

**IN THIS
ISSUE:****Overview of
2009-2010****from the
Chair of the
Department****Scholarship
Recipients****Departmental
News and
Events****New Faculty
Members****The New Study
Abroad Pro-
grams****New National
Honor Society
Chapters****In Memoriam****Letters from the Chair...**

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Foreign Languages,

We have had a busy year again, filled with accomplishments from our faculty and students as you can see in this issue. We have hired new faculty members in several languages, and our student enrollment keeps growing. We have established a minor in Latin and expanded the number of our study-abroad programs which now include China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Mexico, and Spain. For next year, we are considering the addition of Jordan and Québec (Canada). We have opened a tutoring lab in all languages to assist students at all levels, chapters of national honor societies in Italian and Japanese have been created, and students have the opportunity to enroll in several language clubs. We also offer film clubs and conversation groups held throughout the week. I encourage you to attend these events to practice your language skills. In collaboration with the program in International Studies and with the support of the College of Arts and Sciences, we have established a Global Learning Community which is a residential program aimed at entering freshmen interested in foreign languages and international studies; they reside on an assigned floor in Kerr Hall and participate in various activities throughout the year, under the direction of a coordinator and faculty-in-residence.

Our faculty have been very active in the area of research and scholarship. They have published several books, presented papers at international and national conferences, and received research grants. Last April, Dr. Jongsoo Lee organized and hosted the first International Symposium in Aztec Studies, entitled "Reconciling Portraits of Pre-Hispanic Mexico: Texcoco and Current Aztec Studies"; this event brought to our campus some of the best scholars from various

countries. Our colleagues have also been very active in campus activities, participating in events such as International Week, University Day, and Grandparents University, just to name a few.

As for me, I have just completed a three-year term as President of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF). In this capacity, I organized our yearly national convention that was held last July in San Jose, CA. I am also active with the Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Français (FIPF) for which I serve as Vice President of the North America Commission. I was recently invited to participate in an international conference on Québec held in Pondicherry, India where I made some good contacts.



We are fortunate to have a very supportive office staff with Cara Guziak and Belinda Reyes, and our Language Lab functions efficiently under the direction of Susan Gehrlein. I would like to have a special thought for the former colleagues whom we lost this year, Ms. Gayla Tekell, Professors Robert Hardin and Kjell Johansen, and Mr. David Lively. They will be remembered.

Finally, I would like, once again, to express my deepest gratitude to our donors who have generously contributed to our scholarship funds and gift account; we are indebted to them.

Please let us hear from you. If you happen to be in Denton, I would be very happy to show you around the Language Building and our state-of-the-art facilities. In the meantime, I look forward to hearing from you.

Truly yours,

Marie-Christine Koop
Professor of French and Department Chair

Japanese Speech Contest

We are pleased to announce our third-year Japanese student, **Rachel Garton**, won fourth place in the 13th Dallas Japanese Speech Contest. **Lara Woodhull**, also from third-year Japanese, took seventh place in the preliminary.

The Dallas Japanese Speech Contest is held annually at the Dallas Japanese Advancement School. It is a unique and challenging contest since the majority of the audience are native Japanese speakers from Japan. The speakers are expected to perform in a near-native level before the native speakers.

Please join us in congratulating Rachel and Lara for their hard work in meeting the challenge of Japanese speech-making.



L-R: Lecturer Peggy Hardt, Rachel Garton, Lecturer Yayoi Takeuchi

Sponsored Scholarships

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

French: Joane Theodore (The Solveig Olsen Scholarship)

German: Renee Leigh Emerson (The Martha Olsen Memorial Scholarship); **Emily Wiskera** (The Solveig Olsen Scholarship)

Spanish: Elizabeth Gosch (The Mildred Masters McCarty Scholarship); **Cynthia Salas** (Solveig Olsen Scholarship); **Staci Travis** (Liddell Scholarship)

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 Foreign Languages and Literatures, to whom we send this newsletter. We hope you will consider sending us a gift today.

Our established sponsored scholarships to undergraduate language students include:

- The Arthur and Claire Gionet Endowed Scholarship in French
- The Ryan Delaney Scholarship in German
- The Smith Dannelly Scholarship
- The Donald R. Vidrine French Study Abroad Scholarship
- The Dr. Jacob Hieble Scholarship
- The Martha & Voncile Lidell Scholarship
- The Mildred Masters McCarty Scholarship
- The Martha A. Olsen Memorial Scholarship
- The Solveig Olsen Endowed Scholarship for German
- 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

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. Marie-Christine Koop. You may reach her at (940) 565-2404 or e-mail her at koop@unt.edu. All contributions are tax deductible.

