



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Department of Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures™



CMLL NEWS

Issue 5, Summer 2013

[Home](#) | [Events](#) | [Academics](#) | [Study Abroad](#) | [Language Lab](#) | [Alumni](#) | [Recruitment](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Archive](#) | [CMLL Home](#)

Alumni Connection



We'd love to hear about where you are, what you are doing, and how your language skills are benefitting you. You will be mentioned in the next newsletter!

Please send updates to carla.burris@ttu.edu

Message from the Chair



Dr. Lorum Stratton, Ph.D.
Interim Chair
Associate Professor, Spanish

Hi again to all you who love languages and cultures. This will be my last email as Chair of CMLL, and with that comes the process called reminiscing, however I promise to not use any "chistes de vaca". I am not retiring but will be teaching in Seville this coming academic year.

Forty four years ago, I had interviewed at a couple of universities. My last interview was with Texas Tech. There was something about the visit at Tech, not anything tangible, that somehow I knew that Tech would be offering me a job and I would accept (although I didn't know I would stay for 45 years). I still remember the excitement of being a professor with my own office, telephone, typewriter, and an idealistic goal of imparting a love of the Spanish language and culture to students. This positive emotion of interacting with students keeps me coming back for more.

The next excitement was taking students to study abroad to San Luis Potosi, Mexico. I had lived in that city about ten years previously, and of course never realized that I would not only have the opportunity to visit

[Return to top](#)

CMLL is happy to report a newly endowed scholarship in Classics: **The Leo Jirgensons Endowed Scholarship.**

Dr. Jirgensons taught Classics for many years at Texas Tech.

position is a very demanding assignment, but if one works with fantastic people it can be rewarding, and has been for me. My life is much richer thanks to so many friends, students, colleagues, and especially to my family.

I hope that in the future I will have opportunities to continue my acquaintance with many students and colleagues. In closing, I leave you with a quote for your consideration and action: "We need to be the change we wish to see in the world." - Lorum Stratton

Dr. Lorum Stratton

Associate Professor and Interim Chair

August 1969-1976	Coordinator of First Year Spanish
August 1969 – August 1976	Coordinator of First Year Spanish
August 1969 – August 1999	Academic Counselor - Spanish
1971, 1976, 1999	President Llano Estacado Chapter - AATSP
August 1973	Associate Professor of Romance Languages
August 1976 - December 1979	Associate Chair- Classical & Romance Languages
December 1979 -August 1986	Chair - Classical & Romance Languages
August 1981 - September 2006	Secretary/Treasurer of Texas Association of FL
August 1977 – August 1981	Director of Bilingual Education – Texas Tech University
August 1977	Initiated Spanish Language program at Texas Tech Health Science Center
1985	Texas Foreign Language Association Spanish Language Teacher of the Year
1992	AATSP - Nominee for National Vice-President
August 1999 – August 2010	Associate Chair – Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures
Summer 1970 – Summer 2004	Director or Co- Director of Mexico Field Course
Summer 2004 – Summer 2011	Director of Mexico Field Course Lite (Combination MFC and MFC Lite - = 34-35 years)
Summer 2004 – Present	Director of 5 summer study abroad – Sevilla
January 2010 – December 2010	Taught two semesters in Spain (took over 1700 students in study abroad programs to Mexico and Spain)
2003	Office of International Affairs – 1st recipient of Global Vision Award, recognizing significant contribution to internationalizing TTU.
2012	Office of International Affairs – True Grit Award – for decades long innovation and promotion of study abroad initiatives which give TTU students a life-changing experience.
December 2011 – August 2013	Chair – Classical & Modern Languages and Literatures

Faculty Focus



Erin Collopy, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Russian
1994-

Dr. Erin Collopy Named New Interim Chair

Erin Collopy earned a BA (1986) in Russian Language and a MA (1989) in Russian Language and Literature from the University of Arizona. She earned a Ph.D. (1998) in Slavic Linguistics from the University of Arizona. Erin Collopy teaches various courses in Russian language and literature including the popular, Vampire in East European and Western Culture. Her research interests are contemporary Russian women writers, applied and theoretical linguistics, Russian popular culture, and Russian folklore.

She has served as Associate Chair of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures since the fall of 2010 under Interim Chair Dr. Laura Beard and under Dr. Lorum Stratton. In March 2013, Dean Jeffery Williams announced that she will become Interim Chair when Dr. Stratton steps down in August 2013.

[Return to top](#)



Diane Wood, Ph.D.
Professor, French
1976 -2013

Reflections on Retirement by Diane Wood

I came to Texas Tech in August, 1976 for a one-year position and ended up staying 37 years. It's been quite an adventure, teaching graduate classes in every period and undergrads at every level. For the past two years, I have enjoyed teaching large Humanities/Multi-cultural classes in English and find that there is always something new and exciting to learn about France!

In graduate school, my interest was primarily in research and writing. An invitation to translate H  lisenne de Crenne's novel, letters, and allegorical dream into English for a University of Toronto Press series on early women writers is providing a challenging way for me to transition into retirement. Over the years, I have published a book, an edited book and numerous articles. Once outside the literary canon, H  lisenne is now a mainstream 16th-century author. Some of my best work has been done in the last few years, and I will enjoy writing without time constraints.

My husband and I are both in very good health and have taken up spinning, zip lining, and snorkeling recently. Scuba diving is our newest activity. We will be travelling extensively. I continue to cook and bake but try to include more vegetables. Julia Child's dictum about butter works for me and, besides, quilting and beading keep me occupied without adding extra calories.

In the past, I have been a terrible correspondent but am turning over a new leaf. My email address is: diane.wood@ttu.edu and I would enjoy hearing from you. Best wishes to all my former students and friends!



