

INTERLINGUA NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019



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Message from the Chair

Greetings, dear readers! As I walked across Red Square this morning, the swarms of students chatting and basking in the sun were a clear indication that spring is finally here, the tall mounds of snow and ice from the record February winter storms a distant memory.

Like the shift from winter into spring, MCL has undergone a transition this year with the departure of our esteemed chair, Professor of Spanish Paqui Paredes, to assume a two-year interim position as Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and with my start in the MCL chair role in summer 2018. While we very much miss Paqui's presence in the department, we are thrilled that she is now at the helm of our College. We thank her very much for her six years of effective department leadership and many other contributions to MCL and to the Spanish section!

Currently, MCL is home to 38 faculty members from 13 different countries. We offer courses for our major and minor programs in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish and minor programs in Classical Studies, Greek, Latin, and Russian. We also offer Arabic as part of the minor in Arabic and Islamic Studies. In winter 2018, we bade farewell to our colleague Shaw Gynan, Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Linguistics, who retired after 32 years of service at Western. We sorely miss seeing him around Miller Hall and being jovially greeted in any one of the many languages he masters, a favorite among them Guarani. (Please see the [tribute to Professor Gynan](#) on p. 25.) Although we've had to say goodbye to one colleague through retirement, we will be joined in fall 2019 by two new tenure-track faculty members, Assistant Profs. Sheryl Bernardo-Hinesley and Lindsey Smith, who will add to the Spanish and French sections, respectively, with their specialties in Spanish linguistics and Caribbean literature and culture.

Besides personnel changes, the department



undertook this academic year the major task of revising its degree programs, which included an increase of all 3- and 4-credit courses to 5 credits in order to add depth to our students' learning experiences. MCL faculty were also instrumental in the development of two new interdisciplinary courses of study at our university: Prof. Sandra Alfors (German section) was responsible for the establishment of the minor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies in her capacity as Director of the Ray Wolpov Institute, and Prof. Blanca Aranda (Spanish section) worked closely with Prof. Ricardo López from the History Department to initiate the Latin American Studies major that is now housed in MCL.

MCL faculty are not only deeply committed to teaching and curricular development on campus, but they also continue to be actively engaged in teaching off campus by offering life-changing study abroad opportunities. In summer 2018, Prof. Christina Keppie took a group of French students to [Montreal, Canada](#) (see p. 20), and Profs. Blanca Aranda and Luis Portugal led a Global Learning Program with Spanish students in [Guanajuato, Mexico](#) (see p. 24). Our faculty have remained heavily involved in research activities as well; this past year, colleagues published 5 books and 21

Continued on next page

refereed journal articles and book chapters, and they presented 19 papers at regional, national, and international conferences.

Our students continue to make special contributions to our department and garner accolades. Over the last year, advanced Chinese, French, and Spanish students have facilitated language classes for 177 faculty and staff from across campus through the Western Employee Language Program under the supervision of Profs. Kirsten Drickey, Scott Taylor, and Janet Xing. Several students have also won prestigious grants, namely German major Celeste Hufford and Spanish major María José Palacios, who received Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships to Germany and Brazil, respectively, and German minor Rose Carr, who was awarded a grant for the RIAS Berlin Program for Students of Journalism and International Affairs.

Finally, I would like to offer some words of thanks. A heartfelt Dankeschön goes to our alumni and donors, whose generous contributions greatly benefit our students, faculty, and programs. It was wonderful to again see a number of former students at our MCL Open House during the Alumni Weekend in May 2018 and to be inspired and enlightened by those who participated in our Alumni Panel. I would also like to thank our omniscient department manager, Holly Childs, who has made my first year as chair so much easier, and our infinitely helpful and creative office assistant, Sara Helms, who has once again produced a beautiful edition of Interlingua for us to enjoy.

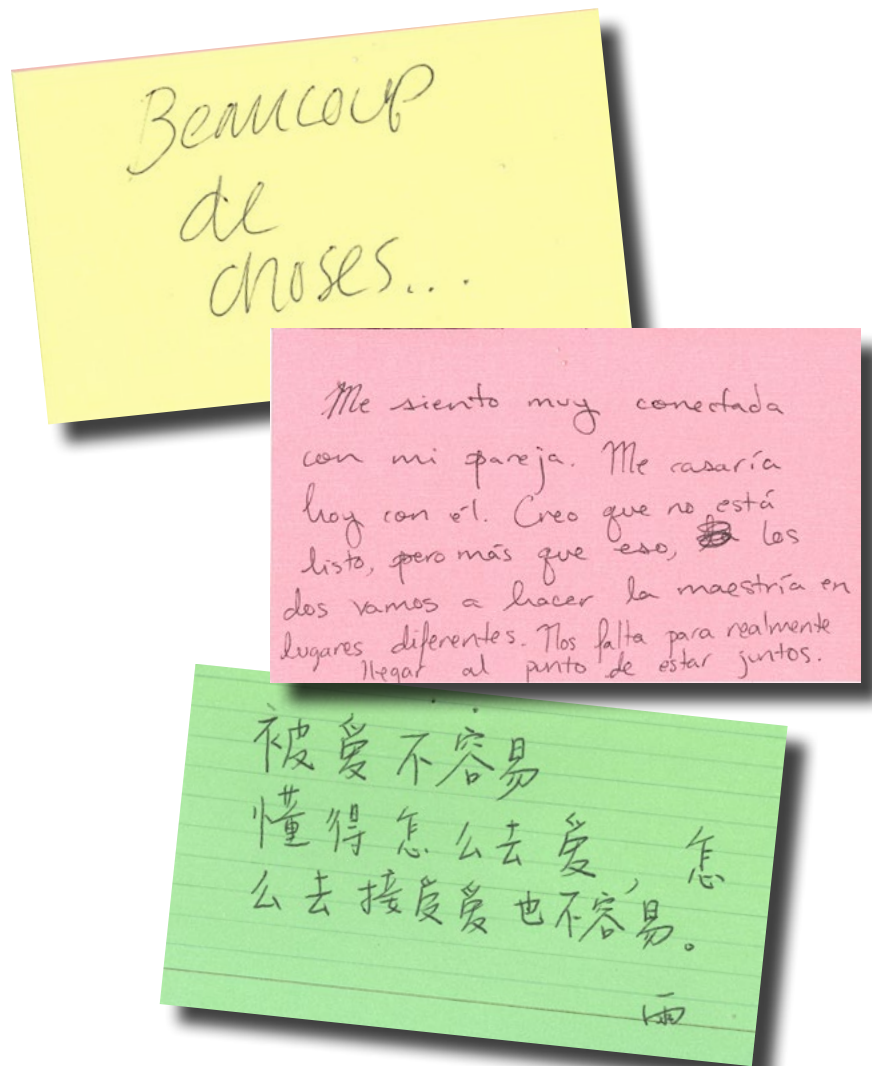
If you are ever back on campus, please stop by the department in Miller Hall! We'd love to see you! 🌸

Shannon Dubenion-Smith
*Associate Professor of German and
Linguistics*
Chair of Modern and Classical Languages

Critical ENGAGEMENT

Under the management of the Critical Engagement Workgroup, Eduardo Engelsing, Christina Keppie and Colleen Laird, MCL commits hallway space to an ongoing "Testimonial Board." Students and faculty of MCL alike are encouraged to contribute writings that express contemporary social issues experienced by the individual. Ideally, these writings would be produced as bilingual pieces written in both the target language of study and in English (the language most accessible on our campus). Below is an example of just one question the CEW has posed, as well as student responses.

What are your struggles in love?





Faculty Roster

Sandra Alfors, Ph.D.
 Blanca Aranda, Ph.D.
 Mauricio Araniva, M.A.
 Amy Carbajal, M.A.
 Masanori Deguchi, Ph.D.
 Kirsten Drickey, Ph.D.
 Shannon Dubenion-Smith, Ph.D.
 Seán Dwyer, A.B.D.
 Eduardo Engelsing, Ph.D.
 Petra S. Fiero, Ph.D.
 Hugo García, Ph.D.
 Cécile Hanania, Ph.D.
 Joan Hoffman, Ph.D.

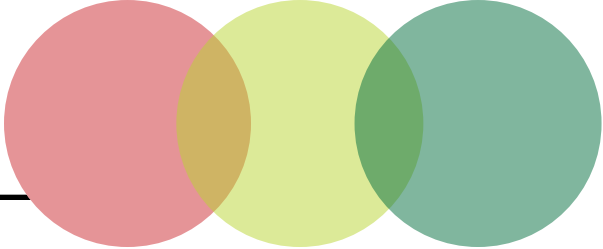
Tamer Hussein, Ph.D.
 Christina Keppie, Ph.D.
 Miller Krause, Ph.D.
 Madoka Kusakabe, Ph.D.
 Colleen Laird, Ph.D.
 Yu Lei, Ph.D.
 Rodolfo Mata, Ph.D.
 Edward Ousselin, Ph.D.
 Cornelius Partsch, Ph.D.
 Charles Patterson, Ph.D.
 Luis Gonzalo Portugal, Ph.D.
 Maribel Rams, Ph.D.
 Mary Anne Rangel, M.A.

