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Costa Rica Study Abroad

Classical & Modern Languages Department

Volume 5

Spring 2018

Greetings from CML

Greetings once again, alumni and friends of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages. It has been great to hear from so many of you, though some of us are feeling rather envious of your exciting travel, study and work experiences. It is truly amazing what you have done and are doing with those liberal arts language degrees!

The department welcomed some wonderful new colleagues this academic year. Carlo Anneli (Ph.D., Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison) joined us in Italian; Liulin Zhang (Ph.D., University of Hawaii-Manoa) now heads the Chinese program; Erik Alder (Ph.D., University of Kansas) joined the Spanish faculty; and Tara Smithson (Ph.D., Louisiana State University) replaced Dr. Tim Farley in French during his year-long sabbatical. Joining the ranks of CML emeriti faculty were Dr. Silvia Pites and Dr. Gregg Siewert.

A major step forward for the department this fall was the opening of the newly renovated Baldwin Hall. CML faculty who had patiently spent the 2016-2017 academic year in Fair Apartments—two faculty members per apartment—were elated to move into their spacious new

offices in Baldwin. The renovation exceeded everyone’s expectations, preserving beautiful historical features and introducing the best in technology for our new peer learning rooms, language labs, and film classrooms. Imagine skylights, adjustable lighting, blinds that close with the push of a button—in BALDWIN! It is beautiful!!

We again had some wonderful opportunities to reconnect with CML alumni. The first venue was the Foreign Language Association of Missouri meeting in St. Charles in October, where many of our teaching alums joined us for the annual “CML Alumni and Friends” reception. It’s always a treat to catch up with each other, introduce new faculty, and “initiate” our current MAE students into the network of CML graduates. We especially look forward to next year’s meeting when Michaela Hylen (2017, French; 2018, MAE) will be recognized as FLAM’s Outstanding Future Educator. We are also gratified to see more and more of our alums and their students at the CML Festival for area high school students! (See photo on p. 3.)

The department had the pleasure of welcoming French alum Dr. Robert Kilpatrick (1999) back

to campus for our “CML Alumni Speaker Series”. Chair of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of West Georgia, Rob made us all proud with his innovative and interdisciplinary presentation, “Media, Frames, Lives: Representing Trauma in the DRC in the Journalism of Jean-Philippi Stassen”. We were delighted that some local friends from the Democratic Republic of Congo were able to attend the event.

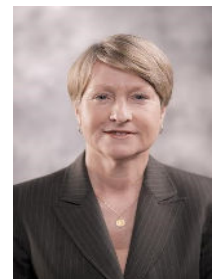
CML ended another very productive year with the second annual “Celebrating Student Success” awards reception, where we recognized our exceptional majors and minors for their many accomplishments in academics, leadership and service. (See a list of honorees on p. 11.)

As always, receiving your *Alumni Notes* updates was one of the highlights of my year. I hope you enjoy reading about the events featured in these pages, which represent only a portion of the great things going on in CML. Please visit us soon!

Sincerely,

Lucy Lee

Professor of Spanish and Chair, CML



New Faculty Member in Chinese: Dr. Liulin Zhang



This fall the CML department had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Liulin Zhang as Assistant Professor of Chinese. Originally from Suzhou, China, a city to the west of Shanghai, Dr. Zhang completed her Ph.D. in 2017 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a specialization in Chinese linguistics. Her dissertation focused on the lability of verbs in Chinese as compared to the lability of English verbs; she has already published several academic articles on linguistics topics.

Dr. Zhang says that she appreciates the motivation of Truman students and has been impressed with their

ability to engage with the language. With the assistance of Chinese Fulbright teaching assistant Yusi Song, she has offered a weekly Chinese language table where students of all levels are invited to develop their oral language skills, along with Chinese-heritage speakers who assist in their language acquisition. Professor Zhang also taught a service learning course during the spring semester, *Taiwan Connect*, in which Truman students served as English language and culture informants for middle-school students in Taiwan via Skype.

Dr. Zhang has several new initiatives underway. She is

in the process of developing a Chinese Minor, which she hopes to have approved in the fall semester of 2018. Also in development is a new Truman study abroad program to China.

Though Dr. Zhang has lived in some very diverse places, she has enjoyed her time in Kirksville and particularly likes the tranquil environment that Missouri provides. In the future, she is interested in analyzing the effects that studying Chinese in a liberal arts context has on students' ability to use the language and appreciate it. When Dr. Zhang is not working, she enjoys singing and dancing, in addition to listening to Asian pop music.

Vodanovic's *El delantal blanco* Performed by Sigma Delta Pi Members



During the fall semester, the Rho Rho chapter of Sigma Delta Pi (National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society) turned the Activities Room of the Student Union into a balmy beach scene for three performances of Sergio Vodanovic's *El delantal blanco*.

The play features a woman of the upper class, played by junior Allie Hult (Spanish major and Sigma president), who discusses her worldview regarding social class with her maid, played by junior Megan Kraus (Romance Language major). When the two women's roles are

reversed, everything the upper-class woman had thought to be inherent in her identity as a member of her class proves to be solely an appearance maintained by the distinction between her bathing attire and the maid's white apron.

