



INTERLINGUA



Newsletter from the Department of Modern & Classical Languages
2021.2022

Photo of Miller Hall, WWU campus. Photo credit: Western's Flickr photostream

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MCL Faculty Roster

Sandra Alfery, PhD, *German*
Blanca Aranda Gómez García, PhD, *Spanish*
Mauricio Araniva, MA, *Spanish*
Sheryl Bernardo-Hinesley, PhD, *Spanish*
Nathaniel Bond, PhD, *Japanese*
Amy Carbajal, MIS, *Spanish*
Elizabeth Carter, PhD, *Chinese*
Masanori Deguchi, PhD, *Japanese*
Kirsten Drickey, PhD, *Spanish*
Shannon Dubenion-Smith, PhD, *German*
Seán Dwyer, MA, *Spanish*
Eduardo Engelsing, PhD, *Classical Studies*
Petra Fiero, PhD, *German*
Hugo García González, PhD, *Spanish*
Cécile Hanania, PhD, *French*
Ernest Rafael Hartwell, PhD, *Spanish*
Joan Hoffman, PhD, *Spanish*
Tamer Hussein, PhD, *Arabic*
Aude Jehan, PhD, *French*

Christina Keppie, PhD, *French*
Miller Krause, PhD, *Classical Studies*
Madoka Kusakabe, PhD, *Japanese*
Danielle Martin, MA, *Classical Studies*
R. Mata, PhD, *Spanish*
Thiti Owlarn, PhD, *German*
Cornelius Partsch, PhD, *German*
Charles Patterson, PhD, *Spanish*
Luis Gonzalo Portugal, PhD, *Spanish*
Mary Anne Rangel, MS, *Spanish*
Lindsey Smith, PhD, *French*
Byron Stayskal, PhD, *Classical Studies*
Wenling Su, MA, *Chinese*
Scott Taylor, PhD, *French*
Massimiliano Tomasi, PhD, *Japanese*
Edward Vajda, PhD, *Russian*
Julie Winter, PhD, *German*
Julian Wu, PhD, *Chinese*
Janet Zhiquan Xing, PhD, *Chinese*

MCL Faculty Emeriti

Darrel Amundsen, PhD, *Classics*
Henrich Brockhaus, PhD, *German*
Vicki Hamblin, PhD, *French*
Vladimir Miličić, PhD, *Russian*
Daniel Rangel-Guerrero, PhD, *Spanish*

Walter Robinson, PhD, *German*
Walter Suess, PhD, *German*
Rudolf Weiss, PhD, *German & Linguistics*
Michiko Yusa, PhD, *Japanese & East Asian Studies*



View of WWU campus. Photo credit: Western's Flickr photostream

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



After an unusually cool and wet spring, warmth and sunlight have finally returned to Bellingham. As another busy and rewarding academic year draws to a close, I would like to share with you, dear reader, highlights from the past several years in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages since *Interlingua* was last published in Spring 2019.

With 38 faculty members from 16 countries, MCL remains one of the largest departments in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. We offer courses in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Spanish, and Classical Studies. Students in MCL may major and minor in five languages – Chinese, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish – as well as Latin American Studies, and may minor in Classical Studies, Greek, Latin, and Russian. Currently, 216 students are majoring and 262 students are minoring in one of our languages, Classical Studies, or Latin American Studies.

Since 2019, we have bid farewell to two colleagues, Prof. Michiko Yusa (Japanese and East Asian Studies) and Prof. Edward Ousselin (French), who retired in September 2020 after 37 years of service and in June 2021 after 20 years of service, respectively. At the end of the current academic year, we will say goodbye to Prof. Janet Xing, who has taught in Chinese and Linguistics since 1997. We thank these colleagues for all of their contributions to our programs and wish them a wonderful retirement and all the best for their next chapter! We have also welcomed three new tenure-track faculty to our ranks, Prof. Sheryl Bernardo-Hinesley (Spanish) and Prof. Lindsey Smith (French) in 2019 and Prof. Ernest Hartwell (Spanish) in 2020, and we are excited that Prof. Tyler Walker (Japanese) will be joining us this coming fall.

Without a doubt, the global COVID-19 pandemic has posed the most daunting challenges to the Department since the publication of the last *Interlingua*. At the end of winter quarter 2020, faculty were suddenly faced with the task of transitioning all spring quarter courses to the online modality; courses then remained online throughout the entire 2020-2021 academic year. Navigating the complexities of remote courses has been difficult for faculty and students alike, especially so in light of the profound impact that the pandemic has had on the personal lives of many. Nonetheless, MCL faculty have displayed extraordinary creativity, resourcefulness, and willingness to share their technical expertise during the pandemic to maintain high-quality learning experiences for our students. This academic year, we have begun the shift back to face-to-face teaching, and we expect to be fully back to in-person instruction in the fall.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, MCL faculty have remained remarkably active in pedagogical training, scholarship, and other professional activities, in part owing to the proliferation of online conferences and workshops. Faculty have also continued to offer courses and collaborate with colleagues in the Center for Canadian-American Studies, East Asian Studies Program, Honors College, Latin American Studies Program, Linguistics Department, and Ray Wolpov Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity. Four MCL faculty hold directorships in these units: Prof. Sandra Alfers (RWI), Prof. Christina Keppie (CanAm), Prof. Luis Portugal (LAS), and Prof. Massimiliano Tomasi (EAS). After a two-year hiatus, Profs. Blanca Aranda and Luis Portugal will once again lead students to Guanajuato, Mexico in Summer 2022 through their Global Learning Program. You will find much more about MCL faculty's activities and accomplishments in the pages to follow.

