

# Modern Languages Bulletin

Department of Modern Languages - Kansas State University  
May 2005

## FROM MY PERSPECTIVE



It has been my privilege to serve as Interim Head during Dr. Robert Corum's sabbatical leave this Spring. The experience has certainly given me a whole new appreciation of the myriad of responsibilities to which a department head must attend and has also made me appreciate all the more the excellent job that Dr. Corum has been doing for us for the last several years. Finally, it has confirmed my sincere belief that we as a department strive to maintain the highest professional standards while serving our students as best we can. As

problems great and small arose this semester, I knew that I could count on my colleagues and Dr. Corum to help find fair and equitable solutions. I should add that my task was greatly facilitated by the support our administrative officer, Charlotte Stevens, and our student office assistant, Desne Glover, who were ever patient and helpful. I cannot boast of any particular accomplishments during my short tenure other than maintaining a steady course and avoiding disaster! I am especially pleased, however, that the two searches conducted on my watch were successfully completed with the hiring of Dr. Jennifer Askey in German and Ms. Wei Wu in Chinese. I look forward to welcoming these new colleagues when they join us this fall. Our email address is [modlang@ksu.edu](mailto:modlang@ksu.edu). Please let us hear from you!

**Robert Clark, Interim Chair**



### *About Us: New and Familiar Faces*

**Amy L. Hubbell** joined the French section in the Fall of 2004. She has a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, 2003). She is specializing in contemporary French literatures from around the world. Feminist and exiled writers also interest her. In addition to teaching our basic language and literature classes, she teaches Business French (she plans to write a textbook, and for that purpose, she attended the Conference "Languages and Culture for



International Business” at the University of Memphis). She will offer a seminar on Education in the French and Francophone world, and attend another centered on Quebec literature. She is planning a special class on Negritude and Francophone literature for next Christmas at the Universite Cheikh Anta Diop (Dakar, Senegal). In addition to her teaching, Amy has taken on the responsibility of coordinating French 1 to 4 classes and of supervising the Teaching Assistants. All these activities did not stop her from writing. She has published articles in *Ellipsis* and *Revue CELAAN*, and she has given a number of papers. She is a tireless colleague who has participated in the activities of the Department, of the French section, and of the French Club. Her enthusiasm and energy are

contagious to students and faculty members alike.

**Peter Arnds**, who was promoted to professor this academic year, has been teaching at KSU since 1995. Prof. Arnds has recently published his second book, *Representation, Subversion, and Eugenics in Günter Grass's 'The Tin Drum.'* This publication on Germany's most prominent post-war novelist indicates one direction that Prof. Arnds's work has taken in recent years, one that investigates issues of race, cultural identity, and the politics of representing the Holocaust. He has also recently published on such writers as Bertolt Brecht and Christa Wolf. An article that Prof. Arnds wrote on Wolf's *Medea* led to a radio interview on "tragedy today" with the MLA radio program *What's the Word*, to be broadcast on public radio stations. In addition to teaching German, he has also resuscitated KSU's Italian program, which will become increasingly vital with the university's recent study abroad initiatives in Italy. This dovetails nicely with Prof. Arnds's keen interest in study abroad programs. In Summer 2004 he led trips to both Italy and Germany. Prof. Arnds tells us that these trips were very enjoyable, both in regards to his interaction with the students as well as for teaching outside of the classroom. Both trips provided experiences for the students that could not be replicated in the classroom. In Summer 2005 Prof. Arnds will be leading 19 students on a journey that takes them from Frankfurt to Dresden, Prague, Budapest, Vienna, and Munich. During the regular academic year, he enjoys the sense of academic community at KSU and how it can feel like family. When he finds moments away from professional activities, he enjoys gardening, going on

adventure trips with his son, driving to Lawrence and Colorado, as well as water colors (sporadically). Newsletter readers might be surprised to learn that Prof. Arnds is planning on studying Chinese in the coming years so that he can go to China during his sabbatical in 2008 and possibly teach there for a semester or two.

