

# Polyglot

Department of  
Modern Languages  
and Classics

Volume 3  
Issue 1  
2011

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

## NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

As Interim Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Classics during the past academic year, it has been my special privilege to serve faculty and students alike in the shared pursuit of their academic goals. The attainment of a sampling of those goals will be the subject of this edition of



*Michael D. Picone*

*Polyglot*. A higher enrollment in most programs proves that interest in modern and classical languages, literatures and cultures, as well as in linguistics, has accelerated at a pace that outstrips even the rapid growth rate of the general population of students at the University of Alabama. The reader who takes a few moments to peruse this double issue of *Polyglot* will catch a sense of the excitement that has come to characterize our department. The highlights presented on the following pages are representative of the impressive range and diversity of departmental pursuits in the realms of teaching, learning, research and service. In addition to the many initiatives sponsored or co-sponsored, the special events hosted, and the various awards and honors bestowed upon students and faculty in our programs, the inaugural Alabama Modern Languages Conference, organized by our graduate students, deserves to be mentioned prominently. The conference brought graduate students and faculty from around the country to our doorstep. All attendees were impressed by the quality of the event, the collegial atmosphere, and the beauty of our campus.

The resilience of the members of this department and the quality of what has been transpiring within it are such that even two traumatic events—like somber bookends encasing this past academic year—could not defeat us

*continued on next page*

## MERCEDES BENZ DOUBLES FUNDING

Since its arrival in Tuscaloosa, Mercedes Benz US International has generously supported the German program at the University of Alabama. The German program has awarded funds from MBUSI as scholarships for Excellence in German at various levels, and for outstanding students studying business and German or engineering and German. In May 2010 MBUSI announced it would double its funding for the German program, increasing funding to \$10,000 for 2011. The additional money will be used to support UA students studying in Germany.

In the photograph below, Michael Färber of MBUSI presents a \$1000 scholarship to Tyler Jones for his outstanding achievement at the annual UA High School German Day. A senior from Cullman, AL, Tyler will use the scholarship to attend the University of Alabama next Fall, where he will study German and engineering. ♦



*Tyler Jones (left) and Michael Färber of MBUSI*

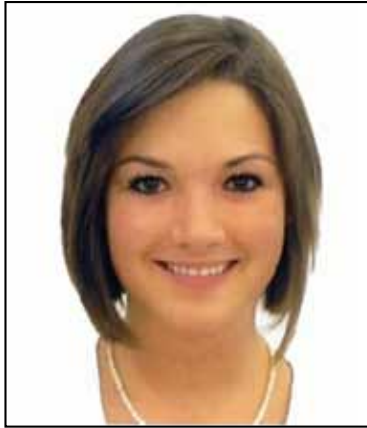
STUDENT NEWS

## UNDERGRADUATES WIN TOP AWARDS

During the past two years several MLC students received recognition through University-wide, national, and international awards.

Four students have recently received University of Alabama Premier Awards, the highest recognition the University can bestow. The 2010 recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, which recognizes excellence of character and service to humanity, was **Wilson Boardman**, a Spanish major, and author of a short film on Nancy de la Torre, a Mexican-American immigrant who started several businesses. Wilson was a founder, tutor and translator for the ESL Jumpstart program.

The 2011 recipient of the same award was **Meg McCrummen**, who is majoring in French. Meg has held important positions in the Student Government Association;



Meg McCrummen

as a University fellow she teaches a freshman honors seminar called "Current Events: What you Need to Know" focusing on important state, national and global issues; and she is president of the UA chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Her community involvement includes giving tax preparation assistance to low-income, working families and mentoring elementary school students.

In 2010 **Olesea Voloshin**, a Spanish minor, won the UA Premier William P. Bloom Scholarship Award, given each year to a junior who has improved intergroup relations within the University community. Olesea revived the Rus-

sian Club on campus and served as a tutor for the Spanish Outreach program. She is currently an ambassador in the International Peering Advisory Council.

This year the same award went to **Seema Kumar**, who is majoring in Spanish. Her efforts to strengthen ties within the university are very wide-ranging. She currently serves as an Ambassador for the College of Arts and Sciences, and through the Honors College initiative First Friends, she has helped introduce incoming international students to University life. She has worked to improve lives in rural Alabama, and has also worked as a tutor and mentor in underserved schools.

The department is also very proud of **Susan DeLeon**, a Russian minor, who was among those named to *USA Today's* 2010 All-USA College Academic Team.

**Paige Dexter**, a German minor and member of Honors College, received a prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. This elite academic award is highly competitive nationwide and provides for yearly academic expenses up to \$7,500. Joining her in this honor was **Mitchell Hughes**, another German minor. Mitchell also recently received a German Academic Exchange Service Research Internship in Science and Engineering for summer 2010 in Germany. German majors **Trey Dozier** and **Brice Collins** are currently studying in Germany with grants from the Federation of German-American Clubs. German major **Bo Robertson** studied in Germany in 2009-10 with a grant from the German Academic Exchange service.

Two Japanese students won prizes at the Fourth South Central Japanese Speech Contest in March 2011: **Andrew Tuck** won second place in the third year or higher division, and **Meghan Malone** (online Japanese) won first place for the freshman division.

