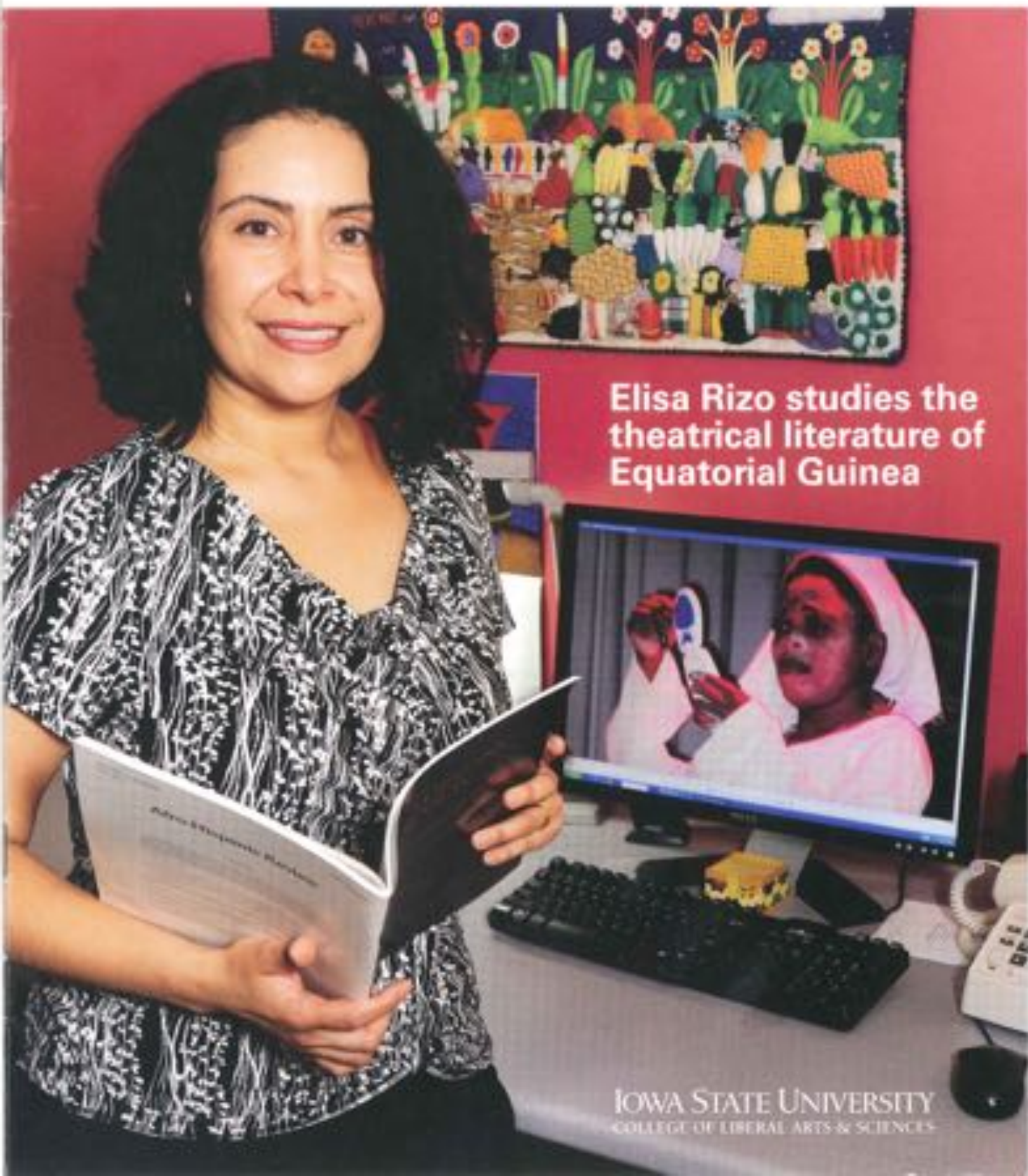


Department of World Languages and Cultures

Alumni Newsletter – Summer 2010



**Elisa Rizo studies the
theatrical literature of
Equatorial Guinea**

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

This newsletter is published once a year for the alumni, friends, and faculty of the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Iowa State University, an academic department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

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Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the Department of World Languages and Cultures Newsletter! This has been another busy year for WLC. Last fall we welcomed four new colleagues to the department: Gladia Blasetti (Assistant Professor of Spanish), Melissa Devinger (Assistant Professor of French), and Tonglu Li (Assistant Professor of Chinese). Nathan Henschenoth also joined WLC as our new Languages and Cultures for Professionals (LCP) Program Coordinator. We are delighted to have them with us in the Department. You can learn more about their background and interests in this issue of the newsletter.

