To paraphrase the lyrics of Lerner and Loewe’s musical *Brigadoon*, “What a year this has been, What a rare mood I’m in, Why it’s almost like being in love!” There are so many things that will put a smile on your face as you read this newsletter. It is such a pleasure to sing the praises of the faculty, students, and staff since everyone here is engaged both inside and outside of the classroom in making the music of life for the whole human race. We are a harmony of languages and cultures, and we invite you to smile and study along with us when the school bell starts to peal again next fall.

A refrain you’ll often hear from me is that “teaching is the most important thing we do,” and it is increasingly more evident as our faculty amass impressive awards such as A&S college-wide recognition for teaching excellence won by Conxita Domènech, along with student-selected awards by Mortar Board for Irene Checa-García and PIE awards for Laura De Lozier, Laura Fernández Arroyo, and Noah Miles (pages 4-5).

In addition to these individual awards, I also find myself smiling as I read each student’s written evaluations of their teachers. Students acknowledge the individual care that our faculty and graduate assistants devote in and out of the classroom to helping them develop their language and study skills. Students appreciate the individual attention of time spent revising undergraduate writing, master’s theses and refining research techniques. They thrive on the unforgettable memories of faculty-led study abroad that they recount for the rest of their lives.

As our ambassadors, we have 47 students travelling this summer with faculty members on three different continents (see page 6).

We are also bidding farewell to one French and six Spanish MA graduates who are forging new frontiers in the profession, including four who are pursuing doctoral studies in Cornell, Purdue, University of California—Davis, and University of Illinois—Chicago.

This has been a year of new initiatives that reach out and embrace the wider community (page 3). You’ll read about MCL’s day-long workshop for Wyoming teachers that focused on improving assessment through American Council of Foreign Languages training in curriculum design and language proficiency. We also partnered with the Wyoming School-University Partnership led by Audrey Kleinsasser in an Outreach video conference with seven Wyoming Community colleges about Post-Secondary articulation and signed a formal Articulation Agreement with Laramie County Community College for transfer students.

We participated in a state-wide “Lost in Transition” Articulation meeting, with our own Hannelore Mundt presenting the keynote lecture on her research on graphic novels. We have held two articulation meetings with Casper College and have others planned throughout the state with the goal of easing the transition for Community College students throughout Wyoming to complete their studies on the UW campus.

We also participated in the first-ever statewide ESL forum in Casper to open dialogue about ESL and dual immersion curricular.

Continued page 2
models. On campus, Petra Heinz and I spearheaded the Campus ESL Committee. This new interdisciplinary subcommittee of the International Education Steering committee has begun hosting workshops for UW faculty to develop pedagogical strategies to improve course delivery for international students. Petra has also devoted hours of service to evaluating international graduate students’ English proficiency and orienting teaching assistants, and has developed a new system for evaluating and assisting ESL students.

MCL continues to spread the scope of our regional and national academic involvements. We have moved the Directorate of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association here to UW from the University of Northern Colorado, and have published volume 70.1 of the Rocky Mountain Review of Languages and Literature. We will hold the 70th Annual Convention of the RMMLA, our region’s largest academic organization for study of all languages and literatures including English, in Salt Lake City on Oct 6-8, 2016.

Our revitalized Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Language Honorary completed its first year of activities as an official Recognized Student Organization (RSO). The national Sigma Delta Pi award for best scholarly paper was won by Spanish graduate student María Isabel Martín Sánchez. MCL continues to sponsor clubs and language table events, and we have identified World Languages Day as our premier event of the year for fundraising and recruitment of future students (page 5).

New Faculty Highlight: Camilo Jaramillo, Assistant Professor of Spanish

The department’s newest faculty member, Camilo Jaramillo, will begin his post as a Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in August.

Camilo Jaramillo earned his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, where he wrote his dissertation on modern and contemporary literature about the Amazon Rainforest.

In addition to focusing on cultural representations of nature and ecocriticism, he also studies Latin American narrative and visual culture from the 19th through the 21st century, with a special focus on theory of the novel, postcolonial criticism, biopolitics, and critical theory. He is looking forward to joining the University of Wyoming’s Department of Modern and Classical Languages. “I am excited to work with students in the acquisition of Spanish and knowledge of Latin American culture at large,” he shared. “I’m looking forward to exploring the benefits of communicating in Spanish in today’s world, analyzing Latin America’s growing cinema, or studying its contemporary novel.”

