



LSA

ROMANCE LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Fall 2013 | Winter 2014

Letter from the Chair

The academic year 2012-2013 has been a busy and exciting one. French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish majors and minors have been able to select classes from a very broad variety of topics in literature, film and visual arts, linguistics, advanced language studies (conversation, composition and grammar), and cultural studies. We also continue to serve the largest number of students in the College who take the four semester language requirement. To accomplish our teaching mission we have an excellent team of language instructors specialized and trained to teach foreign languages (Lecturers and Graduate Students Instructors) together with an outstanding group of faculty specialized in the literatures, histories, and cultures of France and the Francophone traditions; in the traditions of Italian, Portuguese and Lusophone Africa; and in the Spanish, Latin American, and the U.S. Latino/a cultural traditions. I am proud to be able to say that our department is considered one of the best in the country.

I am also happy to say that in this past year we have created a new undergraduate minor in Portuguese. Professor Fernando Arenas, working closely with our Associate Chair, Professor Alejandro Herrero-Olaizola, has worked very hard to organize an excellent Portuguese curriculum that will expose students to a great variety of courses in Lusophone studies. The Portuguese minor was approved by the College and is already accepting students.

During the 2012-2013 academic year we hosted a number of outstanding events that included the visits of distinguished scholars and several academic conferences. Among them, we hosted the visits of Rita Copeland (University of Pennsylvania) as part of the Translation Theme Semester; Steven Marsh and Tatjana Gagic (University of Illinois at Chicago), Sharon Kinoshita (UC-Santa Cruz), and Emma Campbell (University of Warwick). Luis Martín-Cabrera, Associate Professor at UC, San Diego and a former graduate student in RLL, gave the Rackham Centennial Lecture; Professor David Caron helped to organize a very interesting conference on Sex and Justice, and Professor Gareth Williams organized a symposium titled *Política Común* as well as the RLL annual Keniston Lecture. We also enjoyed an Italian week, a Latin American Film Series, an Italian Film Festival, and a number of events that RLL co-sponsored with other units. We also had the great pleasure of hosting alumnus, Mr. Peter Canzano (BA in Spanish, 1978), who gave a remarkable talk to our 2013 graduating seniors during Commencement Weekend.

Faculty members in Romance Languages and Literatures have also been very active in research, for which they received



several fellowships and awards for their remarkable scholarly work. Giorgio Bertellini, Vincenzo Binetti, and Gustavo Verdesio were granted the Michigan Humanities Award to work on their new book projects. The College of LS&A selected George Hoffmann to receive the Dewey Award for his long-term commitment to the education of undergraduate students. The University granted promotion to Associate Professor with tenure to Ryan Spziech, and promotion to Full Professor with tenure to Jarrod Hayes, George Hoffmann, Karla Mallette, and Paolo Squatriti. I am delighted to mention, as a way of introduction, that this year we have two new remarkable Assistant Professors, Mayte Green-Mercado, Professor of Mediterranean Studies and Spanish, and Nilo Couret, Professor of Latin American Film Studies. We are also happy to welcome Associate Professor of Brazilian History Victoria Langland, who holds a joint appointment in History and RLL.

Our undergraduate programs have also been busy. Besides introducing our new minor in Portuguese, and teaching thousands of Michigan students, this past year we have awarded our second RLL Summer Volunteer Grant to a student volunteering her time to do student teaching and tutoring in Ecuador, and we granted three stipends to fund students interning in Argentina, France, and Switzerland. With the generous help of our donors we have been able to award over \$47,000 in scholarships to undergraduate students, many of whom study abroad. We have helped to support and co-sponsor the Latin@ Culture Show, the Second Annual Latino/a Farewell, the group FOKUS, which focuses on issues of being Black and Latino/a in the U.S., and many more. We also have started a new program abroad in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. We took twenty-four students who had a great experience in this beautiful medieval Spanish city. The program was very successful and the Center for Global and Intercultural Studies has decided to establish it as one of our

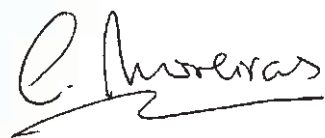
Spring/Summer programs abroad. We also offered four sections of the last semester of the language requirement abroad (Costa Rica, Granada, Ferrara and Grenoble). Interest in going abroad is growing and we are happy to see our students having the opportunity to take advantage of this important experience.

Our graduate program has been successful in dissertation defenses and helping them to get jobs and recognition for their scholarly projects. I am proud to say that this year our students have received prestigious fellowships and grants, such as the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (2), the Rackham Centennial Fellowship (3), the Rackham Pre-Doctoral Fellowship (2), the Rackham International Research Award (1), the International Institute Individual Fellowship (2), the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (1), the International Fieldwork Fellowship from the Wenner Gren Foundation (1), the Mary Fair Croushore Graduate Student Fellow at the Institute for the Humanities (1), Community Scholars Fellowship (1), and more. Graduate students were also busy organizing events and working groups.

As you can imagine, one of our priorities in Romance Languages and Literatures is the teaching of our outstanding majors and minors and of our excellent group of graduate students. I am happy to report that this year we have around 700 majors and minors in our department. I take this opportunity to congratulate all our majors and minors who graduated in Winter 2013 and to those who won RLL awards. I would also like to congratulate our graduate students who successfully defended their dissertations last academic year.

As always, I take this opportunity to show my and my colleagues' deep gratitude to our donors. Your generosity is what allows us to support our students with scholarships, internships, stipends, awards, and fellowships for outstanding academic work. We would love to hear from you and receive your input on some of the projects described in this newsletter. So please stop by the MLB if you are ever in Ann Arbor, or send us an alumni update to include in "Alumni News."

With best wishes,



Cristina Moreiras-Menor
Professor of Spanish and Women's Studies



AT A GLANCE

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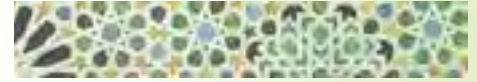
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David Caron, Professor of French and Women's Studies, was invited to give the inaugural lecture of the Center for Memory and Testimony at Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada in April 2013. The topic was "Beckoning as a Testimonial Practice."

Rachel Criso, French Lecturer IV, is coordinating a global internship program through the Undergraduate Dean's Office which placed forty-eight students in seven countries during the summer of 2013.

Lorenzo García-Amaya, Spanish Lecturer III, published an article in the *Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics* and presented his research at the Workshop on Fluent Speech in Utrecht, Netherlands in November 2012. He was also awarded a CRLT Lecturers' Professional Development Fund grant. His student Sara Drlik received a first place award for their co-authored research project at the University Research Opportunity

Program Symposium in April 2013.

Enrique García Santo-Tomás, Professor of Spanish, published a critical edition of Alonso J. de Salas Barbadillo's *Don Diego de Noche* (Cátedra, 2013), and essays in MLN, Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies, and Modern Philology. He gave invited lectures at Berkeley, Stanford, Toronto, and the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas in Madrid, and his work was featured in the radio program *La montaña mágica* of Spain's Grupo Intereconomía.

Nicholas Henriksen, Assistant Professor of Spanish Linguistics, recently published research articles in the *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, *Language and Speech*, and *Probus*. He was also invited to present his research on wh-question intonation at the University of Illinois at Chicago in December 2012.

George Hoffmann, Professor of French, has been selected by the LSA Executive

Committee to receive the 2013 John Dewey Award for his long-term commitment to the education of undergraduate students.

Lawrence LaFountain-Stokes, Professor of Spanish and American Culture, presented papers at the Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational History of the Americans in Mexico (July 2013) and the conference of the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture, and Society in Buenos Aires, Argentina (August 2013).

William Paulson, Edward Lorraine Walter Collegiate Professor of French, taught the second edition of his Mellon Foundation Dissertation Seminar in the Humanities on the theme of "Science Studies, Cultural Theory, and Scholarly Writing." The seminar brought together twelve Ph.D. candidates from ten different Michigan graduate programs, including Elizabeth Barrios of RLL.