Under the guidance of Sigma Delta Pi's faculty advisor, Dr. Lucy Lee, this student-led performance was directed by senior Lucas Meyrer (Communication major; Spanish minor) with support from cast members Courtney Zalmanoff (Spanish major), Victoria Soncasie (Spanish major),

Robyn Schroeder (Spanish major), Ross Jones (Spanish major), and Alex Holzum (Spanish major). An English translation by Sigma Delta Pi members accompanied the Spanish dialogue so that audience members of all levels could enjoy the play.

In addition to the performances for Truman students and faculty on November 12th and 15th, Sigma Delta Pi presented the play to area high school students on November 16th as part of the annual Classical and Modern Languages Festival. All performances were a resounding success!

Ten Languages Represented at Annual CML Festival

On Thursday, November 16th, 2017, around 350 high school students from northeast Missouri and western Illinois attended Truman's annual Classical and Modern Languages Festival. French faculty member, Dr. Audrey Viguier, chaired the festival committee, which also included Drs. Stacy Davis, Sergio Escobar, Tara Smithson, and Carlo Anelli. Events were organized in collaboration with CML faculty representing ten languages, with the assistance of over 100 Truman language students who volunteered in a variety of capacities so that events would run smoothly.

Visiting high school students chose sessions conducted in languages ranging from Swedish (Professor James

Hammerstrand) to Ancient Greek (Dr. Bridget Thomas). They especially enjoyed learning "Italian Hand Gestures" and "Yoga in French" led by new faculty members Carlo Anelli and Tara Smithson, respectively, who gave students an opportunity to learn culture and language in interactive and innovative ways.

This was the first year that the CML Festival conducted session pre-registration completely online, which proved to be an effective and enjoyable experience for participating students. Once again, the CML Festival gave area language students the opportunity to see Truman's liberal arts philosophy come to life through active language learning.



Truman alumni teachers Andrea Trieweiler (left-Moberly HS) and Zayne Tindall (right-Knox County R-1) with Luis Méndez (Knox County R-1) and Truman professor Dr. Liulin Zhang

"I Wanna Be Americano": A German Crisis of Identity

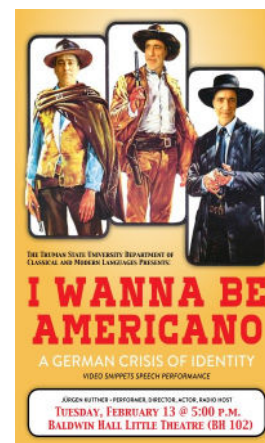
On February 13th, the department of Classical and Modern Languages hosted performance artist and radio personality Dr. Jürgen Kuttner, who performed an English-language version of his famous "Videoschnipsel-Abend" (video clip presentations).

This particular show, entitled "I wanna be Americano: a German Crisis of Identity", featured humorous video clips from television in which Germans work through their ambivalent relationship to American culture in the postwar era. A mixture of stand-up comedy and academic lecture, the performance came to life through interaction with

the Truman audience.

Dr. Kuttner grew up in the former East Germany, where he earned a doctorate in Cultural Studies at Humboldt University Berlin. When the Berlin wall fell, he found himself in a new country that required significant adjustments, but which was also full of new possibilities. While working at a radio station, Kuttner and friends were inspired by the movie *Talk Radio* to start a radio program of their own. Over the next few years, Kuttner's show garnered a cult following among audiences on both sides of the former East/West divide and became a forum for working through the problems confronted during the

integration of the two Germanies – often through the use of surreal or absurd humor. Assistant Professor of German, Dr. Jack Davis, hosted Dr. Kuttner's visit.



Connect Chicago: How to Market the Liberal Arts



In October, Dr. Andrea Nate, assistant professor of Spanish, and a group of approximately 10 Truman students participated in the annual Connect Chicago event hosted by Truman alumnus John Thompson (History major; Spanish minor).

CEO of AON Insurance, John brought together alumni who majored in a variety of liberal arts disciplines while at Truman for the purpose of providing students with insight regarding how to network and sell their liberal arts

degrees to employers in business and a variety of other industries. One alum shared his story of how he launched his own accounting services firm and offered entrepreneurial tips on how to start a small business.

CML students Alexia Adeshakan (Spanish major), Hannah Hall (Spanish major), Taylor Libbert (Romance Language major), and Rebecca Roberson (French major), decked out in their best business attire, were professional and polished as they represented Classical and Modern Languages at the conference

and at a professional networking event. They later enjoyed some of the sights of Chicago, including the Latino murals in the famous Pilsen neighborhood.

Upon her return to Truman, Dr. Nate gave an Academic Professional Development workshop in which she shared with faculty the concepts she learned at the event, as well as her own professional development activities and approaches for students.

New Italian Faculty Member: Dr. Carlo Anelli



Classical and Modern Languages welcomed Dr. Carlo Anelli to the Italian faculty in the Fall semester of 2017. A recent Ph.D. graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Anelli quickly became involved in the life of the department.

In addition to teaching elementary and intermediate Italian language courses and the newly developed Italian Composition and Conversation course, he organized a bi-monthly Italian Film series, “Cineteca Italiana”, so

that students could delve deeper into Italian culture and language. He also served as faculty sponsor of C.I.A.O. (Club for Italian Appreciation and Outreach), the recently revamped organization open to all students interested in learning more about Italian culture.