David Schlitt, M.A.
 Kaori Shimizu, Ph.D.
 Byron Stayskal, Ph.D.
 Scott Taylor, Ph.D.
 Massimiliano Tomasi, Ph.D.
 Edward Vajda, Ph.D.
 Li Wang, Ph.D.
 Judith White, Ph.D.
 Julie Winter, Ph.D.
 Julian Siyuan Wu, Ph.D.
 Janet Xing, Ph.D.
 Michiko Yusa, Ph.D.

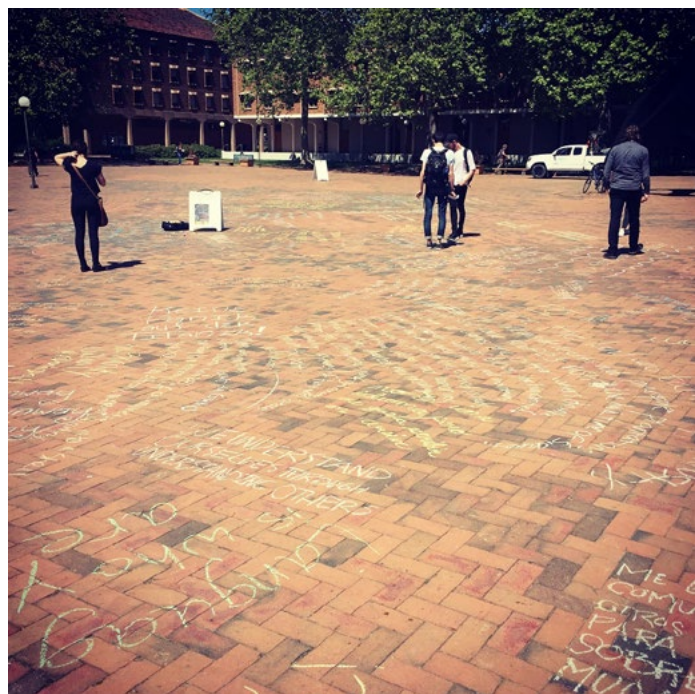
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To request this document in an alternate format, please contact MCL Administrative Assistant Sara Helms at 360-650-3918 or sara.helms@wwu.edu

Critical Engagement cont.



The CEW's spring 2018 Chalk In, Chalk Out event was open to all students and faculty in MCL. During this two-day event, participants gathered in Red Square to chalk their messages in the open, public space. The end result was a written cacophony of thematically-tied languages visibly expressing unity through diversity.



Sponsored by MCL

CHALK IN, CHALK OUT

Do you love language?
Do you study language?
Tell us why!

Help us cover Red Square with sidewalk chalk

1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 29
Wednesday, May 30
Red Square

AA/E.O. For disability accommodation, please contact Sara Helms, 360-650-3918, sara.helms@wwu.edu

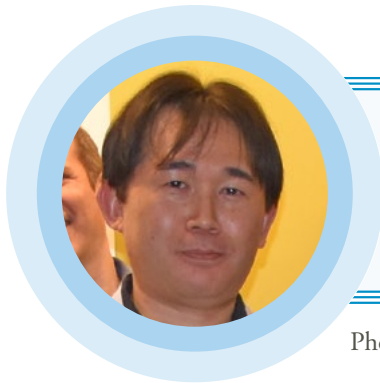
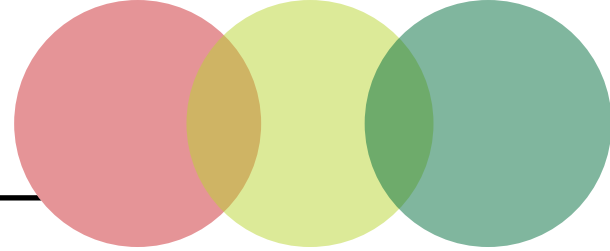


Top left, from left, MCL professors Eduardo Engelsing, Christina Keppie, Cécile Hanania and Cornelius Partsch pose in Red Square during the successful Chalk In, Chalk Out event. Bottom left, an overview of Red Square, covered in chalk statements by students and faculty. Photos by Sara Helms.



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Faculty Spotlight



Masanori Deguchi

Japanese &
Linguistics

Photo by Hugo Garcia.



Eduardo Engelsing

Classical Studies,
Latin & Greek

Photo courtesy of Christina Keppie.

Masanori Deguchi, Ph.D., participated as a screener for the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program again. He interviewed candidates from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho and although he is not allowed to interview students from Western due to a conflict of interest, is pleased to see the continued success of Western's students in the JET Program. Additionally, Deguchi has continued his research on non-truth-conditional meanings in Japanese. He recently came back from a conference trip to Romania where he presented a paper entitled "What Japanese Can Say About Politeness and Romanian," at the workshop on Attitude and Stance in Discourse. [↻](#)

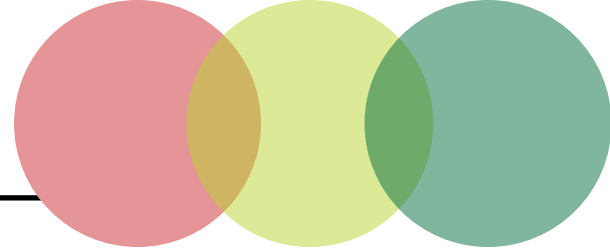
Eduardo Engelsing, Ph.D., was recently invited, for the third time, to join with other collaborators and to facilitate an active-Latin instructors' workshop, the Biduum Angelopolitanum, at the Getty Villa in Los Angeles. The event was organized by the American Society for Living Latin, SALVI, and took place October 13-14, 2018.

Engelsing also presented his paper "Sermo Latinus Lingua Communis: A Collaborative and Participative Methodology for Teaching Latin," at the First International Conference for Teaching Innovation. The conference was hosted by the Languages Department of the Universidade de Lisboa in Portugal and took place December 3-4, 2018. [↻](#)



Getty Villa, Malibu Beach, Los Angeles. Photo courtesy of Eduardo Engelsing.

Faculty Spotlight



Petra Fiero

German

Photo courtesy of Petra Fiero

Petra S. Fiero, Ph.D., had a productive two-quarter sabbatical which led her to Chaminade University of Honolulu in November 2017. There she presented her paper “Transnationale Erinnerungen in Vladimir Vertlib’s Drama *ÜBERALL NIRGENDS lauert die Zukunft*“ for the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, PAMLA. Since it was her first time in Hawaii, she took the opportunity to visit Pearl Harbor on Veteran’s Day, and the Iolani Palace where the 100th anniversary of Queen Lili’s death was commemorated that very day. Her article based on this Honolulu presentation will appear in the *Journal of Austrian Studies* in the winter 2019 issue. She was on the



Austrian Author Vladimir Vertlib and Petra Fiero in Salzburg. Photo courtesy of Petra Fiero.

organizing committee which brought PAMLA to Western’s campus this year where we welcomed over 700 participants. Her paper “Demaskierung im Schwarzen Salon in Vladimir Vertlib’s *Lucia Binar und die russische Seele* und Michail Bulgakows *Der Meister und Margarita*” on the panel on Austrian Literature was well received. In September 2018 she was invited as a guest speaker to the University of Idaho where she presented her talk “Transnational Memories in Vladimir Vertlib’s Play *EVERYWHERE NOWHERE Lurks the Future*”. The day after this presentation, Dr. Julie Winter, who had translated this play about the recent refugee crisis into English, and Fiero gave a bilingual reading of several scenes of this poignant play. In the summer of 2018, Fiero was again invited by Vladimir Vertlib and his wife Anna to spend a few days in Salzburg where they visited two operas at the Salzburger Festspiele.🌀



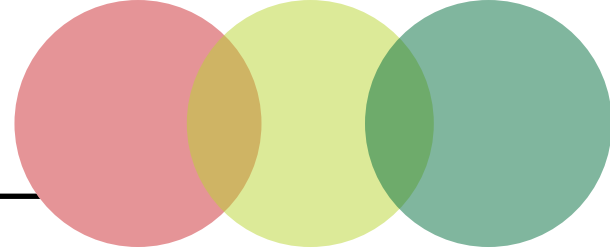
Joan Hoffman

Spanish

Photo by Hugo Garcia.