UMSN and RLL Collaborate to Design Video Case Studies

By María Dorantes, Director of Spanish Elementary Language Program

When I was approached by Dr. Leslie Davis from the University of Michigan School of Nursing (UMSN) to collaborate with her colleagues, Dana Tschannen, PhD, and Michelle Aebersold, PhD, to assist with their video case studies by finding Spanish-speaking actors and helping with the Spanish translation, I didn't realize the impact this experience would have. Our Spanish actors included a retired lecturer (Maria Baranov), a previous lecturer (Emilio Carrillo), a current lecturer's (Mariela De La Torre) son and my own daughter Shaina. Along with two UMSN students they worked two days and many hours to produce four didactic video clips. These will be used by many students at UMSN, including the class I currently teach, Spanish for the Medical Professions, for the purposes of not only teaching Spanish as a language, but also teaching the cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking patients. In these particular clips we use religion, belief in healers, and the importance of family. This project has resulted in another interdisciplinary teaching tool, demonstrating both departments' commitment to teaching and learning.

With federal funding and Center for Research on Learning and Teaching funding, we were also able to collaborate in offering a

specially designed Spanish class for graduate students preparing to work at the Community Health and Social Sciences Center in Detroit, Michigan, which serves many Hispanic patients in the community.



María Dorantes at a case studies filming session

Finally, RLL and UMSN also collaborated to work with students who went to Mexico for a six week immersion in the spring. I met with the students and one instructor before and after the program to informally assess their oral Spanish skills and gains in cultural competence and found the program to be successful in achieving its goals in language acquisition and cultural understanding. I look forward to strengthening this relationship by seeking academic credit for UMSN and LSA students participating in this program.

New Faculty



Nilo Couret

Nilo Couret is a new faculty member in Spanish in RLL.

He received a PhD in film studies from the University of Iowa. He also studied at Columbia University in New York, and has conducted archival research in the Venezuelan Cinemateca Nacional, the Argentine Museo del Cine Pablo Ducrós Hicken, the Cinemateca Brasileira, and the Centre Cinématographique Marocain.

Couret's research foregrounds the affective dimensions of global media through an interdisciplinary perspective, addressing the question in film and media studies of how to speak about local cultural practice in non-essentialist terms. His research considers both what is represented on screen as well as how media move viewers (in the many senses of the word *move*) into alternative spectator positions and counterpublics off screen. Furthermore, his research underscores how texts move within and across circumscribed and overlapping spheres of influence. From the delimited circulation of popular comedies to the uneven circulation of theory in the

periphery, his research supposes that the material circulation of both media objects and intellectual discourses must inform comparative global film histories and transnational theories of film and media.

Currently, he is in the process of preparing the manuscript of a book based on his dissertation. The central aim of this project on early sound cinema in Latin America is to trace the cultural significance of film comedies. Through a discussion of the films of comedians Mario "Cantinflas" Moreno, Luis Sandrini, Niní Marshall, Oscarito and Grande Otelo, he explores how these commercially successful films negotiate local and global cultural influences, arguing that these comedies function as peripheral responses to modernization and anticipate and inform New Latin American Cinema. The untranslatable and non-circulatory characteristics of comedy suggest that these films function as peripheral and localized responses to modernity. Couret has also begun work on a second project on documentary film practice and circulation in the Global South, particularly the material and intellectual exchanges between filmmakers from Africa, Asia and Latin America. He is interested in considering

how a turn to affect can re-articulate the film practice and theory of the periphery within a contemporary mediascape.

Couret's research hopes to intervene on larger debates in screen studies on how international film history must be written in a comparative frame with the inclusion of popular cinemas, how global cinema should be figured as a cultural practice of modernity, and how the conceptual categories of global, transnational and international inform local and particular film cultures.

Couret teaches advanced undergraduate courses in Latin American media and audiovisual culture and looks forward to proposing courses in his research areas. He is currently recruiting students to work on his primary research projects on interwar material culture in Argentina, Mexico and Brazil through the university's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP). Outside of his professional interests, Couret has taken recent interest in comic and graphic novels, both local and foreign, and has become an adventurous baker. The Venezuelan-raised son of Cuban émigrés, Couret regularly returns to South America to visit friends and family.

Mayte Green-Mercado



Mayte Green-Mercado is a new faculty member in Mediterranean Studies at RLL. She received her PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, with

a focus on Islamic History and Culture, at the University of Chicago. She has worked closely with researchers in the Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean and the Near East, at the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) in Madrid, Spain. She has also recently collaborated with the Spain-North Africa Project, an initiative whose aim is to study the Iberian Peninsula and North

Africa as a unified region. Mayte comes to Michigan from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where she was a lecturer in Islamic History and Civilization.

Green-Mercado's research focuses on religio-political discourses and popular movements in the late medieval and early modern Mediterranean world. She is currently working on a book manuscript that traces the production, circulation and reception of apocalyptic prophecies among Moriscos (Iberian Muslims forcibly converted to Catholicism) in the context of their political and rebellious activities in Spain and across the Mediterranean. Her research is based on a wealth of archival documentation, inquisitorial records, chronicles, as well as Islamic narrative and biographical literature to reconstruct the rich, but little-known, subject of Morisco political culture. Her most recent publication,

which has appeared in the journal *Medieval Encounters*, offers a case study of a Morisco messianic figure in late sixteenth-century Valencia, Spain, who called the Moriscos to take up arms, promising the restoration of Islam in the Iberian Peninsula. She traces this figure's political project to a long tradition of claims to messianic kingship in Islamic history. Her future intellectual project is to study Morisco Mediterranean networks as a way to explore the intertwined religious and intellectual life of the early modern world.

Mayte currently teaches advanced undergraduate courses in Mediterranean history and culture, as well as Spanish culture. She looks forward to developing the Mediterranean initiative in RLL by proposing courses on varied aspects of Mediterranean religious, intellectual, social and political history.

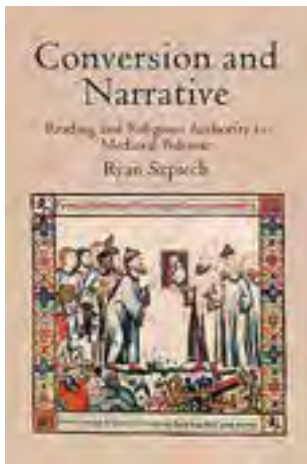


Embers of the Past • Javier Sanjinés

Sanjinés analyzes the conflict between the cultures and movements of indigenous peoples and attention to the modern nation-state in its contemporary Latin American manifestations. He contends that indigenous movements have introduced doubt into the linear course of modernity, reopening the gap between the symbolic and the real.

From Beasts to Souls • Peggy McCracken

From Beasts to Souls: Gender and Embodiment in Medieval Europe raises the issues of species and gender in tandem, asking readers to consider more fully what happens to gender in medieval representations of nonhuman embodiment. The contributors reflect on the gender of stones and the soul, of worms and dragons, showing that medieval cultural artifacts, whether literary, historical, or visual, do not limit questions of gender to predictable forms of human or semi-human embodiment.



Conversion and Narrative • Ryan Szpiech

Szpiech draws on a wide body of sources from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim polemics to investigate the place of narrative in the representation of conversion. Making a firm distinction between stories told about conversion and the experience of religious change, his book is not a history of conversion itself but a comparative study of how and why it was presented in narrative form within the context of religious disputation.

Italian Silent Cinema • Giorgio Bertellini

Italian Silent Cinema: A Reader explores the largely forgotten world of Italian silent cinema, including its historical epics, comedies, serials, and romance melodramas. Thirty essays by leading scholars examine topics such as pre-cinema, international distribution, stardom, acting styles, literary adaptation, futurism, nonfiction filmmaking, and local exhibition.



Abolición del pato • Larry La Fountain-Stokes

Do we want the abolition of the duck, or is it the duck himself who wishes to abolish himself? In La Fountain-Stokes's book, the entire linguistic, erotic, pop, philosophical arsenal wants to illustrate the game between writing and voice, essence and simulation. It is a lyrical dolls' theater that includes goofing around, revindication and rage, scenes of instruction for an audience that is everywhere and nowhere.