The past year has also been punctuated by a number of activities. In October, WLC co-hosted the 12th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education along with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Engineering. This was an opportunity for many of the WLC faculty and students who are involved in the Languages and Cultures for Professionals program to exchange information and insights with colleagues from the U.S. and abroad who share our goal of preparing students for global professions. The selection of ISU as host site reflected the national recognition of our LCP program, our excellent collaboration with the College of Engineering, and the steady growth in student participation in our LCP major concentration to over 100 students in Engineering and Business. You can learn more about the colloquium program and view all of the presentations at: <http://www.eng.iastate.edu/acies/2009program.asp>

Another notable event, and one of the highlights of the past year, was the annual College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Awards Ceremony in October. At the ceremony, Mr. Ronald A. Schubert received the World Languages and Cultures Distinguished Alumni Award for 2009 in recognition of his professional achievement and commitment to education in world languages and cultures. As many of you know, Mr. Schubert has supported WLC students through the Ronald A. Schubert Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a student from a rural Iowa background who is majoring in German or Spanish.

We recognize the recipients of the Ronald A. Schubert Scholarship at our Annual Awards Ceremony in April along with many of our outstanding students in WLC. We are proud of the number of excellent students in the department at every level in the program – from those who are starting a new language in the first year to our graduating seniors who have completed their major. The Awards Ceremony is a very special event for all of us in WLC and a wonderful opportunity to meet the friends and

family of our awardees who attend the ceremony.

On a sad note, our colleague Walter Chatfield passed away on April 26, 2009. Walt retired in July 1988 after twenty-nine years as Assistant Professor of French and Spanish in the Department of World Languages and Cultures (Foreign Languages and Literatures). During his career at ISU, he trained nearly 400 teachers, many of whom maintained regular contact with Walt after his retirement. When I arrived at ISU in 1984, Walt was one of the first colleagues to welcome me to the department and to his home. We will certainly miss him. Walt's dedication to students and future teachers of world languages and cultures continues through the Walter Chatfield Scholarship.

We hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the WLC Newsletter with the latest news of faculty research, student achievements, and special events. We are encouraged that many of our students continue to participate in study abroad and internship experiences, despite the challenges of the current economy. WLC faculty direct some of the most successful study abroad programs at ISU, e.g., the ISU on the Mediterranean Summer Program in Valencia, Spain. We believe that now, more than ever, an education in world languages and cultures that includes a study abroad experience provides students with an invaluable personal and professional asset – one that will have a profound impact on their future no matter what paths in life they may travel. Many of our scholarships in WLC are funded by WLC alumni, friends, and faculty who help our students participate in a study abroad experience. We are particularly grateful to all of the alumni and friends who support our students through these scholarships. To learn more about WLC Academic Scholarships, visit our website at: <http://www.language.iastate.edu/train/advising/Scholarships.htm>

If you have a particularly memorable study abroad experience from your own time at ISU or a language and culture experience that you would like to share, please drop me an email at mrw@iastate.edu and we will try to include it in a future issue of the WLC Newsletter.

Finally, if your travels bring you to Ames and ISU, please drop by for a visit. You can also visit us in cyberspace at www.language.iastate.edu for news on programs and activities.

Mark

Mark Rectanus
Professor of German and Chair

12th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education

Co-hosted by World Languages and Cultures, College of Engineering, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Many of the Languages and Cultures for Professionals faculty in WLC participated in the 12th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education which was held October 22-25, 2009, at ISU. The theme was Engineering for the Future—Global Pathways. The annual Colloquium provides a forum for leaders from universities, government, industry, and nonprofits to discuss and share ideas and best practices pertaining to the education of engineers for today's global workplace, including the development of language and culture skills for global professions. The Colloquium was co-sponsored by Iowa State University's College of Engineering and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Faculty & Staff Notes

Jean-Pierre Taouel was named "TWLA Educator of the Year (University Level)" at the Iowa World Language Association Conference in 2009.

Julio Rodriguez received an "TWLA Service Award" at the Iowa World Language Association Conference in 2009.

Julia Dominguez received an award for Early Achievement in Teaching from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Rachel Haywood-Ferreira received an award for Early Achievement in Teaching from Iowa State University.

Olga Mesropova presented the Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Lecture: "Putin's Russia and the Ideology of Glamour" on November 17, 2009, in the Sun Room, Memorial Union.

Claudia Mueller received an award for Merit Excellence from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Chinese Students Win Awards



Twenty-four students from the Chinese Studies Program in the Dept. of World Languages and Cultures at ISU participated in The Eleventh Cross-University Chinese Language Performance Competition/Talent Show on April 25th, 2009, at the University of Iowa.

The competition is held every two years. This time it was sponsored by the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Iowa Confucius Institute, and the University of Iowa. Four universities took part in the competition: the University of Iowa, Grinnell College, Wisconsin University, and Iowa State University.

ISU earned five performances in the competition. Seven total prizes were awarded: four third prizes, two second prizes, and one first prize. All five performances from ISU won a prize, including the grand first prize!