This fall, Camilo will be teaching two sections of Spanish 2140, Intro to Spanish Literature. Please stop by Hoyt Hall 207 and welcome him to Laramie.

Mark Person’s translation to be published this fall

This September, De Gruyter will publish Mark Person’s translation of Ottmar Ette’s TransArea. Eine literarische Globalisierungsgeschichte. (Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter 2012) under the title of TransArea: A Literary History of Globalization.

This work in the new field of Trans-Area studies looks at globalization as a long-term process with four phases that connects the present to the early modern period.

Ette argues that literature provides a tangible perception of what constitutes life. The knowledge of literature is unique and necessary because it is the knowledge of life, from life.

This English translation will be of great interest to scholars in the fields of Global and Area Studies, Literary Studies, Cultural Studies, History, and Political Science.

Student Initiates

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society initiated 25 students this year. Currently, all University of Wyoming initiates must have three semesters of a foreign language. Of the 25 initiates, 12 majored or minored in a language.

- Briana Collins, Russian minor
- Jayme Culwell, French minor
- Aidan Dieter, French minor
- Vikki Doherty, Spanish minor
- Robin Elledge, Spanish minor
- Sarah Maze, Spanish minor
- Mackenzie Muirhead, French major
- Annikki Peterson, Spanish minor
- Jorden Pitt, Spanish minor
- Kimberly Sánchez, Russian major
- Allyson Thorsell, Spanish major
- Danielle Wood, Spanish minor

For more information on this and other events, please visit the MCL website.
The department hosted two professional development opportunities on campus this year. Laura De Lozier, Assistant Department Head, invited Wyoming teachers to an ACTFL workshop in February, and Bénédicte Sohier (French) organized a Business French workshop in May.

On Saturday, 20 February, MCL hosted a 7-hour American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages (ACTFL) workshop titled Integrating Skills and Modes for Curriculum Design. This workshop was co-sponsored by the Wyoming School-University Partnership, Albany County School District #1, UW College of Arts & Sciences, and the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research.

Thanks to these generous cosponsors, this workshop was free of charge to world language teachers in Wyoming. Participants also could earn 0.5 Wyoming Professional Training Standards Board (PTSB) credits.

Thirty-five teachers of nine world languages – Arabic, Classical Greek, ESL, French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian and Spanish – participated, including colleagues from ten junior and senior high schools in four Wyoming school districts and two Wyoming community colleges as well as UW faculty and graduate students in Global & Area Studies, MCL, and the College of Education.

Under the guidance of ACTFL presenter Cindy Martin (University of Maryland) participants explored ways to integrate ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines into their curricula. These guidelines are the basis for the 2013 Foreign Language Content and Performance Standards adopted by the Wyoming Department of Education. Participants also broke into language groups to discuss how to facilitate learning in their language across grades 6-16 in Wyoming. The workshop proved a great success, and MCL hopes to offer another professional development opportunity for Wyoming world language teachers in the near future.

In May, French faculty from 14 different states joined a professional training session on campus co-sponsored by the French Embassy in Washington D.C. and the Chamber of Commerce in Paris (CCI). The week long workshop was offered by Dominique Frin, pedagogy specialist from the CCI.

The training included teacher preparation and curriculum development for Business French, and informational sessions on the Professional French Language Diploma – French for Business (Diplôme de Français Professionnel Affaires).

In April, UW and MCL sponsored the 2nd Wyoming Anime Convention. This three-day event celebrates the creativity of Japanese animation in the U.S. and its influence on the students in Wyoming. Students were responsible for most of the planning.

This year’s keynote speaker was Alisa Freedman (see image), who spoke about the influence of Japanese Culture in America. Dr. Freedman is an Associate Professor at the University of Oregon, in Eugene, where they have 125 Japanese Majors. About 100 students and faculty attended the talk which was sponsored by ASUW, WHIR, GAST, and MCL.