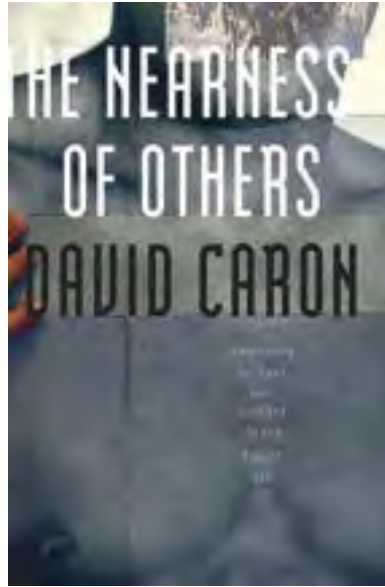
A Discussion with David Caron on His Forthcoming Book, *The Nearness of Others*

The first time David Caron, Professor of French and Women's Studies, gave a paper on the topic of tact he started it with a description from a 1960s Truffaut film, *Stolen Kisses*. A woman tells a story of a man who walks in on a naked woman. She explains that the polite man responds, "Pardon me, Madam" but the tactful man responds, "Pardon me, Sir." Caron draws from the exchange that tact, in a way, is language that works by missing its mark. It is language that fails on purpose, and that relies on silence as much as on what is spoken. It is from this perspective that Caron carries the reader through a series of vignettes that illustrate tact and the fear of contact in a post-9/11 world.

In *The Nearness of Others: Searching for Tact and Contact in the Age of HIV*, Caron investigates the concept of social tact in relation to its older, historical meaning, having to do with the sense of touch, and other words that have separated body from mind since the Enlightenment. This dovetails into the topic of HIV disclosure and how individuals accept and reject contact with one another. He uses his own story as a springboard from which to theorize on the subject of disclosure and the question of the fear we have of the bodies of other people. "If I were to question theoretically how to bring the body back into the conversation, then what better

way to do so than with HIV disclosure," Caron says.

His analysis includes wide-ranging topics such as the fear of contact in the context of the War on Terror and torture; contact relating to the veiling and unveiling of Muslim women in public places and the power society has to exclude and dominate individuals by controlling how they cover or reveal their bodies; and historical events such as Sartre's thoughts on tactful reactions to the yellow Jewish stars worn during World War II and the fear surrounding Olympic diver Greg Louganis's head injury during the Seoul games in 1988 after his AIDS disclosure in 1995.



As he questions why people fear contact, Caron focuses on cases where contact, the tactile, and re-embodiment have taken place, such as interactions in Times Square during the 1960s, '70s, and early '80s, and ways in which we could reintroduce tact as contact to social interactions. About the book, which is aimed at a broader audience

than the specialized academic, Caron says "I didn't just write an abstract discussion on the mind/body split in Enlightenment philosophy, but something that engages our social and physical lives as well: a book that isn't only *discussing* contact but also *making* contact. At least, I tried."

Política común

By Gareth Williams, Professor of Spanish

On April 12-13th, 2013, the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures hosted a workshop titled *Política común*. Our guests were the founders of the Mexico City-based online journal of the same name, Professors Benjamín Mayer-Foulkes of UNAM, Instituto de Estudios Críticos in Mexico City, Alberto Moreiras of Texas A&M University, and Davide Tarizzo of Università degli Studi di Salerno in Italy. *Política común* was a two-day discussion workshop of pre-circulated scholarship designed to rethink the projection of Hispanic Studies in the current global academic field as a sustained reflection of a comparative nature and with a basis in critical theory. In early 2014 *Política común*, with Professor Gareth Williams of the Department of Romance Languages

& Literatures as its General Editor, will be re-launched as an Open Access journal by Michigan Publishing, the publishing platform of the University of Michigan Library. More than a traditional *hispanist* journal dealing only with literature and culture, *Política común* is a bilingual (English/Spanish) journal that sponsors relevant philological research while also engaging political and historical thought, intellectual history, visual culture, psychoanalysis and science studies. This entails the analysis of the long history of the territories that joined politically under the name of Spain; Spain's imperial projections in the New World and Asia; and the different ways of engaging the question of "postcoloniality."

31st Hayward Keniston Lecture

By Gareth Williams, Professor of Spanish



On March 14th, 2013, the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures hosted the 31st Hayward Keniston Lecture, in honor of Hayward Keniston, former Chair of the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures and former Dean of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts at the University of Michigan. The guest speaker was Professor Claudio Lomnitz, the Campbell Family Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University. Professor Lomnitz's scholarship spans thirty years, from his *Evolution of a Rural Society* and *Exits from the Labyrinth: Culture and Ideology in the Mexican National Space* from the 1980s and early 1990s, to the collections of essays titled *Deep Mexico*, *Silent Mexico* and *Modernidad Indiana*, and his sweeping history of death in his 2005 book, *Death and the Idea of Mexico*. Throughout his career, Professor Lomnitz has been a model of scholarship and public engagement across the disciplines. In his concluding remarks to *Death and the Idea of Mexico*, Professor Lomnitz points to a fundamental shift in the relation between death and the Mexican state in recent years: "The state today is no longer the absolute symbol of sovereignty, at least not in the imagination of many. God, too, is a bit remote for the drug lord, and for intensely hybridized urban popular groups that must live on the fringes of legality. Death best represents sovereignty here, and it is here that some people are choosing to negotiate their day-to-day existence" (496). Professor Lomnitz's talk, titled "Taking Action and Sharing Responsibility for Mexico's Violence", examined the complexity of the drug wars in contemporary Mexico and was very well attended not only by members of our department, but also by undergraduate students from across campus as well as colleagues from other departments and members of the community. Professor Lomnitz was also gracious enough to participate in a two-hour workshop with RLL graduate students in which three of his pre-circulated scholarly essays were discussed.

RLL Co-Sponsors "Spain and

By Eric Calderwood, Assistant Professor of Spanish

Last fall, RLL joined several other LSA units in sponsoring a three-part lecture series called "Spain and the Modern Arab World." The series explored Spain's diverse and sometimes contradictory relationship with the modern Arab world and with its own Islamic past. The lectures in the series examined how modern Spanish and Arab writers, intellectuals, and musicians have appropriated the historical memory of al-Andalus (medieval Muslim Spain) and put it to the service of different national and trans-national projects.

The series began on October 12, 2012, with a lecture by the cultural anthropologist Jonathan Glasser (College of William & Mary). The lecture, titled "What's Andalusian about Andalusian Music?" looked at the historical development of Andalusian music, a North African urban performance tradition linked to medieval Muslim Spain. The lecture series continued on November 8 with an Arabic-language lecture by the Moroccan professor Jaafar Ben El Haj Soulami (Abd al-Malik al-Sa'adi University). The lecture, titled "The Cultural and Intellectual Life of Northern Morocco during the Spanish Protectorate

Taking a Stand for Sexual Justice

By David Caron, Professor of French

"Sex and Justice" was, in many respects, a historic conference. For three days in October 2012, a diverse group of scholars, activists, legal experts and community advocates from around the world, not to mention a large local audience, assembled to debate the many questions and urgent issues surrounding the criminalization of sex. No such gathering in the face of global injustices had ever taken place and we, at RLL, feel very proud to have helped make it happen.

Many people by now are well aware that laws against commercial sex often place sex workers in precarious situations and even endanger, not just their livelihood, but their lives. Do you know, however, what your state law says about non-disclosure of HIV status? In this country, 34 states make it a crime, in one form or another, to withhold your HIV-positive status before engaging in sex, and this regardless of actual transmission risks. In Michigan, right now, people are incarcerated for being HIV positive—under an anti-terrorism law!

the Modern Arab World” Lecture Series



Assistant Professor of Spanish Eric Calderwood with Jaafar Ben El Haj Soulamy (lecture series speaker), members of the Arabic faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates

(1912-1956),” gave an overview of Moroccan cultural life under Spanish colonial rule. The third and final lecture in the series was by William Granara (Harvard University), who gave a lecture titled “The (medieval) Andalusian Cosmos and the (modern) Arabic Novel” on November 26. The lecture reflected upon the ways in which the history of al-Andalus has been represented allegorically in the modern Arabic novel.