Joan Hoffman, Ph.D., has been busy in the past year. She continues to teach grammar, culture, composition, and literature courses and to advise both majors and study-abroad participants. She traveled to Salamanca, Spain in June of 2018 in celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Universidad de Salamanca and to attend the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese where she presented a paper entitled “Los tesoros de la niña”: All That Glitters in Ana María Matute’s “Fausto.”🌀

Faculty Spotlight



Christina Keppie

French &
Linguistics

Photo by Hannah Wong

In September 2018, **Christina Keppie**, Ph.D., was appointed the new director of the Center for Canadian-American Studies and is currently working on establishing a Can-Am tenure-track line in Indigenous Studies of the Salish Sea to complement the new and upcoming Salish Sea minor. Keppie assisted in writing a successful Title VI grant application for the Study of Canada that resulted in a more than \$2 million award in federal grant funding to be shared over the next four years with the University of Washington as part of the Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium. She is the external supervisor for anthropology Ph.D. candidate Scott Cawthon at Indiana University Bloomington, a 2012 MCL (French and German) and linguistics alumnus who traveled to Belgium in the summer of '18 to conduct preliminary research on the ethnolinguistic vitality of Walloon. In the forthcoming "Canada 150" special issue of the British Journal of Canadian Studies, Keppie has a publication, "Celebrating Acadian Milestones in 2004." During the 2017-18 academic year, Keppie attended three conferences, taking her to Las Vegas, Pittsburg, and London. At these conferences, she discussed the role of official festivities in Acadian cultural ideology and the manifestation of power dynamics between regions of the Acadian diaspora in the World Acadian Congress. With the generous funding of an MCL research grant and an Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Grant-in-Aid award, she initiated a long-term project called "Border Communities of la Francophonie des Amériques". In the summer of '18, she went on a scouting trip to the Upper Saint John River Valley, which lies on the Canada-US border

between the Province of New Brunswick and the State of Maine. Here, she met with local 'Valley' residents to discuss the precarious state of their cultural heritage as Franco-Americans and Acadians, their relationship with the border, and their interactions with Canadian francophone minorities on the other side of the border. That same summer she took 13 students on the fourth Global Learning Program to Montréal, Quebec. Students initiated a French-only contract with Keppie that lasted the entire four weeks. Highlights of this trip included the performance of authentic tasks such as attending group fitness classes to not only stay fit and healthy during the trip but to also learn fitness-related vocabulary essential to discussing symptoms and ailments to a doctor or pharmacist.

Keppie would like to congratulate the incredible initiative and work of Kimberly Le (lek6@wwu.edu), who is currently working on an independent study as part of her French/Canadian-Studies double major. Her project is titled An Exploration of the Relationship Between [Francophone] Canada and its Art History. Le can be contacted for more information regarding the nature of this project. Also, she has been maintaining a blog in French, first initiated in Keppie's spring '18 section of FREN 203. All of Keppie's FREN 203 and Montréal GLP students had to maintain a blog. Le has succeeded in using her blog and independent study as a means of documenting her experiences and interests as a Western student. 🔄



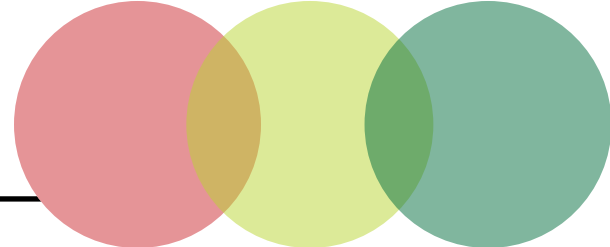
Miller Krause

Classical Studies

Photo courtesy of Miller Krause

Miller Krause, Ph.D., continues to work on medical Latin satire. This spring, at the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, he will present a

Faculty Spotlight



Above, photos from Colleen Laird's travels. Photos courtesy of Colleen Laird.

paper on three works of medical satire by Christian Gottfried Gruner, one of the founders of medical history. At Western, he continues to oversee the *Nuntii Latini Vasintonienses*, a weekly news podcast that students record entirely in Latin; the associated Twitter feed, also entirely in Latin, has over 750 followers. [↪](#)

Ogigami Naoko. Laird is currently revising these presentations into an article entitled “Ogigami Naoko’s Cinematic Transitions: A Queer Journey from Homosociality to Transsexuality” in which she theorizes how a body of work, as opposed to a single text, can be a queer body that undergoes a metaphorical “coming out.” Additionally, Laird completed her work on the star text of transnational Japanese actress Kikuchi Rinko and hopes to see the work in print next year. She now turns her attention to two new projects—an analysis of Japanese imagery and identity in the HBO series *Westworld* and a study of Japanese Netflix Original Content.

In addition to advancements in research, Laird won two teaching grants last year: a teaching materials grant from the Japan Foundation which she used to establish a collection of reading materials currently housed in the MCL Media Lab, and a summer teaching grant from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to research and develop a collection of materials to be used in Japanese language classrooms to better facilitate inclusivity for students of racial, ethnic, sexual, and



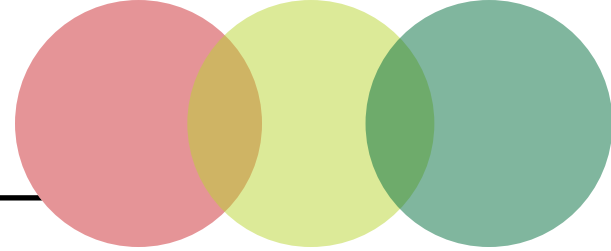
Colleen A. Laird

Japanese

Photo courtesy of Colleen Laird

Colleen A. Laird, Ph.D., traveled to Washington D.C. in March of 2018 for the Association of Asian Studies annual conference and to Tokyo, Japan in July of 2018 for the Asian Studies Conference Japan. At both events, she presented her new work on the career of film director

Faculty Spotlight



gender diversity.

Although it was an exciting year of many opportunities, Laird enjoyed two peak experiences in particular. In April of 2018, thanks to the cheerleading efforts of students, she ran her first half-marathon with Japanese program students Hannah Wehrer, Jennifer Kwong, Phoenix Wing, and Alex Fu. In the summer, she had a round-the-world itinerary that took her from Iceland to Japan, with stops in Ireland and Morocco along the way. In Morocco, she joined Western Journalism professor Brian J. Bowe, Ph.D., to attend the annual festival of the Master Musicians of Joujouka. There she acted as interpreter for Bowe in his interviews with Japanese musicians in attendance. In Japan, she visited many of her favorite spots in Tokyo and Kyoto, and completed a long-term goal of hiking the Nakasendo Trail between the old post towns of Magome and Tsumago. ↻



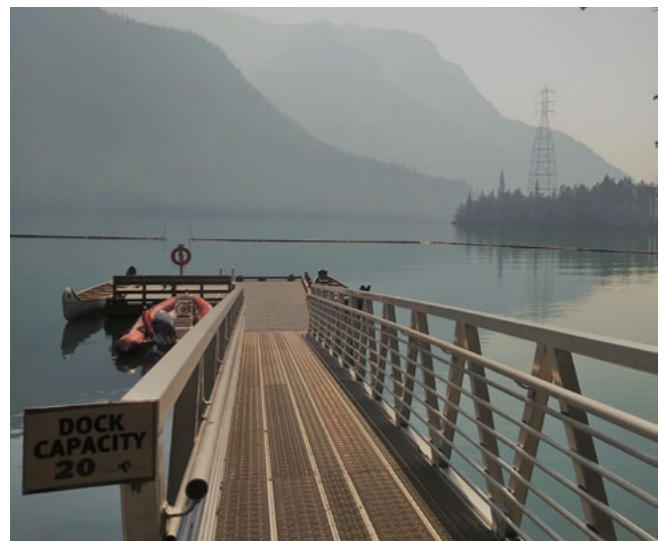
R. Mata

Spanish &
Linguistics

Photo courtesy of R. Mata

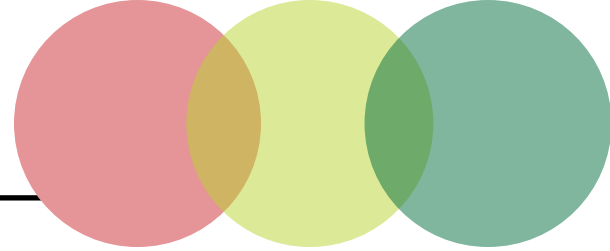
R. Mata, Ph.D., is in his second year as Assistant Professor of Spanish Linguistics at Western. He joined MCL and Linguistics in the Fall of 2017 after a year as a visiting faculty member at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. He earned his doctorate in linguistics at the University of California, San Diego in 2016. This academic year, he presented at the 5th Symposium on Spanish as a Heritage Language at the University of Iowa on challenging the linguistic insecurity of heritage speakers. In the summer of

2018, he was selected to participate in the Academic Technology and User Services Course Redesign Workshop at Western, for which he received a grant to redesign his Spanish 314 course on Spanish phonetics and phonology. He was also selected as one of the participants for the Western Libraries Backwards by Design Faculty Retreat at the North Cascades Institute, where he got to be a part of exciting conversations about pedagogy and focus on designing his Linguistics 421 seminar on Romance linguistics. This retreat also gave him the opportunity to spend some time in the majestic beauty of the North Cascades National Park. The retreat rounded off a summer of connecting with places old and new as he got to visit not only the North Cascades but also the Olympic National Park in Washington state. One of the personal and professional highlights of his summer was returning to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks for the first time since receiving his M.F.A. there in 2006. His publication on challenging the linguistic insecurity of heritage speakers, presented at the University of Iowa in April of 2017, is forthcoming from the International Journal of the Linguistics Association of the Southwest. ↻



View from the North Cascades Institute, where Mata attended the Western Libraries Backwards by Design Faculty Retreat. Photo courtesy of R. Mata.