All three performances from our first-year students won a third prize. The only entrance from the second-year also won a third prize. The first prize was awarded to ISU's third-year group. Each and every student who went to Iowa City for the competition came back with an award in the form of a paper certificate and some hard cash. The titles of the performances and the names of our winners are:



First-year students; third place prizes:

An Inconvenient Truth by Jayson Hansen, Annabelle Hill, and Katie Flickinger

The Mouse Marriage by Stephen Huebalt, Xu Ju, Christine Yee, Justin Gleason, Colin Robin, Griffin West, Wallace Davis, and Daniel Hefel

Many People on the Bus in Beijing by Nick Jaebgardl, Brian Hubbard, Kristina Emerick, Jeffrey Wilson, Natasha Wadsworth, and Kelby Barker

Second-year students; third place prize:

Seeing the Doctor by Amelia Doermann, Caitlin Toppler, Mitchell Stevens, and Brian Drake

Third-year; first place prize:

Mystery Cove by Andrew Becker, Ming-yeer Li, and Derek Widman

ISU has participated in this competition four times over the years, but this year was our best showing. Faculty members from other universities were very impressed by the quality of work that our students demonstrated and they commented that ISU students were a very positive influence on their students.

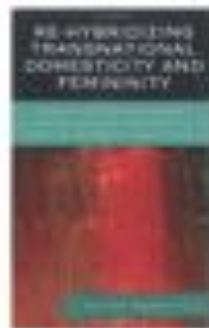
Faculty Book Publication

Stacey Weber-Five, Assistant Professor of French, has published a book titled, *Re-hybridizing Transnational Domesticity and Femininity: Women's Contemporary Filmmaking and Lifewriting in France, Algeria, and Tunisia* (Lexington Books, 2010). In this study, Weber-Five examines the problems of voicing the personal when considering the role and place of women in the home.

Analyzing a collection of first-person cinematic and literary narratives by a number of French, Algerian, and Tunisian women writers and filmmakers, she explores the transnational processes of identity formation, gender performance, and construction of culture and society. Through a closer look at contemporary representations of French, Algerian, and Tunisian women on the page and on the screen, this book describes the ways in which homemaking, nation, and gender are intricately bound to one another and situated in personal history.

Working within, as well as beyond, so-called national systems of visual and written representation, these women artists challenge inherited and monolithic performances, definitions, and discourses of femininity. In doing so, they create re-hybridized subjects that begin to recognize and embrace the differences within themselves. The authors and filmmakers in this study - through their female protagonists, the protagonists' homes and homemaking acts, and the investigative lens of the interrogation of the personal - are interested in exploring how the process of uncovering or articulating new and "other" identities and subjectivities unfolds in new and "re-hybridized" ways of seeing, knowing, and being female.

This study appears in the active series, "After the Empire: The Francophone World and Postcolonial France" and is available online with Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



Classical Studies Updates

Courses and curriculum:

Our streamlined minor and major curriculum was approved in fall, 2009, and we are attracting more and varied students. Prof. Meyers has introduced a course on Roman Archaeology for spring, 2010, and we hope to expand our teaching in the arena of ancient Roman cities.

Faculty activities related to teaching, outreach, and research:

Classical Studies faculty have been active in outreach to the campus and wider community. Prof. Peggy Mook and Prof. Rachel Meyers each gave presentations in spring, 2010 to two different College of Agriculture and Life Sciences study abroad cohorts, the former on ancient Greece and the latter on Pompeii. Prof. Madeleine Henry created the Latin inscription for an award given by the Iowa Department of Public Health on behalf of the fight against tuberculosis. In addition, her book (co-edited with Allison Glazebrook) *Poros/Pericles: the Greek Prostitute in Context*, is now in production with the University of Wisconsin Press. Professor Henry also received an LAS Master Teacher award for 2009-2010.

Student Activities:

We are very proud of our students who excel in a variety of campus-wide activities! Here is just a sample of recent accomplishments and current endeavors:

This year we applaud Kelli Bremer and Jenni Wiles, who have each been awarded a Marcus Aurelius Scholarship, and Laura Schrader, who graduated in December 2009. Bethany Mathes and Matthew Caffrey will emerge as Latin teachers after completing their student teaching in the excellent Latin program at Valley HS in West Des Moines. Rachel Zabroskie, a member of ISU's softball team, is completing her Classical Studies minor along with a major in advertising. She is interested in the promotion side of movies and hopes to have an internship involving trailers, previews, and posters.

Lastly, Classical Studies minor/Political Science major Chandra Peterson writes, "I am officially running for President of the Student Body so the next month will be a busy one with campaigning and getting out the vote. Classical Studies is going great! I love the classes and the readings. I am taking Latin with Dr. Mook and I love her teaching style and I have really grown fond of the language (even though it is very difficult). I am hoping to go to Greece soon to finish off my minor in Classical Studies. The last thing I would like to see happen is for Iowa State to lose the classics. They are so important and it seems like people don't realize how much they can learn from these classes!"

Russia's ideology of glamour

Russia has seen monumental changes in its popular culture since the fall of Communism nearly two decades ago.

