From the Coordinator

Dear Faculty, Students, and Friends:

Welcome to UWM and the new academic year! We are pleased to present this fourth edition of the program newsletter and look forward to its continued publication every fall. This 2009-2010 school year, 31 new students are entering the program from as far afield as Albania, Belarus, France, Jordan, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Turkey, and Venezuela.

We also welcome a new faculty member, Simonetta Milli, who is joining the program as Assistant Professor in Italian this fall.

I would like to announce that MAFLL will change its name to MALLT – Master of Arts in Language, Literature, and Translation – sometime in Fall 2009, once the change is approved by various university-wide governance committees and administrators. The program itself is not changing, however. Program faculty voted to modify the name in order to include Translation, which has grown steadily since its creation in 1997, into the title. MALLT reflects the diversity of our Master’s program in the new century.

This newsletter highlights new core seminars and the variety of student and faculty activities in languages, literatures, and translation, from research around the world to court interpreting. Unfortunately, there is not enough space in this newsletter to provide details of all recent faculty publications, but I invite MAFLL faculty, students, and alumni to e-mail me (verdier@uwm.edu) with news of events, job opportunities, grants, awards, and publications. As MAFLL Coordinator, I look forward to sharing news of your accomplishments in e-mail announcements, MAFLL website postings, and future newsletters.

Cordially,
Gabrielle Verdier, MAFLL Coordinator

Exciting new MAFLL core seminars in Spring 2010

The array of MAFLL seminars in Spring 2010 includes two new co-taught seminars, in addition to regularly-offered MAFLL 709: Seminar in Literature and Cultural Translation; MAFLL 741: Approaches to the Modern II.


Spring 2010, Thurs 5:30-8:10pm, Instructors: Y. Mazor & D. Williams

This new jointly-taught seminar will offer students a rare opportunity to apply literary analysis to one of the foundational documents of Western civilization, the Bible, which is also considered a literary classic. Applying the theories and methodologies of literary analysis to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the Christian Bible/New Testament, the seminar will expose students to a variety of approaches that not only unveil the aesthetic mechanisms that operate within the texts, but also demonstrate how these “cryptic” aesthetic mechanisms serve and enhance the ideological (religious, moral, historical, national, political, ritual and social) messages that are couched within Biblical texts.

The course will be taught simultaneously by two uniquely qualified scholars. Yair Mazor, (Hebrew Studies Program, FLL) holds a Ph.D. from Tel Aviv University and specializes in the study of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and in literary theory. Demetrius K. Williams (FICL and Religious Studies Program) holds a D.D. from the Harvard Divinity School and specializes in the study of the New Testament/Christian Bible.

Please contact Yair Mazor (ymazor@uwm.edu) and Demetrius Williams (williamd@uwm.edu) for more information!

MAFLL 706: Seminar in Foreign Language Methodology and Pedagogy

Spring 2010, Tues 5:30-8:10, Instructors: A. Alkhas & J. Schueller

Does correcting students’ errors improve their target language proficiency? Should the teacher use the target language exclusively in class? How much exposure to lexical items is necessary before learners acquire them? Do individual factors such as age and gender influence language acquisition? Why don’t all students achieve a high level of proficiency after spending a year abroad? Are reading and listening really “passive” skills? Why is authentic input critical for language learners? What is cultural literacy and how do students acquire it? How has technology impacted the way languages are learned? What does current research tell us about the language learning process?

If you are curious about these questions (and more!) related to language learning, then we invite you to join us as we explore the interrelated fields of applied linguistics, second language acquisition, language methodology, and pedagogy. Through critical reading and discussion of leading theories of language learning, we will examine the linkage between theory and practice. We will consider, evaluate, and even challenge theories and research, as well as our own assumptions about language learning and teaching. You will gain hands-on experience in designing a research study to test an aspect of the language learning process that you are particularly interested in.