Dr. Anelli explains that he discovered an instant connection to Italian studies in his first Italian class, as it combined his love for Italian culture and literature with his family’s heritage. He pursued his passion for Italian language and litera-

ture throughout his graduate career, completing a dissertation entitled “Dialogues with the Dead in Carducci, Pascoli and D’Annunzio” on the ways in which three canonical Italian poets rhetorically engage with the dead and reflect sensibilities associated with distinct cultural and historical periods.

Dr. Anelli has enjoyed living in Kirksville and is glad to be involved in many of the extracurricular activities that Truman offers.

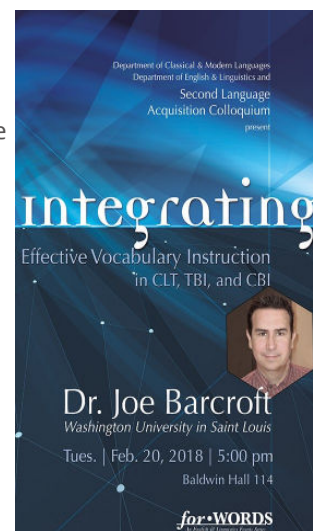
Dr. Joe Barcroft Speaks on Effective Vocabulary Acquisition

In February, the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, with support from the Department of English and Linguistics, welcomed Dr. Joe Barcroft to campus to present on the topic of “Effective Vocabulary Instruction in CLT, TBI, and CBI”. Professor of Spanish and Second Language Acquisition at Washington University in St. Louis, Dr. Barcroft teaches courses on language teaching methodology, second language acquisition, grammar and vocabulary acquisition, and Hispanic linguistics.

Dr. Barcroft’s research interests include second language vocabulary acquisition; input processing; processing resource allocation during lexical acquisition; the role of acoustic variability in language learning and speech processing; the bilingual mental lexicon; and psycholinguistic approaches to other issues in second language acquisition and bilingualism. His input-based incremental approach to second language vocabulary instruction is grounded in research findings on lexical input processing and holds

important implications for the FL classroom.

This highly engaging talk/workshop attracted a large audience of language students and faculty. Thanks to Dr. Stacy Davis, Assistant Professor of Spanish and faculty supervisor for the MAE in Spanish, for hosting this visit from her former Washington University professor as part of the *Second Language Acquisition Colloquium!*



Taiwan Connect Service Learning Returns

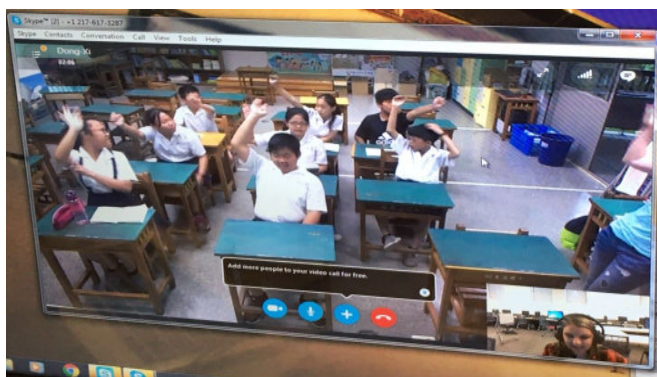
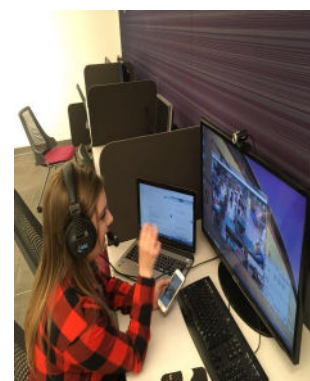
This spring semester Dr. Liulin Zhang, Assistant Professor of Chinese, brought back *Taiwan Connect*, the popular one-credit service learning course in which Truman students teach English language competencies and American culture to elementary students in Changhua county, Taiwan, via

Skype. The ten Truman students who participated in the course met for an hour of ESL instruction each week, as well as the hour spent Skyping students.

Taiwan Connect has consistently received positive feedback from our students as well as from the schools in Taiwan

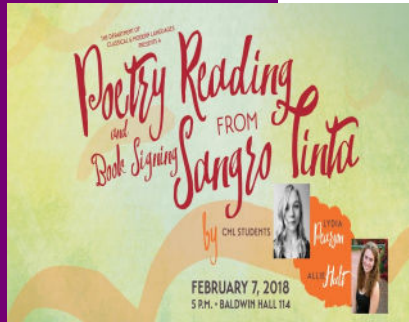
and was recently recognized by the Changhua County Magistrate for its outstanding contribution to the students of Changhua County.

According to participants, this course provides a great opportunity for hands-on language teaching. As one student noted, “with this experience, I am now certain that I want to pursue TEFL or TESL as a career”. Dr. Zhang is busy recruiting participants for next fall and plans to offer the course both semesters in future years!



Book Reading and Signing of *Sangro tinta*

The Classical and Modern Languages department celebrated the publication of a collection of poems by junior Allie Hult (Spanish major) and alumna Lydia Pearson (2017, Romance Language major) with a standing-room only event on February 7th.



