arens left on February 20th with eleven students on the German Study Abroad Program. The group will spend about ten days in Berlin before heading to Austria, where they will spend the rest of the semester in Vienna.

Fasching Fun! On Fat Tuesday (February 20) the German Club lit up LA 336 and hosted *Faschingsfest*, also known in parts of Germany as *Karneval*. Guests, which included UM students and faculty as well as visitors from Hellgate High School, enjoyed holiday treats and played games, all to the frenzied beat of Austrian and German 80's phenom's Falco ("Der Kommissar", "Rock Me, Amadeus") and Nena ("99 Luftballons"), among other Central European rockin' greats. A reminder: The fun continues *every* Tuesday at German Table: Tuesdays at 6:00 pm at Bear's Brew Café. Come on by!

Contribute to the MALT Bulletin! Marty Marko writes: I am editing this year's Montana Association of Language Teachers annual bulletin, which will appear later in the spring. I extend an invitation to all to offer any contributions you would like in the form of announcements, tips, notes, articles, or essays, which may touch on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to: pedagogical approaches and ideas used in the classroom, applications of technology / technologies in your teaching (including web resources), study and visits abroad, reports on language / literature / culture – related events, samples of your research (in such areas as language acquisition and pedagogy, literature, film studies, cultural studies, etc.), networking experiences / ideas between campuses and

schools here in Montana and / or elsewhere, personal notes / bio features (on students or instructors), language program administration, the state of the profession and ideas for the future. If you have questions or would like to consider offering a submission, please feel free to contact me or simply send in a contribution. Electronic submissions would be preferable, but hard copy may be accepted, as well. Feel free to include photos and graphics! My e-mail address: marton.marko@mso.umt.edu. Submission deadline: April 2, 2007 (Monday following spring break). Many thanks!

Russian

Russian Club will be participating in the International Festival again this year which takes place in March. We will have a display table with such traditional Russian objects as a samovar, carved folk art, costumes, etc. Russian Club will also be selling traditional cookies and pastries at the display table. Our students of Russian will also be volunteering their time at the festival's Children's World, helping kids make bookmarks with their names written in Cyrillic. Between all the baking, the setting up, and the manning of the two tables, the students really put a lot of time into this annual event, yet every year they find it very rewarding and look forward to participating in it each year.

Seven first-year Russian students were nominated by their professor to participate in an annual national essay contest run by the American Council of Teachers of Russian. MCLL has generously supported our participation in this contest for four years in a row. Last year over 700 students participated from over 40 colleges and universities around the country. This year the UM participants were Weston Berg, Chance Cole, Lorin Granger, Abby Grewatz, Amanda Peterson, Alexander Sakariassen, and Melissa Sheedy. The students were given the topic only at the start of the exam and then had one hour to write their essay without the use of any dictionaries. The results of the contest will be announced later this spring.

Spanish

Clary Loisel writes: The new study abroad program in Guanajuato, Mexico continues to go well. I recently took the students on the "Ruta de la Independencia," which included stops in the cities of Dolores Hidalgo, San Miguel de Allende, and Atotonilco. Dolores Hidalgo is where Mexican independence began in earnest. San Miguel's favorite son, Ignacio Allende, was born here and became a fervent believer in the need for Mexican independence. Today, San Miguel is internationally recognized for its colonial architecture and cobblestone streets, as well as for its art galleries and real-estate offices. Atotonilco is a hamlet founded in 1740 as a spiritual retreat. Ignacio Allende married here and eight years later used the shrine's banner of the Virgin of Guadalupe as the flag to help rally a band of independencista rebels.

Naomi Shin gave a talk at a statistics seminar in the Math Department called "Using statistics to study languages in contact" on February 26.

She is also presenting a paper on Spanish and English in contact at the XXI Conference on Spanish in the US. Her paper is called "Diminishing Sensitivity to Continuity of Reference Subject Pronoun Use in New York City."