

The Foreign Languages and Literatures Department is changing . . . Its' name! As of fall 2011, the department will now be referred to as the Department of World Languages and Literatures.
Be sure to keep up-to-date on our new webpages at: www.smu.edu/worldlanguages.

Four SMU students of French have been tapped by the French Ministry of Education to be Teaching Assistants in France next year:

- Alaa Al-Barghuthi, to the region of Orléans
- Melissa Burgess, region of Lille
- Shelley Diefenbach, region of Dijon
- Carly Laywell, Orleans-Tours region
- Christie Pearson, region of Rheims

through leading conversation classes and providing tutorials. More information on the program can be found at:
<http://www.frenchculture.org/spip.php?rubrique648&tout=ok>

Heartiest félicitations to these five students and to their French faculty mentors!

They will serve as English teaching assistants during the upcoming academic year for students in the elementary or high-school levels in French schools, typically



Alaa Al-Barghuthi

Congratulations . . .

to Alberto Pastor's and Gabriela Vokic for their positive recommendations for tenure from the Dean and the Provost.



Gabriela Vokic

Japanese Earthquake Fundraiser
The SMU Japanese Program hosted a lecture and t-shirt sale to assist with the relief for the earthquake in Japan. More information can be found on page 6.

News from the Arabic Area

Our newly established Arabic program has had a great start! Even though Arabic has been at SMU only since last fall, the program already has a sequence of 6 semesters of study: beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. In fact, the ever-increasing number of students enrolling in Arabic has resulted in a new instructor, Bashir Asari, having been hired for next fall.

This spring, the Dedman College Undergraduate Council has approved a minor in Arabic, and in addition, the **SMU-in-Morocco** program has been established. It is a 5-week intensive language study program during which students will complete two semesters of a language study (intermediate or advanced levels).



Meknes, Morocco

News from the Chinese Area



SMU-in-Beijing

SMU-in-Beijing began two years ago on the campus of Beijing Normal University, one of the highest-regarded institutions in the nation for language acquisition studies. Despite its short history, the program's first two sessions in 2009 and 2010 indicate that the rigorous curriculum and extensive cultural programming are well received by the students who study with SMU-in-Beijing. In the first year there were twelve students, including students from Rice University. The second year saw numbers rise to nineteen students, which included a post-graduate student working in the Dallas area.

Why offer SMU-in-Beijing?

The US State Department issued a report stating that the Chinese language requires up to three times the amount of time spent to acquire the same level of proficiency with other traditionally studied languages such as Spanish or French. For Chinese language acquisition, American universities cannot satisfy this requirement during a standard autumn/spring semester. Instead, it is crucial that serious Mandarin Chinese students spend time in China in an intensive language program. The classroom curricula in competitive Chinese departments across American universities act as building blocks for studying abroad in China. Without the demanding experience of immersing oneself in the Chinese culture and amongst 1.3 billion Mandarin speakers, it is hard to acquire the same level of proficiency while exclusively studying in the United States. In addition, Beijing's most competitive language-immersion programs, including Princeton-in-Beijing and Associated Colleges in China, are becoming increasingly difficult to gain acceptance. SMU-in-Beijing provides spaces at one of China's best universities for SMU students as well as others who are seeking study abroad opportunities in China.

The Student Experience



While in Beijing, the program offered three levels of classes: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Across all three levels, the curriculum is designed to challenge students with a greater amount of content than what is feasible during an autumn/spring semester on the Dallas campus. In addition to spending three to four hours in class, four days a week, students usually spend around four hours outside of class to prepare for the next day's exercises. The course load is usually demanding, but essential to mastering Mandarin Chinese.

Outside of the classroom, SMU-in-Beijing's cultural programming afforded its participants an unparalleled introduction to China's traditions and ever-changing society. First, students participated in weekly classes that ranged from Tai Chi to Martial Arts to calligraphy. These classes were quite popular among students throughout the summer term. Second, the program offered many one-time trips to major tourist attractions across Beijing. These tours included visits to the Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, and the historic Hutongs. Students also had the chance to go see a Chinese acrobatics show, Peking Opera, visit a traditional Chinese tea house, and listen to a concert at one of Beijing's most famous theaters. Third, SMU-in-Beijing provided the students with the opportunity to visit China's oldest and most historically significant city: Xi'an. While touring this city, students had the opportunity to visit an ancient sight fit for an Indiana Jones film: Emperor Qin's Terra Cotta Warriors. A memorable note while visiting the sight: we were there at the same time as Germany's Chancellor, Angela Merkel.