CMLL Events: Spring 2013

**Dr. Stratton Honored for his Outstanding Career at Texas Tech University
in the Department of Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures**



The Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures hosted a reception in the honor of Dr. Lorum Stratton on April 26th in the McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center.





Family, friends, and colleagues enjoyed inimitable accolades from Dr. Jorge Zamora who began by stating, "1969 was a very good year, we landed on the moon, The New York Mets won their first World Series and Lorum Stratton came to Texas Tech." Adjectives such as modesty, effective, fairness, impartiality, decency, honesty, probity, and rectitude peppered anecdotes about his career as professor, colleague and chair. Zamora set the tone for Dr. Oberhelman's accolades with, "These are big words, but Lorum wears them comfortably every day and everywhere we see him."



Warmly recounting his recollection as Chair of CMLL in 1969, Dr. Oberhelman shared how he had invited Dr. Stratton to join the faculty and soon thereafter, remarked his devotion to students, to the study abroad program in San Luis Potosi, Mexico and Seville, Spain. Notably, his devotion extended beyond campus to his family with whom he was neighbors for many years.

Apropos of his teaching experiences, Dr. Oberhelman shared a few comments from anonymous students which lend credence to the commendations aforementioned by both speakers i.e. "Dr. Stratton is by far my favorite teacher at Tech." "He knows so much about Spanish and their culture." "He speaks clearly so that all can understand and has an incredible explanation to help everyone understand grammar." "His tests are fair...and he grades fair, too."

Dr. Oberhelman concluded with an endearing comment from another of Dr. Stratton's students which related his own TTU teaching career 55 years ago, "Dr. Stratton is a really good teacher. He really likes to get to know everyone in the class. He's an old man but as hip as they come!"

Dr. Diane S. Wood Retirement Reception



On April 5th, The Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures honored Diane Wood with a reception for her 37 years of dedicated teaching in the French program.

Colleagues, students, staff, and friends joined CMLL in thanking her for everything she brought to the department and to the French program during the span of her career.

Graduate students Jérôme Royer, Kelly Closse and Stacey Latimer amused the guests with their rendition of Bill Withers's "Aint No Sunshine". Carole Edwards presented her with a befitting t-shirt with "Joie de Vivre" on it from the French faculty.



CMLL shows its support for the Hispanic Student Society at Banquet and Silent Auction



Dr. Zamora (Spanish) represented CMLL the Annual Hispanic Student Society Award Banquet last week and won an autographed basketball in recognition of the support which CMLL has shown for the Society.

[Return
to top](#)

ASL Program

Six undergraduate ASL students volunteered to read to deaf elementary students at Stewart Elementary School

The Silent Raiders (ASL club) hosted a Valentine's Day themed meeting Feb. 15 in the SUB. Jeff and Candace Anderson, deaf faculty members from Howard College were guest speakers were talking about relationships and Deafness.



February 28, the Silent Raiders hosted a panel discussion in the SUB with 4 panelists: each was deaf or interpreters.



March 23, the Silent Raiders hosted a game night at the Lubbock Community Services for the Deaf.



April 6, the Silent Raiders co-hosted (along with the DeaFirst , Deaf Awareness committee) a panel discussion and presentation on “CODA’s” – Children of Deaf Adults, about the unique experiences of those growing up with Deaf parents in the Qualia room.



April 27, “Deaf, Deaf World Event”: With the help of the Silent Raiders, the DeaFirst committee and ASL 6 students, we hosted our first “Deaf, Deaf World”, an ASL immersion event. Volunteers and attendees totaled over 90 people. This was used as a fundraiser for the Silent Raiders. Participants were assigned tasks to complete (seeing a doctor, attending an art class, etc.) without using their voices. Afterward, Jeff Anderson from Howard College spoke with the group about the communication barriers Deaf people often experience in their everyday activities.

Chinese Program

February 20th, the Chinese Program hosted the 2013 Year of the Snake Chinese Culture Enrichment event in honor of the Happy Chinese Lunar New Year. Participants enjoyed discovering Chinese paper cutting, calligraphy in Chinese, Chinese tea, snacks. Videos and posters opened the window to the beauty of the Chinese culture.



[Return to top](#)



Classics Program

CMLL and the Center for Archaeology and Ancient Studies cosponsored the Institute for the Study of Western Civilization Lecture Series: "Why the West Rules-For Now: The Patterns of the Past and What They Reveal about the Future" on March 27, 2013 in the Student Union Building. Thought provoking questions were addressed during the lecture given by British-born archaeologist, classicist and historian Dr. Ian Morris such as: Why has the West dominated the world for the past two hundred years, and will its power last? Is the vast sweep of human progress that started in mid-18th century England and led to the global supremacy of the West about to be re-centered in places like China and India? Could the technological revolution that has transformed the world have started in those countries rather than in Europe?

Dr. Morris is the Jean and Rebecca Willard Professor of Classics and Professor of History, Stanford University and author of the 2010 book, *Why the West Rules—For Now*, which won the 2011 PEN Center USA Literary Award for Creative Nonfiction and was a New York Times Notable Book for 2011.

May 6, the Classics department welcomed Dr. Eirene Visvardi, Assistant Professor of Classics at Wesleyan University, who gave a talk entitled "Afraid, They Judge. Afraid, They Act: Collective Fear in Greek Tragedy and Democratic Politics."

Dr. Visvardi received her Ph.D. from Stanford University, and her current studies focus on ancient Greek drama, ancient aesthetics, ancient and modern theater, and theories of performance and the emotions. She is currently working on a manuscript entitled *Dancing the Emotions: Fear and Pity in the Tragic Chorus*.