The poemario, entitled *Sangro tinta (I Bleed Ink)* showcases poems written in English and Spanish, though the majority are in

Spanish. This extra-curricular project began during the spring semester of 2016 when both students were enrolled in Spanish 353: *Introduction to Hispanic*

Literature, where they demonstrated an affinity for poetry. After consulting fellow poetry enthusiast and professor of the course, Dr. José Carreño-Medina, the three began to collaborate on the project. Though the editing process was long and arduous, their dedication to the task came to fruition this spring at the book reading and signing.

The authors enthusiastically read their poems alongside Dr. Carreño-Medina to an audience of approximately 100 fellow students and faculty members. They then fielded questions in Spanish about the writing process and later signed copies of the edition over refreshments.

As Dr. Carreño-Medina states in his prologue to the edition, Allie and Lydia “se destacaron por su inteligencia y por su pasión genuina por la poesía.” He describes Allie’s poetry as “sensorial. Su voz poética se deja arrastrar por la naturaleza.” Lydia’s poetry “tiene sus cimientos en lo místico. . . . Su voz poética tiene una predilección exquisita por la memoria. . . .”

Sangro tinta, published by Ediciones Tintanueva in Mexico City, is available for purchase for \$5 plus shipping (no handling charge!) through the CML department.

Hugo Márquez García: La décima en la tradición hispánica

CML students and faculty enjoyed an impressive presentation and performance on August 27th by Professor Víctor Hugo Márquez García. Born in Zulia, Venezuela, Professor Márquez García is a musician and bard who has taught and researched at the University of Zulia for 42 years, studying the Gaita Zuliana and traditional Venezuelan folk music.



In his presentation, Márquez García highlighted the history and form of the décima and then engaged the audience in a real-time creation of a décima based on the theme of Truman’s ongoing celebration of its 150th anniversary.

The collaborative experience in décima composition was followed by a performance of the new poem on the cuatro, a traditional Venezuelan stringed instrument, accompanied by his son,

Truman Assistant Professor of Music Víctor Márquez, and his wife, Spanish major, Adriana Ovalle-González.

Students in Dr. Andrea Nate’s Introduction to Hispanic Literature course continued the discussion the following day when Professor Márquez García visited the class to share more about the oral literary tradition that has survived from Spain’s medieval ballads to the décima cultivated in Latin America today.

Dr. Melissa Davis: Meeting the Healthcare Needs of the Latin American Community

In April, Melissa Davis, M.D., visited Classical and Modern Languages to deliver a talk on the social determinants of healthcare in the Spanish-speaking world. The event, organized by Dr. Andrea Nate and co-sponsored by CML and A.T. Still University, brought together Truman and A.T. Still Medical School students to hear Dr. Davis, a native of Minnesota, share her story as a medical student in Cuba and physician in Honduras.

Our guest discussed how she decided to pursue her medical studies at the Escuela de Medicina Latinoamericana, where she spent six years completing coursework and rotations. Her talk focused on the different approaches to healthcare in Cuba, where healing is more hands-on than in the developed world. As Dr. Davis explained, a pa-

tience and empathy often not seen in the U.S. healthcare system constitute an integral part of Cuban healing.

Dr. Davis also discussed her clinical experience in Honduras via the “A Broader View” program, which places medical doctors in underserved areas for several weeks of clinical practice. The presentation was followed by a lively conversation between Dr. Davis and students.

This presentation was of particular interest to Spanish majors and minors enrolled in Dr. Nate’s Spanish for the Medical Professions course, as well as to Truman students majoring in Biology-Pre-Med and Health Sciences. Dr. Davis is the sister of German Assistant Professor, Jack Davis!

The Department of Classical and Modern Languages at Truman State University invites you to attend an Enrichment Talk by

Melissa Davis, MD

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Baldwin Little Theater

(BH 102)

Honduras



Latin Lives through Community Outreach Initiative

Although many consider Latin a “dead language,” today it is very much alive in a fourth-grade classroom at Ray Miller Elementary in Kirksville. In Fall 2016, Dr. Amy Norgard, Assistant Professor of Classics, partnered with Mrs. Nicole Marshall, lead fourth-grade teacher at Ray Miller, to enrich her class with lessons in Latin and classical culture taught by Truman students.

For the past two years, a dedicated group of 10 Classics students has taught biweekly Latin lessons to Marshall’s class as part of a community outreach project. Though some Truman students participate in this service project on a volunteer basis, they also have the option to earn academic credit through CML 200: Service

Learning Experience, which provides real-life opportunities for students to develop and reflect upon their civic engagement through language.

The goal of this service project is to provide lessons in Latin grammar, Greco-Roman mythology, and Roman culture for young learners to help grow their interest in language and history. Truman students work together to create lesson plans and team teach large and small groups of 4th graders. Lessons can vary widely, from translating Latin stories into English, to learning about Roman aqueducts, to playing games like “Caesar dicit.” In the Spring, the Ray Miller fourth students were invited to Truman’s campus for “Latin Day,” an afternoon of classically-themed events, such as

making mosaics, competing in a mini-Olympics, and learning the Greco-Roman myths behind the constellations in the Del and Norma Robison Planetarium.