Our MCL students, too, continue to amaze and inspire. Through Western's Employee Language Program, for which Prof. Kirsten Drickey serves as Curricular Coordinator, approximately 10-15 advanced undergraduates each quarter lead conversational language workshops for Western's faculty and staff. Students also engage in research both under the advisement of and in collaboration with MCL and Linguistics faculty. Many have won external awards, such as grants through the Fulbright Program, Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, North American Language and Culture Assistants Program in Spain, and the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF), and/or internal awards: Recently, three MCL students have received the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Paul Woodring Arts and Sciences Scholarship (Jude Ahmed 2019, Reece Carpenter 2020, Jessica Jimenez-Arroyo 2021), and Brahm vanWoerden was one of seven Presidential

Scholars in 2021. Finally, our students have been able to continue their world language study with the assistance of one of our MCL scholarships. I would like to warmly thank our alumni and donors, whose generous contributions greatly benefit our students and programs. Please see page 22 of the newsletter for a complete list of this year's scholarship, grant, and award winners.

I also owe a deep debt of gratitude to our most competent and resourceful Department Manager Holly Childs and former Program Coordinator Angela Brown for their steadfast support, especially in the depths of the pandemic when we were all working remotely, and to our most capable and creative new Program Coordinator, Dylan Gibson, whose assistance has been invaluable in the completion of this newsletter, the compilation of which Angela initiated before her departure in February 2022.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the loss of three dear former MCL colleagues in 2020, Profs. David Fiero, Shaw Gynan, and John Underwood, whom we honor in the **In Memoriam** section of the newsletter. They are sorely missed.

If ever you should be back in Bellingham, please do stop by Miller Hall to say 'hi'. We would love to see you!

Shannon Dubenion-Smith



View of Collaborative Space / Miller Hall. Photo credit: Western's Flickr photostream

LANGUAGE PROGRAM NEWS

Chinese 中文

By Prof. Julian Wu

The year 2021 was a very special one for everyone here at Western. For the Chinese section, there was no study abroad program, no Chinese Lunar New Year celebration on site, and no end-of-year celebration of graduation. But in cyberspace, both educators and learners supported each other with beliefs, efforts, acts of help, passion, enthusiasm, and hopes. As more and more students and teachers are gradually returning to campus, everything is starting to get back to normal. This is extremely important to all those who are language students because face-to-face communication not only matters very much for language improvement, but also makes everyone in the classroom acquire a sense of belonging in a learning community. Besides our classrooms, CCC is a good case in point.

The Chinese Conversation Club's (CCC) main goal is to give students the opportunity to practice their Mandarin skills in a casual setting. Participants are from all levels. Whether one has never taken a Chinese class before or is a native speaker, everyone is welcome to come and learn more about Chinese language and culture. CCC has met in person since Fall 2021 in Miller Hall room 138 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. every Tuesday. For each meeting, the officers prepare a PowerPoint with a Weekly Question that students talk about in small groups, then one of the officers teaches everyone a "chengyu," or four-character set phrase, and the group practices using it in sentences. One of the new officers this academic year is a native Chinese speaker who has been a great help for the "chengyus" and for everyone to generally sound more fluent. The latter half of the meeting is normally spent on a language activity or game. Students have played Werewolf in Chinese (a literal translation game) and a character matching game, and they have some more planned around radicals and tones. There is also a variety of Chinese snacks every week!



If students want to join, CCC has a [WIN page](#). The easiest way to stay up-to-date is to join the [CCC Discord server](#) where officers post information on what's planned for the meeting that week and where there are additional resources for studying Chinese. CCC sends out an email every week from wwu.ccc@gmail for students who don't want to use Discord. There is also an [Instagram account](#) that everyone can follow.

Since there was no way to hold a celebration in person, the 2021 Chinese Lunar New Year celebration was organized online, together with a Video Contest. Compared to the previous year, more students joined the event online. This was also a chance to introduce Chinese culture and increase the visibility of the program by using multi-media resources. Faculty members were so impressed by the creativity of our students and amazed at how innovative and effective it can actually be if language learning is combined with visual materials and virtual demonstration! It was such a great success that we decided to make the video contest an annual event!

MEET THE CHINESE LANGUAGE FACULTY



Janet Xing In 2020, Prof. Xing published an edited volume “A Typological Approach to Grammaticalization and Lexicalization: East Meets West” by Mouton de Gruyter (eBook ISBN: 9783110641288; Hardcover ISBN: 9783110637229). The volume is the result of a three-year collaboration with fourteen scholars from Asia, Europe, and North America. Based on comparative analyses of diachronic data, the articles in this volume address both theoretical and methodological issues in the study of grammaticalization and lexicalization in both Eastern and Western languages. The central question raised and discussed in this volume is how, if at all, typological properties of the two genetically unrelated language families interact with the processes of grammaticalization and lexicalization. The volume’s paperback was released in December 2021 (ISBN: 9783110777444). During her professional leave in Spring and Fall 2021, Prof. Xing completed an article on the interface between Chinese characters and Chinese ideology and submitted it to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.

Wenling Su Prof. Su first came to the Chinese program at Western in 2008 as an instructor, one year after she had earned her Master’s degree in Taiwan. She came back to Western in the fall of 2019 and has been enjoying teaching Chinese language at different proficiency levels.

“The warm and friendly vibe at Western is very attractive. My colleagues in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages are not only learned but also interesting to talk with. I have learned a lot from them. Besides, the students of the Chinese program are energetic. I am always fascinated by their thoughts and



observations, especially toward the differences among cultures,” Prof. Su said when asked why she came back to Western.

It has been difficult for everyone in the past two years since the pandemic started. However, Prof. Su is grateful that her students are fast adapting themselves to online learning. Her students in first-year Chinese started their very first class online, learning pronunciation, tones, and character writing. Her third-year students exchange thoughts in Chinese and learn more vocabulary and grammar patterns. “Online learning is foreign to my students and me. But I am happy to see they have overcome the difficulties and keep high spirits learning Chinese language,” she said.

Apart from her teaching assignments, Prof. Su has also worked with her colleagues in the Chinese program to hold student activities. The Chinese faculty see Chinese New Year as a good opportunity for students to experience Chinese culture. It has become a tradition. “I remember my very first one at Western was in 2009. Prof. Kathleen Tomlonovic was the main organizer of the event. It was fun and memorable,” said Prof. Su. The tradition has been carried on for many years. In 2020, the celebration was held in Miller Hall where students sang Chinese songs, played the violin, and learned some customs of Chinese New Year. The highlight was to enjoy food together, which is also a very important custom in Chinese culture. The following celebration had to be held online in 2021. Students prepared videos on different topics to share their learning experiences in Chinese language and culture. Even though it was held online, every story was very touching, and participants shared the festive vibe. Some students who did not submit a video wished they had. “I loved those stories and regretted I didn’t take the time to make one,” said one of the students.