Overall, student feedback was quite good for the program. The rigorous curriculum does require an adjustment phase, but the professors work with students while they adapt to the workload. Additionally, the SMU-in-Beijing staff helped the students make the most of their time in Beijing with resource guides as well as support for the occasional bouts of homesickness. For example, Ben Mantley, SMU alum and assistant activities director for the program, created frequent newsletters to deal with both the pressures of class life as well as the basics of living in Beijing. He and Matthew Moore were also readily available when students needed assistance outside of the classroom.



Given the positive feedback by both professors and students, we look forward to offering the SMU-in-Beijing program for the summer of 2011. The US-Sino relationship will only grow in upcoming years, and it is important that SMU provide its students with the necessary skills to contribute to that relationship. While many other American universities have long-established language programs around Beijing and in other parts of China, we look forward to developing a name for SMU in China's capital.

News from the French Area

French Engineering

Major in Engineering and minor in French? Does this sound a little odd to you? Well, perhaps we all should get used to seeing this combination, because an increasing number of engineering students are studying French.

In an effort to combine these two areas of study, the French Department is working with the Engineering Department of the University de Provence, in Marseille, France to create exchange and internship opportunities for students matriculated in both universities.

This summer, SMU Engineering major Justin Groenewald will complete a six week internship at the University de Provence with faculty member David Brutin. Groenewald will travel to Marseille in July upon completion of the SMU in South of France Program.

Internships

Youri Yenga, an SMU senior majoring in French and a starting line-backer for the SMU football team, is completing an internship for credit at DISD's Hillcrest High School. Youri is working under the guidance of Hillcrest French teacher Drew Davenport who has assigned Youri to work with students in AP French to prepare them for their AP tests this spring.

Other students participating in the French internship program this spring semester include Emily Kaufman, also at Hillcrest High School; Drew McColley at the Dallas/Ft.Worth French American Chamber of Commerce; Amanda Vining at Invenu, marketing and advertising; and Melissa Burgess at The Alliance Française of North Texas.

The internships allow French majors and minors to "put their French to work" by using their language skills in a professional setting. For more information

about internships in French, contact Paola Buckley at pbuckley@smu.edu.

Busy French Faculty

The French Faculty has been busy on the research front this year. Professor **Dayna Oscherwitz** published a book-length study of the role French cinema has played in reformulating French national identity in the post-colonial era. The book, entitled *Past-Forward: French Cinema and the Post-Colonial Heritage*, was published in September by Southern Illinois University Press. Professor Oscherwitz also had two articles published this Spring. The first, entitled "Once Upon a Time that Never Was: Jean-Pierre Jeunet's *Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain*" appeared in *The French Review* in February. The second, entitled "Shaking Up the Historical Film: Christophe Gans' *Le Pacte des Loups*" appeared in *Studies in French Cinema* in March. Professor Oscherwitz is currently in the process of completing *The Historical Dictionary of African Cinema* for Scarecrow Press. That book will be released in 2012.

Professor Oscherwitz is also organizing the 2012 meeting of the African Literature Association, which will be hosted by SMU in April of 2012. That conference, which is the annual meeting of one of the oldest and largest African studies associations in the country, will bring several hundred scholars of Africa, as well as authors and filmmakers, to the Dallas area to explore the question of Human Rights in Africa and the Diaspora.

Professor **Hervé Tchumkam**, who is in his first year as Assistant Professor at SMU, has presented papers at a number of international conferences. This past fall, Professor Tchumkam participated in the annual meeting of the Radical Philosophy Association in Oregon, and he will present at conferences in both London and Taiwan this summer. Professor Tchumkam is in the process of completing a book-length study of articulations of post-colonial identity in French literature. He was also a recipient of a faculty develop-

ment grant from the SMU Embrey Human Rights program for his development of a course entitled "Post-Colonial France."

SMU-in-the South of France Program 2011



In the summer of 2011, twenty-two students will participate in the SMU-in-the South of France program. They will arrive in Cannes at the beginning of the famous international film festival held in the city each year in May. They will spend five weeks of intensive study in Cannes, focusing on improving their French language and communicative skills and acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of French culture and of contemporary France. Eighteen of the students are French minors or majors and will be enrolled in advanced French courses.