In addition to their public lectures, the visiting scholars also came to my undergraduate course on “Spain and the Modern

Arab World” (Spanish 485). In preparation for these visits, the students read literary and scholarly texts related to the areas of research of each visitor. These class visits helped to expand the scope of the course, incorporating areas of research that fall outside my expertise, and they also provided an opportunity for Michigan undergraduate students to have a dialogue with leading scholars from peer institutions.

All three public lectures drew diverse audiences of undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and community members. In fact, the diversity of the series’s sponsors speaks to the diversity of audiences to which the series appealed. In addition to RLL, the lecture series was sponsored by the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA), the LSA Translation Theme Semester, the Department of Near Eastern Studies, the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, Rackham Graduate School, the Islamic Studies Program, the Institute for the Humanities, and the Department of Musicology. We are grateful to all of these sponsors for their generous support.

Some of the speakers at the conference told harrowing stories of facing homophobic violence, losing their job, being forced to leave their home and family. But the conference was also a call to action and an opportunity for people to share strategies that work, establish networks and pool resources. From the start, the conference was conceived as an opportunity to bring action and reflection into closer contact and dialogue. Traditional panels and plenary sessions, the like of which you expect in an academic conference, proposed reflections on topics such as “HIV Criminalization,” “Sex and the State” and “Empirical Research in Sex and Justice.” But participants also formed practical workshops around specific issues; among them legal advocacy, state and local activism, racial inequalities, etc.



Sex-offender registries have become very popular with the public in recent years. In fact, more than 750,000 people are now on one in this country. But if you think that 750,000 dangerous sexual predators have been put out of circulation, you may want to take a closer look. The reality is that many people legally forced to register are nonviolent first-time offenders who may, as a result, find themselves unable to find a job or even a place to live. Perhaps forever, as it is sometimes impossible to get off the registry once you have been forced on it.

What’s worse, many of these laws that criminalize sex end up affecting disproportionately those who are poor and black, making the fight against racial discrimination a crucial element of efforts to combat sexual injustice.

Several people contributed to this event, but thanks and congratulations must go primarily to Trevor Hoppe, a graduate student here at Michigan. This was his achievement. I’m happy that he asked me and RLL to participate, and I hope that the incredible energy and creativity of these three days will continue to fuel action and effect lasting social change, at home and far away.





Message from the Graduate Chair

I am delighted to report on the successes of our graduate students in 2012-13. Thirteen students passed their preliminary exams and moved into candidacy, and four students defended dissertations. In addition to the six Humanities Research and two One-Term Fellowships awarded by our department, RLL graduate students received Rackham Predoctoral Fellowships, a dissertation fellowship in the Institute for the Humanities, a Wenner Gren Foundation fellowship for research abroad, a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, and a Ford Foundation Fellowship. You can read the full list of awards on the RLL web site.

We are delighted to welcome a splendid new cohort of graduate students to RLL: Priscila Calatayud-Fernández is interested in modern Spain; Lorena Bolaños Abarca is a medievalist with interests in Spanish and French. Arcelia Gutiérrez, Tiffany Landry, Joel López-Rivera, Roxabel Ramón, and Travis Wil-



liams are Latin Americanists. And finally, Vincenzo Salvatore will do research on modern Italy.

Peggy McCracken
Professor of French, Women's Studies, and Comparative Literature

New Graduate Students: Pictured from left to right: Arcelia Gutierrez, Joel Lopez Rivera, Travis Williams, Roxabel Ramon, Vincenzo Salvatore, Lorena Bolanos Abarca, Tiffany Landry, Priscila Calatayud-Fernandez



Congratulations to the PhD Recipients in 2012-2013

Marie Stoll (French)

Dissertation Title: "Masculin, Féminin" et l'écriture littéraire et cinématographique burkinabè : Double émergence, double affirmation (Chair, Jarrod Hayes)
Placement: Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Michigan

Maxime Foerster (French)

Dissertation Title: "French Romanticism and the Reinvention of Love" (Chair, Michèle Hannoosh)
Placement: Assistant Professor, Southern Methodist University in Dallas

Juliet Guzzetta (Italian)

Dissertation Title: "Stages of History: Performing 1970s Italy with Narrative Theater" (Chair, Vincenzo Binetti)
Placement: Visiting Assistant Professor, Michigan State University

Aaron Boalick (Spanish)

Dissertation Title: "Revitalizing Youth in the Body Politics of Contemporary Spanish Culture" (Chair, Cristina Moreiras-Menor)
Placement: Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Michigan

Support RLL Graduate Students with a Gift

As the necessity of global insight, understanding, and engagement continues to rise, RLL has made it a priority to help as many of our students as possible conduct research abroad. Learn more about opportunities to support RLL graduate students by visiting <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/rll/alumnifriends/givingopportunities>.

Graduate Students Design RLL Topics Courses

By Emily Thomas, Spanish PhD program

Once they are working on their dissertations, students in the RLL program have the opportunity to design their own course based on a topic that interests them. This allows them to share their research interests with undergraduate students, organize their thoughts in a new way, and even get new ideas about topics with which they are familiar. I asked a few students who are teaching a special topics course this term about their experience.

Rachel TenHaaf

Course: Spanish 296 - *Speaking (to) Power: Resistance and Female Voice in Contemporary Spain*

My course looks at the way women are represented in literature, film and photography, with specific emphasis on the way women represent themselves as a means of resisting political and social oppression. Although tangentially linked to my dissertation, I purposely chose to go beyond my dissertation focus. As a scholar and human being, I am deeply invested in looking at questions of social justice and gender, so it made sense. My students seem to feel similarly.

What was it like putting together the syllabus? What were the challenges?

I'm passionate about the subject, so I enjoyed putting together the syllabus; the challenge has been to remember that, while they may be enthused about the topic, many are still grappling with the linguistic aspect.

How have your students responded to the course so far? Have you faced anything unexpected? Have your students taught you anything surprising?

So far. So good. I had the unexpected bonus (and challenge) of incorporating Heritage/Advanced speakers into the course this time around because of their interest in the subject matter. I'm quite touched by both their enthusiasm for the subject and willingness to work with me so everyone can feel a part of the class.

Pierluigi Erbaggio

Course: Italian 320 – *What is Real? Realism in Italian Culture*

My course is an Italian literature class on the topic of Realism spanning roughly from the 1890s to the late 1950s, from Verismo to Neorealismo. It explores Italian realist literature and studies the ways in which writers engaged with their social, political, and historical environment. This topic is not strictly related to my dissertation research but I decided to explore it based on what was already proposed in the department. It also gave me the opportunity to design a syllabus with a large selection of short stories, which permitted my students to get to know a broader range of Italian authors.

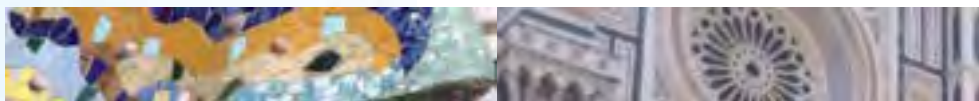
What was it like putting together the syllabus? What were the challenges?

I enjoyed creating an entirely new syllabus for this class, designing activities and selecting readings. The selection of the authors to study, the short stories and novels to read, and the movies to watch was both the most difficult and exciting part of the process.

How have your students responded to the course so far? Have you faced anything unexpected? Have your students taught you anything surprising?

My students are responding very well to the readings. They even liked the short stories by Verga, an author whose gloomy plots have always pushed Italian students away. With their comments and opinions they have made me rediscover authors and works that I had not read recently. Some of those are very difficult and students find them challenging especially for their language. Nonetheless, they are always able to engage

in meaningful conversations, both in class and online. To facilitate their discussions, in fact, this semester my students are using Twitter...I use their messages to start our class discussions. This method, so far, has allowed me to learn more about their reactions and plan my classes according to their interests and doubts.



Graduate News

Romance in the Maghrib

By Susan Abraham, Spanish PhD program and Jocelyn Frelier, French PhD program

Since our academic focus is Romance Languages, some have been surprised to learn that we spent the summer in Morocco learning Arabic!