Comparative Literature Program

Texas Tech University's Interdisciplinary Comparative Literature Program hosted a two day symposium on the topic "Gendering Globalization" under the direction of John Beusterien and Kanika Batra. The Texas Tech 2013 Comparative Literature Symposium examined these global issues in dialogue with literary and cultural practices such as the memoir of the Nobel Prize winning Kenyan ecological activist Wangari Mathai, the films and writings of the second generation Afghanistani Saira Shah, the fiction and essays of the British-Jamaican writer Zadie Smith, and the work of Indian postcolonial theorist Gayatri Spivak. Spanish professor, Ileana Rodríguez, Distinguished Humanities Professor of Spanish, Ohio State University attended. CMLL faculty who participated in the symposium include: Christopher Bains, John Beusterien, and Anita McChesney.



Taking its cue from Arjun Appadurai's famous challenge that the "complexity of the current global economy has to do with certain fundamental disjuncture between economy, culture, and politics that we have barely begun to theorize," the symposium examined such disjuncture through the lens of gender. Underpinning the gender dynamics of globalization are accounts of transnational feminist studies including utopian visions of feminism without borders. These studies examine flexible citizenship among diasporic populations and formulate paradigms such as that of the 'global city' that encompasses the situation of migrants and women, and women as migrants. Among the more situated analyses examining globalization through the lens of gender are those of sex work, prostitution, and human trafficking and the growth of new forms of la

[Return to top](#)

service sector economies such as call centers. These analyses also recognize the global dimensions of women's, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual identity-based activism.

French Program

Bea Alexander Scholarship Luncheon



March 22, the CMLL French Program and TTUS Institutional Advancement co-hosted a luncheon in honor of the new Bea-Alexander Scholarship Fund with special guests Mr. Rickey Alexander and Ms. Lauren Alexander, son and granddaughter of Professors Bea and Theodore Alexander, and Dr. Meredith McClain.

Dr. McClain and Dr. Lorum Stratton shared about the valuable contributions the Alexanders made to the growth of the German and French programs and of CMLL, i.e. the vision and realization of the stage in the Qualia Room.

Current graduate recipients, faculty, staff, Rickey and Lauren Alexander enjoyed meeting and sharing about the professors' legacy in CMLL.



Pi Delta Phi Induction Ceremony, New Scholarship Announced, and Scholarship Awards



On April 5th, Pi Delta Phi officers: Miss Jane Anne Watson, President, Ms. Melissa Langston, and Ms. Sara Wood, secretary/treasurer presided over the induction ceremony of Pi Delta Phi French Honor Society in the Qualia Room, Foreign Language Building.

Graduate students Ibrahima (Ibou) Tall and Kelly Closse read French poetry accompanied by guitarist and Jérôme Royer.



Special Remarks were given by Mr. Larry Gill, Texas Tech alum, who recently established a new French scholarship, The Beatrice Alexander-Jodi Conway Scholarship Fund. Mr. Gill shared his story of how Professor Bea Alexander was instrumental in helping him complete his foreign language requirements in order to graduate on time and join the Air Force. In addition, a picture of valued friendship was painted for the audience as he described the longtime friendship of Mrs. Jodi Conway who helped him beyond words as he struggled through learning French as his last class requirement before graduation. He considers the invaluable aid of both Professor Alexander and Ms. Conway as the launching pad into a successful career in the military which afforded him and his wife, Mary the opportunity to give back in such a generous way.



Ms. Jodi Conway remarked that "the celebration was an amazing experience that I will cherish always. Larry, you're giving me such a great honor, in return for basically such a small deed, still makes me feel a bit guilty; but I enjoyed every second: the ceremony, the students, the faculty, the dinner, and I'm still enjoying those beautiful flowers!"

Ten undergraduate students were initiated into Pi Delta Phi: Hayden Baldock, Rachel Hume, Jonathan Smith, Shelby Thibodeaux, Allie Caudill, Meghan Musy, Catherine Swindle, Victoria Clark, Weston KyScott, and Guelila Teferra. Honorary initiates included Sabrina Laroussi, Alecia Davis, Ibou Tall, Greg Muth, Ibrahim Sambi and Jérôme Royer.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of honor cords, prizes and French scholarships. Mr. Ibou Tall was awarded the French graduate fellowship for 2013-2014.

During the semester the French Honor Society, Pi Delta Phi, offered free tutoring to students in the 1000- and 2000-level French courses.

[Return to top](#)

The French Club hosted café and conversation twice a week for students of all levels at a local coffee shop.

The Texas Tech French Club welcomed guest speaker Dr. Dayna Oscherwitz presenting "Framing Mali: Bamako (2007), Violence, and the Imperialist Axiomatic," on Monday, April 8 in the Qualia Room of the Foreign Languages Building. Dr. Oscherwitz, Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies at Southern Methodist University, is an expert on French cinema, African cinema, post-colonial studies, and immigration studies. Her talk was given in English was open to the public.

New Officers Elected for the French Club:

Kelly Closse - President **Jérôme Royer** - Vice President

Sarah Miller - Treasurer **Jesse Latimer** - Secretary



The annual French Club picnic was held April 30th in the Qualia Room due to inclement weather. Everyone enjoyed food, music by Jérôme Royer and fun for the evening/

German Program

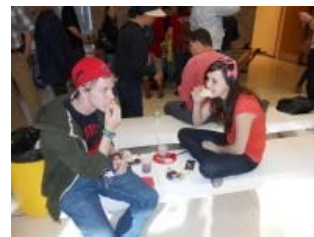
The German Program hosted a Book Reading with German Author, Julia Schoch on February 25 & 26 in the Qualia Room of the Foreign Language building. The first reading and discussion, in English/German, was titled, "Capturing in Passing" and "On Wastelands". The second reading and discussion, in German, was titled, "Schlagen im Vorübergehen and Über die Brachen".

