

The Chair

Bob Acker: Yet another academic year is drawing to a close. I would like to thank all the members of the Department for their hard work and dedication during these past nine months. I hope you have an enjoyable and profitable summer. If you are leaving us, I would like to extend to you all the best wishes for the future. Also hearty congratulations to all of our graduates!

Several people from the Department attended the Spring Conference of the Montana Association of Language Teachers (MALT) in Butte, April 27-28: Chris Anderson, Evelina Badery, Alicia Gignoux, Marty Marko, Kelly Noe, Naomi Shin and I. We were treated to several interesting workshops and a fascinating walking tour of Butte. My thanks to all of them for helping support our colleagues in the high schools and helping to promote the study of foreign languages in the State. The MALT Fall Conference is scheduled for Oct. 18-19 in Belgrade. I encourage you all to consider giving a presentation there. You can submit your application on-line at: <http://mea-mft.net/>.

Staff

Our very own **Desi Gerner** is moving up and on right before our eyes! This May she will be awarded her second bachelor's degree in Classical Civilization (her first was in English). She has been accepted to the MA program in Classics at the University of Oregon and will relocate to Eugene in late September. Amazingly, after two and a half years of working for the department, she still aspires to someday become a member of academia. Wish her luck!

Arabic

Samir Bitar reports the following students have received a USADLN (The US Arabic Distance

Learning Network) Travel Scholarship to travel to the USADLN Summer Arabic program in Alexandria, Egypt:

- 1) Travis Barstad
- 2) Jacob Chilers
- 3) Michael Pierce-Eiselein
- 4) Seth Whitfield

The following students received a CLS Full Scholarship from the U.S. State Department to participate in the Arabic program in Tangier, Morocco:

- 1) Nadia Selim
- 2) Layla Turman

Of the 3,300 applications that were received for the full scholarships, only 150 were awarded, so this represents a significant achievement!

Classics

Barbara Weinlich presented a paper at the 103rd annual meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South in Cincinnati, April 11-14, 2007. Her talk was part of a panel on Propertius and discussed the aspects of power and idealization in the poet's third book. Barbara also took steps in outreach teaching. Together with students of her 300-level class "Women in Antiquity" she designed a tee-shirt that will function both as a memento and an advertisement for this course. Lastly, Barbara decided to join another institution in the next academic year. She wishes to thank her colleagues and students for occasioning some extraordinary experiences during her two years at the University of Montana.

French

Michel Valentin organized a Philosophy Forum round table as a tribute to Jean Baudrillard: "The Vanishing of Jean Baudrillard: Pure Virtuality? Ecstatic Formalism? Or Trans-

orbiting Satelllization.” Three Faculty in French (Michel Valentin, Mladen Kozul and Chris Anderson) and one in Japanese (Charles Exley) and two other faculty (Mehrdad Kia, director of OIP and Allen McQuillen, Professor emeritus of Forestry) gave presentations on Baudrillard’s work and impact on post-modern thought.

The Alliance Française of Missoula (Michel Valentin, President) brought Alain Dubos, Vice President of Doctors without Borders, to lecture on humanitarian aid in the real and virtual world on April 25. On May 10, the Alliance Française will bring the author Yasmina Kadra to speak about his novel, *The Swallows of Kabul*, which has been translated into English. Summer activities include the annual Bastille Day party on July 14 and the August French Camp for children at Georgetown lake.

Anna Lokowich and Claire Mouflard will be receiving their Master’s degrees at the upcoming graduation ceremonies. Congratulations to both!

German

Marlene Pichler and Ursula Windhab, our 2 Austrian TAs, will be returning home after having completed their Fulbright year. Marlene will be doing a year of practice teaching in English and History at a "Gymnasium" in Vienna to complete her requirements for secondary certification. After that she is thinking about either coming back to the US or going to Australia. She finally wants to see some of the kangaroos that people in the US are always asking her about when she tells them she is from Austria. Ursula applied to be a lecturer at a British University through a program sponsored by the Austrian Department of Education, Science and Culture. She will start working on her doctorate in the Fall. She sends kudos to everyone in the department, especially the German Section.

Italian

Italian Club, *Il Circolo Italiano*, will show a free movie next **Friday May 4**, in the UC Theater at 7 pm. *La Notte di San Lorenzo (The Night of the Shooting Stars)*, directed by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani in 1982, is about freedom, death and grace. Set in Tuscany during 1944. In Italian with English subtitles. Please come!

A second-year Italian student, Francesca DiStefano, was selected by the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) to participate in the Gift of Discovery, a 10 day program, with all expenses and airfare paid, from May 31 to June 10 in the Marche region in Italy.

Spanish

Clary Loisel delivered an academic presentation entitled "Utopia gay: un estudio queer del matrimonio" at the Easter Queer Symposium in Mexico City on April 13, 2007.