Departmental News

Publications

Dr. Marijn Kaplan (French) co-edited (with Perry Gethner) a special issue of the journal "Women in French Studies" (2009, 200 pages). It is a volume on the select essays from the Women in French International Conference that she and Dr. Koop co-hosted in 2008 and it is entitled "Women in the Middle." **Dr. Kaplan** has also edited "Lettres de la princesse Zelmaïde au prince Alamir, son époux, 1765. Lettre de la Marquise D'Artigues à sa soeur, 1785. By Marie-Jeanne Riccoboni." (Paris: Éditions Indigo & Côté-femmes, 2009 (53 pages).

Dr. Marie-Christine Koop (French) has co-edited (with Rosalie Vermette) "France in the Twenty-First Century: New Perspectives/La France au XXI^e siècle: nouvelles perspectives" with Summa Publications (2009, 430 pages). She was also guest editor of a special issue of "Dialogues et Cultures" (Nr. 56) entitled "La Francophonie en Europe : Le cas de la Suisse romande et de la Communauté française de Belgique" (2009, 190 pages) as a follow-up to the national 2008 seminar that she organized in Geneva and Liège.

Dr. Teresa Marrero (Spanish) authored a collection of short stories entitled "Entre la Argentina y Cuba: Cuentos nómados de viajes y tangos," published in Buenos Aires by Corregidor (2009, 203 pages).

Dr. Lawrence Williams (French) has co-edited (with L. B. Abraham) "Electronic Discourse in Language Learning and Language Teaching" with John Benjamin Publishing Company (2009).

Grants

Ms. Monika Campbell (German) has received a grant to teach second and third semester German online. This is a follow-up to her previous grant to teach first semester German online in Fall 2009.

Dr. Jongsoo Lee (Spanish) received a Wells Fargo grant to organize the first International Symposium in Aztec Studies, entitled "Reconciling Portraits of Pre-Hispanic Mexico: Texcoco and Current Aztec Studies," held this Spring on the UNT campus.

Dr. Michel Sirvent (French) received a UNT Faculty Research Grant covering September 2009 through July 2010.

Dr. Cristina Sánchez-Conejero (Spanish), **Dr. Lawrence Williams** (French) and **Dr. Jiyoun Yoon** (Spanish) have each received a Research and Creativity Enhancement (RCE) Grant.

Dr. Christoph Weber (German) has been awarded a Junior Faculty Summer Research Fellowship to conduct research in Germany this summer.

Leaves

Dr. Marijn Kaplan (French) and **Dr. Michel Sirvent** (French) have both been awarded a Faculty Development Leave in 2010-2011 to work on a book project. **Dr. Jiyoun Yoon** (Spanish) has also received a faculty development leave to enable her to devote a full semester to her research.



Awards

Dr. Pierina Beckman, Associate Professor of Spanish (pictured left), was among five faculty who were named 2010 Honor Professors by the UNT Student Government Association and recognized during the Honors Day convocation luncheon on April 9. Several other faculty members were also recognized by Honor Students: **Dr. Will Derusha** (Spanish), **Ms. Laetitia Knight** (French), **Ms. Connie Martínez** (Spanish), **Ms. Natalia Russell** (Russian), and **Dr. Christoph Weber** (German).

Ms. Susan Gehrlein, Director of the Foreign Language Learning Center, has received the North Texas Star Performer Award.

Ms. Gayla Tekell (Spanish) was recognized on Alumni Appreciation Day, September 25, 2009.

Other

We applaud **Dr. Teresa Marrero** (Spanish) for her writing, acting and directorial contributions to the theatrical work, *La Familia*, which held its world premier at the Cambalache Teatro in Dallas on October 23, 2009.

Dr. Jiyoun Yoon (Spanish) has been elected to the Executive Committee of the Language Theory division of the Modern Language Association.

Congratulations to all on these outstanding achievements!