Ms. Schoch is a native East German currently living in Potsdam. Her most notable works include the debut story collection, *Der Körper des Salamanders*, 2001, the novels *Verabredungen mit Mattok*, 2004, *Mit der Geschwindigkeit des Sommers*, 2009, and *Selbstporträt mit Bonaparte*, 2012 as well as numerous essays and short stories. Schoch has been awarded numerous prizes, the most recent being the 2013 Kunst-Förderpreis from the state of Brandenburg. She has been honored for her translation work, winning the André Gide Prize for French-German literary translation.





The German Club hosted the German Top Chef Contest where German students were invited to participate. First, second and third place prizes were awarded for the best table decoration, best main dish and best sweet dish. Everyone was invited to stop by and sample German delicacies. To read about the event featured in the Daily Toreador please [click here](#).



Instead of heading to the beach during spring break, the German Club ventured on an exciting discovery of the Texas German Hill country in Boerne and Fredricksburg. The twenty students and faculty spent three days sampling German food, browsing in the small antique stores, and soaking in the atmosphere of the towns where Germans settled over 100 years ago and still exert a strong influence. The highlights of the trip were a presentation on Texas-German history by former Boerne Mayor Patrick Heath, and a barbeque at the home of the Bowers family. The cultural trip was fun and informative and plans are already underway for a repeat trip next year.





On Thursday, May 2, the German Program held their annual **Awards Ceremony** at Garski's Loft. At the event, which was attended by more than 40 students and faculty, recognition was given to the outstanding German students. The first round of awards went to the two top students in each of the undergraduate German classes. They received a certificate, a German book and a German candy bar as recognition of their excellent work in the class. The German scholarships for 2013-14 were also announced, which included: 9 graduate awards from the Theodore Alexander Scholarship, a German study abroad scholarship for 2013 (to Chris Zysk), a CMLL designated scholarship to those studying in Munich summer 2013, and 6 undergraduate Theodore Alexander Scholarships to the top 2 German majors and 4 minors.

The students in GERM 1502 presented a set of skits and music in the style of Saturday Night Live under the direction of Denny Berndt, German GPTI, in the Qualia Room. Attendees included professors, students, staff, and friends. The event lightened the end of the semester pressures on all those in attendance with many laughs and a fun atmosphere.



The German Club met weekly at J & B Coffee for Kaffeeeklatsch on Fridays and for Stammtisch on Thursdays at Crickets and monthly showing of German films. Students from all levels are encouraged to practice their German language skills.



Japanese Program

The Japanese Culture Club held a fundraising activity on April 11 in the Free Speech Area (between SUB and the library) in effort to raise awareness and support for the earthquake victims in Japan by providing faculty and students with information about it. They raised \$108.80 to send to the damaged area in Japan. In addition to the fundraising activity, everyone enjoyed expanding their cultural knowledge of Japan by participation in Japanese paper crafts and Japanese cultural games.



Twenty students and instructors in Japanese as part of the Japanese Culture Club went to Midland, Texas to fundraise with the sales of Japanese food such as rice balls, teriyaki chickens, and beef bowl burritos. The group prepared a chopsticks game and lessons in Origami (paper folding). Awareness was raised during the activities, by sharing the devastation left by the tsunami using posters and pictures they prepared in advance with the participants.



Russian Program



January: "Vladimir Vysotsky, Voice of Silent Generations" Presentation on the life and works of Russian famous contemporary poet, singer, and actor. Dr. Qualin and Irina Drigalenko discussed his life, his works, and his importance to Russian culture.

February: Debut of "Major's Corner" which provides students majoring or minoring in Russian the opportunity to meet to speak Russian and to learn more about Russian culture beyond the textbook.

"Love talk Russian Way" ("Majors' Corner" event) was dedicated to Valentine's Day. Irina Drigalenko gave a presentation about Lake Baikal which occupies the hearts of many Russians. The students learned Russian terms of endearment and folk songs about love and betrayal.



Pre-theater Tea-party: Students of Russian attended Chekhov's "The Seagull" at the Maedgen Theatre. Listening to Russian music and to lectures on Chekhov, playing games, snacking on Russian treats and drinking tea added enjoyment to the TTU drama team's interpretation of the play "The Seagull".

March: "Snacking the Russian Way" ("Majors' Corner" event). Russian cuisine is one of the most popular and widespread in the world. Russia's size accounts in part for its rich culinary heritage. A talk by Irina Drigalenko on Russian traditional and modern cuisine and the opportunity to make and try a variety of Russian snacks expanded Russia's rich cultural heritage to the participants.

[Return
to top](#)



April : Students making preparations to study abroad during the summer benefitted from a talk titled, "An Italian in Saint Petersburg" given by Serena Maddux who shared the highlights of her study abroad and advice regarding cultural protocol and survival hints.



"Love Conquers Death". Fr. Peter DeFonce talked about the history and main beliefs of Eastern (Orthodox) Christianity. Students who are taking Russian to support their missionary trips agreed that was invaluable information and a true learning experience.



May 4, the Russian Club's annual banquet was enjoyed by students of Russian who played games, sang Russian songs, shared great company and delicious food.

Second year Russian undergraduate students Trevor Forrest, Ethan Keifer, and John Stanko were accepted and initiated

[Return to top](#)

the Slavic National Honor Society Dobro Slovo. The best students of each Russian class received certificates of recognition.



Spanish Program

The National Hispanic Honor Society's TTU chapter offered free tutoring in Spanish Monday through Friday. The honor society membership includes undergraduate and graduate students and members of the community interested in the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. The organization is based on academics, social events, and community service.