As her third year back at Western continues, Prof. Su would like to make more contributions to the program and the department.



Elizabeth 'Liz' Carter In 2021, Prof. Carter completed her dissertation, **“Streamed Trials and Televised Confessions: A Linguistic Analysis of the Intersection of Law and Media in the People’s Republic of China,”** at the University of California, Los Angeles and moved to

Bellingham to join the Western faculty as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Chinese Studies. She also published an article on inclusive teaching practices in the Chinese as a second or foreign language classroom in the *International Journal of Chinese Language Education*. This article, entitled **“What Does the Post-secondary Mandarin Foreign Language Inclusive Classroom Look Like? The State of the Art and Some Practical Suggestions,”** reviewed twenty years of research on Chinese language pedagogy and identified practical suggestions for promoting inclusion in Chinese classes. In the spring and summer of 2021, Prof. Carter was invited by the State Department’s Foreign Language Institute to brief outbound diplomats and their families on the Chinese social media and contributed a **review article** of two new volumes about Chinese civil society and media to *Critical Asian Studies*.

Julian Wu In 2021, Prof. Wu focused on two translation projects, which will be published in book form. He just finished the draft translation (Chinese to English) of a Chinese dictionary entitled *Keywords in Chinese Buddhism*. This work will be published by the Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press in 2023 (contract signed). The second project is the translation of *Travels in the East of Nicholas II, Emperor of Russia, 1890-1891* (English to Chinese). The Tsarevich (Crown Prince) departed from his residence at Gatchina, about thirty miles from St. Petersburg, on November 4, 1890 for a tour that ended some nine months later on August 16, 1891. This was an event of considerable importance, as no previous reigning sovereign had enjoyed such an opportunity of seeing first-hand Russia’s neighbors. The itinerary took the travelers through Warsaw to Vienna, Egypt, India, Ceylon, Thailand, Java, Saigon, China, Japan, and Siberia. The account of the trip is a six-volume folio set of 1,500 pages with 675 engravings. The translation will be published by The Commercial Press in 2024 (contract signed).



Alumni Spotlight: Congratulations to Chinese Graduate Kendall Kracke!

By Prof. Julian Wu

There are other very good news to share: Kendall Kracke, who was the Section’s Outstanding Graduate in 2019, now an M.A. student at Portland State University, won the world championship in “The 20th Chinese Proficiency World Competition for Foreign College Students”! This contest is known as the most important Chinese language competition at the college level around the world, and more than 600 contestants from over 50 countries participate in the contest each year. Contestants compete against each other in various activities that test language proficiency and cultural knowledge. Kendall indeed set an excellent example for all the Chinese majors and minors at Western, and all the Chinese faculty members are so proud of her. Congratulations, Kendall!



French Français

By Prof. Cécile Hanania

Bonjour à tous et à toutes!

Since the fall of 2019, the French program has seen tremendous changes. **Prof. Aude Jehan**, a specialist in 18th century French studies, joined the section as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Senior instructor **Prof. Scott Taylor** came back to Western after two years teaching at USC. **Prof. Edward Ousselin** retired. **Prof. Christina Keppie** became Director of the Center for Canadian-American Studies. **Prof. Lindsey Smith** joined our faculty from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. **Prof. Cécile Hanania** is now the senior member of the French program! This year she will celebrate her twentieth anniversary teaching at Western.

MEET THE FRENCH LANGUAGE FACULTY

Lindsey Smith The French section is very proud to welcome Lindsey Smith. Prof. Smith holds a PhD from the university of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a specialist in Francophone Caribbean literatures and cultures.



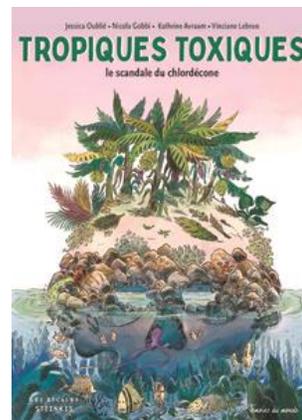
Prof. Smith has already implemented two courses, a 400-level seminar (FREN 497b: “Francophone Caribbean Literature”) on the literary production of the Francophone Caribbean that examined major works and movements from across the region. Students found that this

course offered an interesting complement to other courses in the major that focused on literature of metropolitan France. A 300-level course (FR 397b “Cultures and Societies of the Francophone Caribbean”) will introduce students to the region through topics including carnival, creole storytelling, environmental colonialism, and the Caribbean diaspora.

Prof. Smith’s research interests include literature of the Francophone Caribbean, multimodal stylistics and rhetorics, theories of creolization and relation, the literary representation of music, the digital humanities, Caribbean history, Caribbean creole languages and literatures, performance studies, media studies, social semiotics, and virtual/augmented realities. She is currently working on

The pandemic has of course created quite a commotion for students and instructors alike who had to embark on an unforeseen technological journey to move classes online. Despite this challenging situation, new courses were added to the French curriculum, and professors pursued scholarly activities in their respective fields, participating in online conferences and publishing book chapters and articles. We hope that 2022 will see a return to normality and stability: in-person courses, on-campus activities for Francophiles, and ease in travel policies for students wishing to pursue their studies in Francophone countries.

two projects related to multimodal artforms and stylistics in the francophone Caribbean. The first focuses on the documentary comics and transmedia projects of Guadeloupean Jessica Oublié (*Péyi an nou, Tropiques toxiques*).



More specifically, this project examines how the author has leveraged social media and augmented reality (AR) technologies to cultivate a network of readers, scientists, politicians, artists, and activists working to share information about a pesticide called chlordécone in a format that is accessible and engaging for the general public.

In March 2021, Prof. Smith gave a presentation on collaborative annotation organized by the MCL Critical Engagement Workshop as part of a series on digital pedagogy. This presentation introduced tools such as Hypothesis and Perusal for use in online and/or face-to-face courses at all levels.