On Saturday, students enjoyed a day of watching Japanese animation, role-playing games and a cosplay contest. The event concluded with 200 attendees and guests dining on Japanese cuisine catered by Niko Sushi of Laramie.

Plans are underway for next year’s convention. For more information, contact Noah Miles (Japanese).
During the 2015-2016 academic year, the College of Arts and Sciences awarded degrees to 87 students from the department: 6 MAs, 31 BAs, and 50 minors. This spring, four Masters of Arts in Spanish were awarded to Harley Tucker Chamberlain, M. Isabel Martín Sánchez, Kelly Moore, and Gina Oller Bosch. Kimberly Sanchez (BA in Anthropology & Russian with a minor in the Honors Program) received the Rosemarie Martha Spitaleri Award as UW’s outstanding graduating woman. Kimberly is a McNair Scholar with a strong commitment to service as a GEAR UP peer mentor, AmeriCorps volunteer, A&S student ambassador, Central Committee undergraduate representative, as well as a member of the planning committees for the annual Shepard Symposium on Social Justice and Martin Luther King Jr. Days of Dialogue.

The Student Service Award, funded by the A&S Visitor Board, went to Cassie Beck (pictured above with Irene Checa-García, Spanish). Cassie graduated with a double major in International Studies and Spanish. She will continue her studies in Spanish this fall as a graduate student in our MA program. Other MCL students honored this year include our language scholarship recipients. The Siren Memorial Fellowship went to Emily Wood (German) and Levi Moore (French). The Robert J. and Vivian R. Geer Scholarship was awarded to Brent Bühr (Spanish), Kendra Storey (Spanish), Martha Wenger (Spanish), and Emily Wood (German). The Mueller-Hanson Scholarship was awarded to four German students: Spencer Claymon, Jerome Giudice, Michael Oyler, and Hailee Starr. The James R. Burman Memorial Language Scholarship was awarded to two Russian students: Dustin Jacobsen and Lindzey Patterson.

The 2016 Undergraduate Research Day featured two MCL students. Christopher Padilla, advised by Rebecca Steele, presented his research on “Language and Cultural Identity.” Emma Summers presented on “Gladiatorial Combat Portrayed in the Modern Era.” Her faculty mentor was Laura De Lozier.

On May 6, the department celebrated departmental achievements during an honors and awards reception. Professor Emeritus Walter G. Langlois (French, pictured above) was recognized by the College of Arts and Sciences as Outstanding Former Faculty. Through his generosity, Walter brought framed watercolor artwork painted by his wife, artist Sheila Langlois. These were presented to the honorees during the reception.

Conxita Domènech (Spanish, pictured right) received the A&S Extrordinary Merit in Teaching Award. Irene Checa-García received the Mortar Board Top Prof Award. The PIE awards for teaching went to Laura De Lozier (Classics), Laura Fernández Arroyo (Spanish graduate teaching assistant), and Noah Miles (Japanese). In addition, Mark Person (German) was honored for the upcoming publication of his new translation (see page 2). MCL office staff, Lorraine Barrows and Mollie Hand, received recognition for their behind-the-scenes support.

The appetizers and cake were expertly prepared by Joy Landeira for this event. More than 50 students, faculty, emeriti faculty, alumni and friends were in attendance.
Once again, Rebecca Steele and Mark Person co-chaired the annual World Languages Day (WLD). The theme, “Community,” reflected the sense of neighborhood that was fostered through the engaged participation of multiple departments on campus.

A total of 360 participants, including 220 high school and middle-school students, 29 teachers, 43 UW student volunteers, and 68 UW faculty and staff, formed the World Languages Day community.

Friday began with a campus tour and admissions talk, leading to separate dinners for attendees at Washakie Dining Hall and teachers at O’Dwyer’s. UW student volunteers chaperoned the visitors who watched movies, learned Zumba, or participated in a scavenger hunt.

Saturday events started with a resource fair and workshops sponsored by UW students and faculty. The workshops included a talk on the ancient city of Athens by Phil Holt, an Arabic calligraphy lesson by Ali Raddaoui, an introduction to Roman families by Laura De Lozier, a Russian language and cultural activity by Joseph Krafczik, an Andean instrument workshop by LCCC instructor Ian Caldon, and even a workshop on Haitian Creole by Cheyenne East French Teacher Paula Egan-Wright.