Olga Metropova discussed one aspect of the transformation during the fall 2009 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' Dean's Lecture Series. She presented "Putin's Russia and the Ideology of Glamour" on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sun Room of the Memorial Union.

Metropova, associate professor of Russian Studies, researches popular culture in the post-Soviet Union, including Russian film, comedy and popular performance.

She said Russia was a poor country after the collapse of the Soviet Union, but President Vladimir Putin, in office from 2000 to 2008, consolidated wealth making the nation appear robust and even glitzy. Metropova said Russians were able to partake in a glamorous lifestyle vicariously through a growing list of films, television programs, books and other forms of popular media focused on prosperity, youthfulness and luxury.

New Faculty & Staff



Giada Biasetti, Assistant Professor of Spanish, began in WLC in Fall 2009.

Giada is Italian but was born in Lima, Peru and has lived in Venezuela, Italy, and Florida. She was awarded an Alumni Fellowship for her graduate studies in 2005 and was given the opportunity to teach both Spanish and Italian for two years at the University of Florida.

She obtained her Ph.D. in Spanish at the University of Florida and an M.A. in Comparative Literature at Florida Atlantic University. She also holds a B.A. in Foreign Languages and Linguistics and a degree as a professional translator and interpreter from the Scuola Superiore per Interpreti e Traduttori in Milan, Italy.

Her areas of interest are 20th century Latin American literature as well as Translation and Interpretation Studies. She is currently working on several articles that deal with New Historical Novels of the conquest with emphasis on women writers whose objective is to re-write the past from the point of view of marginalized women in order to subvert the patriarchal and historical discourse.

In regards to translation and interpretation, she is currently working on the creation of a new experimental course on consecutive and simultaneous interpretation as well as sight translation. This course will be taught for the first time in Fall 2010. Her long-term goal is to continue to further develop Spanish coursework in this area.

Giada's future research projects deal with the study of bilingual authors who translate their own work and whose life has been characterized by a series of contradictions and a struggle between two languages and two identities. Her objective is to analyze both the original text and its translation by pointing out the possible linguistic and cultural 'untranslatabilities,' the addition of phrases and alterations of the narrative structure, and other common problems that may arise when translating a text. She also intends to compose an article based on the experience of developing and teaching the new experimental course on interpretation, which would incorporate student feedback.



Melissa Deininger, new Assistant Professor of French, began in WLC in Fall 2009.

Melissa was born in Pennsylvania, but has lived in various places in the US and France. She majored in French and Government at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh. After finishing her dissertation on literature at moments of crisis, she graduated from Pitt in April, 2009 and promptly took off for a wonderful summer in Europe with her husband, Jacob.

Melissa's primary areas of research include the Marquis de Sade as a political writer and historical crises portrayed in literature. In April, she presented a paper at the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies in London entitled "Sade and Revolutionary Boundaries," which she will be publishing in the *Breaking Boundaries* collection later this year. She is currently working on several articles dealing with Sade and his use of contemporary politics as a tool for libertine indoctrination.

Melissa's future research projects deal with art as a propagandist device, including comic books as nationalist indoctrination and memorials to fallen soldiers. In the past, she has presented on monuments to combatants in the Franco-Prussian War, and she looks forward to discovering other memorials for her research while strolling around Paris.



Nathan Henceroth, new Languages and Cultures for Professions (LCP) Program Coordinator, began working in WLC in Summer 2009.

Originally from Youngstown, Ohio, Nathan completed a double-major BA in International Relations and French from Centre College. After graduation, he spent the next two years as a Lycee English Assistant in Alsace as part of a French government-sponsored program.

Following his stay in France, Nathan relocated to Prague where he co-founded an event-planning company called Niteble Praha. After a year of living in the Czech capital, he started his MA coursework in International Economics and Political Studies at Charles University (Univerzita Karlova v Praze).

Most recently, Nathan worked as a Congressional intern for Charlie Wilson (the less interesting one!) while writing his MA thesis, and last summer he co-founded a small business in Salem, Ohio that makes on-stage accessories for live music.

As coordinator of the LCP program, the future goals are to expand and to deepen the program by adding additional international opportunities for ISU students, and to reach out to more first-year students to stress the importance of being globally competent in addition to their engineering or business curriculum.



Tonglu Li, a new assistant professor of Chinese, began in WLC in Fall 2009.

Originally from China, Tonglu Li earned a B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature at Hebei Normal University and a Master's degree in Modern Chinese Literature at Beijing Normal University (1995). He earned a M.A. in East Asian Studies and a Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2009).

Before joining ISU, Tonglu taught Chinese at different places, including Capital Normal University in Beijing, Middlebury College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Beloit College.

Tonglu's primary research interests fall into three related fields: modern Chinese literature, modern Chinese intellectual history, and pedagogy of language and literature.