Please contact Anita Alkhas (alkhas@uwm.edu) and Jeanne Schueller (jeannems@uwm.edu) for more information!
MAFLL Program Graduates

DECEMBER 2008
Ryoko Osada (Linguistics)

MAY/AUGUST 2009
Andrés Aluma-Carzola (Spanish Translation)
María Alejandra Alvaro
Lin An (French)
Abdelaadim Bidaoui (Linguistics)
Maira Davalos-Tinajero (Spanish Translation)
Ana Francisco (Spanish Translation)
Kyoung Ea Han (Linguistics)
John Kellogg (German & Linguistics)
Parithep Kohdkam (Linguistics)
Cletus Kuunifaa (French Translation)
Sooyeon Lee (Linguistics)
Alison Mishur (Spanish)
Abdellatif Oulhaj (Linguistics)
Kelsie Pattillo (German & Linguistics)
Nancy Peréz-Renteria (Spanish)
Susan Richardson (German)
Jennifer Schultz (German Translation & MLIS)
Anne Schumacher (German)
Katrina Steffes (Spanish Translation)
Melanie Taylor (French)
Juan Wu (Linguistics)
Hie-Jung You (Linguistics)
Hyo-Seung You (Linguistics)

May and August graduates stop to smile for a picture, from left to right: Allison Mishur; Maira Davalos; Ana Francisco; and María Alejandra Alvaro.

MAFLL Student and Alumni News

Congratulations to MAFLL students and alumni on their recent accomplishments:

Andrés Aluma-Carzola (Spanish Translation August 2009) was awarded a 2009 Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) Graduate Student Travel grant. He will present a paper entitled “Translating Conflict Resolution in Latin America” at the Encuentro Internacional de Traductores Literarios in Mexico City.

Abdelaadim Bidaoui (Linguistics August 2009) will attend the University of Urbana-Champaign to pursue a Ph D in Linguistics and was awarded a Teaching Assistantship in Arabic.

Aaron Cengiz (Spanish Translation August 2008) has completed his first year teaching Spanish at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He was accepted to the Ph D. program in Translation Studies at SUNY Binghamton and will begin studies in Fall 2009. He and his wife welcomed their third child in May.

Nataliya Dmitrievia (French Translation August 2008) was admitted to the Ph D. program in Translation Studies at Kent State which will include a full fellowship award.

Ted Graham (Comp Lit & Classics May 2008) was accepted into a Ph D. program at Duke University and was offered fellowships to cover his tuition.

Nelson Lopez (Spanish 2004) works as Associate Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies Program and Nicaragua Study Abroad Program Director, at Binghamton University. He was the recipient of a bursary for the British Centre on Literary Translation summer school in Norwich, UK. In addition, he has fulfilled all requirements to become ABD in the Translation Program at Binghamton University this fall.

Alexis Pollitz (German Translation May 2008) just accepted a position with Corporate Translation Incorporated in Chicago, IL as an Associate Project Manager where she will work on pharmaceutical related translation projects.

Laurel Radomska (German May 2008) is working in Marshfield, WI at Columbus Catholic Middle and High School as a German instructor. She and her fiancé, former UMM student Jay Schenkoske of Curtis Ambulance, married in June 2009.

Nathalie Ségéral (Comp Lit May 2007) is in her second year studying Psychiatry and Literature in the Ph D. program of French and Francophone Studies at UCLA. She was recently awarded the “Mellon Fellowship on Holocaust Studies in American and World Culture” for research on the female writings of trans-generational trauma in descendents of Holocaust survivors. This summer she did research in Berlin and participating in a French Cultural Studies program at Dartmouth College. She also has been working on translation publications and presenting at conferences.

Martina Senfle (German Translation May 2007) works remotely for the Milwaukee based company Point-to-Point Translation office from Waukesha.

Kevin Walker (German Translation May 2007) is working on a German to Russian translation of Luther’s works in Siberia while studying and working remotely on translation projects for the Point-to-Point Translation office of Milwaukee.
MAFLL Faculty Highlights


Michelle Bolduc published *The Medieval Poetics of Contraries*, Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2006, which was nominated by the University Press of Florida for the Modern Language Association Prize for a First Book (2007). She also published the articles “Mourning and Sexual Difference in Hans-Jürgen Syberberg’s Parsifal” in *Queer Movie Medievalisms*, Ed Kelly Coyne and Tison Pugh. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2009: 201-220 and “Gautier de Coinci and the Translation of Exegesis,” *Neophilologus* (published online August 5, 2008). In addition to the publications Bolduc has received notable awards such as the Mellon Fellowship Award (Summer 2008) and an NEH Summer Seminar. She was also promoted to Associate rank in June 2008 and began serving as Comparative Literature Coordinator in Spring 2009.

