

**IN THIS
ISSUE:****Overview of
2011-2012
from the
Chair of the
Department****Scholarship
Recipients and
Scholarships
Added****Departmental
Achievements
and Events****Additional
Study Abroad
Destination****Transitions****Alumni News**

The Polyglot Newsletter of the Friends of World Languages

Robert DeLutri, editor

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2011-2012

The Chair's Column

Dear Colleagues and Friends of World Languages,

As you will notice, the name of our department has changed to World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures in order to better reflect the diversity of our offerings which include courses in language, linguistics, literature, culture/civilization, film, and art history, all taught in the target language!

Once again, this past academic year has been filled with many accomplishments from our faculty, staff, and students. Our study-abroad programs continue to attract many students, and we added to our offerings an intermediate Spanish course in Valencia, Spain this past summer. We have increased the number of our professional courses in French, German, Japanese, and Spanish, and more students are receiving Certificates in Professional French and Spanish. We continue to maintain several foreign language clubs, film series, conversation groups, and chapters of national honor societies. We organize various activities throughout the year, and our Distinguished Lecture Series keeps bringing reputable scholars to the campus. As a result, the number of our majors and minors keeps growing in all languages and at all levels.

Our faculty members have been very productive in the area of research and scholarship. They have published books, book chapters, and articles in prestigious journals. They have also presented papers at national and international conferences, thus making our programs, our department, and UNT more visible. You will be able to read about their many accomplishments in this newsletter. As for me, I presented papers at the national convention of the American Association of Teachers of French in Chicago, and at the world convention of the Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Français in Durban, South Africa.

After serving for eight years as Department Chair, I have decided to step down from this function; I now look forward to returning to my faculty position and devoting more time to teaching and research. I will be on development leave and, thanks to a Research Enabling Grant from UNT, I will spend the spring 2013 semester in France, conducting research on immigrant women there. My successor as Department Chair is Dr. Carol Anne Costabile-Heming, Professor of German from the University of Northern Kentucky; she will be featured in the next issue of *Polyglot*.

Some of our staff members were recognized this year: Cara Guziak, our Administrative Coordinator, was the recipient of a Staff Contribution Award while Belinda Reyes, Administrative Specialist, received a Star Performance Award. Lindsay Goodman completed her first year as an Administrative Specialist, and she is proving to be a good addition to our team. Our Language Lab, under the expert direction of Susan Gehrlein, was improved this past year.

Finally, I would like, once again, to express my deep gratitude to our donors who have generously contributed to our scholarship funds and gift account; we are indebted to them. One of our objectives is to send most of our world language majors abroad as this is the only way they may become fully proficient in the target language. Unfortunately, with the rising costs associated with these stays, our students need financial assistance, and I would like to encourage you to donate in this area. You may contribute to our existing scholarships (see p. two of this newsletter) or establish new ones. I would be happy to discuss various possibilities with you, and feel free to contact me at koop@unt.edu or by calling (940) 565-2404.

Please let us hear from you. In the meantime, I look forward to hearing from you.

Truly yours,
Marie-Christine Koop
Professor of French and Department Chair



Sponsored Scholarships

Our established sponsored scholarships to undergraduate language students include:

The Arthur and Claire Gionet Endowed Scholarship in French

The Smith Dannelly Scholarship

The Ryan Delaney Scholarship in German

The Robert Hardin Endowed Scholarship (NEW) (Please see page six.)

The Martha & Voncile Lidell Scholarship

The Mildred Masters McCarty Scholarship

The Martha A. Olsen Memorial Scholarship

The Solveig Olsen French Expendable Fund

The Solveig Olsen German Expendable Fund

The Solveig Olsen Spanish Expendable Fund

The Solveig Olsen Endowed Scholarship in German

The Gayla Holley Tekell Scholarship (in the development stage) (Please see pp 6 and 8.)

The Donald R. Vidrine French Study Abroad Scholarship

The Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures is proud to announce that the following UNT students have been awarded scholarships this year:

French: Ashli Cornwell (Olsen), Klara Knypinski (Solveig Olsen), George Minchillo (Studies Abroad and Vidrine)

German: Julie Bird (Solveig Olsen and M.A. Olsen), Iran Roman (Olsen and M.A. Olsen)

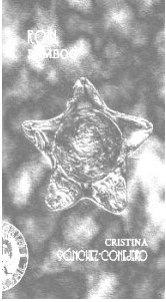
Spanish: Vanessa Gilliam (Solveig Olsen , Smith-Dannelly, and M.M. McCarty), Christine Tolle (Olsen)

We, and more importantly, the students are deeply appreciative of the generous contributions that have been made to language and cultural education at UNT.