### *A Warm Welcome...*

To our new office manager, **Charlotte Stephens**. She married Mr. Gregory Stephens eighteen years ago, after having met at K-State, where she was studying Apparel Design. A Gulf War veteran, Charlotte is the proud mother of Aliyah, Gregory Jr., Samantha, and Benny who, in their stead, spoil their mom with poems and paper maché hearts which add color and feeling to the decoration of the Department's Office. Here is what Charlotte says about her job:

"I am enjoying my position here in the Department of Modern Languages. The different cultures and languages are reminiscent of my hometown. I was raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which is a community rich in ethnic and cultural diversity. I learned early on that embracing and celebrating everyone's differences is the foundation of free society. Working with a group of people with those same "melting pot" characteristics means a lot to me".

Her appreciation of our diversity is priceless to us. Thank you, Charlotte.

### *Our Faculty*



**Peter Arnds.** In addition to items mentioned in the special profile of Dr. Arnds in this edition of our newsletter, he published a book entitled *Representation, Subversion, and Eugenics in Günter Grass's The Tin Drum*, and one article. He read papers in Boulder, Washington, D.C., Hamburg and Istanbul. The Hamburg and Istanbul events including personal readings from his novel *Auf Busenhöhe*. Dr. Arnds has drafted a translation ("Searching for

Alice") of his novel into English which he may submit in the future to his Australian publisher.

**Doug Benson** read "Poliglosia, transtextualidad e hipertextualidad en la poesía de Gloria Fuertes" at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, 15-17 April 2004. He chaired the Spanish section's extensive curriculum revision which includes renumbering our classes to make the sequence more logical, and adding some new areas such as cinema and the literature of U. S. Hispanics. He continues to participate heavily in the diversity work of the university.

**Robert Clark's** article, "Raising the

Devil: *Robert le Diable* on the Nineteenth-Century French Stage,” has been published in *Mainte belle œuvre faite*, a volume of essays in honor of Professor Graham A. Runnalls. The article brings together two of Prof. Clark’s interests, opera and medieval drama, both shared by Prof. Runnalls, emeritus professor of medieval French literature of the University of Edinburgh.

**Robert Corum.** Away from the hustle and bustle of the Department office, Dr. Corum is presently enjoying a sabbatical leave. He is devoting his time to research on a second book on the French poet Nicolas Boileau. Another book for which he served as co-editor, *La Poésie Française Du Premier 17e Siècle: Textes Et Contextes*, recently appeared at Rookwood Press. During his leave he has also given two presentations on his research at scholarly conferences. He looks forward to his return to campus in June.

**Claire L. Dehon** wrote an article at the request of *French Review* entitled “Le Roman francophone en Afrique subsaharienne (1995-2000).” She presented a paper “Identity Denied. The Victim in the Subsaharn Francophone Novel” at the African Studies Association (New Orleans) and she continues to be a referee for *French Review*; she is a member of the editorial board of the University Press of Kansas. Dr. Dehon served as referee for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. She continues to work on a book length study of writers from the Ivory Coast.

**Lucía Garavito.** Dr. Garavito published

“Receta básica de Cocinando con Elisa: ingredientes a la Grimm en una caldera argentina” in the *Latin American Theatre Review* and got accepted for publication in *Inti* “Figuras femeninas en La Virgen de los sicarios de Fernando Vallejo y Rosario Tijeras de Jorge Franco”. She also wrote a major encyclopedia entry on Santiago García (director of the Teatro La Candelaria and playwright) and an obituary on Enrique Buenaventura for LATR. She also presented the paper “Criaturas de aire de Lucía Laragione: biopoder y subversión” at the “Genders and Genres: Writing and Hispanic Women Writers” Conference in Madrid.