Elizabetta Cova published preliminary research on “Italian Prehistory and the Emergence of Italian Museums in Basenna,” *Journal of the Center for Etruscan Studies: Vol. 2: Iss. 1 Article 1*. She was awarded a CIE faculty Travel grant and a Graduate School Faculty Arts and Humanities Travel grant. The funds were used to travel to Stabiae, Italy in June 2009 in order to carry out a site survey and preliminary meetings to develop an archaeological project there in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Restoring Ancient Stabiae (RAS) foundation. Over the summer she also returned to Cyprus to continue work on inscriptions discovered at the site of Athienou-Malloura, as well as Roman material from the same site. Beginning in the fall of 2009 she will be coordinator of the Certificate for Ancient Mediterranean Studies (CAMS) and will also serve as vice president of the Milwaukee society of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA).


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María del Pilar Melgarejo Acosta received a Graduate School Research Committee Award for 2009-2010 for her book project, *Language of Regeneration: The Production of Political Discourse in Colombia and Mexico*.

Jeanne Schueller published *Cinema for German Conversation*. Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing, R. Pullins Company, 2009. Her current area of research is on using German film as authentic input in second and foreign language classes. She hopes to conduct a study examining the effects of different types of previewing activities on intermediate learners’ film comprehension. She is also writing a paper on the history and development of using film in second and foreign language classes drawing on articles dating back to 1940.


Gabrielle Verdier was invited to make a presentation on the theater of the Olympe de Gouges, political figure of the 1789 French Revolution and author of the “Declaration of the Rights of Women and Citizen.” The conference, “Olympe de Gouges, une femme du XXIe,” siècle, was organized by UNESCO and *Le Monde Diplomatique* and held in Paris in November 2008. Verdier was also selected to receive the UWM Distinguished University Service Award in October 2009.

Jennifer Watson was awarded a Graduate School Research Committee Award to work on a biography of Selma Lagerlöf. She will also begin serving as chair of the department of Foreign Language and Literature at UWM in Fall 2009.

**MAFLL Welcomes Assistant Professor of Italian Simonetta Milli-Konewko**

The MAFLL Program wishes to welcome to its faculty Simonetta Milli-Konewko, Assistant Professor of Italian, who received her Ph.D. in Modern Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2007, and her Laurea di ricerca in Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures from the University of Urbino, Italy, in 1990. She has delivered numerous scholarly papers on topics related to Italian neorealist literature, the Resistance Movement, and the Holocaust, at international conferences held in Poland, Italy, Britain, and the United States. She is currently working on a book-length study, tentatively titled “Neorealism and Models of Compassion,” which draws upon contemporary theories of the emotions in order to develop new interpretations of Italian Neorealist works in literature and film.
Welcome new MAFLL students for Fall 2009

This year we welcome 31 students coming from all over the United States and the world. We wish these students a successful start in the MAFLL program!

Zafer Al Lababidi (Linguistics)
Dola Algady (Linguistics)
Melanie Anke-Bando (German)
Amy Bachar (Hebrew)
Myriem Bennani (French)
Priscilla Charrat (French exchange student)
Natallia Chereshneva (TRNSLTN-G & Ling)
Debra Desmoulin (French)
Majlinda Dode (French)
Maha El Sherif (Linguistics)
Carine Graff (TRNSLTN –French)
Amanda Heintskill (German)
Jessica Hermanny (TRNSLTN-German)
Katherine Iselin (Classical Greek)
Mary Jorgensen (Spanish)
Amy Knisely (French)
Sara Lohnner (French)
Mohamed Masalkhi (Comp Lit)
Yarin Medina (TRNSLTN-Spanish)
Maciej Miaskowski (Linguistics)
Tim Miller (Comp Lit)
Irma Montoya (TRNSLTN-Spanish)
Laura Prado (TRNSLTN-Spanish)
David Reher (Comp Lit)
Amanda Romanski (TRNSLTN-Spanish)
Zlatko Sadikovic (German)
Susan Schweigert (TRNSLTN-Spanish)
Robin Synhorst (Linguistics)
Ayse Telseren-Kepenek (Linguistics)
Shintaro Tokunaga (Linguistics)
Timothy Walsh (TRNSLTN-Spanish & Comp Lit)