The director of the program will be Dr. **Rita Winandy**. The instructors will be Dr. Heather Pelletier, Dr. André Winandy and native speakers who are members of the faculty of the SMU-in-the South of France program.



Study trips planned for the program include an overnight trip to Provence to visit the city of Arles, les Baux de Provence, the Pont du Gard, the Palais des Papes and a winery in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Day study trips will include visits to the Chagall Museum in Nice, the Picasso Museum in Antibes, the museum of the Fondation Maeght in Saint Paul de Vence, the Matisse Chapel in Vence, and a tour of Monaco and its famous oceanographic museum.



What Can You Do With A French Major?



You can go to law school...

Charanya Krishnaswami (class of 2011) is currently studying international law at Yale University.

You can go to graduate school...

James Batchelor (class of 2011) is currently researching the situation of immigrants in France at the University of Connecticut.

You can work in France...

Hibba Itani (class of 2011) is currently teaching in Paris as part of a French government program to recruit native English-speakers of French to teach English in French schools.

You can work for NPR...

Marietta Synodis (class of 2004) is working as an assistant producer of the program "State of the Re:Union." The radio program, which is produced by WNYC, has released its first season of 12 episodes. For more information, please visit

<http://stateofthereunion.com>.



Marietta Synodis at work on location

French Film Festival



Coco Before Chanel (2009)

The SMU French Club hosted the 15th annual French Film Festival from March 25th to April 9th. The Festival was co-sponsored by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the French Ministry of Culture, the Florence Gould Foundation, and the Franco-American Cultural Fund, among others. It was held in the SMU theatre in the Hughes-Trigg student center. A total of 5 franco-phone films were screened, including Anne Fontaine's *Coco Before Chanel* (2009), Rachid Bouchareb's *Days of Glory* (2006), and Mahamet-Saleh Haroun's *Daratt* (2006). Most of the films were from

France, however *Daratt* is an African film from Chad. Several of the films, including *Days of Glory* and *Daratt* were followed by discussions or debates led or moderated by faculty from SMU's French department. All of the films were well attended, and there was active audience participation during discussions and debates. The film festival provides a unique opportunity for the SMU French department to interact with the general public and demonstrate the value of the French language and francophone cultures to those who are perhaps less than familiar with both.



Daratt (2006)

SMU-in-Germany

Study at the Bauhaus University this summer!
May 23 - June 24, 2011 (first summer session)



Berlin 2010

Immerse yourself this summer in the German university life! Take classes at the Bauhaus University- Germany's famous art and architectural school- and live among German university students in single dorm rooms. Enjoy SMU group excursions to Berlin (3 nights) and Munich (2 nights) along with fun day trips – all included in program fee. Explore Europe on free weekends. Up to 7 credits can be earned by taking 2 courses. A CF course is offered and there is no language prerequisite.

For more information, please contact Drs. Gaettens or Pflum at mgaetten@smu.edu or eapflum@smu.edu or the SMU Study Abroad Office.

News from the Japanese Area



Philip H. Solomon Award

The SMU Japanese Program is happy to announce that this year's recipient of Philip H. Solomon Awards in Foreign Languages and Literatures in Japanese is Ms. Chelsea King.

Japanese Disaster Relief

The SMU Japanese Program showed support for the Japanese Association at Southern Methodist University (JASMU) in raising funds for victims of the Japan earthquake and tsunami through a lecture and t-shirt sales. A public fundraising lecture was held Tuesday, April 12 in McCord Auditorium. Dean William Tsutsui was in Tokyo at the time of the earthquake as a member of the Japanese American Leadership Delegation. He was joined by Brian Stump, Albritton Professor of Geological Sciences in Dedman College, a recognized seismology expert who leads a national university consortium funded by the National Science Foundation and works with the U.S. Geological Survey to manage global earthquake data.

More information can be found at:

http://blog.smu.edu/forum/2011/03/smu_community_raises_funds_for_japan_quake_victims.html

News from the Latin Area

Lingua Latina non est mortua - sed immortalis!

Salvete, omnes. Latin is most definitely alive on the campus at SMU. In the fall, Latin students and members of the Classical Studies Club convened in the "arena" outside of Dallas Hall to test their skills as gladiators.