Faculty Spotlight



Charles Patterson

Spanish &
Linguistics

Photo courtesy of Charles Patterson.

Charles Patterson, Ph.D., traveled more than usual in 2018, doing research and presenting his work. In the spring, he attended the annual symposium of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theatre in El Paso, Texas, where he presented his talk “Chirinos and Chanfalla go to America: Social Justice in Adaptations of *El retablo de las maravillas*.” In the summer he

spent a month in Europe. After a brief family visit to Frankfurt, Germany, he participated in the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in Salamanca, Spain. His talk was titled “The Overlap of Two Golden Ages in Lauro Olmo’s ‘Nuevo retablo de las maravillas y olé.’” With the support of the MCL Research and Teaching Grant, he was able to travel from Salamanca to Almagro, Spain to carry out research at the National Theatre Museum. His work in Almagro coincided with the Almagro Classical Theatre Festival, so he was able to attend several productions by some of Spain’s leading companies. He is now on professional leave, hard at work on his study of adaptations of Miguel de Cervantes’s play *El retablo de las maravillas*. ↻



Charles Patterson at the University of Salamanca. Photo courtesy of Charles Patterson.



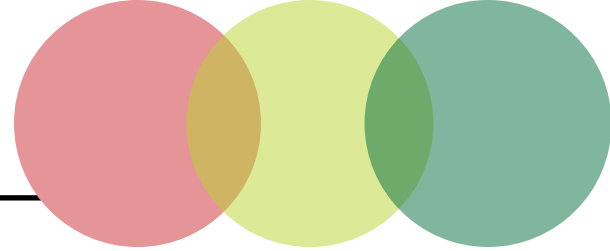
Scott Taylor

French

Photo courtesy of Scott Taylor.

This past year was quite a busy one for **Scott Taylor**, Ph.D. In April, he traveled to Orlando to give a paper at the 42nd annual Comparative Drama Conference hosted by Rollins College. He delivered a paper title, “Stages of Infidelity: An Extratextual Affair,” in which he discussed the question of textual authority in theatre studies, more specifically, highlighting the tension that exists between playwright and director, between the perceived sanctity of the written text and the so-called “faithfulness” of its theatrical staging. Drawing upon advancements in adaptation studies, Guattarian psychoanalytic theory, and Patrice Pavis’s integrated semiotics, his paper ultimately proposes moving away from the notion of *mise en scène* in favor

Faculty Spotlight



of *mise en performance*, viewing theatre as material involving a process of editing, assembling, and binding together verbal and extra-verbal fragments within a performance. He will be traveling back to the conference in April 2019, where he was invited to participate in a pre-established panel on “Contemporary Creations in Theatre in French.” He will be discussing his work as a theatre director in a paper titled: “Staging the Middle Ages: Toward a Lecture Mise en Espace of La Farce de Maître Pathelin.”

Following the conference, Taylor returned to campus and immediately began a 3-week French film festival in April that he had organized and coordinated thanks to a grant he received from the French-American Cultural Exchange and the French Embassy of New York. Over the course of three weeks, students had the opportunity to view six different films (five contemporary and one classic) that explored various aspects of the Second World War. The festival was a huge success with approximately 300 people attending. He was joined by faculty members from across campus who served as discussion leaders for the films. He is excited to announce that he has once again received the grant for a second festival to be held during spring quarter of 2019. The theme of this year’s festival is “Intersections: Gender, Race, and Sexuality,” and will feature films from renowned French/francophone filmmakers Robin Campillo, Raoul Peck, Jean Rouch, Catherine Corsini, Céline Sciamma, and André Téchiné.

In June of 2018, Professor Taylor also directed a French-language production of *La Farce de Maître Pathelin*, a medieval comedy considered to be the oldest and finest masterpiece of medieval French comic theatre. The production took place at the Slate Theatre in Seattle and ran for four nights in early June. The cast consisted of native and near-native speakers of French, to include: Myriam Baillargeon, Erik Sackstein, Arwen Dewey, Véronique LeCoq, and Emilie Ross. The production was made possible by a teaching and research grant Taylor received from MCL and from a small grant from Western’s Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

Following the play, Taylor immediately headed to Bloomington, Illinois where he participated in a

3-week seminar funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities on “Courtly Lyric in the Medieval French Tradition: Poetry as Performance.” The seminar took place on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University, and Taylor had the opportunity to work with specialists in French medieval literature and musicologists from around the country and around the world. The seminar offered an interdisciplinary approach to the *trouvères*, medieval France’s lyric poets, who flourished ca. 1180-1300. Among the topics discussed included: medieval manuscripts, paleography, music theory and musical notation, as well as Old French language. The seminar culminated in a performance and participants engaged in the preliminary steps toward writing a critical edition of the poetry and music of Gautier de Dargies.

Following his busy spring and summer, Taylor took a much-needed break and took two wonderful trips to just unwind and relax. In early July, he went camping in the beautiful city of Banff in Alberta, Canada; and then in September, he took a 3-week trip down the coast all the way to San Diego, stopping at many sites along the way. 🌀



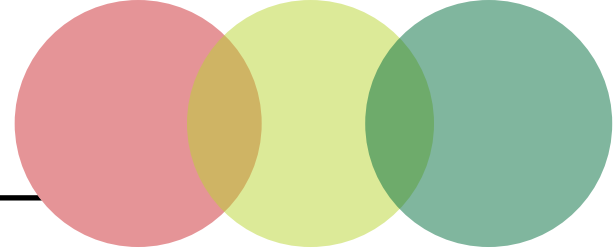
Massimiliano Tomasi

Japanese

Photo courtesy of Massimiliano Tomasi.

Massimiliano Tomasi, Ph.D., published a book titled *The Dilemma of Faith in Modern Japanese Literature: Metaphors of Christianity* (Routledge, 2018). The first book-length study to explore the links between Christianity and modern Japanese literature, his work analyzes the process of conversion of nine Meiji and Taishō authors, unveiling the influence that Christianity had on their self-construction, their *oeuvre* and, ultimately, the trajectory of modern Japanese

Faculty Spotlight



literature. Building significantly on previous research, which has treated the intersections of Christianity with the Japanese literary world in only a cursory fashion, this book emphasizes the need to make a clear distinction between the different roles played by Catholicism and Protestantism. In particular, it argues that most Meiji and Taishō intellectuals were exposed to an exclusively Protestant and mainly Calvinist derivation of Christianity and so it is against this worldview that the connections between the two ought to be assessed. Examining the work of authors such as Kitamura Tōkoku, Akutagawa Ryūnosuke and Nagayo Yoshirō, this book also contextualises the spread of Christianity in Japan and challenges the notion that Christian thought was in conflict with mainstream literary schools. As such, this book explains how the dualities experienced by many modern writers were in fact the manifestation of manifold developments which placed Christianity at the center, rather than at the periphery, of their process of self-construction. Tomasi also led a Global Learning Program to Tokyo for the third year in a row. The program, hosted by KCP International Japanese Language School, had an enrollment of 15 students and ran from June 22 to July 22, 2018. ↻



Ed Vajda

Russian, Eurasian
Studies &
Linguistics

Photo courtesy of Ed Vajda.

During the 2017-18 academic year, **Ed Vajda**, Ph.D., taught “Nomads of Eurasia,” “Russian Civilization,” basic Russian language, a new course on Russian folklore, as well as “Introduction to Linguistic Science” and an upper-division course on morphology. He continued his work on the Ket language of Siberia and its connection to the Na-Dene family in North

America. His article “Dene-Yeniseian: Progress and Unanswered Questions” appeared in the historical linguistics journal *Diachronica* in June 2018. He continues to collaborate with population geneticists and archaeologists to study the prehistory of North Asia and North America and was a contributing author to the article “Between Lake Baikal and the Baltic Sea: A Genomic History of the Gateway to Europe”, published in *BCM Genetics*. Nine of his book reviews were also published during the past year, including reviews of *The Routledge Handbook of Historical Linguistics* (edited by Claire Bowerman and Bethwyn Evans), *Multiple Exponence* (by Alice Harris), and *An Introduction to the Languages of the World*. (by Anatole Lyovin). He also has a number of other articles and reviews submitted or in press. ↻



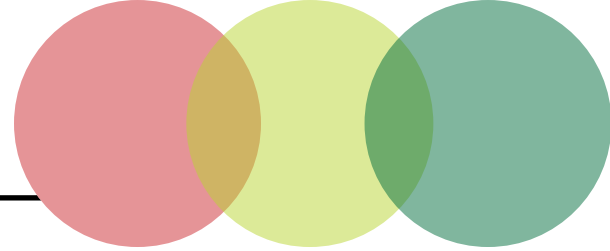
Julian Wu

Chinese

Photo courtesy of Julian Wu.

