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Letters from the Chair...

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Foreign Languages,

Our spring semester is in full swing, and our department has been very active. Dr. Sánchez-Conejero is organizing an international conference titled "Spanishness' in the Spanish Novel and Cinema of the 20th-21st Century" at UNT March 14-15, while Dr. Marijn S. Kaplan and I are organizing the 2008 International Women in French Conference, around the theme "Women in the Middle," April 10-12 at the American Airlines Training and Conference Center in Fort Worth. Both events will attract distinguished keynote speakers and scholars from around the world (see the Events section on our web site at www.forl.unt.edu). As President of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF), I have been organizing the 2008 annual convention which will be held in Liège, Belgium in July.

On February 15, Dr. Solveig Olsen, Professor Emerita of German, was honored for her many contributions to the college and UNT through the Profiles of Leadership series; Dean Burggren organized a reception during which a display of her memorabilia was unveiled.

Our curriculum is expanding. We will add Portuguese to our offerings in Fall 2008; this will be our 11th language.

New faculty-led programs will be held abroad this summer. Dr. Jongsoo Lee and Dr. Jiyoun Yoon will teach advanced Spanish courses in Guadalajara, Mexico, and I will direct a French graduate program in Geneva, Switzerland and Liège, Belgium thanks to a large grant that I received from the UNT Hispanic and Global Studies Initiative Fund.

I would like to thank and congratulate Mr. Robert DeLutri, Lecturer in Spanish and new Editor of our newsletter, for his dedication in this area and many others in our department.

We have new faces in the Department: Dr. Aili Zheng as Assistant Professor of German, and Ms. Laura Wheeler as Administrative Assistant II, (see back cover) while we said goodbye to long-time colleagues, Dr. Jerry Nash and Ms. Treva Sandefur (see page three).

This newsletter puts us in touch with many alumni and retired colleagues. As a result, we keep receiving several donations. Feel free to contribute to our gift account or the scholarship funds listed on page two. Please let us hear from you. If you happen to be in the area, I would be very happy to show you around the Language Building and our state-of-the-art facilities.



Truly yours,
Marie-Christine Koop
Professor of French and Department Chair



"Friendship"

Recent Publications

Dr. Ignacio López-Calvo has edited the volume *Alternative Orientalisms in Latin America and Beyond* (England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing: 2007). The interdisciplinary approach of the book opens the door to essays dealing with literature, culture, anthropology, history, visual arts, and music.

Dr. López-Calvo has also co-edited the anthology, "Caminos para la paz: literatura israelí y árabe en castellano" (Buenos Aires: Corregidor, 2008). The anthology features 40 Israeli authors and 25 writers from the Arab world and is the first of its kind.

Dr. Cristina Sánchez-Conejero has edited the book, "Spanishness in the Spanish Novel and Cinema of the 20th-21st Century," 259 pages, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. There are a total of 20 contributions by distinguished scholars from different countries, including a chapter written by Dr. Sánchez-Conejero.

Dr. Michel Sirvent has authored *Georges Perec ou Le dialogue des genres* (Collection Monographique en Littérature Française Contemporaine 45: Amsterdam/New York: 2007). The book presents the four aspects that define the work of this late-20th Century writer. Particular attention is paid to the unusual typographic way this work blends the genres of autobiography and fiction.

(continued on page 3)

Sponsored Scholarships

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is proud and grateful to announce that, thanks to the generosity of its sponsors, the following UNT students have been awarded scholarships this year:

Scholarship in French: James Stewart (Martha and Voncile Liddell); Marianella Nunez (Vidrine Study Abroad); Whitney Vallenari (Solveig Olsen Expendable)

Scholarship in German: Amy Hall (Jacob Hieble); Katherine Larkin (Solveig Olsen Expendable); Audrey Saathoff (Jacob Hieble); Andrew Wasserman (Martha Olsen Memorial)

Scholarship in Spanish: Mayra Camacho (Solveig Olsen Expendable); Chase Cannon (Mildred Masters McCarty); and the following students have been awarded Martha Olsen Memorial Scholarship: Alisha Bigbie, Eric Hoenig, Sara Lowry, Tierney Nelson, April Rivas, Suzanne Townsdin.

We, and more importantly, the students are deeply appreciative of the generous contributions that have been made to language and cultural education at UNT.

Our scholarship pool can grow and be sustained only through the financial support of our donors, the Friends of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, to whom we send this newsletter. We hope you will consider sending us a gift today.

Our established sponsored scholarships to undergraduate language students include:

- The Smith Dannelly Scholarship
- The Donald R. Vidrine French Scholarship
- The Dr. Jacob Hieble Scholarship
- The Martha & Voncile Lidell Scholarship
- The Mildred Masters McCarthy Scholarship
- The Martha A. Olsen Memorial Scholarship
- The Solveig Olsen Endowed Scholarship for German
- The Solveig Olsen French Expandable Fund
- The Solveig Olsen German Expandable Fund
- The Solveig Olsen Spanish Expandable Fund
- The Solveig Olsen Endowed Scholarship in German
- The Donald R. Vidrine French Scholarship

If you would like to contribute to our gift account or establish a scholarship fund for either undergraduate or graduate language students, please use the enclosed envelope or contact Dr. Marie-Christine Koop. You may reach her at (940) 565-2404 or e-mail her at koop@unt.edu. All contributions are tax deductible.