Christina Keppie In Fall 2020, Prof. Keppie moved to a full-time position as Director of the **Center for Canadian-American Studies**. She is the first female and Francophile to occupy that role. She continues to teach part-time for MCL in the French program.

This past year, she has been busy organizing a year-long celebration of virtual events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Canadian-American Studies at Western. She is the current Vice-President of the **Association for Canadian Studies in the United States**. Prof. Keppie wrote a book chapter: “Bringing Sexy Back: The Other” to appear in 2022 in *The Construction of Canadian Identity from Abroad*.



Cécile Hanania Before the Pandemic, Prof. Hanania was fortunate to attend two exciting international conferences.

In September 2018, she was invited by the University of Gdańsk, Poland, to present a paper about a French writer of Polish origin, Serge Doubrovsky.



Her presentation was later published in the scientific journal of the university: “*Un homme de passage de Serge Doubrovsky : la tentation de l’Odyssée*,” *Cahiers ERTA*, n° 17, *Revue scientifique académiques*, University of Gdańsk, Poland, Spring 2019 : 53-68. Reprinted in *Cahiers ERTA*, 17-20, University of Gdańsk, Poland, Fall 2020 : 53-68.

In July 2019, she was invited to a colloquium devoted to the influence of haiku on Francophone literature, held at the University Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris. She presented a paper on Canadian-Haitian writer Dany Laferrière. Her article was included in the collective volume following the conference: “*Dany Laferrière et l’énigme du haïku*,” in Muriel Detrie and Dominique Chipto (eds), *Fécondité du haïku dans la création contemporaine*, Paris, Pippa, 2019 : 123-134.





Prof. Hanania also pursued her research on Francophone writer Marguerite Duras and published three articles about her work:

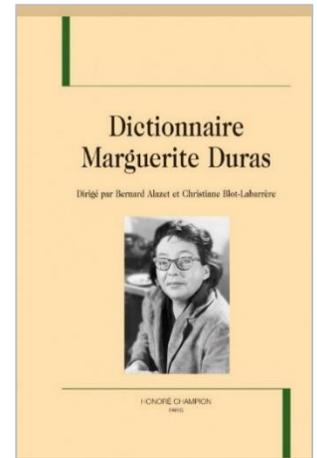
“Prou[s]t, c’est fini’: quand Dustan la joue Duras,” in Catherine Rodgers (ed), *Descendances durassiennes, écritures contemporaines*, Ed. Passage(s), Caen, 2021 : 133-152.

“Une aussi longue absence, un fait divers avec sa grande H,” in Sylvie Loignon (ed), *Marguerite Duras et le fait divers*, Classique Garnier, coll. "Revue des Lettres Modernes", série "Marguerite Duras", n°6, Fall 2020 : 67-80.

“L’Annonciation selon Marguerite Duras,” in Michelle Royer and Laure Uphaidan (eds), *Marguerite Duras à la croisée des arts*, Bruxelles: PIE/PL, coll. "Marguerite Duras », 2019 : 135-149.

Additionally, Prof. Hanania wrote several entries for *Dictionnaire DURAS*, B. Alazet and C. Blot-Labarrère (eds), Paris: Honoré Champion, 2020:

- Comique: 122-125
- *Les Eaux et forêts*: 183-184
- Hemingway: 281-282
- *Le Marin de Gibraltar*: 358-361
- *Madame Dodin*: 345-346
- *Le Shaga*: 585-587
- *Yes, peut-être*: 685-686



**Student Spotlight:
Congratulations to French Student Corinne Slouber!**

Corinne came to Western in 2020 with a BA in French. She attended additional French courses to complete her requirements for a World Language Instruction Endorsement. She also served as a tutor for the French program and as a facilitator for the Western Employee Language Program. During the fall of 2020, Corinne wrote an essay in Prof. Hanania’s French 401 Advanced Composition class that addressed how our current patterns of technology usage impact the biodiversity that sustains us. At the beginning of 2021, she entered her paper in a competitive French writing contest organized by the *American Journal of French Studies*. Out of 104 submissions in the Alumni category, her paper, entitled: “La Pollution lumineuse: menace importante pour la biodiversité” (Light Pollution: A Major Threat to Biodiversity), placed in the top five and was selected for publication in the forthcoming 2022 [2021] volume of the journal.



Photo credit: Corinne Slouber

German Deutsch

By Prof. Petra Fiero

The German section is very proud of its outstanding graduating seniors. In 2019, this honor went to **Katie Holdcroft**, who graduated with a degree in German and Creative Writing and a Minor in TESOL. In 2020, the German faculty selected Honors student **Holly Lund**, who graduated summa cum laude with a BA in German and Linguistics and a minor in Russian and Eurasian Studies. She is currently serving for the second year as an assistant teacher at a secondary school in Bad Ischl, Austria after having been awarded a scholarship through the **USTA program** (US Teaching Assistantship/Fulbright Austria Program). Honors student **Jessica Oravetz** graduated in March 2021 cum laude with a double major in German and History. This fall, she will start her graduate studies in Folklore and Public Culture at the University of Oregon in Eugene. We also salute **Doug Keough** who, like Holly Lund, is continuing his second year in the **USTA program** in Austria. This year, **Nathan Bucker** and **Molly DeLeo** were recipients of English Teaching Assistantships in Germany through the **J. William Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program**; awardees of assistantships in Austria through the **USTA program** were **Reece Carpenter**, **Molly DeLeo**, and **Travis Spitzock**.

Congratulations are in order for **Prof. Shannon Dubenion-Smith**, who was awarded the **Certificate of Merit** by the **American Association of Teachers of German** (AATG) in 2020. This award honors those who have demonstrated achievement in furthering the teaching of German in the U.S. by being outstanding teachers, making significant contributions to the profession, and demonstrating successful interdisciplinary cooperation. Prof. Smith served as Vice-President and President of the Washington chapter of AATG from 2014 to 2018 and as a board member of the Washington Association for Language Teaching (WALFT) from 2014 to 2020, forging invaluable connections with language teachers at all levels.