There were some innovations to this year’s WLD. All events were held in the Education Building and the Education Annex. Having one location helped teachers, chaperones and volunteers keep track of students. On Saturday, attendees sampled Chinese cuisine at lunch.

The feedback that we receive, thanks to the Wyoming School-University Partnership, helps guide our planning for subsequent years. In particular, for 2017, we shall address concerns about crowding at our new venue.

World Languages Day is a substantial financial undertaking. It is only possible thanks to the generous support of the Friends of World Languages. Giving categories include The Natives ($1000+), The Ex-Pats ($500-$1000), The Tourists ($100-$500), and The Travel Channel (up to $100).

2016 Friends of World Languages:
- The Natives: Global & Area Studies
- The Ex-Pats: International Programs, No. 1 Buffet, UW Admissions, UW Libraries, Outreach School, Service Learning Community Engagement Grant,
- The Tourists: Anne Alexander, Sophia Beck, Jimmy John’s, Kiwanis, Ridley’s, Turtle Rock, UW Athletics, UW Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, UW Office of Teacher Education, UW Secondary Education, WFLTA
- The Travel Channel: UW College of Arts & Sciences, Bath and Body Works, Cross Country Connection, Crowbar and Grill, Herbal House, McDonald’s, Second Story Bookstore, Undercover Spa, UniWyo Federal Credit Union, UW English Department, UW Philosophy Department, Walmart, and WyCOA

“I cannot tell you how much this means to our students. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!” —Survey Response

Promoting Intellectual Engagement (PIE)
Recipients are nominated online by lower division students and then selected by a committee based on thoughtfulness and volume of student nominations.

2015-2016 Awardees, left to right:
- Laura De Lozier, Classics
- Laura Fernández Arroyo, Spanish
- Noah Miles, Japanese
Study Abroad: Argentina, China, Germany, Russia

Forty-seven students are on MCL study abroad excursions this summer. Destinations stretch across three continents. Yan Zhang is introducing internship opportunities in China to her students. Rebecca Steele and recent BA graduate and intern Nick DeFrank are leading a tour through Germany.

Russian students are traveling to Saratov for the annual summer study abroad. Conxita Doménech and recent MA graduate Kelly Moore will introduce Argentina to students of Spanish. Scholarships made these study abroad opportunities possible for many of the students. See story page 4.

Above left: 2016 Germany, students are served Labskaus at an old German restaurant in Hamburg; right: 2015 Spain: Students pose at the top of Tibidabo Hill, from Sacred Heart church which overlooks Barcelona. No photos were available of this year’s Argentina and Saratov excursions before publication.

Department Prepares to Move Back to Former Digs

Move-in preparations are underway for a 11 August occupancy of Hoyt Hall. Among the renovations, offices have been renumbered. The top floor is now the 3rd floor (previously 4th), and the basement is floor zero. MCL’s main office is now Hoyt 116.
We’d Love to Hear From You!

Please send us your updated contact information. We are currently trying to update our contact information and we would appreciate you getting in touch with us. You can write us directly or send an email to languages@uwyo.edu.

Name:
Address:
Email:
Comments:

Giving to the Department of Modern & Classical Languages

We hope you’ll consider a contribution in order to support our students and faculty in MCL.

Here is my/our gift to make a difference to Modern & Classical Languages at UW: $______________

Please use my money to support: Kevin Larsen Memorial Fund / World Languages Day / Other: ________________

ONLINE: Make a payment using our secure server: www.uwyo.edu/giveonline.
PHONE: Call the University of Wyoming Foundation during normal business hours:
(307) 766-6300 or (888) 831-7795.
MAIL: Return this stub with your contribution.*
Please be sure to indicate that your gift is for Modern & Classical Languages within the College of Arts & Sciences.

My preferred e-mail address is_______________________________________________________________
My preferred phone number is_______________________________________________________________

Thank you!

* Please make your check payable to the UW Foundation and indicate Modern & Classical Languages in the memo line.

Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law.

Comments or gifts can be mailed to Modern & Classical Languages, Dept 3603, 1000 E. University Avenue, Laramie, WY 82071

N16LA