Susan Abraham - ALIF Fes, Morocco

The students in my Arabic classes usually assume two things: 1) that I'm an underclasswoman and 2) that, just like many of them, my major is Arabic Studies or Near Eastern Studies. No one ever expects to find out I'm a PhD student in Spanish literature. "Spanish, really?". Once a classmate even asked me, "Are you sure?". As if I was mistaken about my area of study. So why do I study Arabic? And how did I end up in Morocco this past summer? For a detailed explanation to this question I entreat you to read my dissertation, which should be hot-off-the-press sometime in 2017. The abridged answer is: academic necessity. Through the twists and turns of my academic career I've found myself engrossed in seventeenth-century texts composed by exiled Spanish Muslims living in North Africa. Thus far my research has focused on how these authors reference and deploy Islamic philosophical and theological tropes in order to redefine their community, religiosity and place within the Mediterranean. While in Morocco, I spent eight weeks at the Arabic Language Institute in Fes studying Moroccan dialect. Additionally, I also took classes in Moroccan calligraphy and paleography with the objective of being able to work with manuscripts relevant to my research topic. Having established this foundation I hope to return to Morocco to conduct archival research once I begin work on my dissertation.



Susan Abraham, center, at couscous lunch with friends in Merzouga



Jocelyn Frelier - CLS Meknes, Morocco

What did I do this summer?

The US State Department offers Critical Language Scholarships to pursue studies in thirteen different languages considered critical by the government. Through this program, US students are sent abroad to study at intensive summer language institutes and to learn about the culture and the way of life of the host country. I received the scholarship to improve my Arabic language skills studying in Meknes, Morocco, together with thirty-four other young scholars and professionals. The experience was very enriching thanks to the cultural immersion, the quality of instruction, and the intellectual interactions with other program participants.

So what does Arabic have to do with my research?

I am a student of French language and culture and I am most interested in the cultural productions of the French ex-colonies. In particular, my research interests lie at the intersection of Women's Studies and the study of post-colonial literature in the French-speaking Maghrib. Although French is widely spoken and understood in this region of North Africa, and although many publications produced there are in French, the official language of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia is Arabic. The Arabic language informs texts written in French in many ways: vocabulary, rhythm, syntax, and cultural references. Arabic is the cultural grounding of the regional literature, even when it is written in French. Therefore, fluency in Arabic is a critical skill needed to be an effective teacher of North African literature and to understand the region's culture which, in a unique and fruitful way, blends indigenous elements with French western influence. Arabic also facilitates travel to the region to conduct research, which I hope to be able to carry out again in the near future!



Jocelyn Frelier, front, camel caravan through Sahara

Enhancing French Language Learning with Comics

By Sabine Gabaron, Lecturer IV of French

“French Comics” is a French 232 topic course that encourages students to explore the cultural importance of French comics in France, compare comic genres — *La Bande Dessinée*, Comics and Mangas — and analyze the form (the art and the text) around various themes, while developing their linguistic abilities.

La Bande Dessinée is a wonderful tool for teaching a foreign language. It engages students who learn visually while increasing their vocabulary and encourages students to reflect on the complexity of language and its various forms of expression, including its cultural components. It also stimulates their curiosity as they create connections between the art, the concepts and the words.

Throughout the semester, students analyze several *Bandes Dessinées* — the art, the culture, the language — and showcase their work at the end. In Winter 2012, students each presented a digital *Bande Dessinée* of their choice and shared their understanding of the piece — artistically, linguistically, culturally. The event, held in a technologically-enhanced gallery space in North Quad, was open to the public. It brought together students, faculty, and local residents.

A local comic artist, Jerzy Drozd, was invited. Drozd remarked, “What I was most impressed by the presentations was that they

were not only demonstrating an understanding of the language, but a richer visual literacy as well. As a cartoonist it made me very happy to see the students walking away with a greater appreciation of comics as a storytelling medium, even if they didn’t intend on making comics of their own.”

The experience also positively impacted students’ learning.

“It already has made me more comfortable speaking and reading, and I had the opportunity to analyze the language and art from many angles. I feel like I’ll have an advantage as I continue to study the French language, because I have had somewhat of an “insider” view of the French culture by taking this class,” undergraduate Taylor Modrowski noted.

Looking forward to another great exhibit in December 2013 when students will be showcasing their work!



Students enjoyed presenting about the *Bandes Dessinées* they analyzed.

Portuguese Moving Forward in RLL

By Fernando Arenas, Professor of Lusophone African, Brazilian, and Portuguese Studies

There have been important new developments in terms of Portuguese program building at the University of Michigan. Since January 2013, we have a brand-new Minor in Portuguese. This year a new faculty member in the area of Brazilian/Latin American Studies, Victoria Langland, was hired with a dual appointment in RLL and History. She joins a growing team of faculty members in the area of Afro-Luso-Brazilian Studies in the department including: Fernando Arenas (RLL/DAAS), Paulina Alberto (RLL/History), and Niedja Fedrigo (RLL). Portuguese program development continues with the proposed Graduate Certificate Program in Afro-Luso-Brazilian Studies, as well as the addition of Portuguese to the combined RLL Major, with the future goal of creating a combined Spanish-Portuguese Major.

Moreover, the first Lusophone Film Festival (*Mostra de Cinema Lusófono*) is taking place throughout the Fall Term of 2013 at the Michigan Theater and the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA), showcasing the contemporary cinema of the Portuguese-speaking world. It is the first event of its kind in Ann Arbor. Its primary objective is to provide high visibility to the Portuguese language and its cultures at the University of Michigan and throughout the region, while contributing to program-building efforts currently underway. The *Mostra* features recent, critically

acclaimed films from Brazil, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Portugal, that have

limited or no presence in the commercial film circuit. With the exception of veterans Flora Gomes from Guinea-Bissau and Licínio Azevedo from Mozambique/Brazil, the filmmakers are all emerging directors. All of them share a commitment towards the cinematic representation of social, cultural, and historical issues that are critical to their respective nations through a variety of innovative aesthetic approaches and narrative forms.

The *Mostra* is one example of a number of cultural events planned for the rest of the academic year related to Brazil or the Lusophone world at large, thanks to U-M President Coleman’s Brazil Initiative, in collaboration with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. In the months to come, there will be a workshop featuring emerging Afro-Brazilian writer of historical fiction, Ana Maria Gonçalves, and an Artist-in-Residence program with Cape Verdean-Portuguese Carmen Souza, a rising star in the realm of jazz and world music.

This is indeed an exciting moment for Portuguese at RLL!



Italian Major Researches Italian Renaissance & Baroque Vocal Music in Italy

By Ashley Mulcahy, Italian and Vocal Performance Major

Through funding from RLL and the International Institute, I had the opportunity to travel to Italy this summer to research Italian Renaissance and Baroque vocal music, a lesser-performed repertoire in the United States - one that is surrounded by historical controversy. Instruments, tuning conventions, orchestral conventions, performance venues, and musical ideas have changed dramatically since the Renaissance and Baroque eras. Although surviving primary sources help answer questions about the interpretation of Renaissance and Baroque music, today's musicians are limited by the information available, and the debate continues. I used my time in Italy to expose myself to as many opinions on musical interpretation as possible, and most importantly, I took advantage of opportunities that are unique to being in Italy, such as studying with native Italian speakers and visiting historical performance venues.

I divided my research into three stages:

- 1.) **Visiting Historical Spaces:** I visited historical performance spaces in Venezia, Vicenza, and Mantova.
- 2.) **Shadowing:** I observed rehearsals for the first-ever staged production of Giovanni Paolo Colonna's 1688 oratorio *La Caduta di Gierusalemme*, produced by the annual Opera Barga Festival. I later observed rehearsals for a very unique performance entitled *Et Manchi Pieta*, which aims to change the public memory of Artemisia Gentileschi. The performance was a collaboration between the early music ensemble Accademia Arcadia and the theatrical group Anagoor.
- 3.) **Courses:** I studied Renaissance and Baroque solo vocal works and 17th-century Ornamentation at the 45th annual Urbino Musica Antica Festival as well as studied 17th-century solo vocal music at Rovigo Musica Antica.