2011-2012 officers of Eta Sigma Phi
National Honorary Society for
Students of Latin and Greek

Gathering on March 3, Eta Sigma Phi Officers inducted new members into the Alpha Gamma Chapter of the National Honor Society for Students of Greek and Latin.

At the Honors Day Assembly in April, Latin student Cassandra Pankonien will be awarded the Phillip H. Solomon Book Prize for Latin and Monika Hoang will be the recipient of the Isaac Gustave Bromberg Award for Latin.

Professor Patricia Rawlins has been elected President of the Texas Classical Association, the state-wide organization for Latin and Greek educators at the university, secondary and middle school levels.



Eta Sigma Phi Induction of New Members

SMU- 2011

News from the Spanish Area

Prestigious Fellowship

Gabriel Martínez Serna was awarded a prestigious John Carter Brown Fellowship to conduct research at the John Carter Brown Library, Rhode Island, next summer 2011 for his book manuscript "Vineyards in the Desert: The Jesuits and the Rise and Decline of an Indian Town in New Spain's Northeastern Borderlands."

This information comes from the official webpage:

"The John Carter Brown Library is an independently administered and funded center for advanced research in history and the humanities, founded in 1846 and located at Brown University since 1901. Housed within the Library's walls is an internationally renowned, constantly growing collection of primary historical sources pertaining to the Americas, both North and South, before ca. 1825. The collection of 50,000 rare books (printed before ca. 1825) and 16,000 reference books and secondary sources (printed after ca. 1825) is distinguished in a dozen subject areas and significant in many others. Most well-known, perhaps, are the Library's extensive holdings in the literature of European exploration and travel in the Western Hemisphere, from the first Latin edition of the Columbus letter of 1493, through nearly all of the contemporary narratives of Spanish, Portuguese, French, Dutch, and English discovery, exploration, and settlement."

Recent Publication

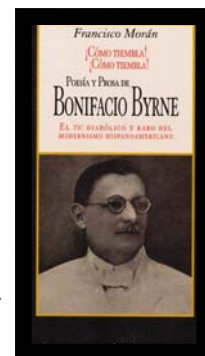
Elizabeth Rojs-Auda, Ph.D., published an article last summer. It was titled "La revelacion de la condicion de la mujer indigena en Aves sin nido." *Mentalities/ Mentalites* (Journal of Psychohistorians and Historians of Mentalities) University of Waikato, New Zealand. Vol. 24:1 2010.

Excéntricas

In republishing Bonifacio Byrne's *Excéntricas* (1893), **Francisco Morán** (Associate Professor of Spanish) made a significant contribution to the advance of literary criticism in the field of Spanish American modernism. Bonifacio Byrne is one the most original voices of Cuban modernism but he had remained ignored by critics because *Excéntricas* had not been reprinted again. The volume - whose complete title is *¡Cómo tiembla! ¡Cómo tiembla! Poesía y Prosa de Bonifacio Byrne* - is both a critical and carefully commented edition of *Excéntricas* and other selections of Byrne's poetry and prose, which also includes an updated bibliography and a survey of critical approaches to his poetry. The edition also features a rigorous introduction - the first academic approach on Byrne ever written - that introduces the author to the reader, places the poet in the context of his time and brings to light his singularity as a *modernista* poet. The book was published by Stockcero.

Prof. Francisco Morán traveled to Argentina last September where he made a presentation at the Conference on Caribbean and Latin American literatures (University of Cordoba) on José Lezama Lima. Read an interview with Prof. Moran by visiting <http://www.ffyh.unc.edu.ar/ciffyh/2010/09/29/entrevista-francisco-moran>.

He was also invited by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to make a presentation on José Martí on April 2011. Another invitation, this time from the University of Bergen, will take him to Norway. At the University of Bergen, Prof. Morán will make a presentation on contemporary Cuban poetry.



Recent Student Presentations

“Nothing more lovely than intercourse”



Please join John McAfee for a presentation on Thomas Mann's *The Transposed Heads*, Jorge Luis Borges's "The Intruder," Alfonso Cuarón's *Y tu mamá también* & Pedro Cabiya's *The Head*.

May 4, 4:00 p.m. 234 Clements Hall

Hosted by Prof. Francisco Moran
Southern Methodist University's Department of World Languages and Literatures

Recent Student Presentations



Movement, Music and Word: A showing of collaborative works by Dance, Music and Spanish Literature Students

May 6, 2011

4:00pm

Meadows Museum at Southern Methodist University