



Through the Language Lens

Spring 2015

OWU
Department of
Modern
Foreign
Languages

FACULTY

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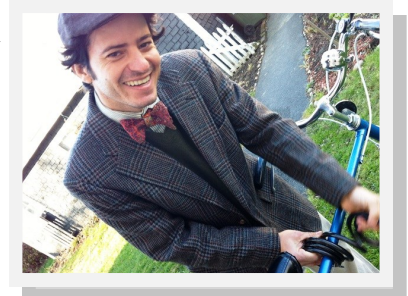
Dr. Andrea Colvin Receives Tenure



The Department of Modern Foreign Languages is pleased to announce that **Dr. Andrea Colvin** received tenure from OWU this spring semester. Dr. Colvin joined the department in 2009 as an Assistant Professor of Spanish with a specialization in 20th and 21st Century Latin American Literature. Originally from Germany, Colvin graduated with her doctorate in Spanish from the University of California, Irvine in 2009. Her main area of research deals with the memory and representation of traumatic experiences, particularly in contemporary narrative from the Southern Cone. She is also interested in the construction of (national and cultural) identities in the context of Latin American Independence as well as the use of the child's perspective in literature and film. Congratulations Dr. Colvin!

A New Face in MFL

MFL welcomed a new adjunct Spanish instructor this semester, **Ramiro Garcia-Olano**. Mr. Garcia-Olano is from Argentina where he grew up and worked on a cattle ranch. He holds a B.A. in Business Administration and Finance (Universidad de Belgrano), and a M.A. in Spanish (University of Nebraska at Lincoln). He is currently completing a Ph.D. in Spanish and a Certificate in Film Studies (University of Massachusetts at Amherst). He specializes in Latin American Literature and Film. His current field of research concerns cinematographic adaptations of literary works pertaining to Argentina's "Gauchesca" genre.



Phi Sigma Iota Welcomes New Members



Phi Sigma Iota, the MFL and Classics Language Honorary will induct new members on April 22nd @ 4:30 pm in the Bayley Room of Beeghly Library. Selections are based on the following minimum national criteria: declared junior/senior Language major, including Classics; MFL GPA of 3.25; Overall GPA of at least 3.0

Congratulations to the new 2015 members:

Aideen Connolly, Meghan Guthrie, Kyle Hendershot, Kaley Hoffman, Lauren Janowicz, Emily Julius, Ally Munat, Memme Onwudiwe, Conor Perkkio, Hannah Sampson, Haley Sheafor, Tirion Sheafor, Julia Stone

TUTORING

Need help with your language skills? Tutoring is available in the MFL Language Center—no appointment necessary. Tutoring schedules are posted on most bulletin boards in the main hallway. See Mrs. Forman in UNIV 212 with questions.

LENFEST AWARD

Applications for the Donald Lenfest Scholarship in Spanish will be accepted thru March 31—questions should be directed to Dr. Rojas, Department Chair.

YEAR-END EVENTS

Department Picnic & Awards Presentation

for all MFL majors/minors—Wednesday, April 29 @ 4:30 pm - *location to be determined* watch for an email with details.

Commencement Reception

MFL major and minor graduates, family and friends are invited to join the MFL department for light refreshments in University Hall immediately after commencement.

Faculty News and Updates

Professor Eva Paris presented a talk entitled “La voz coral en el universe filmico de Patricia Ferreira: historia, memoria y sociedad desde una conciencia de género y generacional” at the Cine-Lit VII Conference in Portland, Oregon.

This summer **Prof. Glenda Nieto-Cuebas** will be leading a Theory to Practice Grant project in Spain with two students currently majoring and minoring in Spanish. The project will be focused on contemporary productions of Early Modern Spanish plays.