Performing Monteverdi's "Pur ti miro" at Rovigo Musica Antica: Kristen Mastromarchi, Alberto Maron, Roberto Cadell, Ashley Mulcahy (left to right)

I cannot emphasize enough the contribution that Italian language skills made to my experience. My skills in Italian allowed me to conduct interviews, observe rehearsals, fully interact with the many musicians that I worked with, and talk my way into a number of historical sites that are closed to the public. Studying with native Italian speakers who possess a real expertise of this repertoire made all the difference in the world, as an understanding of this repertoire is not only connected to the study of Italian language, but also Italian culture and history.

Spanish Major Films Poverty Documentary in Spain

By Billy Schofield, Spanish & Screen Arts and Cultures Major

It's very hard to summarize an experience abroad. Sometimes writing is better than speaking. And sometimes filming is better than writing...

During my first trip to Spain in 2012, I spent two months in the northwest region of Spain in Santiago de Compostela through U-M's Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) program. I volunteered at a local soup kitchen, serving food to the less fortunate. During this trip, I noticed a lot of homeless people begging in the streets and coming in for meals. At that time, I was so fixated on the tedious tasks in the kitchen that I failed to notice the pain on these patron's faces. I was friendly but did not engage in many deep conversations or discussions. I left Spain feeling more like a global citizen, but wished I had created

something more meaningful than the film I created to promote studying abroad.

Returning to Spain in 2013 through U-M's new Santiago de Compostela study abroad program gave me another chance. Between my first trip in May 2012 and my second trip in May 2013, Spain's unemployment rate rose 2.1% to 26.9% (source: Eurostat). I was only gone a year, but the amount of people soliciting charity was considerably higher than what I remembered. This time I had such curiosity and concern for these people. I wanted to know their stories. I wanted to understand what brought them to this point of desperation. I wanted to use my Spanish for something bigger than answering questions in a classroom. I wanted to use my technical abilities to educate people. I found inspiration in their misery. I decided to create a



An image from Schofield's documentary "Santiago de la Pobreza"

documentary on poverty.

I do not intend to change lives with this documentary, but I do want viewers to see these individuals as I saw them. Not as beggars or homeless people, but as fellow humans trying to survive.

To view Schofield's most recent documentary, search "Santiago de la Pobreza (The Poverty of Santiago)" on YouTube. It runs 18:37 and is best viewed with 1080 HD resolution.

Italianissimo Club Promotes Italian Language and Culture, Joins RLL Coalition Club

By Logan Pitts, Italianissimo President



Italianissimo President
Logan Pitts

Ciao a tutti! Italianissimo is a student organization with the goal of promoting the Italian language, culture, and way of life throughout the campus community. It is our belief that to truly gain language proficiency, students must be surrounded by not only the opportunity to practice their speaking skills, but also the opportunity to be actively engaged in events that showcase the language's culture. With numerous new and exciting events, coupled with our old

favorites, Italianissimo hopes to provide excellent opportunities to engage in and celebrate the Italian culture during the upcoming academic year.

At the center of this philosophy are the weekly conversation hours. Italianissimo hosts weekly events that bring students together to practice the ever-important art of speaking a foreign language. Conversation starters are provided, with topics ranging from "What did you do over the summer?" to "Describe your ideal partner." The greatest benefit of these events is the wide range of attendees: from excited 101 students to almost-fluent Italian majors. The conversation hours build students' confidence while helping them master the Italian language.

We are excited to host Italianissimo's first-ever official study groups. Our "*Gruppi di Studio*" will meet weekly, led by an upper-level Italian student. The groups will cover many topics,

including a weekly review of material learned in class, exam reviews, peer critiques of compositions, and speaking practice. We believe that the study groups will provide a concentrated and effective supplement to the classroom environment, further aiding participants in excelling in their mastery of the Italian language.

While we strive to offer events that prepare our members to succeed in the classroom, Italianissimo's leadership also greatly values the cultural events that foster a well-rounded and worldly student body. This year, we are excited to host gelato outings, learn how to speak "street Italian" seminars, Italian film screenings, Italian game nights, and "*Bocce* Ball in the Diag" days.

We are even more excited to announce a partnership with the University's Spanish and French clubs: the Romance Languages and Literatures Student Coalition Club. The RLL Coalition allows the individual clubs to learn about each other's cultures, languages, and customs, while spreading intercultural appreciation throughout campus and Ann Arbor. The club has scheduled a three-on-three soccer tournament, an "Iron Chef: Clash of the Cultures" competition, and monthly "Restaurant Roundtables."

Looking back on my first year with Italianissimo, I am filled with pride about everything the club has accomplished. Our organization has record membership, we offer a diverse range of events, and Italianissimo has become a brand across campus. Deepest thanks go out to our board; Sabina Perrino, our faculty advisor; the department, for their advice and support; and our members, who strive to be active, involved, and perfect *il loro italiano*.

Spanish Club Emphasizes Connections, Plans for Active Year Ahead

By Kathryn Spencer, Spanish Club President

The Spanish Club is a student-run organization committed to fostering a connection between the University of Michigan and Spanish-speaking cultures. The two pillars of our club are our daily peer tutoring hours and conversation hours. We also offer fun events throughout the semester such as dinners, film screenings, and course preview nights. Last year we were able to draw student organizations together to host successful, Spanish-speaking events like our memorable Valentine's Day Speed-Dating event. For the speed-dating event, we partnered with another organization on campus and gathered to get to know one another through quick conversation rounds, all held in Spanish. It was a great way for everyone to make connections on campus while using their language skills.

This year the Spanish Club specifically hopes to partner with the Detroit Partnership to host a volunteer day in Southwest Detroit, which has a large Hispanic population. Along with these goals for service, we are planning an evening of salsa lessons, as we feel dance would be a fun new way to draw club members around Spanish and Latin culture. This is just a sample of some of the many great events we have in the works for the semester. We look forward to bringing more people together in the spirit of all things Spanish.



Spanish Club's Conversation Hours provide an opportunity for students to practice their speaking skills.

1950-1959

Ruth Plaut Weinreb BA French '58, MA & PhD French (Columbia University)

Recently published the third edition of *Premiers Poèmes, Anthologie de poètes français et francophones avec exercices de vocabulaire, de grammaire et de prononciation*, a small volume that first appeared in 1982 (Wayside Publishing, 2013).

1960-1969

Rosemary Cook BA French '66

rosemaryac@msn.com

is an Internal Medicine physician in Philadelphia. "I recently celebrated the 49th anniversary of my first trip to Paris en route to Aix-en-Provence for the University of Michigan-Wisconsin year abroad program by spending a week in Paris. Would love to hear from others who were there in 1964-65."

Sue Ellen Frederich Errington

BA Spanish '60 errington@comcast.net

"Last November I was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives, District 34."

Karen Kuivinen Herman

BA French with Honors '64

"Aix 50 plus years ago...and I missed the celebration of M. Carduner's dream made real for us at U of M, and our colleagues at UW. We were the pioneers, excited and terrified, and to this day, this year abroad remains one of the most incredible experiences a person could possibly enjoy."

John J. Janc MA Romance Languages & Literatures: French '68

"I published the following book in April: *Victor Hugo. Marion de Lorme. Édition critique*. Editor John J. Janc. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2013. This is my fourth "édition critique" of Hugo plays and the fifth book that I have published of his plays."

Carol Kappus BA French, Music, & German '67

"I retired from teaching French five years ago after a long and interesting career so that I could pursue my other interest:

playing, teaching and performing on Celtic harp. I now specialize in the music of Scotland and perform traditional songs and songs of Robert Burns in Scots, English and Scots Gaelic. Twice a year I go to the Isle of Skye in the Western Islands of Scotland to study Gaelic language and song at the Gaelic College, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, and the rest of the time I study Gaelic via Skype from the Atlantic Gaelic Academy in Nova Scotia. I am happily married and have two kids: a son who lives in London and a daughter who is in her last year of Dental School at the University of Michigan."

1970-1979

Barbara Bakach Ferrer MA Romance Languages: Spanish '77

Larinita@sbcglobal.net

"That was the same year ('77) I married a wonderful Spaniard that I met on a park bench in Madrid four years earlier. Rodrigo and I are still married and just celebrated our 36th anniversary. We have three great kids. I didn't use my Spanish professionally for 25 years when I worked in data processing as a programmer, but twelve years ago I was laid off, when my job was outsourced. I had to reinvent myself, so I became a Spanish teacher. I am in my eleventh year of teaching at Farmington High School in CT."