**Derek Hillard:** I am approaching the three-year mark as a KSU faculty member. Based on the Kansas reputation as home to an expansive timeless prairie, one might feel things here would move slowly; however the inverse is true: the unhurried "prairie-feeling" manages to accelerate time. Of course, now that I'm father to a one year-old I have no time and realize that my life is essentially over. Summer 04 I conducted research on Paul Celan at the archive on the isolated heights overlooking the small town of Marbach, Germany. Speaking of time, the archive is famous for its lost-intime Zauberberg-feeling;. This July & August I am looking forward to four weeks with 13 students on KSU's Summer Program in Berlin. Last year I did the German Studies and Modern Language Associations conference circuits – from the latter we were able ultimately to hire our great new colleague in German, Prof. Jennifer Askey, who will begin this Fall. An article

on German film was recently published and one on Rilke will be appearing. I have enjoyed the courses that I have recently taught, including seminars on "Violence in Weimar German Culture" and "Myth and Reason in the German Enlightenment." The level of curiosity and devotion on the part of KSU students remains impressive.

**Amy Hubbell's** article, "Looking Back: Deconstructing Postcolonial Blindness in Nostalgérie" was published in the Fall 2004 edition of the *Revue CELAAN Review*. Dr. Hubbell presented her paper "Nostalgic Returns: Sustaining Identity in Pied-Noir Photo-Documentaries" at the Visual Culture Conference at KSU in March 2005. She also represented the Modern Languages Department at the International Business Language Conference hosted by the CIBER organization at the University of Memphis in February 2005. She will be presenting her work on Senegalese author Ken Bugul in a session led by Dr. Dehon entitled "Subsaharan Novel in French and Modernity" at the American Association of Teachers of French Annual Conference in Quebec, Canada in July 2005. Dr. Hubbell served as a faculty mentor to Alicia Davignon, an undergraduate French, Spanish, and Anthropology triple major, for the Developing Scholars Program. Ms. Davignon presented her research project, "Outside Looking In: Immigrant Prospectives on France," at the DSP poster forum in April 2005. She is currently working on a proposal for a new textbook for commercial French with Dr. Gregg Siewert of Truman State

University.

**Walter Kolonosky's** article, "In the Light of Dostoevsky: The Writing of Andrei Sinyavsky," has been accepted for publication in *The Journal of the International Dostoevsky Society*. He evaluated a manuscript by Nancy Novak, *Ultimate Russian*, for Random House and he presented a paper, "In the Light of Dostoevsky: The Writing of Andrei Sinyavsky," at the XIIth Symposium of the International Dostoevsky Society in Geneva, Switzerland in September. To support his participation at this conference he received a Faculty Development Award.

Professor Kolonosky was nominated for an outstanding teacher award. Two of his students, Tammy Osborne and Carla Cassel, were accepted to participate in summer study programs in Russia.

**María Teresa Martínez-Ortiz** desires to continue to devote herself, besides teaching and service, to scholarship on the literary and cultural critical thought and academic discussion on her fields of interest. This year she submitted an article, "Del caos a la regeneración femenina de lo privado/público: historia, ficción, intertextualidad y parodia en la narrativa de Martha Cerda" to *Hispania* and she participated in two conferences last year: The Foreign Language Conference in Lexington, Kentucky, where she read a paper, "Violence in America: The Importance of Memory in 'Chicana' Literature," and the Cultural Studies Symposium in Manhattan, Kansas, where she presented "The Tortured and Raped Feminine Body: Violent Cultural Practices in the Literary

Work of 'Chicanas."

**Salvador Oropesa** kept busy by publishing the following articles: "La comunidad imaginada: el nacionalismo democrático español en Manolito Gafotas (1999) de Miguel Albaladejo". *Espéculo* 26 (2004). Online journal of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid; "El nacionalismo democrático español en Carlos Saura: Carmen (1983) y Goya en Burdeos (1999)." *Letras Peninsulares* 16.1 (2003); and "Identidad y consumo de élite en *Romanticismo* (2001) de Manuel Longares: Fortunata y Jacinta (1886-87) en la Transición española". *Monographic Review* (2003).