MFL Professors Receive TEW Awards for 2015-16

Andrea Colvin - Study of the Effects of Argentina's Dirty War

Mary Anne Lewis - Teaching and Researching Francophone Cultural Production through Colonial Archives, Museums

Eva Paris-Huesca - Conference and Workshop in Spain

Juan Armando Rojas Joo - Summer Poetry Workshop and Academic Research in Mexico City

Ching-Hsuan Wu - Broadening Expertise in East Asian Languages and Cultures: Advancing Teaching and Research

The Need for Foreign Languages—Dr. Thomas Wolber

During the Cold War, there was a strong need and demand for teaching and learning Russian. Leading universities had entire departments and programs devoted to studying and understanding the Soviet Union and its main language. They attracted the top minds of the nation, many of whom became fluent in the language and culture. Today, it's just the opposite. The demand has plummeted, the funding is gone, and many colleges and universities have phased out Russian although it remains one of the top six languages in the world, well ahead of French, German, and Japanese. Few students study Russian or other Slavic languages anymore, and even fewer take courses in Arabic, Korean, Portuguese, Turkish, and so on.

The result of the disinterest in Russian? A scathing British report just released concludes that the decline and neglect of Russian Area Studies in Europe and the U.S. has led to a dangerous situation. The loss of analytical capacity, both in terms of quantity and quality, has undermined the West's ability to understand and predict Russia's and Putin's intentions. For that reason, Europe and the U.S. did not see the Ukraine crisis coming and were unprepared for it. Instead, they “sleepwalked” into the situation and were blindsided. Will the Baltic States be next? Nobody seems to know. Missing, incomplete, or erroneous information can have disastrous consequences, often leading to inaction or misguided decisions.

Studying foreign languages and culture is crucial not only for national security, but also vital for other areas such as politics, business, and science. Learning about a foreign language and its literature can be a worthwhile pursuit in and by itself and remains the hallmark of an educated person. However, the skill also has immediate practical and utilitarian applications in the real world. Often it translates directly into employment. Inter-linguistic and cross-cultural competence and proficiency are important. Many job ads indicate that knowledge of a foreign language and culture is either a must or a plus. Employers look for value in their associates, i.e., what they bring to the table. And so, employees with the ability to understand and speak a foreign language will always be head and shoulders above the rest.

Tournées French Film Festival - Hosted by OWU

March 27—March 31—April 3—April 6—April 13—April 16
7:00 pm—Benes B—HWCC—free & open to all
contact Professor Oancea for information—aioancea@owu.edu

Language News and Events

German News: Kindertransport—OWU’s Department of Theatre and Dance recently performed the contemporary award-winning drama *Kindertransport* by British author Diane Samuels. The challenging play about the evacuation of German-Jewish children during the time of the Nazis required extensive knowledge of the German language and culture. **Dr. Thomas Wolber**, along with second-year German Student **Emily K. Poltor** ‘17, provided language and dialect assistance. Emily also served as Assistant Stage Manager and Assistant Costume Designer. In addition, several current first-year German students were involved in the performance of the play as actors (T. J. Galamba) or as part of the production crew (Hailey LaRoe and Zoe Rosenthal).



Prof. Bertolini-Puckett’s **ITALIAN 111** class enjoyed Italian culture—with good food—of course!



Aya Muta (center) at winter event

by MFL in February. She is assisting Japanese language students for seven

The annual **Japanese Luncheon** on December 15 was a huge success! Professor Kawabe prepared delicious Japanese favorites for over 100 students and guests. The **Japanese winter event** was a restaurant outing on March 1st—



25 students participated in the event and enjoyed Sushi at Akai Hana Restaurant and shopping at a Japanese supermarket. Well done! **Aya Muta**, Japanese intern from Gakushuin University in Tokyo, was welcomed Professor Kawabe with teaching and tutoring weeks.



