

MCLL News

March 2009

Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures

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www.umt.edu/mcll

The Chair

Bob Acker: Many thanks to all of you who participated in our 27th Annual Foreign Language Day on Feb. 27. Over 300 students and 27 teachers from 12 high schools across Montana attended a wide variety of presentations and classes. Highpoint of the day was a fascinating luncheon presentation on language acquisition by **Dean Christopher Comer** of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Staff

We are delighted to welcome back our Administrative Associate, **Phyllis Duran**, who was hospitalized with a lengthy illness. It's fantastic to have her with us again! Many thanks to **Jim Byrnes** who helped out in the office during her absence.

MALT

MALT Bulletin Submission Deadline Extended to Tuesday, March 17th.

If you have announcements or submission ideas, please feel free to contact **Marty Marko** (marton.marko@mso.umt.edu) or drop by his office in LA 435.

German

Liz Ametsbichler, director of this year's study abroad program, sends the following report: After almost two weeks in Missoula's Sister City Neckargemünd and nearby Heidelberg, this week we are now settling into life in Vienna. In Germany, the group was royally welcomed by Neckargemünd host families. After meeting every morning for class, we spent most afternoons exploring the surrounding sites. This year the students also are able to experience the last frenzied days of *Fasching* (Carneval). On Sunday (March 1st), we

took the train to Vienna – and were once again heartily welcomed by host families. We meet for class every morning and spend afternoons exploring Vienna's rich cultural offerings. The students also attend an afternoon conversation course. *Schöne Grüße aus Wien!*

Italian

Evelina Badery reports that the Italian Club - *Il Circolo italiano*- is now conducting its film series. They showed *Agata and the storm* on March 1st. On March 8 and 9 will show *Ginger and Cinnamon* and on March 15 and 16 at 7pm, *Caterina in the Big City (2003)*. This series is made possible by a grant from the National Italian American Foundation (www.niaf.org) and the great efforts of Francesca Di Stefano, the Club's president. The attendance for the first movie was very good and we hope that all of you will be able to attend the ensuing films (all in Italian with English subtitles). The Italian Club will also participate in the International Culture and Food Festival on March 15 and provide delicious specialties from Italy.

Peter and Julia Bondanella, professors emeriti from the University of Indiana, have donated a collection of Italian films and books to the Mansfield Library.

Japanese

The Japanese Section held its first Montana Invitational Japanese Speech Contest on March 6, on the theme "The Appeal of Japanese Culture, Old and New." The contest was funded by a grant from the Japan Foundation and was co-sponsored by the Mansfield Center. Twelve UM students of Japanese and five students from Loyola Sacred Heart High School gave speeches. This was the culmination of 18 months of planning and a full semester of work by Intermediate and Advanced students. The Advanced group's first place winner was Jamie Cox, who also won the Grand Prize, a gift

provided by the Consulate General of Japan in Seattle. The second place prize in that group was won by Mathew Lenning. In the intermediate group, there were three prizes awarded: first place to Randy Umetsu, second to Kengene Chew, and third to Emi Kodama, all students of Ms Naito. Kyle Schmaing, a second year Japanese student won a prize for Most Entertaining Speech; Katie Strong (Japanese 302) won the Most Inspirational Speech award. For the high school group, first place was awarded to Mike Evans, and second place to Erich Diezinger. We appreciate the generous assistance of Ms Fumiko Okudaira, of the Japanese Consulate in Seattle, who served as a judge and contributed many prizes; sincere thanks also to Mr Kizuku Matsunaga, the representative of Kumamoto Prefecture in Helena. Mr Matsunaga also served as a judge and provided many wonderful gifts to our students. We congratulate and thank all the participants, judges, faculty, and student assistants, who work hard to make the contest a great success.

The Japanese Section recently selected four interns to work in Japan for either three months, in the town of Ooe, in Yamagata Prefecture, or for a year, in Date, Hokkaido. Going to Ooe in June are Alan Baker, Michelle Kato, and Randy Umetsu; the Date intern is Rianna Trujillo. The Ooe internship is in its seventh year, the Date program its nineteenth. Congratulations to those selected for these programs!

Russian

Clint Walker will be participating on April 9-10 in a mini-symposium devoted to the 20th-century author Andrei Platonov at the University of Southern California. Clint will present a paper entitled "Laying Bare More

Than Devices: Platonov, Bulgakov and the Moscow Text." Clint has also had a book review of the Aksakov-Strakhov Correspondence published in the latest volume of the *Slavic and East European Journal* (Vol 52: 4, Winter 2008).

The Russian Club just celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th. The club enjoyed Russian food (bliny, caviar, dumplings, and apple cake) and playing a game dedicated to famous women (Russian or otherwise). Club members are currently in the midst of organizing their annual participation in Children's World at the International Festival.

Melissa Sheedy, one of our exceptional students, has been awarded a fully-funded Critical Language Scholarship to attend an intensive language institute in Russia for two months this summer.

Spanish

The Spanish Section is welcoming on April 6 a colleague from MSU Bozeman, Professor John Thompson, and a visiting scholar from the University of Liverpool, Dr. Kirsty Hooper, Lecturer in Spanish and Galician. Dr. Thompson will give a lecture on Galicia's "differentness" vis-a-vis Spain, and Dr. Hooper will speak on Galician emigration to English-speaking countries. We look forward to meeting our colleague from the Spanish Section at MSU and invite everyone to attend the lectures (times/places later) and to extend our welcome to him and his guest from England.

Clary Loisel received a Faculty Exchange for the fall semester 2009 to teach Latin American literature at the University of Guanajuato in Guanajuato, Mexico.

Bret Linford passed his MA Comp exams and is writing his Thesis in Linguistics under the direction of Naomi Shin.