MAFLL Faculty In the Field

Michelle Bolduc: Researches in Italy

This summer, Michelle Bolduc participated in a month-long NEH Summer Seminar devoted to Dante’s Divine Comedy and the Medieval World. Held in Prato, Italy, the seminar examined the Divine Comedy in an interdisciplinary fashion, exploring the way in which it influenced, and was influenced by, contemporary art and politics. In addition to the work of the seminar, Bolduc conducted research on the Hebrew reception of Dante’s work in thirteenth- and fourteenth-century manuscripts held in libraries in Florence. She is excited to share all that she learned with students of her class on the Divine Comedy, which will be offered again during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Susan Rascón: Court Interpreting

Susan Rascón’s recent activities illustrate a few of the many opportunities available to translators and interpreters. For the last three seasons, she has done the translation and captioning of the ¡Adelante! program on Milwaukee Public Television. She is currently translating Mexicanos al grito de muerte, scheduled for publication by Arte Público Press in 2010. This non-fiction work deals with the issue of Mexican citizens sentenced to death in the US.

Susan interprets in state and federal courts throughout Wisconsin and is one of the trainers for the Director of State Courts Wisconsin Court Interpreter Training and Certification Program. She does telephonic interpreting in legal and medical contexts. This summer Susan did simultaneous interpreting at a three-day conference. A federally-certified court interpreter since 2002, Susan has interpreted for several federal trials per year in Wisconsin and neighboring states. She was one of the interpreters present at the time of the large immigration raid in Postville, Iowa in May of 2008, and is scheduled to interpret at an important trial in this case later this year.

Susan’s translation of Eduardo González Vña’s Dante’s Ballad (2007) was nominated for the 2009 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. (www.impacdublinaward.ie).

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MAFLL Faculty In the Field

Kate Scholz: New Lecturer in Translation Program
MAFLL is pleased to announce that Kathryn (Kate) Scholz has accepted a lecturer position in the Translation program. She comes to us with an MA in Editing & Interdisciplinary Writing, an MA in Teaching (expected 2010), and experience in editing and professional writing from Oxford UP, Graywolf Press, and the marketing and healthcare industries. Her duties include coordinating internships and she has already helped to place students at sites in Milwaukee (at area hospitals and translation companies), Washington D.C. (Goethe Institute) and in Paris (working with a freelancer)! Kate also has reinstated UWM Language Service, for which she is project manager. The Service is again busy connecting students with interesting translation jobs. In addition, Kate teaches important classes for the program, both onsite and online, including Editing for the Translation Industry and Business & Professional Aspects of Translation.

Caroline Seymour-Jorn: USIFL Grant
MAFLL faculty Caroline Seymour-Jorn (PI), Anita Alkhas and Hamid Ouali have been awarded a Title VI Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program grant from the US Department of Education. This grant, which includes Ellen Amster of the History department, is aimed at strengthening undergraduate Arabic language and Middle East/ North African Studies at UWM. The program faculty, assisted by UWM Center for International Education staff and an advisory board, will develop UWM’s curricular offerings in the field of Arabic language studies, Middle East history, literature and culture, and will also expand UWM’s study abroad opportunities in the Middle East. In addition, the program will build demand for language and area studies by developing a Middle East film festival program and an expert speaker series, which will bring Middle East experts to campus for lectures and discussions on a variety of issues. The USIFL grant will extend over a period of two years.

Lorena Terando: United Nations
Lorena Terando (Associate Professor and Coordinator, Graduate Program in Translation) has accepted a temporary contract as remote translator/précis-writer for the 44th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW is an expert body, established in 1982, that watches over progress for women’s rights in the countries that have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Please see www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committee.htm and www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/index.htm for more information on CEDAW. A précis is a permanent record of United Nations bodies for which it is authorized, giving a clear, concise summary of convention or meeting proceedings. It summarizes the views of speakers and records decisions taken. Off-site contracting is increasingly a fiscally viable option for the United Nations, which regularly employs remote freelance translators/précis-writers as well as on-site temporary staff. During the 44th Session of CEDAW, a team of on-site précis-writers will attend meetings, assemble documents, and ensure that sound and text files are sent via Internet to all off-site locations, where précis-writers around the world glean relevant information and fashion summaries. Once completed, the remote writers submit summaries via e-mail to staff editors who begin the rigorous quality control process.
MAFLL Faculty In the Field