Rex Hauser BA Spanish Languages & Literatures & Anthropology cum laude '78, MA '80, PhD '88

"In Mary Garland Jackson's and my life together, we celebrated 25 years on June 16 of this year, with a trip to the Mackinac Straits and Island area. Our adult kids are doing well as a personal trainer in the Bluegrass, KY region (Julianna, 24) and an Army platoon leader in Tacoma, WA (Michael, 23). They both graduated in May 2012, occasioning a trip for all of us around France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, and finally Paris, in June of last year."

Jeremy W. Katz MA Spanish Languages & Literature '77

jwkatz@umich.edu
Recently opened his law office in San Francisco, shierkatz RLLP, focusing on

insolvency law and litigation. Jeremy has been an attorney in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1985. Jeremy has been married to Sara Liss-Katz (U-M Master of Landscape Architecture '78) since 1981. They have two daughters, Hilary (a graduate student at the University of Chicago) and Julia (a senior at Iowa State University).

Emily Serafa Manschot BA Spanish & French with teaching certification '73, MA '78

vayaazul@aol.com
"I taught Spanish at Northville High School for 37 years and retired in 2010. This is my fourth year working at UM-Dearborn as a Lecturer/Student Teacher Supervisor in World Languages in the College of Education. I continue serving the Michigan World Language Association as its Executive Secretary. Since we retired, my husband and I have had the opportunity to travel to the Panama Canal, Mexico, Spain, Hawaii, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as visiting our friends who live all over the U.S.A."

Francine Masiello PhD Romance Languages & Literatures '75

is the author of a new book, *El cuerpo de la voz (poesía, cultura, ética)* Rosario: Beatriz Viterbo, 2013. She continues to teach at the University of California at Berkeley where she is Sidney and Margaret Ancker Distinguished Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature.

Janice Porter Van Gasse BA Spanish '73

jvangasse@kingsford.org
"I am a retired K-12 educator, but still teach Spanish I, II, and III at our local community college."

Eric H. Wayne BA Economics '69 (jr. yr. Aix-en-Provence '67-'68), MA French Language & Literature '70, US Army '70-'72, PhD French Literature '74 (with Roy J. Nelson, subject Eluard)

d. Silver Spring, MD February 5, 2012, of complications from MS and chronic asthma. Work history included part-time employment at the University of Maryland, World Bank, and the Library of Congress. Eric

also earned an MBA in International Finance from NYU in 1986.

Margaret N. Wayne BA French Language & Literature '69, MA French Literature '71, ABD French Literature '74 [Stendhal, O'Connor], AMLS (library science) '86
mway@loc.gov

"I've worked at the Library of Congress for over 35 years and currently supervise the acquisition and cataloging of material from France, Italy, and the Benelux countries -- a wonderful position, but I'm considering retirement because the staffing situation is truly grim."

1980-1989

George Greenia PhD Spanish '84

Prof. Greenia is founder of the College of William & Mary's Institute for Pilgrimage Studies, which presides over a Consortium for Pilgrimage Studies comprised of over forty participating American and Canadian institutions, an annual Symposium on Pilgrimage Studies, and summer research seminars based in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. He has trekked over 4,000 miles on multiple medieval routes to Compostela, half on bicycle, half on foot, and leads annual walks on various Caminos as field laboratories for research in art history, religious studies, travel literature and first person narratives, and more. His current publications include articles on Santiago in the fourteenth century, "Pilgrimage and the American Myth", and "What is Pilgrimage?" for an anthology in contemporary sociology.

Mary Lorene (LaBarre) Thomas PhD '84

Published *La hidalga del valle*, ed. Mary Lorene Thomas, Kassel / Pamplona, Reichenberger / Universidad de Navarra, 2013.

1990-1999

Hilary Keller Connors BA Spanish & Anthropology '94
hconnors5@gmail.com

"I have been a secondary Spanish teacher for the last ten years in a variety of schools and now am looking forward to a career as an Analytic Linguist."

Patricia M. Montilla BA Spanish & English '90
patricia.montilla@wmich.edu
is Associate Professor of Spanish at Western Michigan University, Director of Graduate Studies, and the Quito Program Director.

Christine Montross BA French with Honors '96

"I am an assistant professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University, and also an author of literary nonfiction. My second book, *Falling Into the Fire: A Psychiatrist's Encounters with the Mind in Crisis* was published in August by the Penguin Press. It was named a 'Book to Watch Out For' by the *New Yorker*."

Eric Raymond BA Spanish '98

ERaymond@usaid.gov

"I currently work as Senior Rule of Law Advisor for the U.S. Agency for International Development at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan and recently gained admission to the New York State Bar."

Derek Smith BA French '91

dtslaws@msn.com

"I am a lawyer and have recently opened a Paris law office and represent Americans with employment law/discrimination issues in France. I get to use the French I learned in Ann Arbor and in Aix en Provence (during my junior year abroad) almost every day."

Kristine (Dewstow) Yankee BA Spanish '90
kris@krisyankee.com

Recently published a youth chapter book, *Cracking the Code: Spreading Rumors*. Kris is a freelance editor, writer, wife, and mom. She is a two-time award-winning author of *Tommy Starts Something Big: Giving Cuddles with Kindness* co-written with Chuck Gaidica. Kris resides in SE Michigan with her husband, two boys, and two dogs.

2000-2009

Kathryn (Dumke) Barry BA French '02
kat@katshotcakes.com

"I am about to have my first cookbook published. It is set to be released the beginning of November and will be called, *The*

New Chicago Diner Cookbook (Kaucher & Barry; Agate). It is a vegan cookbook, so the recipes are 100% plant-based."

Sarah Bederman BA Spanish '05

"I am teaching Spanish language at UCLA and Credit ESL at Glendale College. I am engaged and will be married in June 2014."

Michael Daniels BA Political Science & Spanish Minor '02

mwdaniels@gmail.com

"I attended law school and graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 2006. I moved to Washington, DC in January 2009 and have been working in various capacities for the federal government and on political campaigns ever since. Currently, I am the Executive Assistant to the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

Robert J. Fowler BA Spanish '06

"I married Paige Greenfield on 9/28/13 in Chicago, IL. We are happily married and living in Logan Square, Chicago, IL."

Hannah Gluckstein BA Spanish '09

hangluck@gmail.com

"After graduation, I joined Teach For America and was a corps member in the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas [and] taught fourth grade. For the past two years, I taught eighth grade algebra in the same charter school district as I worked during the corps. My Spanish was incredibly useful for me, since the majority of parents spoke Spanish as their first language and I communicated regularly with [them]. As of August 2013, I've been a student at Harvard Graduate School of Education. I'm getting my Ed.M in International Education Policy, and I'm very interested in how international and global education can be used as a way to improve education for low-income, particularly immigrant, students in developed countries. I'm interested in exploring programs that promote bilingualism and biculturalism."

Sarah Goodwin BA Linguistics & Spanish Minor '05 goodwins@umich.edu

"I'm a second-year PhD student at Georgia State University in Applied Linguistics."

Auren Kaplan BA Spanish '09

"I have launched a personal coaching business around reaching one's true potential. I also founded a profitable small business managing digital marketing for companies nationwide, Kaplan Social Media."

Amy Liao BA French '05, DDS '09

"I have been living and working as a dentist in inner city North Philadelphia for four years. Thanks to Romance Languages, I'm able to connect with and care for my neighbours and patients much more effectively - mostly Puerto Rican and Dominican immigrants, and occasionally Haitian immigrants."

Stephanie Mansour BA Communications & Spanish Minor '07

CEO of Step It Up with Steph, is a nationally known health and fitness expert and body image and confidence coach for women. She's been featured on CNN, AOL, Yahoo!, WGN TV, Crain's Business, and TV stations across the country for her holistic and unique approach to health and fitness. She offers in-home private training for women in Chicago and has online coaching programs for women around the world. Stephanie leads "Cubicle Crunch" office wellness workshops and is the creator of the workbook *30 Days to Love Your Body & Your Life*.