New Professors in the Department

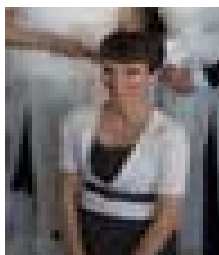


Professor Jorge Avilés Diz specializes in XVIII and XIX century Spanish Peninsular Literature, with a special focus in nineteenth century drama. He holds a BA, MA, and He is Ph.D from University of Salamanca (Spain). Before coming to UNT, he taught at James Madison University (VA), Wake Forest University (NC) and Middlebury College during the Summer School. He is also editor for *Decimonónica*.



Dr. Christoph Weber: “I received my Ph.D. in modern German literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison this year. My area of expertise is eighteenth and twentieth-century German literature and aesthetic theory, with special interest in the cultural representation of nature in literature and fine arts. Currently, I am working on a book about the literary representation of natural disasters in 18th-century German texts and I am planning to do archival research at the Niedersächsische Landesbibliothek in Göttingen, Germany, next summer. My hobbies include hiking in the Swiss Alps, painting, and expanding my collection of foreign films.”

New Lecturers in the Department



Ms. Emily Graves (Lecturer in Spanish): “I received my BA (2001) in Spanish and MA (2003) in Spanish from UNT. Afterwards, I taught English as a Second Language in Madrid for six months and traveled through Europe for a few months. I entered into a Ph.D. program in Hispanic Studies at Texas A&M University and am currently working on my dissertation over Latin American authors in exile. In January 2010 I got married. Interests: Spending time with family and friends, traveling, reading.”



Ms. Jessica Greenfield (Lecturer in Italian): “I am originally from the west coast and hold degrees from the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Notre Dame. I am currently ABD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and am working to finish my dissertation dealing with Giovanni Verga’s Sicilian short story collections. I love teaching and have been fortunate to have the opportunity to teach Italian to people of all ages, from three years to seventy-five years. I’m looking forward to the inaugural Italian study abroad trip this summer to Cefalù, Sicily and the expansion of the UNT Italian Club which will include the establishment of a Gamma Kappa Alpha Italian Honor Society chapter here at UNT. In my spare time I like to swim, run, cook and watch football.”



Ms. Laetitia Knight (Lecturer in French) holds a double Master’s degree in English and French as a Foreign Language from the University of Pau (France). She began her career as an instructor of English in France. After a year abroad teaching French at Indiana University, she discovered her real passion in teaching French as a foreign language. Ms. Knight’s interests also include the field of Linguistics. She is moderator of the National French Honor Society and hosts a French Brown Bag lunch with students. In addition, Ms. Knight enjoys playing piano, watching movies and a good book.

(Continued on next page...)



Ms. Natalia Russell (Lecturer in Russian). “Ukrainian born, I grew up in Moldova. My passion is languages! I speak Russian (my native language), English, Romanian and French. As a child I spoke Turkish and Bulgarian. I received an M.A. in Philology from Moldova State University in English Language. My B.A. is also in Philology in English, English Literature and French. I love teaching languages! I have taught English at Moldova State University to Russian speaking students and to Romanian speaking students for four years at the Department of Translation. I taught English to businessmen at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Moldova before moving to the U.S. And now I am teaching Russian to English speaking students. Teaching a language is what I love doing. It makes me very happy to help students learn a new language and culture through the language.”

A warm welcome and our best wishes to you all!

Newly Established UNT Honor Society Chapters

Gamma Kappa Alpha National Italian Honor Society. The first eight inductees (seven of whom are pictured at right) are George Michillo, Claire Gilliam, Kim Humphrey, Cristal Brewster, Ashley Doutaz, Desiree Hubby, Bonnie Harris, Eliscia Kinder. All have received an official certificate and honor cords to be worn with their graduation gowns. Grazie tante to **Ms. Jessica Greenfield** for your work on inaugurating this chapter!



The Japanese National Honor Society—College Chapter (JNHS-CC) at UNT. Among those pictured at left are the 15 inductees this year. Graduating Spring 2010: Arielle King, Cris Grossardt, Jessica Peters, Ezekiel Eckert; graduating Summer 2010: Heather Snyder, Shaleah Poster; graduating Fall 2010: Alex Smith. Inductees continuing to study at UNT: Rachel Garton, Carlo Lizarraga, Francesca Martinez, Benjamin McDonald, Lea Sarojo, Rachel Strunc, Lara Woodhull. Thank you, **Yayoi Takeuchi** for establishing this chapter!