Fall quarter of 2018, **Julian Wu**, Ph.D., started his second year at Western, teaching courses relevant to Chinese language, literature and East Asian studies. In October, Wu, as the representative of Western, participated in the 2018 Confucius Institute of the State of Washington Higher Education Partnership Conference held in Seattle. He recently received a discretionary grant from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at Western to work on his third book project, following his second book, published last December, titled *Yuan Song Poems (Selections)* 元曲選譯 (Guangxi Normal University Press, 2017). In November, Wu served as the presiding officer of the “Chinese

Faculty Spotlight



Literature and Culture” panel at the 2018 annual PAMLA conference held at Western. There, he also presented a paper entitled “Inter-pictorial Travels: A Study of the ‘Travel Scene’ Illustrations in Late Imperial Chinese Performing Literature.” Wu will offer a faculty-led study abroad program to China in the summer of 2019. He is looking forward to directing the program and exploring China with Western students. 🌀

Meisterererst (Taylor & Francis), the chapter “On a Pedagogical Model of Teaching Chinese Culture in Chinese Language Classrooms” [Shìlùn hànǚ yǔyán wénhuà jiàoxué tǐxì] in the book *Research of Pedagogical Theory on Chinese as L2*, edited by Jinming Zhao and Quan Li (Shangwu Yinshuguan), and the article “Error Analysis in Word Order Acquisition of Chinese by English-speaking Learners” [Duiying hanyu yuxu xide pianwu yanjiu] in the *Taiwan Journal of Chinese as a Second Language*. 🌀



Janet Xing

Chinese &
Linguistics

Photo courtesy of Janet Xing.



Michiko Yusa

Japanese

Photo courtesy of Michiko Yusa.

Janet Xing, Ph.D., has published three pieces since spring of 2018, a chapter titled “Commendatory & Derogatory Expressions in Chinese” in *The Routledge Handbook of Chinese Applied Linguistics*, edited by Chu-Ren Huang, Zhuo Jing-Schmidt, and Barbara

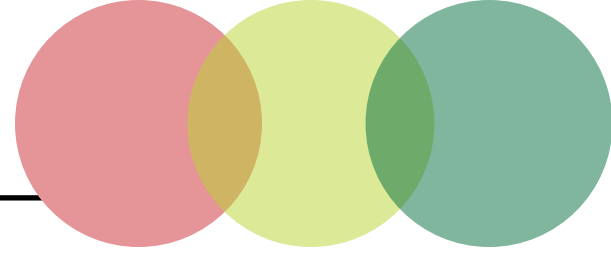
This past year, **Michiko Yusa**, Ph.D., had the pleasure of visiting Jane Austen’s English countryside. While in Sidmouth, England, Yusa ran into a local bookstore owner who personally knew Christopher Milne, who was Christopher Robin of the movie “Goodbye Christopher Robin.” Yusa loves this film, which is about a delicate father-son relationship with an anti-war message. She also discovered Milne owned a small bookstore in Dartmouth, England.

Many of Yusa’s writings were published in the last 12 months, including the article, “[Intercultural Philosophical Wayfaring: An Autobiographical Account in a Conversation with a](#)



2018 CIWA Higher Education Partnership Conference. Photo courtesy of Julian Wu.

Faculty Spotlight



[Friend](#),” published in the *Journal of World Philosophies*; an invited article, “*Nihon tetsugaku no tokuchōzuke, Nishida Kitarō no shisaku ni sotte*” 「『日本哲学』の特徴付け、西田幾多郎の思索に沿って」 [“What is Japanese Philosophy?”—In Light of Nishida’s Philosophical Reflection], in *Nishida Tetsugakukai Nenpō* 『西田哲学会年報』 [The Annual Journal of the Nishida Philosophy Association]; the article, “[Dōgen and the Feminine Presence: Taking a Fresh Look into His Sermons and Other Writings](#),” which was published in the special “Women in Buddhism” issue of *Religions*; the chapter “Bashō and the Art of Eternal Now,” in the book (refereed) [New Essays in Japanese Aesthetics](#) (Lexington Books), edited by Minh Nguyen; the chapter “Raimon Panikkar’s Buddhist Turn—from *El Silencio del Dios* to *The Rhythm of Being*,” in the book [Raimon Panikkar: Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue](#) (Documenta Universitaria), edited by Joan Vergés Gifra; and a main feature essay: “Intra-religious Dialogue—*Beikoku de tōyō shisō o kenkyū shite*” [Intra-religious dialogue: carrying out a research into Eastern philosophy in the U.S.] for the *International Christian University Alumni News*.

She also participated in several presentations and seminars during the 2017-18 academic year. She organized the symposium on “Raimon Panikkar: A Companion,” held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Boston in November 2017 and gave her presentation on Panikkar and Buddhism. In April of 2018, she presented her paper, “*Quia ignoro, adoro* (I revere because I don’t know): Cusanus, Dōgen, Nishida, and Panikkar,” at the annual meeting of the Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle (CCPC) held at Bath Spa University. In June of 2018, she presented her research on “Raimon Panikkar, Ramon Llull, and Nicholas of Cusa on Diatopical Hermeneutics,” at the “Colloquium: Raimon Panikkar and the East, Centenary Raimon Panikkar,” held at the Fondazione

Spadolini, Florence, Italy. In the last week of June, she was among seven invited guest-speakers at the “International Seminar on Japanese Philosophy on Natural Disaster,” sponsored by the Colegio de Filosofía & Programa Universitario de Estudios de Asia y Africa, University Autonomous of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico City. She led her three-hour long seminar on “Rehabilitation of Commonsense: Being in Nature, Being in Confrontation with Nature, and Being-Nature,” in June of 2018. This 4-day long international seminar on Japanese philosophy drew a large audience not only from UNAM but also from other national universities in Mexico City, as well as from other provinces of Mexico. “There seems to be a solid increase of interest in Japanese philosophy in Mexico, as a case of non-Western philosophy that forms part of the global philosophy,” Yusa said. That was her first visit Mexico, and she found the surrounding nature to be irresistibly beautiful and seductive. She said she intends to return to Mexico upon seizing the next opportunity. September of 2018, she delivered a paper, “How Wonderful and Ordinary!—Nishida, Jane Austen, and Sōseki (on *buji byōjō*),” at the 4th annual meeting of the European Network of Japanese Philosophy at the University of Hildesheim in Germany. That same month she also gave a presentation at the University of Girona (in Catalonia), entitled, “Raimon Panikkar and the Kyoto School: Reconstructing the Connection through the Record of his Readings,” for the Panikkar Seminar Group, as part of the celebration of “Any Panikkar” (Panikkar Year), the centenary of this Catalan philosopher-theologian, who was her research advisor. In November of 2018, she responded to Abdulaziz Sachedina’s presentation on “The Qur’ān and other religions,” at the “Raimon Panikkar Symposium,” held in conjunction with the annual meeting of American Academy of Religion in Denver. 🌐

Section News



This year the Chinese Program has added two new courses to strengthen its major and minor programs. One is CHIN 403 focusing on Chinese society and culture and the other is CHIN 104 designed for students who have taken two or more years of Chinese courses in high school. Additionally, Prof. Julian Wu plans to lead a study abroad program in Qindao, China, in the summer of 2019 which will be open to all Western students. These curriculum revisions will not only broaden the students' knowledge and skills in Chinese language and culture, but also enable them to graduate on time. ✨

*Dr. Janet Xing
Professor of Chinese and Linguistics
Chinese Program Coordinator*

*Thank
You*

The Chinese Program would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. James Golden and his business partner Mr. Gong Li for their continued support in funding of the Golden and Li Family Scholarship for students majoring in Chinese Language & Culture, and the Confucius Institute of the State of Washington for providing funding for the program's extra-curricular activities. ✨



CHINESE CONVERSATION CLUB

Photo by Sara Helms.

Western's Chinese Conversation Club is starting up again in the 2018-2019 school year! The goal of CCC is to help cultivate a stronger sense of community within the Chinese Language department, especially between first-year students and those in higher levels. With the support of the department, and through weekly meetings that engage in language immersion,

activities, and cultural awareness, we hope to facilitate a richer Mandarin Chinese language learning experience here at Western. More importantly, we hope to establish a strong foundation for CCC to thrive and continue in the future.

Emmalene Madsen, Senior, Chinese & East Asian Studies Major & CCC President



Summer Abroad:

Neolithic Archaeological Site, Yangguanzhai, Xi'an, China



By Rhody Boyle
*Chinese and Archeology
Double Major*

Rhody Boyle, right, and Prof. Ye Wa. Photo by Emily Boyle.