Prof. Sandra Alfers and **Cornelius Partsch** are currently on a well-deserved professional leave, dedicating their time to research. Therefore, the section has employed **Prof. Thiti Owlarn** to cover courses. He is an expert on Friedrich Schiller's aestheticism and recently presented on "Rethinking the Aesthetic Condition: The Dialectic of Art and Life in Kant, Schiller and Rancière" for the University of Washington's German Studies program. His strong support of our students in his classes and at the **German Club** is much appreciated. **Prof. Julie Winter**, who has been a steadfast presence in the German section for the last seven years, is an award-winning nationally recognized translator. Her translation of Vladimir Vertlib's play about the refugee crisis in 2015, *The Future Lurks Everywhere and Nowhere*, was chosen from almost 20 submissions to be given a staged reading at the **American Literary Translators Association** in Fall 2019. Wir gratulieren Prof. Winter ganz herzlich!

In 2019, **Prof. Petra Fiero** was awarded the **Max Kade prize** for best article in the *Journal of Austrian Studies* for "Transnationale Erinnerungen in Vladimir Vertlibs Stück ÜBERALL NIRGENDS lauert die Zukunft (2016)," which appeared in Issue 51:4 (Winter 2018).

The **German Club** has been extremely active and was revived by **Allie Orozco** in Fall 2021. **Marina Barras** is currently serving as Club President, **Lilly Sabatier** as Vice-President, and **Zoe Parker** as Treasurer. The section thanks these students for their initiative and for providing a space for all German students to practice the language and explore German culture and customs.

Julie Winter

Prof. Julie Winter's students in German 306 (Drama-Based Language Learning) created and performed a radio play (Hörspiel) in Spring 2021. The students studied fairy tales collected by the Brothers Grimm and chose three to perform. They were responsible for all aspects of the show: writing the script, rehearsing their lines, critiquing their performances, sound design, and creating the accompanying website. They also researched the history and reception of the fairy tales and wrote short papers on these topics. The website with a link to the performance can be found here:

<https://gebruedergrimm.xyz/>

In the last several years, Prof. Winter has enjoyed participating in the following projects and workshop:

Teaching Research and Translating for the project “LediZ” (Learning with Digital Testimonies), University of Munich, Munich, Germany, Spring 2021-present. The LediZ team produces interactive digital representations of Holocaust survivors to be implemented in various learning environments.

<https://www.en.lediz.uni-muenchen.de/forschung/transnational-teaching/index.html>

Associate Editor, *No Man’s Land* (literary translation magazine featuring modern German poetry and prose), July 2017-present. <https://www.no-mans-land.org/>

Notre Dame Berlin Seminar Fellow, Berlin, Germany (her participation partially funded by Notre Dame University and the Max Kade Institute), 16-27 June 2019. Participants met and interacted with authors, publishers, and editors who represent the current literary scene in Germany. <https://nanovic.nd.edu/news/notre-dame-berlin-seminar-explores-the-economics-and-culture-of-the-german-literary-world/>

Prof. Winter completed the following translations from German to English:

Naor, Abba. *Survivor from Kovno. The Life of Abba Naor*. Forthcoming in 2022. Book length memoir by Holocaust survivor Abba Naor.

Smechowski, Emilia. “The Auschwitz Concentration Camp: A Journey into Terror.” In *Tour Guides at Memorial Sites and Holocaust Museums. Empirical Studies in Europe, Israel, North America and South Africa. Holocaust Education Revisited*, A. Ballis, ed. *Holocaust Education – Historisches Lernen – Menschenrechtsbildung*, eds. M. Gloe und A. Ballis. Wiesbaden: Springer, forthcoming in 2022.

Schlöndorff, Volker. “On Literature and Film.” *Asymptote* (April 2020): n. page.
www.asymptotejournal.com/nonfiction/volker-schlondorff-on-literature-and-film/

Vertlib, Vladimir. “The Future Lurks Everywhere and Nowhere.” *InTranslation* (September 2019): n. page.
intranslation.brooklynrail.org/german/the-future-lurks-everywhere-and-nowhere/

She also published the following article and book reviews:

“Interpretation and Translation of Poems and Songs in Vladimir Vertlib’s Play *ÜBERALL NIRGENDS lauert die Zukunft*.” *The AALITRA Review: A Journal of Literary Translation* 15 (December 2020): 86-95.
<https://ojs.latrobe.edu.au/ojs/index.php/AALITRA/article/view/1173>

Klaus Brandl (2020). *Zeitlose Themen in zeitlosen Geschichten: A Course Book for Learners of German at the Advanced Level*. San Diego: Cognella Academic Publishing. Reviewed in *Die Unterrichtspraxis* 53, no. 2 (Fall 2020): 259-260.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tger.12141>

Chalupa, C., & ter Haseborg, H. (2016). *Neue Blickwinkel: Wege zur Kommunikation* (2nd ed.). Freeport, ME: Wayside Publishing. Reviewed in *Die Unterrichtspraxis* 52, no. 1 (Spring 2019): 114-116.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tger.12089>

Finally, Prof. Winter presented at these conferences:

“Interactive Holocaust Survivor Biographies in Language Class.” Presentation with Anja Ballis (University of Munich). 2021 Pacific and Ancient Modern Languages Association Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV, 14 November 2021.

“Editors’ Roundtable: Literary Journals.” Panel participant. 2019 American Literary Translators Association Annual Conference, 8 November 2019, Rochester NY.

“From Page to Stage: Readings of Dramatic Translations.” Panel participant. 2019 American Literary Translators Association Annual Conference, 9 November 2019, Rochester NY.

After a year of teaching online, Prof. Winter is happy and grateful to be back on campus teaching in person, and she’s looking forward to continuing to support students learning German and helping them with the newly revived German Club.

Sandra Alfers

It has been another busy year for Sandra Alfers, Professor of German, who is also serving the university as Director of the Ray Wolpov Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity. Prof. Alfers is very much looking forward to her sabbatical in Winter and Spring 2022, which will allow her time to work on the manuscript for her English-language book on Holocaust survivor Else Dormitzer. Prof. Alfers always loves hearing from German program alumni, so drop her a line when you have a moment: alferss@wwu.edu.