Michael (Miguel) A. Ojeda BA Spanish '04

"I moved around quite a bit after graduating and finally settled with my music group in Austin, TX. My group, Migrant Kids, was just granted our own official day in the live music capital of the world. We played for Mayor Lee Heffingwell and the city council at City Hall. It was great timing since our CD release party was the following day. We received some amazing press from this album and are very proud and excited to share it."



Jesica Pedroza BS Biology, Spanish Minor '05 jpedroza@med.umich.edu

Is the Program Coordinator in the Office of Global Outreach, World Health Organization Collaborating Center, at the U-M School of Nursing. "A few years after graduation, I moved to Spain in order to improve my Spanish. I loved the country so much that I stayed and continued my graduate studies in Barcelona where I focused on Tropical Medicine and International Health while learning some Catalan words here and there. It was a wonderful experience!"

Ethan Pickering BA Spanish & Cultural Anthropology '09

"I'm living in Washington, DC teaching ESL to the Brazilian Army." Ethan also worked in Mozambique through the Peace Corps.

Julia Sanfilippo BA Spanish & Psychology '05

After graduating from UM, Julia pursued a Master's Degree in Oriental Medicine. She is Founder/Owner of AcuLife, an acupuncture practice in La Jolla, California. She specializes in sports injuries, fertility, and overall health maintenance.

Devin (Burnstein) Slotkin BA Spanish & History of Art '05 devinslotkin@gmail.com

"After working at From A to Sí Translations in Southfield, MI for the past 7 ½ years (first as a Spanish Translator and Project Manager and then as the Director of Translations), I recently started working at Denison Consulting here in Ann Arbor. As the Localization Manager, my role is to expand Denison's international presence and to ensure, maintain, and expand the quality and availability of Denison Consulting's translations in over 40 languages for all systems, products, and materials."

Laura Sondag BBA & Spanish Minor '09 lauraannsonday@gmail.com

"I am now working for Google Inc. in Santiago, Chile in their marketing/sales department, expanding Google's presence in Latin America."

Kevin Szawala BA Spanish '07

"I am a Motivational Speaker, Youth Minister & Hip-Hop Artist & have been speaking to youth at schools, churches, universities and other organizations across the Midwest since I graduated from U of M. I am the founder of "Being Who I Want 2 Be", a motivational speaking forum started in 2006 and designed to help at-risk youth, ranging from elementary age students to young adults. So far the message has reached over 150,000 people. It seems the hottest topics I've been speaking on as of late, especially at Middle/High Schools, have been: (Cyber) Bullying, Diversity, Overcoming Limiting Beliefs (Fears), Positive Life Choices, Purpose (Identity), Substance Abuse and Suicide.

At the University of Michigan, I created the student peace alliance chapter called, "Students Empowering Students (SES)," an organization that still exists and was established to provide students with the tools necessary to make a difference in this world. I've also held annual P.E.A.C.E. (Promoting Ethnic And Cultural Equality) DAY events on the center of campus since 2006 to encourage further connection, community, tolerance and acceptance (hence my nickname 'Mr. Peace'). Since that time schools across the nation have adopted the model to hold P.E.A.C.E. DAY celebration to honor their commitment to diversity in their own cities."

Fernando Velasquez PhD Spanish '09 fvelasquez@sjcny@edu

is Assistant Professor of Spanish at St. Joseph's College in New York. "Things are going well."

Destiny (Vasicek) Wallace BA Spanish '05

"I completed my MEd in College Student Affairs Leadership in May 2008 at GVSU. I've worked in advising, admissions, and, now, advising administration. I was recently appointed as the Coordinator for Advising and Distance Degree Programs at The University of Iowa's Division of Continuing Education. I'm married and have a little girl (2 years old- Annie) and live in Iowa City, IA."

2010-present

Tessa Adzemovic BA French '13

atessa@umich.edu

"This May, I was awarded a Project for Peace Fellowship. Through a competition on more than 90 campuses, my peace project was selected for funding. Since June 2013, I have been working with the Rebecca Davis Dance Company (RDDC), a non-profit that teaches dance to street children in Rwanda, Guinea, and Bosnia, as a way to promote ethnic healing in these fissured societies. I spent this June in Kigali, learning about RDDC's ground-level operations in Rwanda. During my time there I taught dance to 30 former street boys between the ages of 7 and 17. In October I will move to Mostar, Bosnia to implement my own dance program."

Federica Colleoni PhD Italian '10

fcolleoni@usf.edu

is a full-time Instructor of Italian at the University of South Florida, Tampa. "I have been busy teaching and raising my two kids, Agnese and Francesca. Miraculously I have found the time to co-edit with friend, Professor Francesca Parmeggiani, a collection of essays: *Forme, volti e linguaggi della violenza nella cultura italiana*. (Brescia: Edizioni Edibom, 2012). I have introduced a new course that I will teach in the Spring 2014: *Mafia in the Movies* and I am working as co-editor of a collection of essays devoted to Italian film director Marco Tullio Giordana."

Talia Dajes PhD Spanish '13

"I've been teaching as Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish at Westminster College (Salt Lake City, UT) since August of this year."

Annette Hauswirth BA Spanish & Communication Studies '11

Recently began working as an Auxiliar de Conversación in Madrid and would like to thank her former Spanish professors.

Andrea Ortega BA Spanish & Communication Studies '10, MSW '11

"I am currently an in-home social worker for the Child and Family Services Agency at

the District of Columbia government. I work primarily in the Columbia Heights region of the city with a large amount of Spanish-only speaking clients."

Alejandro Quin PhD Spanish '11

is an Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

Brittany Schwikert BA Spanish & International Studies '12

brittany.schwikert@gmail.com

"I am currently completing my second year of Teach for America where I teach Spanish to eighth-graders in Charlotte, North Carolina."

Cydney Kate Seigerman BS Spanish & Chemistry (high honors) '13

"This summer, I worked with Mindo Chocolate Makers, a bean-to-bar chocolate company based in Dexter and in Mindo, Ecuador. I traveled to Mindo to present on the chemistry behind cocoa bean fermentation in Spanish and English to the chocolate makers and local farmers. Later, I sold Mindo chocolate at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. Currently, I work as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in a bilingual secondary school in a Madrid suburb, where I assist in natural science, social science, and humanities classes, in addition to running the school's Global Classroom program. While in Spain, I translate news articles from Spanish to English for WatchingAmerica, an online news source whose goal is to provide Americans with access to articles from around the world that shed light on international perspectives regarding American politics and culture."

Sherry Shen BS Spanish '12

ss4377@columbia.edu

"I am currently a second-year medical student at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. I love living in New York City, but in particular I love being a part of the Washington Heights community where Columbia University's medical campus is located. The majority of the Washington Heights population is from the Dominican Republic, and many clinic

visits here are conducted in Spanish. The language skills I learned through pursuing a concentration in Spanish at UM has allowed me to have more meaningful interactions with patients, and I strive to continue improving my speaking skills as I acquire new medical vocabulary. I'm looking forward to starting my clinical year in January."

Gabriel Sotomayor BS Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science & Spanish Minor, MS Biomedical Science '10

Recently started an MD program at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

Maya Williams BA Spanish & International Studies Minor '12

mangelic@umich.edu

"After graduation I worked in the Dominican Republic for 6 months! I lived with local Dominicans in an orphanage for orphaned and abandoned children. I was a tutor of Spanish and Mathematics. After that I traveled to Guatemala and studied in Celas Maya school, learning about the Mayans. I currently am working as a Diversity Initiatives Coordinator in the Michigan Community Scholars Program in East Quad."

David F. Wolfgang BA Spanish '12

daviwolf@umich.edu

"This August I began my second and final year of graduate school at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans. I'm pursuing my Master of Health Administration, and I am fulfilling my administrative residency at Ochsner Health System. New Orleans is a unique city with a lot of distinct neighborhoods all with their own rich cultures and architecture. What's great is that I'm not the only Wolverine in this great city. Recently, a group of Michigan alumni in New Orleans started the official University of Michigan Alumni "Spirit Group" in New Orleans. Go Blue! "



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salut *tchau* **UN BACIONE**
hasta pronto *gros bisous*
arrivederci **abraços**
à la prochaine **Un abrazo**
Até a próxima **Ciao**
que te vaya bien