The Yangguanzhai archaeological field site was discovered in 2004 just north of the ancient capital of Xi'an. In 2010, a joint excavation project between UCLA, the Shaanxi Provincial Archaeological Academy and Xibe University began to operate at the site. In March of 2011, the Institute for Field Research (IFR) was established as an independent, nonprofit academic organization and began to coordinate with the project to help build a bridge for academic exchanges between Chinese culture and foreign archaeology. As an undergraduate student majoring in both anthropology, with a concentration in archaeology, and Chinese language and culture, this proved to be a perfect opportunity to learn first-hand about Chinese culture while also studying the different forms of archaeological research methods.



Yangguanzhai Field School of 2018 outside of the Baoji Bronze Ware Museum. Photo by Emily Boyle.



Yangguanzhai Field. Photo courtesy of Rhody Boyle.

Our group consisted of over twenty students with varying skill levels from around the world. We began our journey by staying as guests at Xibe University for one week while attending lectures to learn about Chinese archaeology and the local history of the site we would be working on. For the remaining four weeks, we stayed at a hotel near the Yangguanzhai site in Gaoling County. From our hotel it was a short 15 minute bike ride to the site where we worked on excavating material remains, such as pottery sherds and bones, dating back to the mid Neolithic period (7,000-5,000 BP). The Yangguanzhai site is currently known as the largest Neolithic site in China spanning 800,000 meters and has been selected as one of the top ten archaeological discoveries in 2008 and 2017. Though most of our time was spent in the field, there were also many opportunities to visit historical landmarks and museums, as well as experience local entertainment such as touring the Muslim District and, of course, karaoke.

This field school brought people together from around the world to learn about new and exciting archaeological discoveries while living in a rural Chinese community. I will always fondly remember the food we shared, the stories we exchanged, and the feeling of acceptance from the community. Being a part of something as large as Yangguanzhai was truly an honor and we all left at the end of five weeks with a sense of accomplishment. Those participating in the program formed lifetime bonds with one another and we have all been invited to return to the site in the future to see the progress of the excavations and to reconnect with the people of the Yangguanzhai field school.☺

2019 Chinese New Year Celebration



[Click here to see more photos](#)

The Classical Studies section is commemorating the 10th anniversary of its pioneering course of study in “active Latin,” which features Latin as the primary language of instruction, engagement, and assessment in all courses at all levels. Through a Student-Faculty Designed Major, Western offers, worldwide, one of the very few bachelor’s degrees in active Latin, where students can take all Latin courses in the target-language. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the program, the section is planning a two-day conference Spring of 2019 with speakers and workshops for students, alumni, and colleagues.

A notable project of the Classics section is the *Nuntii Latini* (“Latin News”), coordinated by Prof. Miller Krause. The *Nuntii Latini* is a weekly broadcast of local, national, and international news entirely in Latin. It is one of the very few weekly news broadcasts in Latin. The scope of this activity is to offer Western’s Latin students, who read and record the news stories, an additional venue to increase their familiarity with Latin. By reading the news, students learn about world events, practice Latin pronunciation, and become better acquainted with vocabulary and grammar that go well beyond classroom usage. Furthermore, the

broadcast serves to expand the community of Latin users. After its inception in 2016, *Nuntii Latini* quickly became popular among Latin speakers and now enjoys an audience of around 300 followers. *Nuntii* can be accessed at <http://nuntiiatini.com>.

I have also been coordinating another Classics’ project, the *Census Latinus*, a worldwide survey of the current number of Latin language users. The Census was first issued in 2009 and

is now in its second edition. In addition to assessing the number of Latin users, the Census aims to examine the population of Latin users by asking questions such as users’ age and gender, birth place, institutions attended, and the venues in which users employ Latin in the contemporary world. I explained in my article “*Census Latinus 2009: Goals, Data Collected, Importance, Perspectives*,” published

in *Classical World* (2017), the census has the potential to provide “an updated account of the status of Latin as a language (thriving, growing, moribund, extinct, or otherwise).” Census 2019 will be open soon at <https://censuslatinus.wwu.edu>. 📍

Dr. Eduardo Engelsing
Associate Professor of Classical Studies
Classical Studies Program Coordinator

SALUTATIONS *de* **MONTREAL**



*Click here to
see more photos*

Clockwise from far left: the students enjoy their first meal together at Aux Vivres, a vegan restaurant in Montréal; students admire the view from Mt. Tremblant; Keppie, third from left, and her students pose in their classroom at Université du Québec à Montréal, UQAM. Photos courtesy of Christina Keppie.

Section News



The German section was happy to celebrate student successes at the Open House during Western's Alumni Weekend celebration in May of 2018. **Celeste Hufford**, '18, B.A., German, was recognized for being awarded a Fulbright to Germany in the Frankfurt region, and senior **Aundrea Koger** and junior **Ian Miller** were each awarded the Ingrid Stahlbrand Kassler Scholarship.

The biggest change in the section came in May when Prof. Shannon Dubenion-Smith was elected as our new department chair. *Congratulations to Herr Smith are in order!* He has done outstanding work in his new position steering the entire department through major curricular changes, to name just one of his many tasks during this very busy time. Prof. Sandra Alferts continues her exemplary work as the Director of the Ray-Wolpow-Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity. The German section is happily teaching with the revised edition of Prof. Cornelius Partsch's textbook *Treffpunkt Deutsch*; and Prof. Julie Winter published a translation of

Barbara von Haefen's "*Write Nothing About Politics*": *A Portrait of Hans Bernd von Haefen* (Michigan State UP, 2018). As David Clay Large writes, "Barbara von Haefen's compelling memoir/portrait of her husband Hans Bernd, a government official who worked from the inside against Nazism and paid for that work with his life, puts a poignant human face on Germany's domestic opposition to tyranny. This account reminds us that the anti-Hitler 'movement' was ultimately about disparate individuals making deeply personal decisions." Congratulations to Frau Winter for translating this important work! She also organized two panels on literary translations for the PAMLA Conference, which took place on our campus in November, where she and Prof. Charles Patterson from the Spanish section presented excellent thought-provoking papers. ☺

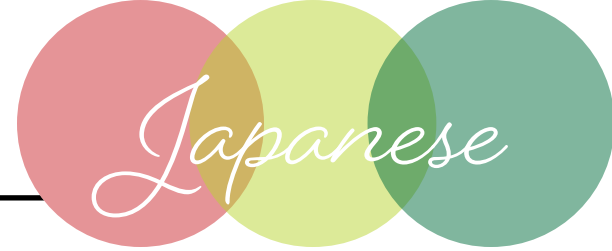
Dr. Petra Fiero
Professor of German
German Program Coordinator



Photo by Ryn Kaestner.

The main focus of German Club or Deutschklub is to celebrate the German language and culture of Germanic-speaking regions, and to engage students of all cultures and backgrounds. We are global citizens and strive to create a safe and fun environment, where everyone is welcome. We have a great time at our weekly meetings on campus with movie nights and games with prizes. We also meet at Rudy's Pizzeria on State St, every Thursday at 7PM. German Club is for anyone interested in learning, improving, or engaging in German. Mit freundlichen Grüßen, the Deutschklub crew.

Jen Cartwright, Senior, German Major & German Club President



There are exciting developments underway in the Japanese program, both for faculty and students. Interest in Japanese increases apace and we have a lively population of Japanese learners in our classrooms. As with years past, many of last year's students were successfully accepted into the JET Program and our network of alumni living and working in Japan continues to grow. According to the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle, after UW, Western sends more students to the JET Program than any other institution in the region. Last year, eleven Western students became Assistant Language Teachers, six of which were Japanese majors.

For the third year in a row, Prof. Massimiliano Tomasi once again took students to Japan over the summer with the Japanese Section's Global Learning Summer Program. 15 students accompanied Prof. Tomasi from June 22 to July 22 for intensive language study and culture classes at KCP International Japanese Language School in Shinjuku, Tokyo. Continued interest in the KCP hosted program is strong and we look forward to a new group of Western students once again this summer. Prof. Tomasi also published a new book last year entitled *The Dilemma of Faith in Modern Japanese Literature: Metaphors of Christianity* (Routledge, 2018). *Congratulations to Tomasi Sensei!* Already the book is garnering high praise.

In the 2018 spring term, the Japanese program collaborated with the East Asian Studies program and brought Prof. Steven Brown to campus to talk about the role of sound design in the films of Japanese horror master Kurosawa Kiyoshi. A professor of Japanese Film, Transnational Cinema, and Sound Studies in the Department of Comparative Literature at the University of Oregon, Brown read from his newest book entitled *Japanese Horror and the Transnational Cinema of Sensations*. The talk drew a diverse crowd from across

campus including students of Japanese as well as students and faculty from Film Studies, Art, Design, and English.

That spring, Prof. Colleen Laird was awarded a generous grant from the Japan Foundation to establish a collection of level-appropriate Japanese books to be housed in the MCL Media Lab. Thanks to the grant, MCL now offers students a variety of reading materials at every level, from 101 to the advanced 400 series. Students are able to check out the books and take them home for self study and leisure reading. Already, students of Japanese 101 have been eagerly reading their

first books in Japanese! Prof. Laird is currently looking for future funding with the hopes to increase the holdings of the collection to include accessible novels for students at the advanced level, manga of various reading levels, and contemporary films to increase listening comprehension for all students.