Japanese 日本語

By Prof. Masanori Deguchi

Since the last newsletter, a lot has happened in the Japanese Program. What has not changed, however, is the demand that we have had for our courses. While enrollments have gone down slightly in some courses during the pandemic, the Japanese Program has been able to maintain healthy enrollment numbers overall. In Fall 2021, we even offered 4 sections of Japanese 101 for the first time to respond to the long waitlists we have each year.

There are some personnel changes that we would like to update you on. First, **Prof. Michiko Yusa**, after almost four decades of service, retired from Western in 2020. Upon her arrival at Western in 1983, Prof. Yusa started offering Japanese language courses. With Prof. Massimiliano Tomasi, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Japanese major in 2006. Some of you may have met **Prof. Colleen Laird**. She is a specialist in Japanese media and gender studies and came to Western in 2016. In 2020, Prof. Laird decided to leave Western to pursue her career at the University of British Columbia. We are sad to see Profs. Yusa and Laird go, but we have exciting news to report. We will be welcoming a new tenure-track professor to the program this coming Fall. **Prof. Tyler Walker** is a specialist in Japanese literature and will be teaching courses in his areas of expertise as well as Japanese language courses. We are excited to have a new member and the new expertise he will bring to us.

Here are quick updates on other section members. **Prof. Tomasi** was on professional leave Winter, Spring, and Fall 2020, working on a new book project on the interface of Christianity and Japanese literature before and after World War II. His stay in Japan was cut short by the pandemic, but it was still a very productive and rewarding year. **Prof. Masanori Deguchi** just published an article on politeness in Romanian (“What Japanese can say about politeness in Romanian”). He also recently received a teaching grant for Summer 2022 to conduct research on gendered expressions in our first-year Japanese textbook *Genki*. Many Japanese majors must have taken classes with **Prof. Madoka Kusakabe**. She joined us in 2010 and has been teaching more Japanese language classes than anyone since then. Last but not least, **Prof. Nathaniel Bond** successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in December 2021. The title is “Postwar Japanese Humor: Dark Humor and Laughter After the Little Boy.” Congratulations, Prof. Bond!

Russian русский язык

By Prof. Edward Vajda



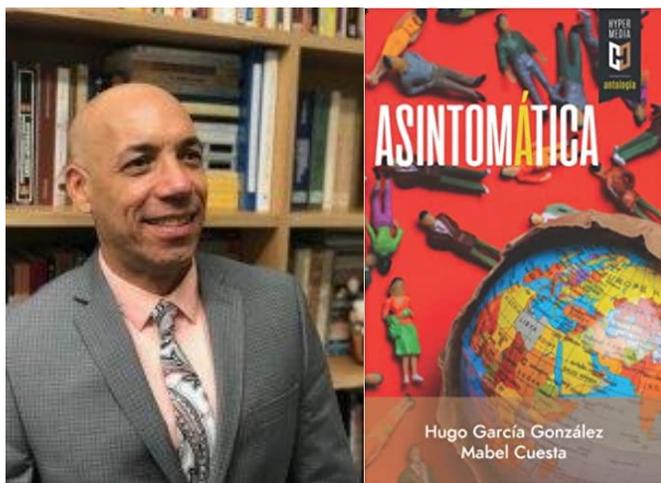
Edward Vajda was co-author of the book *Mid-Holocene Language Connections between Asia and North America* (Michael Fortescue and Edward Vajda, Leiden: Brill Publishers 2021).

Spanish Español

By Prof. Joan Hoffman

Even during the pandemic, the Spanish Section has been active, and we have some good news to share. In 2021, **Prof. Hugo García González** published, with Mabel Cuesta, *Asintomática: Escrituras del encierro en tiempos de Coronavirus* [*Asymptomatic: Writings of Confinement in Times of Coronavirus*, Editorial Hypermedia: ISBN 978-1-948517-68-3], an anthology of creative writing in Spanish encompassing multiple genres and dealing with the current pandemic. In 2020, we welcomed a new faculty member, **Prof. Ernest Hartwell**. Prof. Hartwell comes to us from Harvard University and specializes in 19th-Century Latin American, Caribbean, and Philippine literature. We are so happy to have him! We also have a number of award winners in the Section, both students and faculty: In 2020, Nancy Brill was named our Outstanding Graduating Senior, while Brahm vanWoerden took that honor in 2021; Brahm was also named a 2021

Presidential Scholar for the Humanities Division within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The recipient of the 2021 Eunice Faber award was Emma Magnuson, and the recipient of the 2021 Herbert L. Baird, Jr. Scholarship was Hope Banham; both of these scholarships recognize excellence among our Spanish majors. A German/Spanish dual-language major, Jessica Jimenez, was awarded the 2021 Paul Woodring Arts and Sciences Scholarship; this award recognizes a student who is most likely to make substantial contributions to society as a result of their liberal arts education. Finally, **Prof. Kirsten Drickey** was the 2021 recipient of the Ronald Kleinknecht Excellence in Teaching Award; this award recognizes excellence in teaching within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Congratulations to all of these award winners; you all make us proud!



Photos from left to right: Prof. Hugo García González, book cover of *Asintomática: Escrituras del encierro en tiempos de Coronavirus*, Prof. Ernest Hartwell, and Prof. Kirsten Drickey.