In his previous publications, he explores the ways in which New Humanism functioned in different historical contexts in modern China. He also analyzes how the controversial Chinese writer Zhou Zuoren uses his cultural criticism to form a counter-narrative of the mainstream cultural trends. In his dissertation, he further investigates how Zhou formulates his Enlightenment thoughts, which celebrate the rational, the everyday, and the non-violent, against his criticism of different types of belief systems.

His current and future research projects include research on the medical discourse in modern Chinese literature, and the role of language practice in study abroad program.

Besides conducting research, Tonglu is enthusiastic about teaching Chinese language, literature, and culture. He endeavors to make his teaching relevant to students' life experiences as well as intellectually inspiring. He integrates computer technology in teaching to create a virtual space in which students are naturally exposed to relevant cultural and social elements.

Beyond Borders

Elisa Rizo doesn't limit herself to any geographic boundaries. The assistant professor of World Languages and Cultures examines situations where cultures and identities overlap, often transcending established borders and creating new cultural spaces.

One of these little-known spaces is the literature of Equatorial Guinea, the only Spanish-speaking nation in sub-Saharan Africa. A small country surrounded by French-speaking nations, its Hispanic identity has grown in relative isolation from the rest of the Hispanic world, Rizo said.

Equatorial Guinea gained its independence from Spain in 1968, and its national literature is still developing. Despite the fact that there is little government support for literary pursuits, and there are virtually no libraries open to the public, Rizo said Equatorial Guinea is developing a vibrant literary culture.

One of the most accessible forms of this expanding literary culture is theater, a focal point of Rizo's research.

"Theater is an accessible venue in Equatorial Guinea for sharing ideas and dialoguing," Rizo said. She has studied videos and scripts from Equatorial Guinean dramas, which are developed with few resources besides the local writers' and theater companies' creativity.

Rizo traveled to Equatorial Guinea in March 2010, in part to attend three live drama performances by the theater company Bocamadja. "It was important to see the reaction of the audience and, thus, how the live performance opens the doors for other possible meanings of the dramas in print," she said.

"The performances focused on a range of issues geared to instill civic



Elisa Rizo overlooking the Santa Isabel Bay.

participation," such as equality, women's rights, corruption and the future of the country," Rizo said. She observes the ways in which writers describe their local experiences, and how those experiences reflect global issues.

The theatrical literature in Equatorial Guinea is not well known except by a handful of specialists, Rizo said. She is one of the first to fully engage in research of Equatorial Guinean Theater.

Black Seminole research

Rizo's literature and cultural research involves another little-known edge

of the world: the diaspora of Black Seminoles into Mexico. She studies the transformation of their cultural identity and their connections with their "base" culture: the Gullah Geechee Nation, which extends from Jacksonville, North Carolina, to Jacksonville, Florida.

The "Black Seminoles," as they became known, are descendants of Gullah maroons who escaped slavery in America in the late 1600s and formed an alliance with the Seminole Indians.

The Black Seminoles eventually split. Some of them migrated to the U.S./Mexico border. Rizo studies

how this group of dispersed people is represented in Mexican literature and media versus how they represent themselves in literature or at cultural events and celebrations.

Rizo has travelled to the U.S./Mexico border with Queen Quet, the Chiefess of the Gullah-Geechee Nation, and has met with the Chief of the Black Seminoles. On these visits she learns about how they track their own history.

"In my research, I highlight the way in which Black Seminoles and the Gullah-Geechee present their oral tradition on their own terms," she said.

Back in class

Rizo's students are also learning about the literatures and cultures of Equatorial Guinea and the Black Seminoles, especially when she teaches the seminar on Afro-Hispanic Civilization.

She also teaches Latin America Today, where she delves into contemporary popular culture, film, and art that responds to political movements, free-trade agreements, and social justice issues.

Another class she enjoys teaching is Spanish for the Professionals, where students learn about professional practices in the fields of business, engineering and agriculture within the Hispanic World. Students are also encouraged to analyze the potential social impacts that professional decisions may have.

Through these classes, Rizo hopes her students will understand that cultures are dynamic and flexible.

"It's important to look at local, specific cases," she said. "Sometimes the bigger picture can be seen in the smaller details." ■



Bocamandja on the stage of the Spanish Cultural Center of Malabo.



The audience enjoying one of Bocamandja's performances at the Spanish Cultural Center.

Experiencing Biology in Spain

The ISU on the Mediterranean Summer Program in Valencia, Spain Adds Biology to its Offerings



Summer 2009 saw the beginning of a new collaboration between the Department of World Languages and Cultures and the Department of Genetics, Development and Cell Biology. For six weeks students who participated in the ISU on the Mediterranean Program in Valencia, Spain program had the opportunity to study biology and cell development under the direction of faculty from the University of Valencia.

The course, International Field Trips in Biology (Bio 394), was organized by Dr. Steven Rodermel (ISU Professor of Genetics, Development and Cell Biology) in collaboration with WLC study abroad directors, Drs. Julia Dominguez, Leland Elford and Chad Gasta.