Finally, the Japanese program continues to diversify its course offerings. In addition to Prof. Michiko Yusa's courses on Japanese Thought and Prof. Tomasi's literature classes, this year Prof. Masanori Deguchi offers a course on Japanese Phonetics and will continue to be able to do so every year. Prof. Laird has designed three new courses through a partnership with the East Asian Studies program: Gender and Japanese Media, Japanese Cinema Studies, and Topics in Japanese Cinema. With these exciting developments, the Japanese program has grown in scope and is fostering a new generation of Japanese learners with backgrounds in philosophy, literature, linguistics, film, and new media. 🍀

The Japanese program has grown in scope and is fostering a new generation of Japanese learners with backgrounds in philosophy, literature, linguistics, film, and new media.

Dr. Colleen A. Laird
Assistant Professor of Japanese
Japanese Program Coordinator

2019 Tanabata Celebration

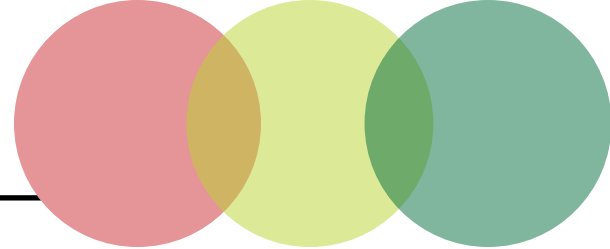


Students Karsyn Bosanko, Selina Suit, and Nao Parsek dress in yukata (summer kimono) to join a Tanabata (Star Festival) celebration. Tanabata celebrations are held every year throughout Japan on July 7th (7/7) to celebrate the reunion of celestial lovers Orihime and Hikoboshi who are only permitted to see each other once a year on that date. Karsyn, Selina, and Nao stand next to a bamboo tree adorned with tanzaku, small slips of colorful paper on which celebrators write their wishes. Photo courtesy of Colleen Laird.

SALUDOS *para* **GUANAJUATO**



Retirement Tribute



I am proud to have played a role in the successful hiring of Dr. Gyman for a position in Hispanic Linguistics some thirty years ago. Dr. Gyman quickly proved to excel in all areas - teaching, service and research - setting a precedent receiving tenure already in his second year at Western. His teaching demonstration was brilliant. In fact, it was the best class presentation I had witnessed in my 23 years of university teaching. For me it still ranks at the top, quite an achievement considering the many truly outstanding teachers in the department. His teaching talent was widely acknowledged both by students and professionals, earning him the PNCFL award as the outstanding foreign language professor in the northwestern states. He was deservedly popular and in high demand by students his entire career.

Dr. Gyman's contribution to service is also notable. He attained key positions in national organizations such as the AATSP, LASSO and the MLA as well as regional professional organizations including WAFLT and PNCFL. He served on the Faculty Senate and on virtually every major university committee. He was key to the development of the Linguistics Program and creation of the Linguistics major. In doing so he taught many courses as voluntary overloads and proved himself invaluable to me as Chair of the department and Director of Linguistics, the latter position he assumed after my retirement.

It is in the area of research that Dr. Gyman has truly distinguished himself. His early research concentrated on Applied Hispanic Linguistics and included works we had done jointly in applied phonetics. But it is his work with Guarani in Paraguay over the past twenty years which has earned him international recognition. Paraguay is virtually the only nation which has an indigenous language as its official national language. Dr. Gyman is recognized as the international authority on Guarani. He mastered the language and has taught and lectured in Guarani. In efforts to preserve and promote indigenous languages in Paraguay he has given hundreds of workshops, many in remote areas and jungles of Paraguay. The government of Paraguay has designated him as the official international consultant for bilingualism.

He has been in high demand as a speaker and celebrated author, featured on front covers of Paraguayan newspapers as well as receiving coverage in the New York Times. Dr. Gyman has received two Fulbright research fellowships, published numerous books and scores of articles in his career and continues to publish as Professor Emeritus.

I treasure the fact that I may have played a positive role in Dr. Gyman's life. Both professionally and socially he remains a light in my life.

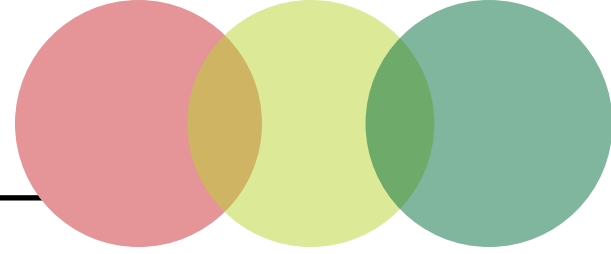
Dr. Rudi Weiss

Professor Emeritus of German and Linguistics



Shaw Gyman, front, poses with professional colleague Ernesto Luis López Almada during a talk they co-presented winter of 2019, after Gyman's retirement. Photo courtesy of Kristin Denham.

Alumni Spotlight



DESSA MEEHAN

Dessa Meehan, '17, B.A., History and Archeology, minored in Arabic and Islamic studies, geographic information science, and Latin. Since graduating, Meehan has been published in the *Armstrong Undergraduate Journal of History*, presented at a conference in England, and, in July of 2018, obtained her master's in Classical Archaeology from the University of Oxford. She is most proud of her research regarding the Theatre of Scaurus' architectural plausibility as described in Pliny's *Historia Naturalis* and is currently editing her essay for submission to an academic journal. Between all her studies and academic activities, Meehan has discovered Ryanair and overnight buses and has taken the opportunity to balance her academic life with adventurous visits to eight other European destinations. She has continued to speak Latin and has added both German and Spanish to the languages she has studied (although Latin still holds a special place in her heart). Currently, Meehan lives in Madrid, Spain, where she is teaching English, gaining her Expert in Bilingual Education certificate from the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, and formulating a kick-ass Ph.D. research proposal.

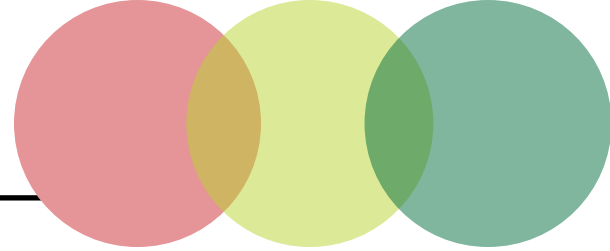
If you would like to read more, Meehan has blogged about her life after graduation, both in Oxford and Spain, at <https://dessameehan.wordpress.com/>. 🌿

Joshua Stromberg, '17, B.A., German, moved to Jena, Germany, after graduation. Since then, he's been responsible for marketing international campaigns at dotSource, a digital agency with customers like Swarovski Optik, BILD, and 3M. In his spare time, he built and designed MoodyMillennial.com, a website that he says is made for the other Joshes in the world who might find the topics interesting and for friends and family who want to stay informed with what he's been up to while abroad. 🌿



JOSHUA STROMBERG

Alumni Spotlight *cont.*



Annette Quarre, '17, B.A., French and English literature, spent the 2017-2018 academic year teaching English in Saint-Étienne, France, through the Teaching Assistant Program in France. She was able to engage with middle school and high school students in their English studies, and even coached a group of students to compete in a regional English debate competition in Lyon. Her time in France offered Quarre the invaluable opportunity to gain experience working with young people. Due to teacher shortages and unexpected leaves of absence, Quarre took on a large role at the high school where she was working to host study sessions, oversee BAC preparation for the students, and chaperone a week-long school trip to Ireland. Quarre has begun her coursework toward a Masters in Teaching from Western Washington University, and greatly enjoys life back in Bellingham. Quarre aspires to become a high school teacher promoting social justice and an appreciation for linguistic diversity among young people. Though thrilled to be back in Bellingham, Quarre anticipates traveling abroad to Francophone countries as soon as the timing is right. 🌸



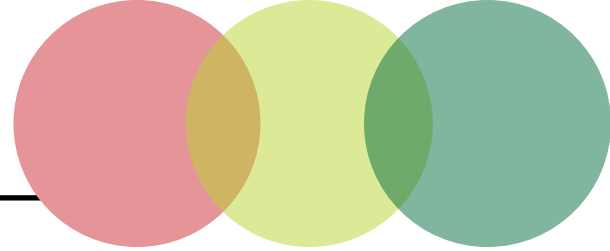
ANNETTE QUARRE



JULIANNE NIENHUIS

Julianne Nienhuis, '18, B.A., French, spent the summer in Portland and Spokane with her family. At the end of August, Julianne went to the South of France to complete the final portion of her Elementary Education internship. She worked in a British International School close to Cannes, co-teaching multiple subjects in a Grade 5 (Year 6) classroom. She was able to practice her French as she explored multiple cities across the French Riviera. She enjoyed visiting the Vieille Ville in each city, and was a frequent (and sometimes daily) customer of the local boulangerie in her town. Julianne completed the internship in mid-November and then flew to Singapore to celebrate Thanksgiving with her family, as her parents work in Singapore. She is in the process of applying for an elementary education position in international schools. 🌸