Not only does this service project provide teaching practice for the Truman students – several of whom intend to pursue teaching certification after Truman – but it allows an opportunity to engage positively with the local community. Tru-

man student instructors have been impressed with the 4th graders’ enthusiasm for the material. “My favorite part about teaching at Ray Miller was seeing how the kids grew in their overall knowledge of not only Latin but of English as well,” remarks Classical Studies minor, Lindsey Buckholz. The group looks forward to continuing their collaboration with Ray Miller next year and for many years to come.



Not Just Another News Story: Comic Journalism with Dr. Robert Kilpatrick

From the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.), to Belgium, France, and beyond, Dr. Robert Kilpatrick's presentation on November 17th, 2017, kept Truman students, faculty, and members of the Kirksville community intrigued.

A French and History graduate of Truman (1999), Dr. Kilpatrick earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in French Literature

from Indiana University and is currently the chair of Foreign Languages & Literatures at the University of West Georgia. His visit to the department was part of the CML Alumni Speaker Series, supported by the School of Arts and Letters.

In his presentation hosted by Dr. Jack Davis, Assistant Professor of German, Dr. Kilpatrick shared his research in comic journalism, exploring the complexities of the relationships of France and Belgium with Africa, specifically during the period of colonialism and its continuing effects in each country. He then analyzed the portrayal of the

D.R.C. in France and Belgium, as expressed through the comic journalism of Belgian artist Jean-Philippe Stassen and the visually stimulating narratives that these comics contribute to the contemporary news scene.

The day after his presentation, Dr. Kilpatrick enjoyed a casual luncheon with French students to share his own professional journey as a Truman graduate and French major. It is clear that Dr. Kilpatrick's liberal arts roots have served him well! Please let us know if you are interested in sharing your post-graduation language experiences with CML majors.



Drs. McLane-Iles and Camara with former student, Dr. Kilpatrick

French Program Stages *Dormez, je le veux!*

On November 15th and 16th, French students brought to life *Dormez, je le veux!* (*Caught with Her Trance Down*) in their rendition of the beloved 19th century French comedy written by Georges Feydeau. French faculty members Drs. Pat Lobert and Audrey Viguier co-directed this one-act play, working with a group of six

dedicated students.

With an audience of over 100 from the Truman and Kirksville communities, the auditorium filled with laughter and applause as the actors portrayed the clever tricks that the servant Justine plays on her masters by hypnotizing them and meddling in their relationship. The play was also performed for the enjoyment of visiting

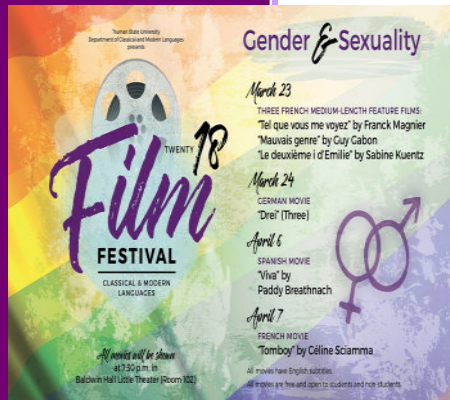
high school students at the CML Festival held on November 16th.

Presented with French and English subtitles, the performance was accessible to everyone. "Merci!" to our French students and faculty for sharing this slice of French culture with us, and also to those who supported this project through CML Foundation Funds!



CML Film Festival, 2018

This year, the Classical and Modern Languages department presented its 2nd annual Film Festival, a three-week series of foreign films free and open to the public. The theme, “Gender and Sexuality”, featured six different films in French, Spanish, and German.



The first night of the festival featured a program of short French-language documentaries that explored the themes of

transgender and androgynous identity: *Tel que vous me voyez* by Franck Magnier, *Mauvais genre* by Guy Gabon and *Le deuxième i d'Emilie* by Sabrina Kuentz .

The German and Spanish films explored topics such as growing up gay, the struggle to create one's identity according to traditional gender definitions, and polyamorous love stories. *Drei* (2010), a German film written and directed by Tom Tykwer, was shown on March 24th; *Viva* (2015), Paddy Breathnach's Spanish-language film set in Cuba, was presented on April 6th; and *Tomboy* (2011), written and directed by Céline Sciamma,

was shown on April 7th.

The CML Film Festival seeks to provide students and the community a venue to view films in foreign languages as a means of promoting intercultural understanding, as well as helping students to deepen their understanding of contemporary issues.

Drs. Audrey Viguier, Sergio Escobar and Andrea Davis organized this year's festival, with sponsorship by IFCinema (Institut Français) and Germany's Goethe-Institut.

Dr. Joseph Farrell: The Art of Literary Translation

In March, CML and the Department of ENG/LING brought Dr. Joseph Farrell to campus. Professor Emeritus of Italian at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, Scotland, Dr. Farrell has authored nine books, edited eight books (one with CML Professor of Italian, Dr. Antonio Scuderi), and published about forty academic articles. He has also translated twelve books from Italian to English, winning the John Florio Prize

for literary translation for one of these, and has translated film screenplays and for theater.