During March 21-24 a number of Spanish faculty and graduate students participated in the annual international conference, The 47th Southwest Council of Latin American Studies (SCOLAS). Conference participants from the CMLL Spanish Program included: Dr. Genaro J. Pérez, "Caramelo verde de Fernando Ampuero: trepidante novela negra"; Dr. Janet Pérez, "La cultura de masas reflejada en la ciencia ficción y la narrativa policial"; Dr. Julián Pérez, "Respiración artificial y el terrorismo de Estado"; Rolando Díaz, PhD candidate, "Elementos grotescos y sublimes en Las visitaciones del Diablo de Emilio Carballido"; Yuriko Ikeda, PhD candidate, "Feminismo, subjetividad y erotismo en Delmira Agustini"; Edith Lozano, ABD, "El poder de la palabra como forma de subversión ante las instituciones del estado y la iglesia"; Rodrigo Pereyra, ABD, "Espacios urbanos y violencia mimética en Los errores, de José Revueltas".



The conference was held in the historical Casa Santo Domingo Hotel. The group participated in several excursions to historical and/or natural sites such as the famous volcano Pacaya.



XIV Annual Céfiro Conference

The Spanish program sponsored the XIV Annual Céfiro Conference: "Frontiers and Borders: Life on the Fringe of the Spanish and Portuguese Speaking Worlds and Beyond." Keynote Speakers included Benjamin Alire Sáenz, novelist, poet, writer of children's books and this year's winner of the Pen Faulkner Award delivered his keynote address on April 4, 2013. Earl E. Fitz, professor of Portuguese, Spanish and Comparative Literature at Vanderbilt University, gave his keynote address on April 5, 2013.

[Return to top](#)

Luis Muñoz, poet of several published works: Septiembre (Hiperión, 1991), Manzanas amarillas (Hiperión, 1995), El apetito (Pre-Textos, 1998), Correspondencias (Visor, 2001) and Querido silencio (Tusquets, 2006) presented April 6th.

In addition to the conference keynote speakers, additional richness was added to the conference from presentations by CMLL graduate students and an instructor. Presenters from CMLL included: Heath Wing, Ricardo Schmidt, Sabrina Laroussi, Mónica Fernández Martins, Omar Corral, Yesenia Blanco, Francesca Beretta (Instructor), Sonia Loza, Julio César Pérez Mendez, Michael Martínez Jr., Rubén Galve Rivera.

Academic Excellence

CMLL Faculty Promotions



Dr. Chris Bains - Associate Professor and Tenure French



Dr. Carole Edwards – Tenure French



Dr. Greta Gorsuch - Full Professor Applied Linguistics



Dr. Chris Witmore – Tenure Classics

"These are all well-deserved and continue to highlight the excellent and quality professors we have in the department." – Dr. Lorum Stratton

2013 Texas Tech University System Faculty Honors Convocation Awards CMLL Faculty

Texas Tech Parents Association **Barnie E. Rushing, Jr. Faculty Distinguished Research Award**

Dr. Genaro J. Pérez, Professor of Spanish, has been awarded the **Barnie E. Rushing, Jr. Faculty Distinguished Research Award**. The distinguished award has been presented since 1976 to Texas Tech Faculty for their excellence in scholarship and creative activity. In 1994 Dr. Janet Pérez also received the award.

[Return to top](#)



Among those attending the event from CMLL and present in the picture (from left to right): Dr. Lorum Stratton, Dr. Genaro Pérez, Dr. Janet Pérez, Dr. Jorge Zamora, and Rodrigo Pereya.

Texas Tech Alumni Association New Faculty Award



Dr. Christopher Witmore, Associate Professor of Classics, was selected as one of the ten professors to receive the award for 2013.

President's Book Award: Dr. Genaro J. Pérez

[Return
to top](#)



Emeritus Faculty Certificate: Dr. Peder Christiansen



Recognition of Paul Whitfield Horn Professors: Dr. Hafid Gafaïti, Dr. David Larmour and Dr. Janet Pérez

Recognition of the Gloria Lyerla Memorial Library Research Travel Grants: Dr. Sara Guengerich, Assistant Professor, Spanish

[Return
to top](#)

CMLL Faculty Recipients of the 2012-2013 Internal Competitive Funding Opportunity to Advance Scholarship in the Creative Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Sixty winning proposals were selected in the Texas Tech Internal Competitive Funding Opportunity to Advance Scholarship in the Creative Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Last year, more than \$440,000 was distributed to more than 40 faculty members in the creative arts, humanities and social sciences. This year, the university made available \$600,000 for the competition to be distributed through four types of awards: Level 1 (\$3,000 or less), Level 2 (\$10,000 or less), Level 3 (\$20,000 or less), and Level 4 (\$40,000 or less).

The program is a means to support the scholarship and creative activity of faculty in disciplines with little external funding as compared to the sciences and engineering. Applications were examined by a peer review committee. The committee evaluated every submission using specific criteria for each of three award levels.

CMLL Winners:

Level 1: Dr. George Cole

Level 2: Dr. John Beusterien, Dr. Erin Collopy, Dr. Carole Edwards, Dr. David Larmour, Dr. Anthony Qualin, Dr. Victoria Surliuga

Level 3: Dr. Idoia Elola, Dr. Christopher Witmore

The **President's Excellence in Diversity and Equity Award** has been created to recognize annually the efforts of faculty, staff, and students to engage in activities on and off campus that promote the value of diversity and the importance of equity in the University. Recipients of this award have made contributions to Texas Tech that are "beyond the call of duty," in relation to academic activities and programs that advance the academic and professional climate of diversity and equity.



Spencer Key, GPTI in Spanish, was awarded the 2012-2013 President's Excellence in Diversity and Equity Award, Student category.

Nominees from CMLL included Dr. Hafid Gafaiti, Senior Faculty category; Dr. Carole Edwards, Junior Faculty category; Sabrina Laroussi, Student category.

