

# The Foreign Languages Newsletter

Clark University · Worcester, Massachusetts

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## ACADEMIC SPREE DAY

Every spring the University sponsors an ACADEMIC SPREE DAY, at which students present scholarly papers, give concerts or plays, and display posters that illustrate the progress of their faculty-student research. This year's Academic Spree Day will take place on Friday, April 25, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., in the Higgins University Center.

This year, a number of students in Foreign Languages are participating in this now-venerable institution. Some presentations are in traditional formats, and others make use of the wide variety of technological innovations that have recently become available.

RACHEL CUNNINGHAM ('06) will speak on "The Gardens of Pompeii", and JESSIKA MADDOCKS ('06) will discuss "The Birth of Gods." Both presentations are sponsored by Paul Burke, professor of Classics and interim Department chair.

A presentation entitled "La Force Soleil" will be delivered by CHRISTINE TURKOVICH ('03). Her work is sponsored by Beth Gale, assistant professor of French.

MAURA MINARDI (Spanish, '03) will present a paper entitled "The Representation of the Indigenous in Contemporary Mexico." Her work is sponsored by Carol D'Lugo, professor of Spanish.

Several students taking CMLT 130 ("The National Imagination") will give presentations on topics related to the course, which is team-taught by three faculty members (in this instance Profs. Michael Spingler, Marvin D'Lugo, and Alice Valentine) and divided into three sections corresponding to three national cultures: France, Argentina, and Japan.

ANNA SOKOL ('06) and RACHEL HART ('06) will present the video they have recently produced about French cultural identity, *Staging the Nation—France* (sponsored by Prof. M. Spingler).

LAUREN COLWELL (Spanish and Psychology '03), in collaboration with Maura Minardi (Spanish '03), will present a visual cultural project called "Tango—Popular National Culture in Argentina" (sponsored by Prof. M. D'Lugo).

As an approach to the Japanese cultural experience, MARANNIE RAWLS-PHILLIPE (French and Psychology, '04) will present a paper titled "Karate and the Japanese National Imagination: From Martial Art to Transnational Consumer Product" (sponsored by Prof. Alice Valentine).

Times and places are announced in the official schedule for this event.

## LECTURE BY DR. KHALEEL

On April 22 at 4:30 p.m., Jewish Studies will host speaker Dr. Mohammad Khaleel, a lecturer in Islamic Studies at Brandeis University. Dr. Khaleel is also the director and chief researcher at the Montreal-based Religion Research Foundation. The lecture "Islam and Judaism" will be given in Lurie Conference Room.

## KAUFMANN BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED

Professor of French DOROTHY KAUFMANN's biography of Édith Thomas, *A Life in Resistance*, will be published in 2004 by Cornell University Press. Édith Thomas (1909-1970), a French novelist, historian, and journalist, was active in the Resistance against Nazi occupation and the collaborationist Vichy regime.

Professor Kaufmann is often asked at lectures why her subject has such an American-sounding name. Although "Edith Thomas" sounds Anglo-Saxon to an American reader, her name—with an acute accent on the E—is indeed French.

## TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Instructor of Hebrew TZILLA BARONE recently arranged a videoconference between students in her Hebrew 102 course and a similar class at Haifa University in Israel. As one of her students observed, as he introduced himself to his new friends in Haifa, "I'm pleased to be a pioneer in the year of 2003 learning simultaneously with people on the other side of the ocean." This experiment went very well, and plans are being made to establish the connection on a regular basis.

Students in CONSTANCE MONTROSS' Spanish 117 "Fieldwork in the Hispanic Community," are preparing web pages describing and analyzing their work in the community. Students in this course have always kept journals of their work and experience as interns in the Hispanic community, but the web pages will make them able to share their thoughts with more people than ever before.

Instructor of Latin IVY SUN recently scheduled a PowerPoint demo session in her class, then asked the students to present topics using this versatile electronic tool. Some chose PowerPoint to present Roman sculpture or ancient vegetarianism; others used it to make models of Roman houses or temples. Roman culture, it seems, has made its way into cyberspace.

**VISUAL PROJECTS IN CMLT 130**

Several students in CMLT 130 (see above) are producing visual projects for the first time.

ILKA ODEMIS ('04) has used Kawabata's *Thousand Cranes* and tea ceremony visuals and web sites to illustrate the problem of "Japanese Purity and Self-Image in the Post-War Period."

JARED SWERZINSKY ('05) has worked with the current Worcester Art Museum's "Samurai Spirit" exhibition and other artifacts to create a visual project called "Hijacking the Samurai Past."

ALLISON TRULLI (Spanish, '05) and MATINA VIDALIS ('05) explore the history of representations of the *Tale of Genji*, from 12th-century picture scrolls through modern *anime*, in a project entitled "The Trail of Genji."

**PROF. M. D'LUGO HONORED**

Professor Marvin D'Lugo has just been named to the editorial board of *Secuencias: Revista de la historia del cine*. *Secuencias* is an international

journal of Hispanic film history published by the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

**A NEW FRENCH COURSE**

Professor MICHAEL SPINGLER is planning a new course: French 127, "Media Workshop in French," which would replace French 120 in the spring semester. As a trial run, he is supervising Ashley Grella ('06), who is currently enrolled in French 120, in the production of a video film version of Jacques Prévert's poem, "Déjeuner du matin."

The film was shot with the Department's new digital camcord camera. It's still in the editing stage; when it's done, it will be shown to French classes next semester.

**FRENCH EDITOR AT CLARK**

MICHEL CRÉPU, Editor-In-Chief of *La Revue des Deux Mondes*, spoke at Clark on April 1st. His lecture, which was sponsored by Clark's Higgins School of the Humanities, was titled "A French View of American Paradox."

**BARBERA AWARD FOR SPANISH**

Congratulations to our students who were awarded prizes at the awards ceremony in May. This year the Theodore and Phyllis Barbera Award for Excellence in Spanish has been awarded to MAURA MINARDI.

**KING PRIZE FOR FRENCH**

The J. Fannin King Prizes for Excellence in French have been awarded to ANNA LYSSIOTOU and CHRISTINE TURKOVICH.

**DELTA PHI ALPHA AWARD FOR GERMAN**

Also, membership to Delta Phi Alpha, the national honor society for excellence in German, has been awarded to KEBIANA KABA.

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, 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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