**Michael Ossar** published an article, "Instrumentalisierung der Geschichte in Günter de Bruyns *Märkische Forschungen* und Stefan Heyms *König Davids Bericht*" in: *Gegenwartsliteratur*, (Tübingen: Stauffenburg Verlag, 2004) and right now he is working on the emerging communities of Jewish writers in Germany and Austria, which will be the subject of his seminar this fall. He attended a conference in October at the University of Bielefeld on "Die deutsche Präsenz in den USA," where he presented a paper on the development of German studies in America and led a discussion of "Die deutsche Literatur auf dem amerikanischen Buchmarkt."

**Silvia Sauter** has published as editor (with prologue) a critical edition entitled *Ernesto Sábato: símbolo de un siglo. Visiones y (re) visiones de su narrativa*: Ernesto Sábato: symbol of a century. Visions and (re)visions of his narrative (Buenos Aires: Editorial CORREGIDOR,

2005). At the Missouri Philological Association 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (University of Missouri-Kansas City, February 2004) she presented a paper entitled "Tres escritores proféticos: Ernesto Sábato, Raúl Zurita y José Watanabe."

**Bradley Shaw** was elected Vice-President of the Mid-America Chapter of the American Translators Association after serving the chapter and the university in April of 2004 as organizer and coordinator of a symposium on translation and interpreting. He published "So You Thought That Translation Was All About Words?: Reasons Why Everyone Who Speaks a Language is not a Translator/Interpreter." *The ATA Chronicle* (October, 2004). He gave a presentation on twentieth century translation theory at the chapter's annual meeting in April, 2005 (Johnson County Community College). In 2005 his encyclopedia entry, "Manuel Scorza" will appear in *France and the Americas: Culture, Politics, History*, ed. William Marshall (Univ. of Glasgow) Oxford-Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio. Since our last newsletter, Shaw was awarded the Dean Stamey Advising Award at the May, 2004 Commencement Ceremonies.

**Benjamín Torrico** was elected KSU Professor of the Year 2003-2004, in a student driven competition. He has been working for a few months in a CD to teach Civilization of Spain. His article "Teatro de calle, escena de poder: la fiesta barroca como materialización ideológica" is coming out of print in *Comedia Performance* at the same time

as this *Bulletin*. He is packing to take twenty students to Spain for a Summer program abroad, where he will also be doing research in the historical University Library of Salamanca.

### *Study Abroad*

For the second consecutive summer, Dr. **Robert Clark** took a group of 10 K-State students to **Paris** through International Studies Abroad. The group was in Paris from June 30 to July 30. Students earned nine credit hours in all, six for intensive study of French language and culture at the Institut Catholique and three for a course taught by Professor Clark on the cultural history of Paris. The program also included excursions to Versailles, Normandy (including Mont Saint-Michel), and the châteaux of the Loire Valley. This summer there will be nineteen students participating. Vive la France!

As part of a study-abroad initiative **Peter Arnds** took a group of 11 students to **Italy** in summer of 2004. They traveled from Venice via Florence to Castiglion Fiorentino, the birth place of Roberto Benigni (*Life is Beautiful*), where the students spent 10 days at KSU's study center Santa Chiara, then on to Rome.

**Peter Arnds** then guided another group of 9 students to **Leipzig** where they studied German at the Herder Institute before going on to **Berlin** for a course on the history and culture of that town.

Twenty four K-State students led by **Salvador and Leonides Oropesa** spent more than six weeks in **Spain** during the Modern Languages Summer Program in Granada. The students had classes in the Centro de Lenguas Modernas of the Universidad de Granada and visited museums in Madrid, cathedrals in Toledo and Seville, the Alhambra, the Roman Aqueduct of Segovia, the Roman Theater of Merida, the Great Mosque of Córdoba, and the Royal Palaces of Madrid and El Escorial among other interesting places.