As part of the biology course, students chose one of two modules: a full-immersion laboratory experience or field excursions to biological and sustainability sites in the region. In the first module, advanced biology students worked in faculty labs at the University of Valencia science complex in such areas as marine biology, stem cell research and molecular biology of host-parasite interactions.

Most of these laboratory experiences were conducted partially or totally in the target language, helping to improve language and cultural proficiency while becoming familiar with the principals of molecular and cell biology and their practice abroad.

As part of the second module, University of Valencia

faculty members led field excursions to important biological sites in the Valencian region. Site visits included the Albufera natural coastal lagoon and tidal system, Europe's oldest botanical gardens (and accompanying research installations), the City of Arts and Sciences' Oceanographic Aquarium and marine biology research station, the Fort Roja Natural Park, and the innovative BioPark Zoo, among other locations.

Such unique experiential learning opportunities demonstrate the intersections among biological sciences, environmental studies, and sustainability as they relate to Hispanic studies.

The biology course will now be a part of the regular offerings in Valencia, adding to the already-extensive list of courses that includes Management, Marketing, Industrial Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Spanish language, literature and culture.

Other special features of the program include students living with a Spanish host family, participation in planned excursions around Spain, and full program direction and coordination by WLC faculty members. The resulting multi-disciplinary collaboration between WLC and these other departments has yielded Iowa State's largest, most diverse and most successful study abroad program.

For information on the program contact Professor Chad M. Gasta (gasta@iastate.edu / 204-0918) or visit the program website at: <http://www.language.iastate.edu/valencia>

Survey of French Alumni

In spring of 2009, Nellie Kottman, member of the French faculty, conducted a survey of French alumni from the past twenty years. More than 125 questionnaires were sent out, followed by a reminder e-mail. The response rate was 44% and represented at least one or more respondents from 18 of the 20 classes.

The results and the personal comments were both interesting and rewarding.

- 75.5% of the respondents indicated that they were very pleased to have majored in French at ISU.
- 100% of respondents indicated that specific courses taken were either Extremely or Somewhat Valuable.
- 83% of the respondents participated in some kind of study abroad program: 4 - Louisiana, 7 - ISEP, 16 - other - programs with other universities - American and French, 20 - Lyon summer program, and 100% of those who studied abroad indicated that this component of their French major was Extremely Valuable.
- 54% have earned advanced degrees since leaving ISU - mostly the MAMS, but also 2 JDs and 4 PhDs.
- 33% of the respondents have continued their study of French after leaving ISU.
- 50% indicated that their knowledge of French was a determining factor in getting a particular job, and 80% responded that they had used their French in some way since graduation; 63% responded that they had used their knowledge of French in a job situation. Clearly, all alumni who are teaching French are using their language skills, but many others found the French major very useful.

Comments included:

"Both of the jobs I've had since graduation were based in France and I was hired for both of them based on the fact that I was bilingual."

"I worked as a luxury cycling tour guide in both France and Italy. My French language skills were crucial in my getting the job."

"I work at the World Bank and knowledge in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese or Arabic are hugely important here."

"Before beginning grad school, I worked for a study abroad program and my title was Study Abroad Advisor. I was a lead coordinator and summer resident director for the company's France programs. My French was definitely

a factor in my having gotten the job."

"My ability to speak a foreign language was always viewed as a plus in my field, human resources."

"My third job out of school was for the international news agency Reuters, and a second language was critical. Frankly, most people pursuing international jobs in journalism had a second (or third) language."

"I spent one year with the Canadian Space Agency as a consultant from Johnson Space Center on Canadian efforts to build an operational capability in preparation for Space Station operations. The location was Montreal."

Our French majors currently hold a variety of positions:

Principal Research Scientist
Secondary French (or Spanish) teacher- 9
Warrant officer in the U.S. Army
PK-12 Principal
Freelance copyeditor
Full time mother- 3
Correspondent, CNN and host CNN's Your \$\$\$\$
Soil conservationist
Chiropractor
Senior Systems Engineer
Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
Senior Account Executive, Olson Communications
Graduate Student- 2
Self employed/musician
Economist
General Manager
Travel Guide and Trip Expert
Special Education Teacher
Recruitment and Relocation Coordinator - INSEAD (top ranked international business school in the world)
Ski Technician

It was a great pleasure to have reconnected with so many of our former French majors, to have read their thoughts retrospectively about having majored in French here at ISU and to have learned what the experience has brought to their lives in the post-university years.

Many of the respondents have indicated a willingness to serve as a resource for our current majors and to be available to answer questions and/or to offer advice and help where possible. And the faculty hopes to use the information gathered to look more closely at the current curriculum in order to determine how best to meet the needs of our present-day students.

World Traveler

Now an international locale, and there is a good chance Ron Schubert has made a stop.

Schubert is a 1967 Iowa State modern language graduate who has used his language skills to take him here, there and about everywhere in between.

As the President of TCU (Teachers Credit Union) Travel, a full-service travel agency in South Bend, Ind., Schubert has visited all of the continents except Antarctica (he could have gone there, but had no desire) and he knows Europe like a European.