Professor Farrell is a great example of a scholar of the liberal arts. His presentation for ENG/LING was on his latest book, *Robert Louis Stevenson in Samoa*, while his presentation for CML was on the art of literary translation—demonstrating his

eclectic interests in literature. Dr. Farrell also discussed some of the problems of literary genres, including theatre, film, prose and poetry, and gave examples of how a change in slang in the target language can make older translations obsolete. The presentation was especially appreciated by CML majors who hope to pursue translation studies on the graduate level.



New Program Options For French Majors and Minors

The French major has a new look! Beginning in the Fall of 2018, the BA in French will allow students greater flexibility in designing their degree program while choosing from a wider variety of courses, including new options such as *French for Tourism*, *Grammar and Lexicon for Translation*, and *Stylistics and Translation (I and II)*

Current French majors may move to the new catalog to take advantage of this new flexibility.

Another addition to the

French program in the Fall of 2018 is a new minor, *French for the Professions* (15 credits). This minor, which focuses on oral communication and task-based classes, is “designed to provide students with the basic language skills necessary for working in a variety of contexts in which proficiency in French is required” (2018-2019 Catalog) and includes courses in the Professions strand as well as language courses. *French for Business* and *French for Tourism* are currently offered, but more professional fields will be added for the academic year 2019-2020 to include *French for Health* and *French for Science and Technics*. Be-

fore students graduate, they must take one of the French for the Professions exams offered each semester by the Paris Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Truman. These *Diplôme de Français Professionnel* will add value to student resumes and make their skills sets even more attractive in the global job market.

The *French Minor* and the *French Minor in Translation* continue to be options, as well. French majors may even combine their BA degree with a *Minor in Translation* or a *Minor for the Professions*.



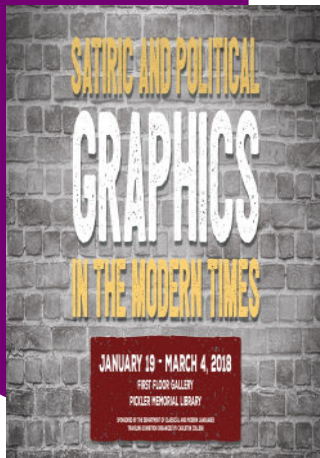
Satiric and Political Graphics in the Modern Times

Early in the spring semester, Dr. Óscar Sendón, Assistant Professor of Spanish, hosted a traveling exhibit of satirical and political art, organized and curated by Carleton College. The collection, which consisted of 20 individual pieces by prominent artists from Spain, Germany, France, the United Kingdom and the United States, was on display in the First Floor Gallery of Pickler Memorial Library from

Friday, January 19 through Sunday, March 4.

The intention of the exhibit was to provide a brief overview of graphic art throughout history that has exposed, through the use of satire and visual power, the fundamental, nonsensical contradictions that define modern society. The artists chosen represented the diverse styles of graphic art across political and historical

eras, allowing the spectator to follow the evolution of this genre from its beginnings in the eighteenth century to its current widespread practice in the twenty-first century. Classical and Modern Languages appreciates the generosity of Carleton College in sharing this enlightening exhibit that inspired much reflection on the future of the human species.



Celebrating Student Success Awards Reception

On April 26th, Classical and Modern Languages recognized the successes of language majors and minors in the 2017-2018 academic year at the second annual *Celebrating Student Success Awards Reception*. Those recognized included winners of national awards, those named as Outstanding Majors or qualifying for discipline honors, and students with exceptional performances on national exams.

Winners of the departmental awards for Outstanding Leadership, Outstanding Creative Writing, and Outstanding Community Service were also announced.



CML award winners for 2017-2018

Celebrating Student Success

Congratulations to the following students for their exceptional achievements this academic year!

National Awards

Fulbright Language Teaching Assistantships for 2018-2019:

Morgan LeBaige, German major-Berlin, Germany
Dana Megargle, German major-Sachsen, Germany

“Outstanding Student Awards”

Classics: *April Kannady*
French: *Elizabeth Hosler*
German: *Morgan LeBaige*
Romance Language: *Celine Fuchs*
Spanish: *Alexandra Holzum*
Outstanding Graduate Student—K-12: *Michaela Hylan*

CML Awards

Outstanding Leadership: *Alexandria Hult, Megan Kraus*
Outstanding Creative Writing: *Alexandria Hult*
Outstanding Community Service: *Tyler Emery, Megan Kraus, Dana Megargle, Emily Nicholson, Jonie Welland, Sabrina Wisser*.

CML Departmental Honors in the Major

Classics: *April Kannady*
French: *Elizabeth Hosler, Sabrina Wisser*
Romance Language: *Celine Fuchs*
Spanish: *Rachel Flynn, Elizabeth Hale, Olivia Heffron, Sarah Masterson, Nadine Peterson, Victoria Soncasie, Elizabeth Wilson*

Student Organization Recognitions

Alexandria Hult, Spanish major: Premio Gabriela Mistral (Sigma Delta Pi, student leadership)

Classics Recognitions

April Kannady: Outstanding Accomplishment in Classical Studies (Classical Association of the Middle West and South)
Austin Redding: National Eta Sigma Phi Greek Exam, 3rd place; Latin Prose Composition Exam, Honorable Mention
Adam Schmitz: National Eta Sigma Phi Koine Greek Exam, 2nd place; Intermediate Greek Exam, 1st place

French Professional Certifications

Celine Fuchs, Taylor Libbert, Ellen Morgan, Jonie Welland, Morgan White, Sabrina Wise, Michael Wohldmann.