Silvia Sauter also took a group of almost twenty students to Guanajuato, Mexico, a beautiful city where the indigenous and the colonial merge in every corner. Also known as the Mexican capital of Cervantes' spirit, Guanajuato was for K-State's group the base for a series of trips which inevitably included Mexico D.F.

While packing up for 2005 Summer programs –we promise to keep you posted– we already are projecting the Summer of 2006 with more and more exciting programs abroad.

### *Graduate Awards*

In the 2004-2005 academic year, the Modern Languages Department awarded four \$500 graduate fellowships. Three of the recipients, **Christopher Bailes** (German), **Kim Hoglund** (French), and **Petra Sedlmajerova** (Spanish), were incoming students, and the fourth recipient was a second year student in Spanish, **Laura Villalba**. The department has just announced its 2005-2006 competition and we are looking forward to awarding those students in May 2005.

### *Scholarships Awarded*

The Department of Modern Languages is proud to announce that it has distributed scholarships among Majors for a total of \$22,300.00 during the year 2004-2005. Here is the list of recipients. Congratulations!

<b>Bettinger, Kourtney</b>	<b>Williams, Shea</b>	<b>Schuster, Carla</b>
<b>Davignon, Alicia</b>	<b>Angalet, Kim</b>	<b>Travis, Jamie</b>
<b>Dorsch, Melissa</b>	<b>Champion, Kevin</b>	<b>Whitesell, Megan</b>
<b>Dugo, Malorie</b>	<b>Heck, Laura</b>	<b>Beim, Alex</b>
<b>Finnell, Casey</b>	<b>McGivern, Mary</b>	<b>Cole, Lori</b>
<b>Greig, Elizabeth</b>	<b>Milam, Emily</b>	<b>Dyer, Chris</b>
<b>Koon, Sarah</b>	<b>Miller, Holly</b>	<b>Hammond, Kelly</b>
<b>Lovgren, Lindsey</b>	<b>Murry, Ryan</b>	<b>Kellen, Jennifer</b>
<b>Shaddix, Nicole</b>	<b>Noonan, Andrew</b>	<b>Thompson, Beth</b>

### *Something to Read, and a Movie Too*

Who can resist reading Teresa de la Parra's delicious way of describing Parisian fashion of in her unforgettable *Ifigenia* (1924)? For Maria Eugenia Alonso, selecting her *Toilette* and the color of her lipstick represents not just a symbol of her femininity but also one of the very few choices for a young upper high-class woman in the constrained Venezuelan society at the turn of the XX Century.

**Dr. María Teresa Martínez-Ortiz**

You have to read *Lieutenant Nun: Memoir of a Basque Transvestite in the New World* (1996). A translation of the autobiography of Catalina de Erauso (*Historia de la monja alférez escrita por ella misma*), the text tells the adventures of a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish woman who fled the convent dressed as a man and traveled to the New World. Gambling, drinking, and fighting 'like a man' -she killed twelve men- Catalina de Erauso even became a soldier and, eventually, a lieutenant, in the conquest of Chile. Upon her return to Spain, she received a pension from the King and permission to dress as a man from the Pope. Reality seems definitely superior to literature and yet, in this case, they are surprisingly close. The book is surely a fun read.

**Dr. Benjamín Torrico**

I'm not much given to reading historical novels, but I loved Paul Laforge's *Hausmann or the Distinction*. Laforge, who claims that he is merely reprinting a novel by a certain Paul Poissel, printed in 1922 and quickly forgotten, sets his story in nineteenth-century Paris. The title character is the famous Baron Hausmann, charged by Napoleon III with creating a modern city out of what was still a medieval one. What the 'distinction' might be is harder to say. Perhaps it is the distinction between the illustrious urban planner, Hausmann, and his friend, de Fonce, a shadowy demolition man who becomes rich by salvaging whatever he can from Hausmann's gargantuan demolition projects. The two men thus represent the yin and yang of destruction and creation, the one possessed of a mystical vision of modernity, the other a preservationist of the quickly disappearing past. What joins them is Madeleine, a tanner's daughter who, abandoned at birth, raised by a lamplighter, educated in the convent of Saint-Grimace, ultimately becomes de Fonce's adoptive daughter and mistress before becoming Hausmann's love interest. Laforge follows the twists and turns of Madeleine's bizarre life as she rises from the sewage-choked stream into which she was thrown as a baby to the ballrooms of the Second Empire. Laforge's book is a highly imaginative and idiosyncratic take on the creation of the city of Paris we know today.