He returned to Iowa State during homecoming festivities in fall 2009, when the Department of World Languages and Cultures awarded him its Distinguished Alumni Award. Schubert's travel itinerary—from leading tours or enjoying personal trips—was impressive.

He had crossed the Atlantic Ocean 288 times in addition to 25 trips to South America, eight to Central America, 23 to Asia, four to Africa and five excursions around the world. His other destinations have included Australia, New Zealand and more than 100 trips to Mexico. He also is an expert in travel to Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, Sikkim and India based on his visits to that part of the world.

Not bad for a "poor, old Iowa farm boy," as the personable Schubert describes himself.

Schubert is a native of north Iowa, having lived near Garner and graduating from Ventura High School. He was exposed to languages from an early age. An elderly aunt was "more German than the Germans" and an uncle in Germany spoke nine languages sans any accent.

At Iowa State, he started with German then added Spanish, Russian and even Arabic, which he had to drop because he was too busy. He later added French while living in Illinois.

"Languages come very easily to me," said the man who speaks English, German and Spanish and can "get by" in Italian, French, Portuguese and



Ron Schubert (left) with Mark Rectorius, department chair.

Russian.

Schubert credits the Iowa State languages faculty for opening doors and giving him opportunities to see the globe.

"I was lucky to have the friendship with Professor [Orvaldo] Soto in Spanish and Professor [Frederick] Schwartz in German," Schubert said. "Both of them inspired me to become fluent in languages and to travel in order to utilize the languages.

"If I hadn't gone to Iowa State and not studied languages and not had professors who were like friends to me," Schubert said, "my life wouldn't have taken the turns it has along the way. It's all because of my languages background and the people I met."

Schubert visited Europe as a student in a trip that "started my love affair with Germany," he recalled. He later taught in Illinois, but his heart was in traveling, which spurred him to purchase a small

travel agency in 1971. He owned the business for 18 years. Then came the opportunity to run TCU Travel in South Bend, and do more traveling.

Global travel was much easier in the pre-9/11 days. Schubert told about one trip that was basically a weekend excursion to Tokyo. He also visited Iran in 1979 and South Africa during apartheid. One year he went to Rio de Janeiro three times—in a four-month span.

Because of his travels and great interest in reading, he has not owned a TV for more than 25 years. It led to a comical moment once during a conversation with a woman he met while traveling.

After a while, she asked Schubert, "You don't know who I am, do you?" He replied, "No I don't."

It was Oprah Winfrey. He was familiar with the media icon, he just didn't know what she looked like. □

Alumni Awards: Homecoming 2009



Sandra Davis (BS Modern Language and Psychology '68) received the Citation of Merit from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The award was established in 1976 to honor distinguished alumni of the college who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and received national or international recognition.

Davis co-founded MDA Leadership Consulting Inc., in 1981. The management consulting firm specializes in leadership and talent issues and provides services in talent management, leadership development, and organizational performance.

Davis is widely known and respected as an executive coach and thought leader in the industry. Her client work involves strategic succession planning, CEO selection, senior executive talent evaluation, corporate and non-profit board selection and development, and senior executive coaching.

In 2004, Davis was selected as a "Women Change Maker" by *The Business Journal*. Other accomplishments include co-writing the book, *Reinventing Yourself: Life Planning After 30*. She is an internationally known expert in the use of the California Psychological Inventory and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator.

Davis serves on the boards of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Jeremiah Program and is part of the Minnesota Women's Economic Roundtable. She is an ISU Foundation governor and also served on the board of the Iowa State University Foundation. Davis is a member of ISU's Order of the Knoll and an ISU Alumni Association life member. She resides in Edina, Minn.



Warren H. Stine (BS Agronomy '93, BA History '07, BS Classical Studies '07, MA History '07) received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Classical Studies Program.

Stine is the Assistant Corn Products Manager for the Stine Seed Company, the largest independent seed company in the country. He joined Stine Seed in 1993.

While he wears many hats for his family's Iowa-based company, his primary focus now is in breeding and developing Stine's proprietary corn inbreds and hybrids, as well as helping manage Stine's retail corn portfolio.

Stine has been called a "serious humanist," and he is someone who has pursued the classics to complement his work in agriculture. During his time at Iowa State University, he was a member of the Eta Sigma Phi, classical studies honor society, and Phi Alpha Theta, history honor society.

Stine resides in Sheridan, Ind.

Student Awards

The annual Awards Ceremony to recognize outstanding students in the Department of World Languages and Cultures took place on Sunday, April 26, 2009.

We list below the various awards and the names of students who were honored.