Alumni Spotlight *cont.*



HANNAH WEHRER

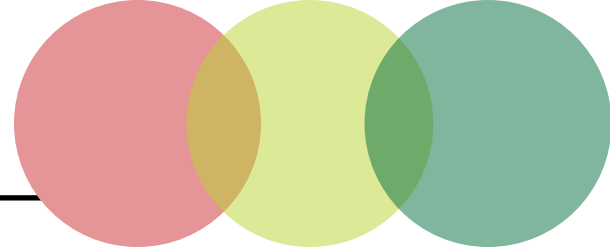
Hannah Wehrer, '18, B.A., East Asian Studies, earned her TESOL certification at Western and went on to participate in the JET program. She is now living in Gifu City, Gifu Prefecture and working at Gifu Shotoku Gakuen High School, a local private high school. While being at a single private high school is not typical for most JET placements, Wehrer said she feels incredibly lucky to be where she is, and for the people she works with. “Working at one school means that I have the opportunity to get to know the individual students along with being able to form bonds with the teachers I work with,” Wehrer said. “Everyone, from the vice principals to the gym teachers, have been so kind with helping me adjust to the new environment.” For anyone interested in working with kids from another country, living in a new country, or even people who are interested in living and working in Japan, Wehrer highly recommends applying for the JET program. 🌸

Upon graduation, **Laurel Spruance**, '08, B.A., Spanish, spent a year in Spain as an assistant English teacher with the Spanish Auxiliares de Ingles program. Her goal was to become more fluent in Spanish prior to attending nursing school. She graduated from the Seattle University College of Nursing in 2012 with her B.S. in nursing. She went on to work as a registered nurse on three different cardiac units at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA. Spruance recently moved with her husband Marcus, whom she met in Spain as an undergrad, to La Jolla, CA. There, Spruance works on a similar cardiac progressive care unit at the University of California San Diego Health. Spruance said her degree in Spanish has been helpful, as she speaks Spanish with patients almost every day. “Using Spanish within my nursing career makes me happy because I feel I am working to my fullest potential as an RN to be able to speak the primary language of so many of my patients; it allows me to communicate well with them and better advocate for them in their most vulnerable times,” Spruance said. “I have such wonderful memories from all of my Spanish classes in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at Western. My professors all positively impacted me in different ways. I really love looking back on my memories at Western and I am so glad I chose to study Spanish there.” 🌸



LAUREL SPRUANCE

Alumni Spotlight *cont.*



SCOTT CAWTHON

Scott Cawthon, '12, B.A., Linguistics and French, is continuing to work towards his doctorate, studying the endangered Walloon language of the Liège region of Belgium. With a research grant, Cawthon spent the summer of 2018 in the Province of Liège collecting data for his dissertation and more. With the assistance of his local Belgian consultant, Cawthon's 42 days of summer research allowed him to obtain over 130 recordings of spoken Walloon and seven notebooks full of field notes. Cawthon has received much praise and recognition in Belgium and the Province of Liège because of his research. He said his biggest honor came when he was named an Ambassador for the Province of Liège in a lavish ceremony, a title that carries the responsibility of collaborating on the promotion and preservation of the Walloon language moving forward. Both the mayor of the city of Liège and leadership at the University of Liège are now vying to find funding to bring Cawthon back to Liège to complete his research and encourage the people to be proud of their rich linguistic heritage. Cawthon's great dream is to return to Western to finish his academic career where it began. Between Western Washington University and Liège, Belgium, Cawthon's sense of belonging to community is split happily between the two. He said these two communities continue to change his life for the better and he hopes to give back to both all that he can. 🌸

We would love to hear what you've been up to since graduating from Western.

Write to us at sara.helms@wwu.edu.

You may be featured in our next newsletter!

In Memoriam



In fond memory of our former colleague and friend

Dr. Kathleen Tomlonovic

On March 2, 2019, our beloved former colleague and friend Kathleen (Kay) Tomlonovic passed away in Davenport, Iowa, where she moved after her retirement from Western in 2011. Kathleen taught Chinese language/literature and East Asian Studies courses during her near 24 years of professorship at Western. We are all deeply saddened by her sudden passing. Many of the faculty members campus-wide have written email messages to convey their condolences and fond memory of Kathleen's dedication to her students and various academic programs that she was involved when she was at Western. Following are some of them:

"She was one of the kindest persons I ever had the privilege of knowing. Rest in peace, Kay."

-Henry Schwarz (Emeritus Prof. of East Asian Studies)

"I am so sorry to hear this news. She left an indelible mark on the EAS Program, her presence is still felt."

-Judith Pine (Prof. of Anthropology)

"She was always willing to help someone no matter who it was or what it entailed. She will be remembered fondly by those who knew her."

-Wayne Richter (WWU Asian Materials Specialist)

"I feel great sadness for Kay's passing, and fond memory of her many accomplishments."

-Scott Pearce (Prof. of Liberal Studies)

"IGE joins the rest of the Western community in expressing our sympathy to Kay's family as well as our appreciation and recognition of her enormous contributions to the campus and beyond."

*Vicki Hamblin (Executive Director,
Institute for Global Engagement)*

"Kathleen was extraordinary. She worked tirelessly for the Chinese and the East Asian Studies Program. She worked at Western during the weekends and ... you could always count on seeing her during Saturdays and until late Sunday evenings preparing classes and doing this and that. I have very fond memories of her."

-Petra Fiero (Prof. of German)

"Very sad to hear. Kathleen was a dedicated scholar, teacher and administrator. She loved the East Asian Studies program and gave huge time toward making it grow and thrive. Lots of fond memories of her as a colleague and friend."

-Edward Vajda (Prof. of Russian & Linguistics)

"Very sad news. Kathleen was my companion for weekends during my junior years at Western. Back then, we were in Humanities, where I used to find Kathleen on Saturdays and Sundays, working on classes, exams, etc. Many of those weekends, we came together in the lounge for a break and tea. She was a very nice person and a wonderful colleague."

-Hugo Garcia (Prof. of Spanish)

"To me, it was an honor and privilege to get to know Kathleen, who was not only my mentor and colleague, but also a dear friend and loving auntie of my kids. As Mary Ann Rangel, another of Kathleen's friends, put it, 'I miss Kathleen more than I can express.' We will all miss her deeply and will forever cherish the memory that we had shared with her." *-Janet Xing (Professor of Chinese & Linguistics)*



Congratulations to these Outstanding MCL Students!

Fulbrights ETA (English Teaching Assistant)

German— Celeste Hufford (ETA to Germany) and Alex Drexel (ETA to Austria)

Spanish—María José Palacios (ETA to Brazil)

RIAS Berlin Program for Journalism and International Affairs Students

Rose Carr

Scholarship Winners

Golden Family Scholarship - Emily Boyle, Emmalene Madsen & Tim Davis

Herbert L. Baird, Jr. Scholarship - Kara Henry

Eunice D. Faber Scholarship- Emily Jackson & Olivia Moritz

Ralph and Edna Loomis Scholarship - Heather Aguirre

Tuition Fee Waiver - Megan Phillips & Michael Gutiérrez

Ingrid Stahlbrand Kassler Memorial Scholarship - Aundrea Koger & Ian Miller

Karen L. Freeman Scholarship - Tiara Waldron

2017-2018 Outstanding Graduating Seniors

CHINESE - Naomi Blankenship

FRENCH - Julianne K. Nienhuis

GERMAN - Celeste Hufford

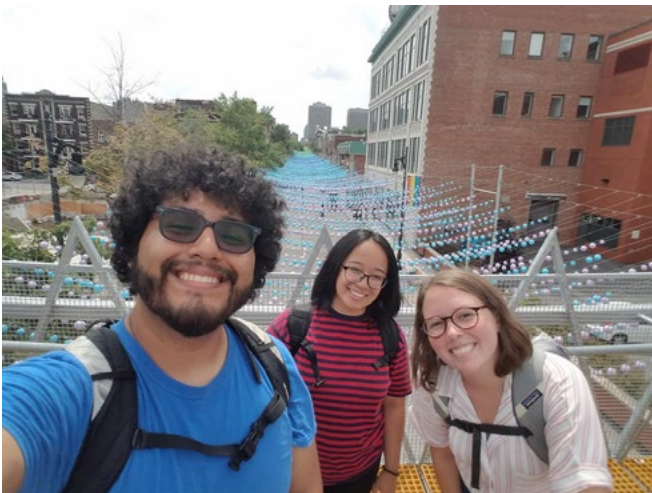
JAPANESE - Seth Taron

SPANISH - María José Palacios

Help support the students of MCL.

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Cover: Stained glass artwork by Niki Hildebrand, found in Miller Hall 223.