Dr. Timothy Farley Translates Letters

Dr. Timothy Farley recently returned from France where he conducted research for his sabbatical project, a translation of the book *I am writing you from the Vél'd'Hiv: Recovered Letters* (Editions Robert Lafont, 2011).

Written by Karen Taieb, head archivist of the Shoah Memorial in Paris, the book consists of letters written by Polish Jews detained on July 16 and 17, 1942, and held in the Winter Velodrome

for five days in squalid conditions before deportation to detention camps in the Loiret Department south of Paris. Most of these 7000 prisoners, primarily women and children, were later deported to Auschwitz, where they perished.

While in the Vél'd'Hiv, detainees managed to hastily write letters to friends and family members, which were then smuggled out of the prison. Each chapter in the book focuses on

one family, beginning with letters written within the Vél'd'Hiv, and includes all further correspondence written from the Loiret camps.

While at the Shoah Memorial in Paris, Dr. Farley met with Karen Taieb to discuss issues related to the translation and viewed authentic documents from the archives, including the original letters and deportation lists. In Orleans, he visited the Memorial Museum of the

Children of the Vél'd'Hiv and met with its director, Nathalie Grenon (below). He will complete the final edits of the translation this summer.



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Send us updates about what is new with you— career changes, further educational opportunities, family additions— we love to hear where you are today!

Entries can be sent to:
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CML Scholarships and Funds

If you would like to direct your Truman giving to a specific area related to your Truman major, please consider the following options to help ensure the future success of CML programs and students:

Classical & Modern Language Department Foundation Fund:

Used to support opportunities for students: travel and participation in conferences, guest speakers, student plays, Romance Language House, etc.

The Vera Piper Endowment Fund: Scholarship support for study abroad in Costa Rica

The Dr. Maren Partenheimer Memorial Annual Fund: Scholarship support for study abroad

The Dr. Maren Partenheimer Memorial Endowed Fund: Scholarship support for CML students

The German Club Fund: Scholarship support for study abroad

The Max Kade Fund: Scholarship support for students in German Studies

The John and Denise Teal Classical and Modern Languages Fund: Scholarship support for French and Spanish majors

The Donna Crawford Fund: Scholarship support for French majors

Alumni Notes

Ken Fleak (1972, Spanish), who holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in Spanish from the University of Missouri, reports that he retired this spring from the University of Missouri where he taught Spanish language, literature and education in the department of Romance Languages continuously since 2006. After a fulfilling teaching career at Mizzou and the University of South Carolina, he is excited to consider new possibilities and explore new adventures. Best wishes as you begin this new phase of your life, Ken!

David Gregory (1983, Spanish Education), who lives in Opelika, AL, has just completed his 11th year teaching Spanish at Smiths Station High school in Smiths, Alabama. He reports that he also teaches an online high school course through the Alabama Department of Education and a “Continue Education” course at Auburn University. David and his wife have three children, who all began studying Latin in the 4th grade!

Peter Lebrón (1993, Spanish) reports that he stays busy teaching a course at Hannibal-LaGrange University, while continuing to teach at both Central High School in Camp Point, IL, and MACC-Hannibal campus. So much energy!

Amy C. Benoist (1997, French) spent two glorious weeks in France in September of 2016. She reports that she enjoys being a member of the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve and attended their annual history conference in September of 2017. Amy looks forward to spending two weeks in Spain this fall, where she will visit the coastal town of Cubelles where husband Jeff Smith once lived and attended school. She and Jeff live in St. Louis.

Micah McKay (2004, Spanish) graduated in December of 2017 with a Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a focus on contemporary Latin American literature. He previously earned an MA in Spanish to English Translation from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, an MA in Hispanic Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, worked as a medical interpreter, and served in the Peace Corps in Peru. This spring Micah was Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish at Beloit College (WI) and has accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Alabama for the fall! Micah recalls the dedication of his Spanish professors at Truman: “I am grateful for all that they invested in me and count myself lucky to now be one of their colleagues.” Welcome to the ranks, Micah!

Shureka (Cannon) Nyawalo (2004, French) spent a year in Switzerland on a Fulbright grant after graduating from Truman. She then began graduate work at Penn State University in 2005, earning an MA in French with a specialty in applied linguistics in 2007. After teaching French at Penn State from 2005-2011 and at Central Michigan University and Shawnee State University, she enrolled at the Université Bordeaux Montaigne (France) in 2013 and earned her Ph.D. in linguistics in November of 2017. While writing her dissertation, she taught full-time at Colorado State University-Pueblo and then at the College of Wooster, where she is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies with specializations in L1 and L2 French phonology as well as foreign language teaching and learning. Shureka thanks her Truman professors, stating: “I am forever grateful to them, and to the institution more broadly, for my successes.”

Brian Santos (2005, Spanish; 2006, MAE) just completed his 11th year as a Spanish teacher at Francis Howell North High School in St. Charles, MO. He currently teaches Spanish 2, 4, and 5AP, and sponsors the Spanish Honor Society and Spanish Club. Brian reports that he led 26 students on a trip to Ecuador last summer where they worked with local communities to dig an irrigation trench and learn about water conservation. Brian is excited to be a Spanish AP exam reader for the first time this summer in Cincinnati!

