

MCLL News

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Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures

mcll@mso.umt.edu

www.umt.edu/mcll

The Chair

Bob Acker: Congratulations to all the 58 students who will be graduating from the Department on May 16. We wish you all the best for the future and we hope that you will come back to visit us often.

I would like to thank each of you for your dedication and hard work this past academic year. I hope you have a pleasant and rewarding summer. If you are leaving at the end of the semester, best wishes for continued success. For those returning, the contract begins on August. 26.

This will be my last Newsletter as your Chair. I would like to thank you for the privilege of serving you these past three years. Best wishes to Linda Gillison, who will assume the chair's duties on July 1.

French

Ione Crummy presented, "The Peripheral Heroine Takes Center Stage: Making Sydney Owenson's *The Wild Irish Girl*, a National Tale, a European Genre in *Corinne ou l'Italie*," at the International Germaine de Staël Symposium, Washington University, May 8-10. In July she will present "British-French Cultural Exchange in Convent Schools of Restoration Paris," at the Oxford Round Table Symposium, The Education of Women in the 19th Century, at Harris Manchester College, Oxford University, England.

German

Dr. Joshua Davis (Ph.D. University of Virginia, 2007) has accepted our offer and will be joining the Department next Fall as an Assistant Professor of German. Josh brings to the German Section an expertise in the early periods of German literature as well as linguistics and pedagogy. We welcome him aboard! Josh is replacing Bob Acker, who is retiring after 30 years at the University of Montana and 35 years in the profession. We would like to thank Bob for his many contributions to the German Section and the Department, and we wish him well.

Bob Acker and Marty Marko attended the annual MALT conference in Helena this year, where Bob was recognized and thanked by MALT for his 30 years of service to language and cultural education in the state, including his service as MALT president twice.

Liz Ametsbichler conducted another successful study abroad program. The students saw a play at the Burgtheater, went on an annual excursion to Stift Melk with the boat ride back on the Danube, and took a day to visit the concentration camp at Mauthausen.

Melissa Sheedy and William Klaczynski presented their research projects at the UMCUR Conference on April 17 at UM. Melissa is graduating with High Honors in German and received the Outstanding Senior award for German. She will be entering our M.A. program in the Fall and will be a Teaching Assistant. We will also be welcoming two additional graduate students, Deborah Woody and Markus Cardarelli.

Elisabeth Belz, MA graduate from 2008, has received an Austrian Government English Language Teaching Assistantship and will be teaching in Austria in the next academic year.

Russian

Ona Renner-Fahey has an article forthcoming this summer in the *Slavic and East European Journal*. The article is called "Diary of a Devoted Child: Nadezhda Durova's Self-Presentation in *The Cavalry Maiden*."

Clint Walker received a scholarship to participate in a two-week workshop on the "Study and Teaching of Russian Heritage in a Global Context," which will be held in Crimea, Ukraine from July 17-29 and include faculty from Russia, the US, Canada, and other post-Soviet states. It is sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Russkii Mir Foundation and Temple University.

One of our graduates, **Lily Scott**, will be attending UC-Berkeley's PhD program in Slavic and another graduate, **Abby Grewatz** (who was a Fulbright finalist and is our Outstanding Senior), will be teaching English in Russia for a year before applying to graduate school. We had much success this year in our annual participation in ACTR's national essay contest (to which there were 1,024 essays submitted from 60 universities and colleges). Two of our first-year students, **Jane Blevins and Lance Young**, won silver medals and one of our third-

year students, **Melissa Sheedy**, won an Honorable Mention.

Finally, we would like to thank **Tamara Shtanova** for being a wonderful addition to our Russian program this year. She has been a dedicated and caring teacher and colleague and we'll miss her. We do, however, look forward to seeing her on campus next year, as she's been accepted into UM's graduate program in Linguistics and received a Teaching Assistantship.

Spanish

Clary Loisel published "Print the Myth: Elena Poniatowska's Biographical Fiction" in *Confluencia: Revista Hispanica de Cultura y Literatura* Spring 2009, Volume 24, Number 2; pages 83-92.

Two undergraduate students working with Naomi Shin presented their research at the UM Undergraduate Research Conference. **Ryan Morehouse** presented the research he conducted in Mexico, using the AI Price Opportunity fund. His talk was entitled "Investigating language loss among the elderly: A focus on Spanish subject pronouns." The title of **Jessica Lusin's** presentation was "The importance of authentic materials in the foreign language classroom."

Naomi Shin was invited to give a public lecture on the Spanish spoken in the United States at the Third Annual Missoula Ideas Festival at Hellgate H.S. on May 14.