Dr. Andrea Colvin joined one of **OWU’s Mission teams** to work in Nicaragua over spring break

Last Fall, the **Spanish 369 honors course *Early Modern Spanish Literature and Culture*** hosted a few events. Dr. Luciano García Lorenzo (shown below), a well-known scholar of Spanish Golden Age Theater, came to OWU to give a lecture about contemporary productions of Spanish classical theater. At the end of the semester students in this class led a *Workshop Performance on Spanish Classical Theater* in which they performed original adaptations of several plays studied in class: *The Trickster of Seville*, *Life is a Dream*, *The Dog in the Manger*, and *The Foolish Girl*.



Spanish 369



Alumni News

Brandon Cannon 11’ recently finished his M. A. in Applied Linguistics, with a focus on Spanish as a Second or Bilingual Language in the department of Romance and Classical Studies at Michigan State University, where he also collaborated as a Graduate Assistant. Brandon Cannon, who is originally from Dublin, Ohio, and completed his Bachelor’s degree in Spanish Education at Ohio Wesleyan University in 2011, studied abroad in Salamanca, Spain, during the fall of 2009, and after his graduation he returned to Salamanca to teach English for two years.



Fall 2015 MFL Course Offerings

Fall advising/registration starts soon. On-line registration portals will open/close as follows:
Current Juniors & Returning Seniors—4/6-7; Current Sophomores—4/9-10; Current Freshman—4/13-14
Add a 5th Course and Open Registration—4/16 thru 5/8

Area	#	FALL 2015 - Course Name	Faculty	Days	Start
Chinese	110	First Year Chinese I	Wu	MWF	11:00
	225	Second Year Chinese I	Wu	MWF	10:00
	330	Fourth Year Chinese I	Wu	MWF	9:00
	310	Third Year Chinese I	Evans	TR	1:10
French	110	Beginning French I	Nelson	MWF	9:00
	110	Beginning French I	Lewis	MWF	11:00
	111	Beginning French II	Oancea	MWF	9:00
	111	Beginning French II	Nelson	MWF	10:00
	230	Continuing French: Moving Toward Fluency	Lewis	MWF	9:00
	250	Composition and Conversation	Oancea	TR	1:10
	351	Introduction to the Literatures of the French Speaking World	Lewis	MWF	2:10
German	378	French Culture & Civilization	Oancea	TR	10:00
	110	Beginning German I	Wolber	MWF	1:10
	225	Continuing German	Wolber	MWF	2:10
Italian	361	19th Century Literature	Wolber	TR	1:10
	110	Beginning Italian I	Bertolini-Puckett	TR	10:00
Japanese	110	Beginning Japanese I	Kawabe	MWF	9:00
	225	Continuing Japanese	Kawabe	MWF	11:00
Spanish	110	Beginning Spanish I	Seven sections/Various Hours/Days		
	111	Beginning Spanish II	Five sections/Various Hours/Days		
	225	Continuing Spanish: Intensive Review	Counselman	MWF	11:00
	225	Continuing Spanish: Intensive Review	Nieto	MWF	2:10
	226	Continuing Spanish: Intensive Review II	Rojas	MWF	10:00
	226	Continuing Spanish: Intensive Review II	Rojas	MWF	11:00
	241	Spanish Language Practicum	Nieto	W	3:10
	250	Composition: Topics in Hispanic Culture	Colvin	MWF	1:10
	250	Composition: Topics in Hispanic Culture	Bush	TR	10:00
	350	Introduction to Hispanic Literature	Colvin	MWF	11:00
	300.7	Sorcerers & Witches in Spanish Literature	Nieto	MWF	10:00
	360	20th & 21st Century Mexican Lit. & Pop Culture	Rojas	MWF	2:10
	367	Spanish Literature & Culture from 1800s to Present	Paris-Huesca	TR	1:10
368	Special Topics in Hispanic Cinema & Literature	Counselman	MWF	2:10	

Summer Session 2015—Professor Eva Paris-Huesca will offer SPAN 111 Beginning Spanish II @ 9:40 am this summer session, May 18—June 19. Contact the Registrar's Office for details .