New at UNT: Biblical Hebrew

UNT has broadened its Hebrew Language Program to include Biblical Hebrew, the original language of the Hebrew Bible (The Old Testament). The two-year Hebrew sequence fulfills the university’s language requirement. Credits also can be applied to the Jewish Studies minor. Students can also augment their UNT Hebrew courses with a study abroad program in Israel. For more information, please contact **Ms. Ruth Precker**: rprecker@unt.edu

New Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs

China

We are delighted to announce our new study abroad program in Beijing, led by lecturer **Ms. Bei Chen**, during Summer I. In this five-week accelerated and intensive course in Chinese, students earned UNT six credit hours as they learned how to communicate in Chinese, exchange ideas, and get to know the value systems of young Chinese people and their opinions about politics, culture, economics, thus discovering the real China. In addition, students were able to visit the historical and cultural attraction sites which include: the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, as well as several museums. Students also had the opportunity to attend a tea ceremony, the Beijing Opera, performances of traditional Chinese music and theatre, and to visit jade and cloisonné factories of fine arts and a visit to the contemporary artists community. At right, students visit Prince Gong's Mansion in Beijing. For further information, please contact bei.chen@unt.edu.



Italy



This new and exciting study abroad program took interested students, pictured left at the Colosseum in Rome, to the Sicilian town of Cefalù for a one-month stay during Summer I. Students were awarded six undergraduate credits upon completion of Accelerated Intermediate Italian. This five-week program, led by **Ms. Jessica Greenfield**, also included a walking tour of Rome and Vatican City, and, in Sicily, the historic sites of Taormina, Mount Etna, Palermo, The Roman Forum, Agrigento, The Aeolian Islands, and others. Students were able to participate in a Sicilian cooking class and horseback riding through the Sicilian hillside. For further information, please contact: Jessica.Greenfield@unt.edu.

Please join us in thanking...

Spanish faculty members **Dr. Barbara Ashbaugh** and **Ms. Gayla Tekell** for hosting the *Spanish Cine Club*; **Ms. Olga Chávez-Tolley**, **Ms. Kellye Church** and **Ms. María Muñiz** for offering additional *Tertulia* sessions. These additional activities have greatly helped students of SPAN 2040 and 2050 fulfill the requirements of the two Portfolios submitted throughout the semester.

Ms. Bei Chen (Chinese), whose efforts resulted in two students in the Chinese program, **Ben McCreary** and **Megan Mancenido**, being awarded a scholarship from the Confucius Institute. The two students will now be able to study in China during the 2010-2011 academic year and the scholarships will cover registration, tuition, class materials, campus housing, plus a monthly allowance.

Ms. Agnes Cser (German) for inaugurating the *German Book Club*. Its goal is to foster a love of reading in German.

Dr. Will Derusha (Spanish), for taking the initiative of organizing a tutoring system for our students of Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish. **Dr. Derusha** interviewed and recruited student tutors and scheduled the tutoring sessions. For information on this service, please visit www.forl.unt.edu or, in person, LB 101.

The Flaming Hot Quintet, a.k.a. **Connie Martinez**, **María Muñiz**, **Elizabeth Norton de Evans**, **Martine Price**, **Steve Sheppard**, for representing our department in the annual Chili Cook-off during UNT Family Weekend. Assisted by **Ms. Kellye Church** and **Ms. Olga Chávez**, the quintet prepared a traditional chili and were the only ones who dared to prepare a vegetarian chili which, unfortunately, did not win but a fun time was had by all.



Four "Flaming Hot" members, left to right: Steve Sheppard, María Muñiz, Elizabeth Norton de Evans, Connie Martínez.

Ms. Jessica Greenfield (Italian), for organizing several activities throughout the academic year in order to raise money for the study abroad program in Italy. One fundraiser, *Una Serata Italiana*, was held at Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant and another at McAlister's Deli.

The Foreign Language Office Staff for preparing the displays with information on our language programs and study abroad programs for a special exhibit held in the lobby of the Language Building in September.

Ms. Gayla Tekell (Spanish) and **Members of the Scholarship and External Funding Committee** (chaired by **Ms. Tekell**) for organizing the scholarship fundraiser at El Guapo's for the benefit of all of our language programs.