CMLL Ph.D. and M.A. Class of Spring 2013

[Return
to top](#)



Mara Joseli Vaughn
Ph.D. - Spanish



Amy Dickenson
M.A. - Classics



Jinglan Feng
M.A. - Applied Linguistics



Spencer L. Key
M.A. - Romance Languages, Spanish



Stacey Latimer
M.A. - Romance Languages,
French



Nicole Mix
M.A. - Classics



Aoi Saito
M.A. - Applied Linguistics



Alexandra T. Smith
M.A. - German



Richard Supak
M.A. - Classics



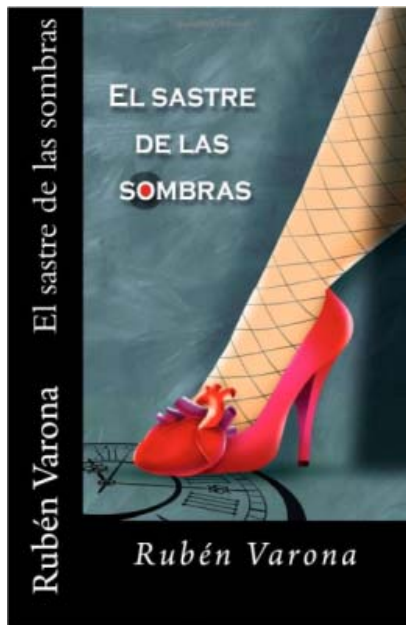
[Return
to top](#)

Timothy A. Turner
M.A. - Applied Linguistics

Lee A. Simpson
M.A. - Classics

**Rubén Varona, Spanish Graduate Candidate, Publishes Article and Presents
Newly Published Novel, *El Sastre de las Sombras***

The February, 2013 issue of *Sub-Urbano*, the Cultural Magazine of Miami, published an interview-profile titled, "Being Rolando Díaz" written by CMLL Ph.D. Spanish student **Rubén Varona**. **Rolando Díaz**, CMLL Ph.D. Spanish student gives a fascinating perspective of what it means to be born on the border of two countries (Mexico – USA), and how he became a scholar and a writer. Included are some interesting anecdotes of his personal life that you should not miss reading. This article can be found at <http://sub-urbano.com/being-rolando-diaz-perfil/>.



On April 19th, CMLL was pleased to be part of the International New Book presentation of *El sastre de las sombras*, written by PhD student and Colombian writer, **Rubén Varona**. This is the third novel written by Varona and this time he chose Texas Tech University to present and promote his new book. Participating in the event were representatives from the Publishing Co. La Pereza (Greity González Rivera, Ed.), the critics Carlos Bermeo (Universidad del Valle, Colombia) and Mónica Chamorro (Università di Venezia, Italia), along with Dr. George Cole and PhD candidate Rodrigo Pereyra from Texas Tech University. The event was held at the Qualia and was attended by faculty and students from CMLL and the English Department. The event made extraordinary and sophisticated use of the technology available in the Qualia and the Language Learning Lab, holding a simultaneous video-conference between Lubbock, Miami, Colombia and Italy. The event was video recorded with the help from staff and equipment of the Language Learning Lab and appears in a new [Youtube Channel](#) dedicated to Hispanic Crime Fiction.

Rolando J. Diaz, PhD student in Spanish at Texas Tech University, is one of five authors featured in RhinaToruño-Haensley's book *Crossing Cultures: Hispanic Authors and the Challenges They Overcame in the United States / Cruzando culturas: Autores hispanos en los Estados Unidos y sus desafíos superados*. This book was reviewed in an article by Mara L. García, published in *Hispania*, 95.2 (June, 2012): 362-363. "In his dialogue with Toruño, the author expresses how his book *Tales from the Tortilla Curtain* describes the richness and tragedy of being a part of and a bridge between two cultures." (En el diálogo con Toruño, el escritor expresa como en su libro *Tales from the Tortilla Curtain* expone la riqueza y tragedia de ser parte de y puente entre dos culturas.)

**Karla Bonenberger and Elisabeth Schlierike, German M.A. Students
Judges in the 31st Annual Texas State German Competition**



Miss Bonenberger and Miss Schlierike made their way down to Austin, Texas in February, 2013 to volunteer their time judging different events at the 31st Annual Texas State German Competition. Since 2006, the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Texas, Austin has hosted the Texas State German Contest, usually on the last Saturday in February. This contest brings together the best high school competitors from approximately 60 schools throughout the state. One thousand students of German compete in a wide array of events from spelling, poetry reading and dramatic events to handicrafts, tests and musical performance. Approximately 80 high school teachers from all over the state accompany their students to Austin. These teachers, several dozen parents, and about 100 volunteers from all over assist and serve as judges in the all-day competition.



Bettina Christner, German M.A. candidate presented at SOCALLT (a CALL organization to which the LLL belongs, also). Her presentation stems from a research project on mobile phones and German vocabulary learning that she started in LING 5325 under the direction of Dr. Stefanie Borst. Her research has continued this spring in GERMAN 2301.

German 5321 Round Table "Deciphering the Holocaust"

Held on May 7 in the Qualia Room, this event provided opportunities for graduate students in German to present their papers.

