

The Foreign Languages Newsletter

Clark University · Worcester, Massachusetts

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FROM THE CHAIR

The start of the new academic year brings exciting times for the Department. Enrollments are up in all our programs. Applications for Clark overseas programs are also at an all-time high as Clarkies appear to be increasingly aware of the importance of achieving proficiency in one or more foreign languages and our students combine their language study with an impressive variety of other disciplines, whether they are majoring or minoring in a language.

The Department has recently redesigned its Comparative Literature major to stress the relatedness of language and culture with particular emphasis on the place of literature and the arts within interdisciplinary questions of nationhood and ethnicity. A new handbook for Comparative Literature majors will be forthcoming as part of the Department's ongoing project of redesigning its informational materials including its newly re-designed website.

One impressive result of our rethinking of our teaching and research goals is the recent awarding of a grant from the Ridgefield Foundation to fund the Henry J. Leir Chair in Foreign languages and Cultures. The Leir Professor will be responsible for developing an exciting new department curriculum clustered around our long established but still innovative course, "The National Imagination." The Leir Chair will also work with other Clark programs to strengthen the presence of language and culture studies both within and outside if the University.

In short, our future looks bright. As they say in Louisiana, "Laissez les bons temps rouler."

Michael Spingler, Chair

CELEBRATING WALTER SCHATZBERG

Please join faculty, students and friends in celebrating Walter's Schatzberg's forty-year career at Clark on Wednesday, October 11 in the Winton Faculty Dining Room from 4:00—6:00 p.m.

Walter's energetic work as a scholar, teacher and tireless supporter of foreign languages study is well-known to various generations of Clarkies.

Walter was born in Vienna, Austria. He received his B.A. from St. Johns College in Annapolis, MD, then went on to receive his Ph.D. from John Hopkins University in German Literature. He joined the Clark German Department in 1966. Five years later, Walter became the first chair of the newly-created Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures. In that role, he was instrumental in establishing our Comparative Literature Program. As a life-long supporter of imaginative study-abroad programs, he helped structure our programs in Trier and in Luxembourg.

As a scholar, Walter has had a distinguished international career, authoring or co-authoring four books on such diverse topics as "Scientific Themes in German Literature," "The German Contribution to the Building of the Americas," "The Jewish Response to German Culture," and the Films of Roberte Weine," (the director of the famed "Cabinet of Doctor Caligari").

Films have always been one of Walter's great loves. For many years, he taught courses on German Cinema and was the originator of the "German Film Institute" at Clark, bringing together internationally-recognized film scholars who conducted seminars to train professors of German Literature to teach German film in the foreign-languages classroom.

Walter was also one of the principal movers of the "National Imagination" course. Over the last decade he participated five times with his colleagues in French, Spanish, and Japanese in versions of this team-taught course. Join us in celebrating Walter's diverse and distinguished career!

MEET THE NEW DEPARTMENT FACES

We are pleased to welcome three new colleagues to the language program. CRISTINA ÁLVAREZ BARTHE joins us from the Tandem Language Center in Madrid where she has taught for the past two

years. Cristina is the 14th Tandem faculty member to participate in our program. She has extensive teaching experience in language programs in Spain and Germany.

DONNA TARUTZ, an experienced instructor of Hebrew, with degrees from Brandeis University, will be teaching courses in Hebrew language at Clark this year. Donna holds a graduate degree in Community Service from Brandeis and was previously the Director of Hillel Foundation and Jewish Chaplain at Wellesley College.

First and second-year Chinese courses are being taught this year by BEI ZHANG who holds a B.A. from Yangzhou University (China) and an M.A. in English from Clark.

A belated but heart-felt welcome to CEDRIC CUNNINGHAM who continues to teach second-year German language courses. Cedric is currently completing a Ph.D. at UMASS Amherst. He holds an M.A. from the University of Tennessee and served in the Peace Corps in Poland.

FACULTY NOTES

Spanish Professor MARVIN D'LUGO's book, *Pedro Almodóvar*, was recently published by the University of Illinois Press.

An essay by Assistant Professor of French ODILE FERLY entitled "La historicidad en 'Invi's Paradise', de Aurora Arias", appeared in *MaComère (The Journal of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars)*, No. 7 (2006), ed. by Hyacinth Simpson, 66-76.

Assistant Professor of French BETH GALE presented a paper entitled "Education, Literature and the Battle over Female Identity in Third Republic

France" at the joint conference of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism and the North American Victorian Studies Association (NASSR/NAVSA) conference held at Purdue University from August 30 to September 3.

FRENCH EXCHANGE ASSISTANTS

Once again we welcome three French assistants who will conduct French language discussion groups and assist in in classes. MARIE-DOMINIQUE MADELÉNAT and LESLIE PRUNIER come to us through an arrangement with the University of Bourgogne, which likewise sponsors Clark's Study Abroad program. CHARLOTTE MARCHALANT hails from the University of Versailles St. Quentin from which received a M.A. degree in English.

FRENCH WRITING CENTER IN ACTION

The French Writing Centre offers one-to-one consultations for students of French who wish to work on their written assignments or grammar in FL&L's Estabrook Hall:

Mondays 5:00- 7:00 p.m.,
Wednesdays 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.,
Thursdays 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

For appointment contact Charlotte Marchalant at cmarchalant@clarku.edu or drop in.

TERTULIA RETURNS

The popular Spanish-language conversation hour, the *tertulia*, returns this semester with congeniality and lively chatter in Spanish. Tertulias are held Tuesday afternoons from 2:45 until 4 p.m. in Estabrook 302. Students from all levels of Spanish language study are welcome.

THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES NEWSLETTER is published by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Estabrook Hall 301, Clark University, Worcester, MA 01610. Please send news items and announcements of coming events to Newsletter Editor, care of the Department, or call us at (508) 793-7342 or 793-7234. If you are not yet on our mailing list, please fill out this coupon and return it to us so that we can keep you fully informed of Foreign Languages Department activities.

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