Hannah (Schneider) Kearfott (2007, Spanish; 2013, MAE) taught Spanish in Missouri and Southern California, and then married and moved back to her hometown of Champaign, IL, where she discovered a new love for teaching as an ESL instructor. She is now completing an MA in Teaching English as a Second Language at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. As a teaching assistant, Hannah taught academic writing to international graduate students and currently teaches ESL full-time at the elementary level. Hannah reports: “Being part of a large public university has confirmed what I always loved about Truman: the personal and educational experiences and relationships built with professors stand out to be something extremely special”. Congratulations, Hannah, on your marriage, your new career path and the MATESL!

Kim (Mitchell) Steinmetz (2008, Spanish) is Program Director of the International and Immigrant Student Services Office at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS. She and husband Dylan Steinmetz (2008) have a two-year-old daughter, Felicity. Congratulations, Kim!

Elizabeth Bonanno (2009, Spanish) recently became a partner at Griffiths Law PC in Denver, where she has practiced since earning her law degree at the University of Colorado-Boulder in 2012 with a specialization in family law. Elizabeth was named a Colorado Super Lawyer Rising Star for 2017 and 2018. She and husband Ken Bradtke will travel to Italy this summer for her grandmother's 90th birthday celebration in Messina, Sicily.

Joe Sallen (2010, Spanish; 2011, MAE) is completing his seventh year teaching high school Spanish at Boone High School in Boone, IA. Since earning his MAE at Truman, Joe has traveled to Puerto Rico and Spain. Next on the list is the Southern Cone! We look forward to hearing about South American next year, Joe.

Jackie (Boos) Weidenbenner (2011, Spanish; 2012, MAE) will begin her 7th year as a high school Spanish teacher this fall. Though formerly at Sikeston Senior High, she has accepted a new position in Cape Girardeau for September where she and her husband have bought a house. If anyone is interested in Jackie's former job, please contact the Sikeston R-6 School District. Jackie reports that she will lead a trip to Peru this summer with a group of her Sikeston students!

Sarah George (2014, Spanish) is in her second year of law school at Pepperdine University (Malibu, CA) and is currently participating in the DC Externship Program at the Department of Justice's Office of Immigration Litigation. This office handles all immigration-related appellate litigation for the country. After law school, Sarah plans to continue using her Spanish skills as an immigration attorney.

Andrea Trierweiler (2015, Romance Languages; 2016, MAE) teaches French and ELL at Moberly High School after spending last year in France as an English teaching assistant with the TAPIF program. Adventure awaits her this summer as she hikes the Camino de Santiago! It was great to visit this past fall when Andrea brought her students to the CML Festival.

Brian Jacob (2015, German/Music; 2017, MAE) has completed his first year of teaching at Lindbergh High school in St. Louis, where he will continue next year. Over the course of the year, he attended a conference in Denver on the teaching and promotion of German in American high schools, hosted by the German Foreign Ministry. Brian plans to pursue more graduate coursework at Truman this summer for future certification in Gifted Education. He will attend a workshop on Comprehensible Input in August.

Derek Benjamin (2016, Spanish) spent the 2016-2017 academic year in Madrid on a North American Assistantship scholarship and then taught English at prestigious private schools in Madrid. Derek will begin study this fall at the Instituto de Empresa in Madrid, where he will pursue a Masters degree in International Relations. He is excited to spend yet another year in the city he so loves! Congratulations, Derek, on acceptance to this excellent program.

Luke Bishop (2017, Romance Languages) is completing a year abroad as a Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant in Spain. After considering options for graduate school, he has accepted a Teaching Assistantship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he will pursue an MA in Spanish with a concentration in linguistics and perhaps continue on to the Ph.D. Best wishes for a great graduate experiences, Luke!

Christy Crouse (2017, Spanish; Political Science) spent the 2017-2018 academic year as a Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant in Colombia, where she taught English classes and led the Conversation Club. Christy also worked with a social foundation that helps impoverished, disabled and older adults complete their high school education. Throughout the year, she has enjoyed exploring Colombia, as well as Ecuador and Peru, where she hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu! She'll visit Luke Bishop in Galicia and spend time in Spain, Portugal, Turkey and other parts of Eastern Europe before beginning law school at the University of Chicago in the fall.

Chelsea Firra (2017, Spanish) is currently at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, where she will complete a Masters degree in translation this August. She reports having had an incredible year at this very international university. In September Chelsea will head back to the U.S. to begin work as a professional translator—and plan a wedding for 2019!

Lauren Reynolds (2017, Spanish; 2018, MAE) will complete her MAE in August and has accepted a position at Linn-Marr High School in Iowa, her former high school, where she will teach Spanish II. She is very excited about working alongside her Spanish teachers! Lauren will also teach Spanish I at Oak Ridge Middle School. Congratulations, Lauren, as you begin your professional career!

Clara Miller-Broomfield (2017, Romance Languages) spent the 2017-2018 academic year as an English teaching assistant at a high school and two middle schools in Tulle, France. She is very excited that she will be living in Galicia, Spain, next year as a 2018-2019 Fulbright ETA.