Departmental Events

Dr. Lawrence Williams has been organizing and conducting workshops on distance learning. A growing number of our faculty members are beginning or, at least, considering teaching courses on line. In addition, we are deeply indebted to Dr. Williams for his meticulous work in redesigning our departmental website. Please visit www.forl.unt.edu and join us in expressing our sincere thanks to Dr. Williams for all his efforts!

Ms. María Muñiz, Lecturer in Spanish, has received a Learning Enhancement Grant from the Provost to develop a course taught completely on line. This will be a first in our department. Congratulations, Ms. Muñiz!

Dr. Marie-Christine Koop is the recipient of a very generous grant from the UNT Hispanic and Global Studies Initiative Fund in order to organize a French graduate program in Geneva, Switzerland and Liège, Belgium this summer. Our best wishes for a successful program!

The Chinese Student Scholars Association hosted "The Mid-Autumn Festival Party," which was held in the Student Union. One of the many highlights was to hear students from **Ms. Jiaying Hu's** Chinese 1010 class sing in Chinese the folk song, "Jasmine Flower." Chinese New Year was celebrated in February with performances and song by students from Ms. Hu's second-semester Chinese class. Thank you, Ms. Hu, for these very enjoyable evenings!

Also in February, four UNT Japanese language students, **Betsy Foley**, **Alyse Hashi**, **Arielle King**, and **Adrian Lanquette**, participated in the 11th annual Japanese Speech Contest. Please join us in congratulating Alyse for taking second prize, Arielle for fifth prize, and **Ms Yayoi Takeuchi** for encouraging her students to participate.

Retirements



Ms. Sandefur and Dr. Nash attend Faculty Luncheon, December 2007

Dr. Jerry Nash, Regents Professor of French, retired in December 2007 after spending nearly ten years in our department which he chaired 1997-2003. He had previously been at the University of New Orleans for 25 years. He is now back in New Orleans where his family resides.

Ms. Treva Sandefur, Administrative Assistant II, retired in August 2007 after working in our department for 28 years. She saw many changes in the course of her tenure with us and was considered the "soul" of the Department. She is now enjoying her new life in Denton and comes to our parties.

PUBLICATIONS, continued from p. 2

Dr. Jiyoung Yoon has authored *Small Clauses in Spanish: The Semantics of Transitivity* (Munich: Lincom Publishers: 2007). The present semantic-functional study analyzes small clauses in Spanish in terms of the semantics of main verbs, small clause predicates, direct objects, and subjects. This study claims that the licensing of the small clauses depends on the interaction among the semantic properties of the elements of a sentence.

Please join us in congratulating Drs. López-Calvo, Sánchez-Conejero, Sirvent and Yoon on these great achievements!

Professors Emeriti

We are very pleased to announce that two of our retired professors, **Dr. ... Damico** (Latin) and **Dr. Lee Nahr-gang** (German) have been approved for the Emeritus status by the UNT Board of Regents. Please join us in congratulating these deserving colleagues!

Distinguished Lecturers Series

In October, the Department of Foreign Languages received our first distinguished speaker for this academic year. Dr. Beatriz J. Rizk, a renowned Columbian-American scholar and theatre promoter, gave a lecture entitled "Other Latino Theatre: Contending Models and the Policies of Form."

In November, Dr. Yukie Aida of the University of Texas at Austin presented the surprising and encouraging lecture, "Storytelling by Students of Second Semester Japanese."

In March, Dr. Hans Boas of the University of Texas at Austin presented a fascinating lecture on "The Texas German Dialect Archive: Documenting the Speech of Cowboys in Lederhosen."

We are pleased to announce that the renowned specialist of 17th Century French theatre from Oklahoma State University, Dr. Perry Gethner will present "Women in the Middle: Contributions of French Women Writers in the Early Modern Period," on April 10, at three p.m. This will conclude the Distinguished Lecturers Series for this academic year and will lead us into the International Women in French Conference (see page one).

You are cordially invited to attend our Distinguished Lecturers Series and the receptions that follow. Please visit our website for future events.

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Welcome to Dr. Zheng and Ms. Laura Wheeler

New German Professor



Dr. Aili Zheng joined the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in fall 2007. Dr. Zheng, a native of Beijing, received her Ph. D. from Johns Hopkins University. She specializes in twentieth century

German and Austrian literature, culture and film. In her spare time Dr. Zheng enjoys running and playing tennis. In summer 2008 Dr. Zheng will participate in the Austrian Women's Run in Vienna. Dr. Zheng has also recently received a UNT Faculty Research Grant. Congratulations and welcome, Dr. Zheng!

New Administrative Assistant



Native Californian, **Laura Michelle Wheeler** joined the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in the summer of 2007.

Laura holds a Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Chico in Recreation Administration, with a specialization in Therapeutic Recreation and Psychology. Her hobbies include computers and technology, reading, music and watching her cats run laps in her new house.

Please join us in expressing a Texas-sized welcome to Laura!