Our scholarship pool can grow and be sustained only through the financial support of our donors, the Friends of the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures, to whom we send this newsletter. We hope you will consider sending us a gift today.

If you would like to contribute to our gift account or establish a scholarship fund for either undergraduate or graduate language students, please use the enclosed envelope or contact Dr. Carol Anne Constabile-Heming. You may reach her at (940) 565-2404 or e-mail her at carolanne.constabile-heming@unt.edu. All contributions are tax deductible.

Faculty and Staff Achievements



Book Publications



Dr. Cristina Sánchez-Conejero (Associate Chair of the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures and Associate Professor of Spanish) has published a single-author book of fiction entitled *Lluvia, bambú* with Casaveria Publishing (106 pages). Additionally, Casaveria Universal has published the English-language translation of this work, entitled *Rain, Bamboo*, counted as Dr. Sánchez-Conejero's sixth book.

Grants



Dr. Christophe Chaguinian (Assistant Professor of French) has received a grant from the Newberry Library in Chicago where he will attend the Mellon Institute in French Paleography and conduct research in July, 2012.



Dr. Will Derusha (Associate Professor of Spanish) has received a UNT Research Initiation Grant that will enable him to carry out research.



Dr. Sam Manickam (Assistant Professor of Spanish) has received a research grant from the South Central Modern Language Association to fund a week of research at the Benson Latin American Literature Collection at the University of Texas this summer.

Dr. Lawrence Williams (Associate Professor of French) and **Dr. Jiyoung Yoon** (Associate Professor of Spanish) have both received a UNT Research & Creativity Enhancement Award to be used to conduct research in the summer of 2012.

Awards



Dr. Jessica Greenfield (Coordinator of Italian) has received the 2012 Southwest Conference on Language Teaching (SWCOLT) Excellence in Teaching Award.



We are happy for our Administrative Specialist, **Belinda Reyes** who has received a well-deserved Star Performer Award.



Ms. Cara Guziak (Administrative Coordinator II) received a Staff Contribution Award presented by UNT President Rawlins (photographed) at the reception on March 28, the start of Staff Appreciation Week. Cara has also just completed her 10th year of service to UNT!

Leaves: **Dr. Cristina Sánchez-Conejero** and **Dr. Marie-Christine Koop** have both been awarded a Faculty Development Leave for Fall 2012 and Spring 2013, respectively.



Other Recognitions

We applaud **Dr. Teresa Marrero** (Associate Professor of Spanish) for her direction of the drama, *Lorca in a Green Dress*, which opened at UNT on November 7. We invite you to visit www.worldlanguages.unt.edu/news for a more detailed account of this singular event.

Other Faculty and Staff Recognitions (continued)



Dr. Dorian Roehrs (Associate Professor of German) has been elected to the Executive Committee of the Society for German Linguistics, an international association of scholars who teach and conduct research in German Linguistics and Philology.



The film, *Hispanosophy*, produced by **Dr. Christina Sánchez-Conejero**, premiered at the XVI Festival de cine de Zaragoza in Spain in January. For additional information, please visit: www.hispanosophy.com and *The Polyglot*, Vol. 7 (2010-2011) at: www.worldlanguages.unt.edu/news.



Dr. Lawrence Williams (French, pictured) has been elected to the Executive Committee of the Division on Applied Linguistics of the Modern Language Association. Along with **Dr. Marijn Kaplan** as Secretary of Women in French, **Dr. Marie-Christine Koop** as vice-president of FIPF (Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Français, North America Commission), **Dr. Dorian Roehrs** on the Society for Germanic Linguistics, no fewer than five of our faculty now serve as officers for national and international associations. **Dr. Jiyoung Yoon**, currently secretary of the Executive Committee of the Language Theory division of the MLA, will chair that committee next year. In addition,

Ms. Laetitia Knight was recently elected Vice-President for the North Texas Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) for a two-year term.