Presenters and presentation titles included:

Alexa Smith, "Navigating Absence: Barbara Honigmann's Search for "Heimat""

Denny Berndt, "The Good German, Yesterday and Today"

Kelley Poché-Rodriguez, "Nazis, Nibelungen and National Memory: Aesthetics, Semiotics, and the Reception of Wagner in Israel"

Rachel Doran, "Bitburg in Retrospect: A Re-examination of the Political Goals behind the Commemoration"

Jeremy Hogan, "The "Good German" Woman in Margareth von Trotta's Rosenstraße"

Karla Bonenberger, "Dani Levy's ""Mein Führer: Die wirklich wahrste Wahrheit über Adolf Hitler""

Jordan Travis, "Holocaust Education in Germany: Implementing a Universal Curriculum"

Hispanic Studies Annual Graduate Conference

CMLL was well-represented by five Ph.D. Spanish candidates and students at the Reflections on Violence- Hispanic Studies Third Annual Graduate Conference, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas during March 22-23, 2013.



Presenters and presentations from CMLL included:

Alberto Mario Pérez, MA Student: "El rapto del Santo Grial"

Sabrina Laroussi, PhD Candidate: "De Barbarita a Doña Bárbara: una mujer que no nació mujer; sino que se hizo mujer"

Rubén Varona, PhD Student: "Rulfo, detrás de cámaras"

Janie Covarrubias, PhD Student: "Lección de cocina: un desafío social feminista ante el patriarcado"

Mónica Fernández Martins, MA Student: "El quest romance frustrado en Las ataduras de Carmen Martín Gaité y Aloma de Merce Rodoreda"

CMLL Study Abroad Opportunities

Binchester, UK



Under the direction of Dr. Christopher Witmore, this four week program, July 1-27, 2013, is an international field school focused on the archaeological excavation of the Roman Fort of Binchester in the North of England. TTU students, alongside students from more than 45 countries and institutions spend time excavating, processing artifacts, and visiting key archaeological sites in the area of the Hadrian's Wall frontier zone. Students may earn 6 credits which count toward the major or minor in Classics.

Reims, France



This Reims-based study abroad program, May 30-June 30, 2013, offers TTU students an opportunity to live in a beautiful French university town and take French classes taught by Dr. Carole Edwards. Students will live in the International Center while taking up to six hours at the 2000 and above levels of French. The courses count toward the foreign language requirements, the French major and minor.

[Return
to top](#)

Munich, Germany



The Munich-based faculty-led study abroad program, May 18-June 20, 2013, offers TTU students the opportunity to immerse themselves in German in one of the most beautiful and culturally rich German cities. Students will take language and culture courses under the direction of Dr. Charles Grair while living with host families. Students have the opportunity to earn up to six credit hours which count towards foreign language requirement, a major or minor in German.

Faynan, Jordan



Participate in archaeological survey and excavation and explore the archaeological rich landscapes adjacent to the sites investigated under the direction of Dr. Hannah Friedman during June 1-30, 2013. Students may earn 6 credits that count towards the major or minor in Classics, and will receive training in a research-intensive environment with a low instructor-student ratio which allows for mentoring in key sub-fields of archaeology, environmental analysis, bio- archaeology and geo-archaeology. Students will be involved in all parts of the research.

Moscow, Russia



Contingent on student interest, Texas Tech offers a faculty led summer study abroad program in Moscow at the GRINT institute. The program typically begins in late May and ends early in July, usually before the start of Summer II at Texas Tech. The program includes six weeks of intensive language training, local cultural events and excursions, a weekend trip to St. Petersburg, housing, round trip airfare, and six hours of TTU credit. The program can accommodate students with no Russian language experience, but we can only offer five hours of TTU credit for beginners.

Texas Tech also has a partnership agreement with the GRINT, which allows individual students to study in summer, semester, or academic year programs.

Seville, Spain



Texas Tech University is offering a unique opportunity for students to live, learn, travel and enjoy the life, culture, and Spanish language during long semesters or during the summer program, in Sevilla. Spanish course credit may be earned at the lower-level (first and second year), upper level (third and fourth year), and at the 5000-level (or graduate). The program is directed and the course taught by Texas Tech University Spanish professors and is based in Sevilla, España, a beautiful city in Andalucía in southern Spain. It is a vibrant, dynamic city with many things to see and do. The location of Sevilla provides convenient access for our excursions to Granada, Cordoba, Madrid, Toledo and the beaches of the Costa del Sol.

[Return
to top](#)

Language Learning Laboratory & Resource Center

Technology at your Fingertips

Recently, the LLL has added new work stations conducive for group work for faculty and students.



The Language Learning Laboratory & Resource Center is proud to announce its new Web site. It features a number of new additions and expanded content which will hopefully illustrate the scope, services, and facilities (including the new Digital Humanities Lab).

Of particular import is the section found in the main left-hand menu, *Services for Instructors*. You are invited to review this for research, equipment support and training, and an instructor FAQ page, among other resources, at <http://www.languagelab.clas.ttu.edu>.

On May 6th, The Language Learning Laboratory & Resource Center staff organized an "End of Semester Meet & Greet to Celebrate New Additions & Services." Everyone in the department was invited to the open house and enjoyed delicious refreshments and great door prizes.



Return
to top



Instructor Irina Drigalenko shared with the guests that it is customary in Russian folklore to “pay” for everything to avoid bad luck. After finding a penny, she was able to purchase her prize.

Digital Humanities Lab

Did you know? The “DHL” is available to all faculty and graduate students for an endless variety of developmental projects in research and teaching. In the DHL, you can work individually or collaborate in groups; conduct photo and video editing; research, write and publish; develop and produce materials for teaching; and pursue an endless array of projects. The DHL provides an environment designed to promote creativity and inspirations.