Jennifer Watson: German Milwaukee

UWM students of German published the book, *German Milwaukee*, in the Images of America series from Arcadia Publishing this summer. The book grew out of a class taught by Professor Jenny Watson in the fall of 2009. After encountering numerous students at UWM who had fascinating stories of their families emigrating from Germany and settling in Milwaukee, Professor Watson decided it was time to teach a course on the German emigration to Milwaukee and the contributions they made to the city. She decided to create a research course where the students themselves could go through original material and discover German Milwaukee.

In designing and researching for the course, Professor Watson was overwhelmed by the incredible amount of primary source material there was. She also could not believe the wealth of pictorial images to be found. What was even more amazing was her discovery that no one had culled these incredible pictures to create a book for the Images of America series. This became the focus of the course: a pictoral history of the German American contributions to Milwaukee.

The beginning of the course concentrated on the history of German immigration to the US and to Milwaukee. Students (14 undergraduates and 3 graduates) then divided themselves by topic, ranging from architecture, religion and education, politics, business, the social scene, the arts, women and war. They did primary research on these topics, mainly in the archives of the Milwaukee County Historical Society, the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Max Kade Institute. Images were then used to “depict” the research.

Arcadia Publishing was extremely pleased with the end product and the book is now in bookstores across Milwaukee. The students have their first book signing at Boswell Books on August 13th.
Proposed course for Spring 2010

MAFLL 712: Bibliographic and Research Methodology

This course would provide an introduction to text-based research methods of various disciplines within the MAFLL program, including languages, linguistics, literatures, and translation. Students would acquire knowledge of print and electronic bibliographic research sources, develop skill and discernment in the integration of various resources into their academic writing, and apply sophisticated research and writing techniques to produce a graduate-level research paper suitable for publication.

MAFLL graduate Abdelaadim Bidaoui teaching Arabic for French and Spanish Speakers to MAFLL faculty, Summer 2009.

Roles Reversed—MAFLL Faculty Become Students Again!

Abdelaadim Bidaoui, Linguistics concentrator and Arabic TA, taught Intensive Arabic for four weeks in July 2009 to French professors Anita Alkhas, Larry Kuiper, Lori Terando, Gabrielle Verdier, Spanish professors Nancy Bird-Soto, Kathy Wheatley, Ester Suarez-Felipe, and LRC Director Mingyu Sun, with the assistance of Arabic language and literature professors Hamid Ouali and Caroline Seymour-Jorn. This is the first phase of an exciting project, Arabic for Speakers of French and Spanish, supported by a grant funded by the Center for International Education. The premise is that French and Spanish (and Italian) provide an advantageous gateway into the study of Arabic due to many linguistic, historical and cultural exchanges over fourteen centuries. There are also significant contemporary cultural, economic and political ties among the French, Spanish and Arabic speaking worlds. The project will result in a new course, “Arabic for Students of French and Spanish,” which will include an important online component on cultural and linguistic “bridges” between the countries on both sides of the Mediterranean. In addition, research shows that learning a third or fourth language is facilitated after learning a second because students are able to draw on the learning strategies and meta-linguistic skills that they have developed. This project and resulting course will thus also provide a source of data for better understanding 3rd language learning/acquisition.

MAFLL Coordinating Committee Members
2009-2010

Nancy Bird-Soto (Spanish & Portuguese)
Hamid Ouali (Linguistics)
Joseph Peschio (At-large Russian)
Ruth Schwertfeger (German)
Lorena Terando (Translation)
Gabrielle Verdier (MAFLL Coordinator & French)
Demetrius Williams (Comparative Literature)

Contact us

MAFLL faculty, students and alumni: Please email Program Coordinator Gabrielle Verdier (verdier@uwm.edu) with news of events, job opportunities, grants, awards, and publications.

For more MAFLL program news, please visit our website at:
www.uwm.edu/Dept/MAFLL/

And the Translation Program website at:
www.uwm.edu/Dept/GCIT/

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