Three of our colleagues are featured in the Spring 2012 issue of the *TFLA Bulletin*: The article “Classroom Arrangements for a Student-Centered Classroom” by **Dr. Jessica Greenfield** (Lecturer in Italian) appears on pages 22-23; the article “Using My Language Lab to Teach Hybrid/Online Classes” by **Ms. Laetitia Knight** (Lecturer in French) can be read on page 26. **Ms. Yayoi Takeuchi** (Lecturer in Japanese) is mentioned and photographed on page 21, and on the last page (p. 49) of the issue appears an advertisement for our French and Spanish Summer Institutes. To access the articles, please visit www.tfla.info/journal/TFLA_Journal_SP2012.pdf. The *TFLA Bulletin* is a biannual publication of The Texas Foreign Language Association which organizes two conferences per year and has a membership of two thousand.



In January, the **UNT Alpha Pi chapter of Sigma Delta Pi**, the national collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, was awarded the annual Frida Kahlo Award by the Society Executive Committee for the content, navigability, appearance, and current maintenance of its webpage. This is particularly significant as there are 583 chapters of SDP nationally. We congratulate **Ms. Connie Martínez** (pictured at left) for her relentless efforts and leadership in her role as Faculty Mentor for Sigma Delta Pi. Please visit this award-winning site at www.wix.com/untsigmadeltap/unt.

Adjunct Faculty, **Sandra Simmons** (M.A. French / UNT) has successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in French literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. *Chapeau*, Dr. Simmons!



RECOGNIZED AT HONORS DAY



At the recent Honors day celebration, six faculty members of the department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures were named by Honors Day student recipients as having been a source of support and inspiration. They are: **Dr. Pierina Beckman** (Spanish), **Ms. Bei Chen** (Chinese), **Ms. Laetitia Knight** (French), **Ms. Sophie Morton** (French), **Dr. Cristina Sánchez-Conejero** (Spanish), **Dr. Christoph Weber** (German).

Please join us in congratulating our distinguished colleagues! (For a related story, please see “Honors Day Students” on page five.)

Congratulations to all on these fine achievements!

Thank a Teacher

We are pleased to announce the World Languages faculty members who were nominated by their students since the inception of this program last fall. Nominated in Fall 2011 were: **Ms. Leticia Álvarez** (Spanish), **Dr. Jorge Avilés-Diz** (Spanish), **Ms. Cristina Campbell** (Spanish), **Ms. Bei Chen** (Chinese), **Ms. Kellye Church** (Spanish), **Mr. Robert DeLutri** (Spanish), **Dr. Will Derusha** (Spanish), **Mr. Eric Fuentes** (Spanish), **Dr. Jessica Greenfield** (Italian), **Ms. Peggy Hardt** (Japanese), **Ms. Karen Lioy** (Spanish), **Ms. María Z. Muñoz** (Spanish), **Ms. Molly Petras Sweigert** (Italian), **Ms. Ruth Precker** (Hebrew), **Ms. Martine Price** (Spanish), **Ms. Nicholey Schwab** (Spanish), **Ms. Carmen Terry** (German), **Dr. Christoph Weber** (German).

The following instructors were nominated in Spring 2012: **Ms. Letitia Alvarez** (Spanish), **Ms. Mirna Alvarez** (Spanish), **Dr. Christophe Chaguinian** (French), **Ms. Kellye Church** (Spanish), **Dr. Jessica Greenfield** (Italian), **Mr. Angel Hidalgo** (Spanish), **Ms. Laetitia Knight** (French), **Ms. Tine Larsen** (French), **Ms. Olga Mandujano** (Spanish), **Ms. Connie Martinez** (Spanish), **Ms. Ivette Moore** (Spanish), **Ms. Sophie Morton** (French), **Ms. Elizabeth Norton de Evans** (Spanish), **Dr. Dorian Roehrs** (German), **Ms. Carmen Terry** (German), **Dr. Karen Upchurch** (Spanish).