“I use the Digital lab because I can work with students on pedagogical and research projects. This semester I am teaching a course on Second Language (L2) writing and my course uses a wiki as a platform. This virtual platform allows me and my students to store all the materials that we need in the class (e.g., syllabus, prompts for assignments, calendars), design threaded discussions about the textbook or articles we are going to discuss later in class (i.e., students have already discussed the topic before it is covered in class) and create pedagogical and research projects that we can all work on collaboratively (i.e., all the members in the class can edit what their classmates have written, share ideas for projects, compare projects and complete these projects in an efficient manner). Thus, in the lab we are working on the design and development of two projects (a pedagogical project and a research project) based on themes covered in class (e.g., assessment, revision, feedback, etc.). The students are able to develop these projects in “this virtual class” which can be accessed from the lab where we have the technology we need and from any place on campus or at home where they can

[Return to top](#)

an internet connection. Our students need to be familiarized with social tools (e.g., wikis, blogs, chats, etc.) so they can be competitive in their work, whether they are in an academic or any other professional environment." – **Dr. Idoia Elola, Applied Linguistics & Spanish**

Alumni Connection

Dr. David Howle

Executive Director/Campus Dean
Wayland Baptist University - [Hawaii](#)

Dr. David Howle earned a BA in French at Texas Tech, completed an MA in French at UT, Austin, then a Licence ès lettres humaines at the Université de Nice. A mid-life career change took him into Christian ministry where he earned an Master of Divinity and a Ph.D. (in Old Testament studies). For the past 18 years, he has been employed by Wayland Baptist University.

"Thanks for the link to the newsletter! The first article, by Dr. Stratton, really connected with me. Over forty years ago, I became a French major almost entirely due to the excellent teaching and generous compassion of Dr. Alexander. She had a marvelously infectious love of French language; I can still remember her look of excitement when introducing new grammar concepts. Though I no longer teach French, the great start I got from "Madame Alexandre" launched me into travels to France (and the rest of Europe) and interest in a half dozen other languages."

Nelson H. Balido, APR

President
[Border Trade Alliance](#)

Mr. Nelson H. Balido earned a BA in Spanish and a BS in International Economics at Texas Tech after which he earned a Minority Business Advancement Certificate at UT; Austin, TX, Texas Real Estate Broker's License, The F.B.I Citizens Academy Graduate from the U.S. Department of Justice, two diplomas from Insituto Universitario de Investigación Ortega Y Gasset: Madrid, Spain and Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo: Santander, Spain and a Graduate Certification , Advanced International Affairs from Texas A&M University-Bush School of Government & Public Service; College Station, TX.

He served as State Commissioner, appointed to the Bush administration in homeland security, gave the commencement ceremony graduation speech at Texas Tech in 2006 and was a former Texas Tech Alumni National Board member. Currently, he is Navy reserve public affairs officer, FOX NEWS contributor. He serves as president of the Border Trade Alliance.



Lacey Richter

Artist and Cultural Arts Educator in
Austin Texas

Ms. Richter earned a BA in Spanish at Texas Tech. Currently; she leads the Day of the Dead Sugar Skull Workshop each year at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center in addition to teaching workshops to children and adults throughout the year. She leads Noche Buena Christmas Ornament Workshop where traditional customs of the holiday in Mexico are taught with a hand-on creation of unique folk-art inspired ornaments.

[Return
to top](#)

Recruitment and Retention

The German Club from Hutchinson Middle School visited Texas Tech for an afternoon of German language and culture.



The students had lunch in the Qualia Room, participated in a German 1502 class, watched a German movie and had several other activities & games.



Each student also received a surprise (thanks to the Center for Campus Life): a TTU backpack with a TTU t-shirt and other fun items.

This Club is organized & taught weekly at Hutchinson by our TTU German graduate student, Rachel Doran.

[Return to top](#)



They had viel Spaß, Sprache und Kultur at TTU!

ESL develops new section of 5310

ESL 5310-001 is an experimental section based on the Theory of Deliberate Practice which states that adult learners improve most in a skill if they self-determine what they need to improve and devise personally satisfactory means of improving on those specific skills. In this section of ESL 5310 (which will soon be called ESL 5312), international teaching assistant (ITA) candidates are placed into team-teaching partnerships within their academic departments, i.e. teaching observations in a chemistry lab. They must assist in teaching U.S. undergraduates once a week. Three to four times per semester they are observed by the instructor in record of ESL 5310 and given specific, direct feedback on aspects of their teaching and classroom communication they need to improve. ITA candidates can self-select from this feedback to focus their deliberate practice on, using their weekly team-teaching as an opportunity to practice and improve. ESL 5310 and ESL 5312 at Texas Tech are two of the few ITA preparation courses in the U.S. taught by full time doctoral-level faculty members and researchers. The ITA Training Program at Texas Tech comprises an active and visible center of ITA development research.



Mexican Heritage Course

Under the direction of Drs. Steve Corbett and Jorge Zamora, the CMLL Spanish program is pleased to announce that its unique Mexican Heritage Course will be offered for a third time, Summer I, 2013. Twenty-four students will participate in this multi-faceted language and cultural immersion program focuses on the Mexican language and culture, with a special emphasis on the Spanish and Mexican heritage of Texas, and includes two special courses, Spanish 4309 (Language/Conversation) and 4332(Mexican Life and Culture), as well as excursions (e.g. tour of Pedro's Tamales and a three-day field trip to San Antonio). It also provides native speaker conversation group leaders to work with students in the classroom and includes special guest speakers from the Hispanic community.

Contribute

Online: <http://donate.give2tech.com>

By Check: <http://www.give2tech.com/about/givingbycheck>

**Return
to top**

For More Information: [TTUS Institutional Advancement](#)

Contact



Website: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/classic_modern

The Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures
Texas Tech University
P.O. Box 42071
Lubbock, Texas 79409-2071

Phone: 806.742.3145

Fax: 806.742.3306

For General Information: carla.burrus@ttu.edu or erin.collopy@ttu.edu

For Website Issues: cml.webmaster@ttu.edu

Subscribe

Email address:

Subscribe

(optional) Your name:

Return
to top