MEET THE SPANISH LANGUAGE FACULTY

Sheryl Bernardo-Hinesley

In Fall 2019, Prof. Bernardo-Hinesley started her first year at Western teaching courses in the Spanish Program, the World Language Teaching Endorsement Program, and the Department of Linguistics. She earned her doctorate in Hispanic Linguistics from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her research and teaching interests are in Hispanic linguistics, sociolinguistics, language contact, pidgins and creoles, bilingualism, second language acquisition, and language attitudes. Since her appointment at Western, she has published three pieces: an article entitled “Multiple Grammars and L2 Optionality: The Case of Acquisition at the External Interface” in the *Journal of Second and Multiple Language Acquisition*, an article entitled “Linguistic Landscape in Educational Spaces” in the Language in Educational Contexts Special Issue of the *Journal of Culture and Values in Education* edited by N. Keefer and M. Haj-Broussard, and a forthcoming book chapter study entitled “Linguistic landscape and the struggle for survival: The case of Cavite Chabacano” in *Linguistic Landscapes in South-East Asia: The Politics of Language and Public Signage*, Routledge Studies in Sociolinguistics Series edited by S. H. Mirvahedi. Recently, she presented developments of her research projects at the University of Sussex Virtual Interdisciplinary Colloquium “The language of Covid-19: discourse analytic and sociolinguistic approaches to an ‘unprecedented’ health crisis,” at the 2021 Virtual Hispanic Linguistics Symposium, and at the 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest, and at the 2021 Virtual Modern Language Association Convention. She feels fortunate to be part of such a vibrant Department of Modern and Classical Languages. For fun, she enjoys exploring Bellingham and the greater Whatcom County area with her husband and two dogs.



Joan Hoffman

Like all of Western’s faculty, Prof. Hoffman has been busy learning new technologies to better teach through the pandemic and is amazed at what we can really accomplish online and how resilient our students are. Beyond teaching grammar, composition, culture, and literature, she continues to advise Spanish majors, minors, and study-abroad participants and to serve as Coordinator of the Spanish Section. Two of her 2020 conferences, in Ashland, OR and Madrid, Spain, were cancelled due to the pandemic, but she plans to present at the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico this summer. Her most recent publication is “On Tragedy and Triumph: Further Comparisons of *Yerma* and *Burning Bright*” (2019, *Hispanic Journal*), and she is currently preparing the second edition of her book, *Voces femeninas de España: Una antología*.



Charles Patterson

Although the past couple of years have been difficult, Prof. Patterson has found some silver linings to the pandemic in his teaching, research, and hobbies. Converting his classes to an online modality was certainly a challenge, but Prof. Patterson found it refreshing to rethink his approaches to teaching Spanish language, culture, and literature. He even plans to keep using some of the activities he came up with for Zoom classes now that we are moving back to the classroom! One highlight was the opportunity to teach a course on Miguel de Cervantes’s masterpiece *Don Quixote* for the first time since coming to Western. Readers often find the language in this 1605 novel a little tricky, but Prof. Patterson was thrilled to see how his students rose to the challenge and participated in meaningful conversations about the work.

Travel restrictions have made it impossible to travel for research and conferences, so Prof. Patterson has focused on getting some of his recent work into print (see the links below). One highlight was working with a student, Gabriel Fisher, to research musical conventions in early modern Spanish theater, which led to an article on how Cervantes pokes fun at those conventions in his own work. Another was the opportunity to contribute a

chapter to an exciting new volume titled *Social Justice and the Golden Age Comedia*.

Even though Prof. Patterson loves seeing the world, the past two summers have afforded him the fantastic opportunity to get to know Whatcom County. He and his family spent almost every weekend canoeing, foraging, hiking, or camping in the beautiful natural areas in and around Bellingham. One highlight was falling asleep to the sound of the waves during an overnight trip to the Chain Lakes. Another memorable experience was an ill-advised canoe trip down the Nooksack River – fortunately, everyone was safe, but they were all very wet by the end!

Recent Publications:

“Chirinos and Chanfalla go to America: Social Justice in Adaptations of *El retablo de las maravillas*.” [Social Justice and the Golden Age Comedia](#), edited by Erin Alice Cowling, Tania de Miguel Magro, Mina García Jordán, and Glenda Y. Nieto-Cuebas. U of Toronto P, 2021, pp. 175-90.

“Cervantes v. McCarthy: Pan-Hispanic Solidarity and Anglo-American Modernity in Manuel Altolaguirre’s *Las maravillas*.” [Cervantes: Bulletin of the Cervantes Society of America](#), vol. 40, no. 1, 2020, pp. 195-213.

“‘¡Novedad grande es esta!’: La aparición de los músicos como elemento paródico en los entremeses de Cervantes.” [eHumanista/Cervantes](#), vol. 8, 2020, pp. 41-50.

“[Cervantes in the Trenches: Art and Propaganda in Rafael Dieste’s *Nuevo retablo de las maravillas*](#).” [Cincinnati Romance Review](#), vol. 46, Spring 2019, pp. 89-108.



FACULTY RETIREMENT: PROF. JANET XING

By Prof. Shannon Dubenion-Smith



Prof. Janet Xing, or *Xing lǎoshī* as she is known to her students, will retire at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year after a long and incredibly fruitful career. She began working at Western in 1997 and has taught Chinese language, Chinese culture, and (Chinese) linguistics in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, the East Asian Studies program, and the Department of Linguistics.

Prof. Xing has long been recognized by students and colleagues alike as a consummate teacher. Students have often remarked how much they learn in her courses and praise her for her enthusiasm, her energy, her clarity, her organization, as well as for her ability to create a friendly class atmosphere. Colleagues have applauded Prof. Xing for her outstanding work in curricular development, for leading a study abroad program to China, and for serving as a stabilizing force in the section, tirelessly working to improve and maintain enrollments. In the collective minds of MCL faculty, Prof. Xing has been “the heart

of the Chinese program.” Indeed, as Chinese section coordinator, a role that she held for over 10 years, she almost single-handedly created the Chinese major, which went into effect in the 2014-2015 academic year.

Besides her formidable contributions to teaching, Prof. Xing has distinguished herself as a prolific scholar of Chinese linguistics, particularly historical linguistics and grammaticalization, and Second Language Acquisition. Her output includes 10 monographs and edited volumes, 47 refereed articles and book chapters, and dozens of refereed conference presentations; her most recent publications are detailed in the Chinese Section News above. Prof. Xing is considered a leading figure in her field, as evidenced by her invitations to present at professional conferences as a keynote speaker and to serve on journal advisory boards.