Student Achievements

Chinese Bridge Competition



Two UNT students, **Cameron Goehl** and **Elliott Roarck**, competed in the 11th Chinese Bridge Competition and won, respectively, 2nd and 3rd Prizes. Since the judges decided to leave the 1st Prize vacant, Cameron Goehl represented UNT and the DFW area by participating in the 2nd round competition, held in Houston on April 22 and sponsored by the Consulate. Mr. Goehl competed with 13 college students from eight southwestern states. The UNT community at large is very proud of the achievements of Messrs. Goehl and Roarck as we also recognize the many hours their instructor, **Ms. Bei Chen**, dedicated in helping her students prepare for this.

Scholarship Recipients

Another two UNT students of Chinese, **Nidia Warner** and **Kyrie Jesalosky**, have each received a one-semester, full scholarship from The Confucius Institute, enabling them to study in China in spring 2013. Please join us in congratulating them.

Japanese Speech Contest

Two third-year UNT students, **Jana Lampe** and **Jonathan Horton**, won fourth and fifth place in the 15th Dallas Japanese Speech Contest. Sixty-one students from the DFW area competed in the contest held on February 11. Pictured from left to right are: Ms. Yayoi Takeuchi (Lecturer in Japanese), Mr. Jonathan Horton, Ms. Jana Lampe, and Ms. Peggy Hardt (Senior Lecturer in Japanese).



HONORS DAY STUDENTS



The following students were recognized at Honors Day, Friday, April 13:
Undergraduate Level: **Kelsey Perlman** and **George Minchillo** (French), **Carina Jones** (German); **William J. Derusha**, **Rachelle Wilson**, **Kelsey Conrad** (Spanish)
Graduate Level: **Zachary Barnhart** (French) and **Elizabeth Gosch** (Spanish)



SCHOLARS DAY



German major **Carina Jones** won first place for her Honors Thesis entitled “between Identity and Commodity: Female Urban Experience in Vicki Baum’s *Menschen im Hotel*” at the ninth annual University Scholars Day held April 19th. Scholars Day celebrates the work of undergraduate researchers at UNT. To this end, The Office of Research and Economic Development (ORD) at UNT provided funding for major financial awards to undergraduate students with the best papers and posters presented at University Scholars Day in order to encourage students to attend prestigious regional and national professional meetings.



The Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures congratulates Carina on her outstanding achievement and also recognizes the contribution of **Dr. Christoph Weber** who served as faculty mentor overseeing Carina’s research. Carina just graduated from UNT and plans to enter into a German graduate program. She was also recognized by the university on Honors Day this year. *Herzlichen Glückwunsch!*

We gratefully thank... 谢谢

Merci The late **Dr. Robert Hardin** for a new endowed scholarship. Dr. Hardin passed away in August 2010 and had willed a part of his estate to UNT, a large proportion of which he bequeathed to our department. Although a professor of French, it was Dr. Hardin’s wish that the scholarship be available to students in French, German and Spanish, on a rotating basis.

Vielen Dank **Dr. Solveig Olsen**, who during her convalescence following a recent heart attack, rewarded monetarily this year’s nominated Honors Days Students in World Languages. Thank you, Dr. Olsen! We always think of you and we all wish you a complete recovery. (Dr. Olsen is pictured on page seven.)

Gracias The parents of **Gayla Holley Tekell** for their generous contribution toward the scholarship established in their daughter’s name. (Please see related article on page 8)

Gratias ago vos **Ms. Connie Martínez** (Principal Lecturer of Spanish) for her tireless efforts in promoting The State Employee Charitable Campaign (ECC). Donations to this worthy cause were augmented by a successful bake sale.

Thank you Last but certainly not least, we thank **Dr. Marie-Christine Koop** for eight years of dynamic leadership in her capacity of Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and of the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. *Nous vous en remercions!* (Please see related article on page seven.)

WLLC EVENTS

Guest Speaker

On February 8, we were very pleased to welcome Costa Rican poet, **Jorge Chen Sham** (pictured at right) from the University of Costa Rica. Introduced to us by his friend and colleague, Dr. Samuel Manickam (Assistant Professor of Spanish), Dr. Chen Sham’s presentation of his latest book of poetry, *Nocturnos de mar*, delighted those in attendance. Not only was this a unique opportunity to meet a poet from a Spanish-speaking country, but it was also something of a revelation to hear a poet read aloud and textually analyze his own work! “A+”