**Dr. Robert Clark**

Rent or request in your library the DVD *Eres mi héroe*, in English *You are my Hero*, directed by Antonio Cuadri (Spain, 2003). It is a beautiful movie about the year Franco died seen through the eyes of a seventh grader.

**Dr. Salvador Oropesa**

### ***ALUMNI***

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Former Spanish student **Shanté Moore**, Junction City, was invited by Mortar Board Nation Senior Honor Society to present the keynote lecture in February in Forum Hall as part of Mortar Board Week. His talk on "Being a Leader in a Diverse World" was attended by hundreds of K-State students, faculty and staff as well as family and friends.

Mr. Moore is a 1969 K-State Political Science, Latin American Studies and Mortar Board alumnus who won prestigious Truman and Fulbright Scholarships, as well as the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for graduate study.

While an undergraduate at K-State, he participate in summer international community service teams in Paraguay and India, and was involved in Rotaract, Black Student Union, and the 1995-96 K-State Mortar Board Chapter. Following graduation from K-State, he went on to do further work in Paraguay. He earned a

Master of Science Degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, Washington D.C. in 2000, and was selected for Foreign Service by the U.S. Department of State. Prior to his current assignment as economic and business attaché in Qatar, Mr. Moore served in Kuwait, and will soon be assigned to Kosovo.

A recent graduate (this very month) is **Kristy Rukavina**. Kristy studied abroad in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) and was a member of the Galician women's rugby team. She was first chair of the viola section of the KSU Orchestra for years, and although she was a student in Engineering, she decided to major in Spanish. All told, she completed the major in Spanish with distinction, a Master's degree in Architectural Engineering, and an additional minor. Perhaps she'll be the one to design the Concert Hall of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, as she was interested in acoustical engineering. Kristy is a young woman with great talent who will some day, and probably soon, be a distinguished alumna of K-State.

An alumna from the M.A. program in German, **Ron Stelter**, recently donated a large number of German books to the Modern Languages Department. The various titles are now available for student and faculty use in the department's seminar room. During his studies at KSU, Stelter was one of the winners of a full-year fellowship to the University of Giessen. After leaving Manhattan, Stelter worked for banks in New York and eventually established his own translation company.

Another recent graduate (2004) is **Brooke Ensign**. Brooke studied abroad in Salamanca (Spain) and was an intern in the State Legislature during her last year at K-State. She graduated with two majors, Spanish and Political Science, and a secondary major in International Studies. We were glad to learn that her time with us helped her enter the growing field of bilingual communications in our very State: Brooke is participating in the establishment of the new Univision station in Kansas City as office manager.

We would like to hear from you. First, because we are so proud of our work that we like to think

that maybe we have something to do with your success... Let's just say that we feel successful when you are.

Second, because we hope this newsletter can link us and, additionally, keep you up to date with your

classmates. To be included, drop us a line by e-mailing our editor, Dr. Benjamin Torrico at [btorrico@ksu.edu](mailto:btorrico@ksu.edu).

***WE THANK OUR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS***

Dear Alumni and friends,

The Department of Modern Languages wishes to thank its alumni and friends for their generous support. Endowment from past donations has allowed us to offer approximately \$25,000 annually to undergraduate and graduate students. We can think of no better way for our donations to be used. Our general funds from the Endowment also support the department's operating budget, and attract and support new faculty. Your contributions allow us spread the word that foreign language study makes for a more peaceful world! You can also contact us at [modlang@ksu.edu](mailto:modlang@ksu.edu).

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