Honor Society Initiation Ceremonies ETA SIGMA PHI NATIONAL LATIN AND GREEK HONOR SOCIETY

Victoria Farwell
Ken Kopecky
Tony Lansing
Lisa Nielsen
Megan Ward
Jenni Wiles
Thomas Wilke

PHI BETA KAPPA

Diane Brown
Thomas Clark
Laura Schrader
Katharine Walz

SIGMA DELTA PI NATIONAL HISPANIC HONOR SOCIETY

Luke Brule
Rebekah Casciano
Stephanie Kraft
Kurt Kubler
Molly Madsen

SIGMA DELTA PI POETRY CONTEST

Alejandra Navarro

WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES SCHOLARSHIPS

Alfred P. Kehlenbeck Scholarship

Rebekah Casciano
Bethany Mathes

Sarah Dahlke Memorial Scholarship

Morgan Meyers
Alyssa Vogel

Ronald A. Schubert Scholarship

Jessica Hermisen

Louise Semmons Scholarship

Amanda Willemssen
Breanna Melville
Bethany Mathes

Van Item Study Abroad Scholarship

Maria Catherine Hamrasch

Walter Chatfield Scholarship

Bethany Mathes
Breanna Melville
Rebekah Casciano

Marcus Aurelius Scholarship in Classical Studies

Bethany Mathes
Lisa Nielsen

GRADUATING SENIORS IN WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

French Graduating Seniors:

Jon Benjamin Albaugh
Guillermo Fajardo
Rachel Marie Goldsmith
Natalie E. McIlwain
Sahar Salehi
Allison Marie Schomes

German Graduating Seniors

Marie Kristine Eason
Nicole Gasstran
Marie Lindsey Remken
Rachel Ann Underwood

Russian Graduating Senior

Joel T. Gettys

Spanish Graduating Seniors

Chavel Anon Sharpe
Kristen Kay Corinto
Laira Marie Cross
Krisina Marie Daggett
Elizabeth Dove
Meghan Elizabeth Fick
Brett Stephen Fitzgerald
Adam Dale Foster
Amy Christine Jensen
Emily Renee Jones
Rachel Heather Kapke
Kellie Ann Kendrick
Marissa G. Kenry-Cumpton
Allison Lynn Kreech
Megan Margaret Lipper
Benjamin Grant Messer
Kyle A. Metz
Megan Louise Moore
Stacy Nicole Morrissey

Michael Peterson
Angeles Fabian Ruiz
Meagan Emily Schaal
Ashley Marie Sprunger
Dianne L. Trumbo
Joshua Michael Whitesell
Sean T. Williams
Nora Ellen Wiseman
Kevin Andrew Zent

Awards for Outstanding Students in World Languages and Cultures

Outstanding Students in Chinese First Year

Kristina Joy Emerick
Stephen Michael Huehok
Nicholas G. Joergaard
Jeffrey Scott Wilson

Second Year

Amelia Marie Doermann
Brian Jeffrey Drake
Jaeryung Kim
Adam Ryan Lee

Third Year

Derek Widman

Outstanding Graduating Student in the Classical Studies

Laura Schrader

Outstanding Achievement in French for Graduating Seniors

Natalie E. McIlwain
Sahar Salehi
Allison Marie Schnoes

Outstanding Students in German First Year

Cathy Cooney
Annie Hartmann

Second Year

Arraida Hansen
Megan Krumbholz
Lake Wigoner

Third Year

Noah Van Dam
Ashleigh Rader

Maria Hamrach

Fourth Year

David Prater

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals

MacKenzie Dierks

Languages and Cultures for Professions Global Professional Award

Adam Foster
Kevin Zent

Latin American Studies (Certificate in Latin American Studies)

Sean T. Williams

Outstanding Performance in Portuguese

Sean T. Williams

Outstanding Students in Russian Early Achievement

Alexandra Bruce
Matthew Gore
Gregory Hares
Milena Krstajic
John Lottes
Kavitha Nambisan
Sarah Nolder
James Strickland

Distinguished Achievement

Edward Basom
Robert Holliday
Katie Walker

Graduating Senior

Joel Gettys

Outstanding Students in Spanish Distinguished Achievement

Brett S. Fitzgerald
Kyle A. Metz
Sean T. Williams

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of World Languages and Cultures
3102 Pearson Hall
Ames, IA 50011-2205

07 W10:03

Making a Difference

The Department of World Languages and Cultures at Iowa State University is committed to providing outstanding opportunities for the university community in order to have the resources necessary to take these programs into the future. Support for the department is essential. Funding is required to aid the program in developing new opportunities in technology, continuing and advancing outreach activities, maintaining and expanding current educational opportunities, and supporting students and faculty. These services are crucial as the Department of World Languages and Cultures strives to keep up with the student demand for these experiences. To help make a difference, simply fill out the form, drop it in the mail (281 Franklin, 2575 University Blvd, Ames, Iowa 50010-8644) and check our next newsletter.

For more information about making a gift to the Department of World Languages and Cultures or including DOL in your estate plans, please contact the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Development Office at 515-294-3607 or Don@iastate.edu.

www.levydonor.iastate.edu/isu_gift

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General Development

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Signature _____ Date _____

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