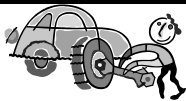
A WLLC Holiday Tradition



As the Fall semester drew to its close, the WLLC faculty and staff met to enjoy a relaxed moment at its annual, traditional Holiday Luncheon, organized by members of the Social Committee, all of whom helped plan the event, design the invitations, and transform the pedestrian faculty lounge into a yuletide bistro. It was also a wonderful opportunity to visit with



retired colleagues **Dr. Solveig Olsen** (Professor Emerita of German, photographed left), **Dr. Donald Vidrine** (Professor Emeritus of French, photographed right), **Dr. Lee Nahr-gang** (Professor Emeritus of German), as well as with retired **Dean McDaniel**. We were also delighted that **Dean Monticino** was able to take time out of his busy schedule to join us.



Transitions



Dr. Koop Steps Down

On May the 2nd, World Languages faculty and staff honored **Dr. Marie-Christine Koop** with a crystal plaque for the eight years of her leadership as department chair. An elegant “tea” was organized by the department’s Social Committee (Dr. B. Ashbaugh, Dr. P. Beckman, Ms. B. Chen, Ms. K. Church, Mr. R. DeLutri, Ms. C. Martínez) as the setting of the tribute. Please visit our department’s webpage for the complete transcription of the event’s laudatory introduction delivered by Associate Chair Dr. Cristina Sánchez-Conejero, as well as many photographs in color.

www.worldlanguages.unt.edu/news.



Retirement



A lecturer in German at UNT since 2005, **Ms. Monika Campbell** decided to take retirement at the end of the Spring 2012 semester. Twice the recipient of a UNT grant, Ms. Campbell developed and taught UNT’s first online courses in German. Ms. Campbell also sponsored the UNT German Club and hosted the biweekly *Kaffeeklatsch* on-campus and the monthly off-campus outings for German cuisine at local restaurants, *Stammtisch*. Retirement will permit her to divide her time between summering in her native Germany and wintering in Texas. We wish her all the best as she embarks on a new chapter in her life. *Auf wiedersehen, Monika, und vielen Dank!*

Study Abroad Destination Change

After several years of organizing and leading a summer study program in Cuernavaca, Mexico, **Dr. Pierina Beckman** has inaugurated a study abroad program in Valencia, Spain. In this five-week intensive program, students are able to earn six UNT credits for accelerated intermediate Spanish (SPAN 2040/2050) and three transfer credits in the upper level advanced Composition and Oral Practice (a 3000-level course). This program also includes three days visiting Madrid and Toledo. For further information please email beckman@unt.edu.





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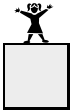
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The Polyglot is compiled, designed, illustrated and edited by **Robert De Lutri**, Senior Lecturer in Spanish. Special thanks to **Dr. Marie-Christine Koop** for her invaluable assistance throughout her tenure as Chair and to all those who submitted photos! To read a longer and in color version of this edition, please visit us at www.worldlanguages.unt.edu.



Alumni News



Jessica Gomez (B.B.A. Human Resources and B.A. Spanish, 2005) is currently International HR Director for the Americas and Asia Pacific with TGI Fridays, travels a great deal to Europe, Central and South A, Asia and Australia, and uses Spanish daily in her position.

Ayumu Minegishi (B.A. French, 2008) is back in Japan working in marketing research.

Kelsey Perlman (B.A. French, 2012) is in France completing an internship sponsored by the French government to promote soccer among young women.

Arnaud Perret (M.A. French, 2006) has accepted a three-year visiting position at Puget Sound.

Sally Perret (M.A. Spanish, 2006) has accepted a tenure-track position at Ohio Wesleyan.

Ashley Shams (M.A. French, 1997) received tenure and promotion last year at the University of St. Thomas.

Christy Wampole (M.A. French 2002) is now in her first year as an assistant professor of French at Princeton.

It is always a distinct pleasure to receive news of our former students. Please let us hear from you and let us know also if you are in contact with other UNT alumni from our department.

We Remember

Thanks to the initiative taken by Ms. María Zamora Muñoz and the support of other friends and colleagues, a plaque in memory of **Gayla Tekell** was installed outside the Language Building. Coinciding with what would have been Gayla's birthday, the plaque was unveiled on October 7, 2011. The unveiling ceremony was attended by Gayla's relatives and former colleagues.