In Memoriam



Kjell Johansen passed away on December 8, 2009. He had retired from UNT after teaching German in our department from 1964 to 2000. He also served as Supervisor of our Language Lab (as it was then called). He was originally from Norway and went back every summer. Those of you who knew Kjell will remember him as a very friendly and kind person, and someone who introduced technology to our department.



David Lively passed away in March 2010 at the age of 57 due to illness. He had originally earned a B.A. in German (with a minor in music) from UNT and had completed 30 hours toward a graduate degree in Computer Science. He was later employed in our department as a Teaching Fellow in German and then Language Lab Supervisor from 1990 to 1997. He was also an accomplished musician.



Dr. Robert Hardin passed away on August 16, 2010. He was a retired professor of French with the title of Professor Emeritus. He was born in 1929 and served in the USAir Force as a sergeant. Dr. Hardin received his B.A. from North Texas State University (former name of UNT) in 1950, his M.A. from UT-Austin in 1956, and a Ph.D. in French from the University of Illinois in 1959, writing his dissertation on Marcel Proust. He was employed at UNT from 1959 to 1994 when he retired after serving on modified service. Dr. Hardin was one of our donors, contributing every year to our departmental gift account. He was also involved with the UNT Advancement Office. He had no immediate family, and Dr. Don Vidrine, another retired colleague in French, took care of him during the past four months of his life, along with Dr. Solveig Olsen, another retired colleague in German.

(In Memoriam continued on next page)



Ms. Gayla Tekell passed away on August 16, 2010. She was an active lecturer in Spanish since 2003. She was born in 1961 and is survived by her husband, Terry Tekell and three children, ages 22, 16, and 14. She earned a B.A. in Education from Baylor University in 1983 and an M.A. in Spanish from UNT in 1990. She served as Coordinator of Spanish 1010 and 1020 for two years, piloted our first blended courses (on line and in the classroom) in Spanish and was our 2009 departmental honoree on Alumni Appreciation Day. Ms. Tekell was also very active in the community. She coordinated and attended her church's summer mission trips to the Texas Valley, where she worked with Hispanic churches and taught Bible studies in Spanish, organized clothing drives and the distribution of Christmas gifts to needy families, and taught classes in English as a second language.

When an Angel Gets Sick

When an angel gets sick, a husband stops going to work.
When an angel gets sick, children miss fun activities.
When an angel gets sick, parents worry and stay up all night.
When an angel gets sick, friends are sad and don't know what to do.
When an angel gets sick, doctors have meetings; they want to heal the angel.
When an angel gets sick, everybody worries and prays.

But the Angel lies in her hospital bed and lets the nurses
Take her temperature, her blood pressure, lets them put tubes in her body,
Does not get excited, remains calm, strong, and brave.
The Angel receives visitors, smiles, makes small talk, is pleasant, tries to stay awake, Sometimes drifts off,
looks peaceful, calm, and makes others feel everything will be okay.

When it is time, the Angel goes to meet Her Maker. He is ready for her.
Everybody is sad, but the Angel is ready to go. She has done her job well.
She has been someone's soul mate, has set a very good example for her children,
Has been a loving daughter, and has given her friends true friendship and support.
Her love has reached lands far beyond where her home once was.

Gayla, thank you for showing us how to be kind when life isn't;
How to be brave, when life is scary;
How to be strong when we feel weak;
How to face life with courage, dignity, and love.
You will forever live in our hearts and minds.

Pierina
August 17, 2010

UNTTM

Department of Foreign Languages
and Literatures

1155 Union Circle #311127
Denton, TX 76203-5017

Phone: (940) 565-2404

Fax: (940) 565-2581

E-mail: robert.delutri@unt.edu

Polyglot is compiled, edited and designed by

Robert De Lutri, Lecturer in Spanish. Special thanks to

Dr. Marie-Christine Koop

for her invaluable assistance. A color version of this edition is available online. Please visit us at www.forl.unt.edu/events



As part of **Ms. Peggy Hardt's** course, *Japanese Society Today* (JAPN 3040), some ladies from the Urasenke Dallas Fort Worth Association were invited to demonstrate a traditional Tea Ceremony, an art that dates back to the 16th Century and is still widely practiced in Japan today. Through the tea ceremony demonstration and explanation, Ms. Hardt's students were able to learn "hands-on" about the history and fundamentals of the ceremony, as well as to sample tea and seasonal sweets.