Finally, Prof. Xing is well known for her vast and varied service and administrative contributions, which date back to the time before her appointment at Western and are far too numerous to exhaustively list and describe here. Highlights include her role as Editor-in-Chief for the journal *Chinese as a Second Language*, the only peer-reviewed scholarly journal in the world written in English that focuses on Chinese language pedagogy and acquisition, and her service as President of the national Chinese Language Teachers Association. She also established and nurtured a relationship with the Confucius Institute of Washington State, a Chinese-government-sponsored organization that promotes the study of Chinese abroad. This organization has regularly provided a generous annual grant for cultural activities on campus that greatly enrich our students’ learning experiences.

Prof. Xing has been an outstanding colleague who has made remarkable contributions to MCL and, in particular, the Chinese section. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her retirement!

In Memoriam



The year 2020 was particularly difficult for me and for the Spanish Section in that we lost three wonderful friends and colleagues: Profs. **John Underwood**, **Shaw Gynan**, and **David Fiero**. John and Shaw had a hand in hiring me in 1994, and David arrived at WWU in 1995; I happily worked with all three until their respective retirements, and they all brought knowledge, joy, and a passion and enthusiasm for their work to both the Spanish section and MCL as a whole. John had an abiding interest in methodology and technology and mentored me through my tenure process; I will be forever grateful for his guidance. Shaw was our only Spanish linguist for years and was always engaged in wordplay or speaking to us in Guaraní; it didn't matter that we didn't understand! David was our resident *Quijote* specialist for years and would leave class covered in sweat because he was willing to do just about anything to engage his students. I learned so much from these wonderful men; they helped me to improve my Spanish and my teaching; they taught me how to do my job, and I miss them all every day that I do it.

Joan Hoffman

Prof. David Fiero



A Life of Adventures with David

When I came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1985 as an exchange student from Regensburg, I was continuing my studies in Spanish because David told me that if I wanted to spend my life with him, I'd better know some Spanish! Of course, I obeyed! He intended to travel to many Hispanic countries with me and had told me of wild excursions to Mexico and Morocco in his "youth." It must have been in one of our Spanish classes where we heard about a faculty-led hiking and camping trip to the Barranca de Cobre (Copper Canyon) to visit the Tarahumaras that sounded exciting and fabulous

to us. We signed up and conditioned ourselves for the trip by spending hours and hours carrying backpacks full of “gear” up and down the eleven floors of “Oldfather Hall” – Nebraska was so flat that there was no mountain in sight to practice on. We were allowed only two changes of clothes on the trip since we had to carry everything on our backs.

The minivan took us to Northern Mexico, the train to Creel and from there it went downhill in a rickety truck driven by a 14-year-old Mexican teenager. Once in Batopilas at the bottom of the canyon, we hired a Mexican guide to lead us to the remote regions of the canyon where the famous long-distance runners, the Tarahumaras, lived. Later on, we learned that they were driven into more and more infertile land by the Mexican landowners.... We slept under the stars in our sleeping bags, cooked at the campfire, didn’t wash up much, and I remember thinking: I hope I don’t get appendicitis or a toothache right now! Alas, nothing of the sort happened, but it was the start of many an adventure with David by my side.

Petra Fiero



David loved the outdoors and had many adventures to share, like being in the Chuckanuts and staying too late, and trying to get down without light, following the streams and thus having to walk in one with the salmon afoot and getting out eventually. He always had stories to tell, and since I love the outdoors, he had an attentive ear to mine. David loved Spanish, and he enjoyed sharing ideas with all of us in the section. Most of all, he and Petra were a great pair together. One more thing, he planted a small evergreen tree very close to their house, which grew to be huge, not what he or Petra foresaw. It was a pleasure always to have known him.

Mary Anne Rangel

My most striking memory of David is related to the wonderful parties at our late colleague Ingrid Kassler’s beautiful house in Anacortes, where the entire department annually convened. While David’s wife, our dear friend Petra, would drive from Bellingham to Anacortes as the rest of us did, David would insist on riding his bike, almost 50 miles, to join the party. I remember seeing him from our car, en route, pedaling as a racer on the Tour de France, unperturbed by the trucks nearly grazing him and the eviscerated deer along the roads. Upon his arrival, he would slip discreetly into Ingrid’s bathroom and indulge in a long, hot bath, while sipping orange juice, before joining the rest of the guests, fresh as a daisy!

Cécile Hanania



[Please click here for a picture story tribute to David from Profs. Blanca Aranda and Luis Portugal.](#)

Prof. Shaw Gynan

Shaw was a devoted teacher and truly enjoyed working with students from other countries and sharing his home and well cooked food with them and faculty. He was always available to share ideas about languages, and he certainly studied more than one. One of my best memories is hearing him discuss grammar points, simply because he enjoyed doing so. I have a photo of him with students from other countries in my office.

Mary Anne Rangel



View of WWU Campus and Red Square. Photo credit: Western's Flickr photostream

2021-2022 AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Outstanding Graduating Seniors

Chinese – Shauna Lynch
French – Alea Kari Kirby
German – Reece Carpenter
Japanese – Maddux Pearson
Latin American Studies – Braden Reese
Spanish – Sylvia Cohen

Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF)

Sarah Ellis
Lucia Foster
Thomas Krohne
Audrey Quane
Liz Tomter

J. William Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program (Germany)

Nathan Bucker
Molly DeLeo

US Teaching Assistantship/Fulbright-Austria Program (Austria)

Reece Carpenter
Molly DeLeo
Travis Spitzcock

Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET)

Lukas Civan

MCL Scholarships

Herbert L. Baird, Jr. Scholarship – Laci Bowhay
Herbert L. Baird, Jr. Scholarship – Madison Gard
Departmental Tuition & Fee Waiver Scholarship – Kate Lincoln
Departmental Tuition & Fee Waiver Scholarship – Javin Morrison
Eunice D. Faber Scholarship - Anna Hedrick
Karen L. Freeman Scholarship – Jessica Jimenez-Arroyo
Golden and Li Family Scholarship – Ariana Erbes
Golden and Li Family Scholarship – Blue Woods
Ingrid Stahlbrand Kassler Scholarship – Emma Ahmann
Ingrid Stahlbrand Kassler Scholarship – Connor Roble
Loomis/Hanley Foreign Language Scholarship – Rosalina Tadeo

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE OUTSTANDING MCL STUDENTS!

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