Three students won Critical Language Scholarships from the Department of State and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers for study abroad in summer 2010: Critical Language students **Leyla Amur** for study in Turkey and **Chris Scott** for the study of Arabic in the Middle East. Chinese student **Rachel Hester** received a CLS grant to study in China. ♦

*CHAIR, continued*

or tame our energy. Known to all who have followed the news, at the end of April 2011, a devastating tornado left ruin its path as it plowed through central parts of the city of Tuscaloosa. We grieve for the many who lost their lives, but are thankful that, despite the destruction of homes and the damage to property endured by a good number of departmental faculty and students, all survived and virtually all were uninjured (we learned that one beginning student in Latin did sustain serious injuries). Earlier, in May 2010, the depart-

ment suffered the loss of our beloved German colleague, Dr. Barbara Fischer, who, in the prime of her life and career, was taken away from family, friends and coworkers. This past academic year was dedicated to her memory. Even as the Department of Modern Languages and Classics now looks forward to the bright future that this edition of *Polyglot* serves to announce—a future, moreover, for which Dr. Fischer played no small part in helping to lay the groundwork—it is fitting that we now conclude the year in fond remembrance. ♦

## GRADUATE HIGHLIGHTS

A Spanish graduate student in Modern Languages and Classics, **Matthew Morris**, received the 2011 A&S Outstanding Teaching Award by a Doctoral student. He was chosen out of hundreds of GTAs at the doctoral level from over twenty different A&S departments. Matt has also been awarded a prestigious Graduate Council Fellowship for the 2011-12



*Matthew Morris*

academic year. Graduate Council Fellowships, the most competitive graduate fellowships at UA, are awarded to advanced graduate students with the most outstanding academic and scholarly qualifications. Recipients are selected by the Graduate Council, which consists of graduate faculty members from each college of the university. The fellowship will cover Matt's tuition and fees for the coming year and provide an enhanced annual stipend. The purpose of the fellowship is to allow Matt to devote full attention to research during this critical phase in the completion of his doctoral dissertation. Hence, Matt will have no teaching or service obligations for the coming year. He is currently writ-

ing his dissertation in the field of Spanish linguistics. His research focuses on the sociolinguistics of the tense system in Buenos Aires (Argentina) Spanish using a corpus of naturally-occurring speech data gathered from a variety of sources in the public domain.

In addition, a number of other students have received awards and honors, including **Kyle Fortenberry** (German) who received the Graduate Council Fellowship for 2009-10 and **Joshua Frank** (German) for 2010-11. The previous year 2009-10 Josh held a Fulbright scholarship for study in Jena, Germany. Also, **Sharon Gardner** (German) was awarded a nationally competitive American Association of Teachers of German award to attend a pedagogy seminar in summer 2010 in Leipzig, Germany, **Simon Loesch** (German) was a Modern Languages and Classics nominee in 2009-10 for the Excellence in Teaching at the Masters level Award, and **Sandrine Hope** (French) was awarded the National Alumni Association Fellowship for 2010-11. Finally, **Florina Matu** (French) was selected to attend the "Forum of Young Ambassadors of the Francophonie of the Americas" (Moncton, Canada, 7-17 August, 2010), organized by the Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques (Québec). After the Forum, Florina was selected to be the correspondent for USA of the Réseau de diffusion de la francophonie des Amériques ([www.rdfaenligne.com](http://www.rdfaenligne.com)). ♦

## FIRST GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

The first Alabama Modern Language Conference took place in the Fall of 2010 and was a great success. This conference was organized by Larissa Clachar, Shelly Hines-Brooks, Brad Holley, Reinhard Müller and Laura Rojas-Arce, all graduate students in Spanish, French and German. It was supervised by a committee chaired by Dr. Michael Picone and dedicated to the memory of Dr. Barbara Fischer. The conference hosted graduate students, instructors and professors from 17 different universities. This is a major accomplishment and speaks highly of our students and the support and encouragement they get from our faculty. The Department of Modern Languages and Classics will host the second AMLC in the Spring of 2012. ♦



*From left, MLC graduate students Brad Holley, Larissa Clachar, Shelly Hines-Brooks, Laura Rojas-Arce, and Reinhard Müller*

## ALABAMA-IN-CUBA PROGRAM 2010

The second version of the Alabama-in-Cuba Program, organized and led by Dr. Michael Schnepf, was a complete success. Nine very motivated, dedicated, and adventurous students—Mary, Susan, Elaina, Connie, Jennifer, Zeke, David, Kyle, and Austin—spent three and one half months in Havana taking four challenging classes and, when possible, travelling from one end of the island to the other. The group visited the Bay of Pigs and saw and heard new versions of that event. They learned about Santería, Martí, and Cuban cooking. They listened to Van Van and Chucho and the Aldeanos. They ate rice and beans and pork and, of course, Coppelia ice cream.

But the nine participants were in Cuba to study, to learn, and to speak Spanish. With this in mind they worked hard on their semester-long projects that included topics such as the Jewish community in Cuba, the history of political billboards, and Cuban cinema. They recorded podcasts, “Postcards from Cuba,” that were aired on Alabama Public Radio. They also heard fascinating lectures (conforming to Cuban govern-



*Cuba participants, from left to right: Austin Bettis, Mary Heard, Susan Hubbell, Elaina Tirador, Jennifer Leisure, Ernesto Prado, Connie Atillio, Zeke Anders, David Salisbury, and Kyle Hughel.*

ment endorsed views) on the “Five Heroes” and Cuba in the Obama years. They interviewed students, lawyers, distant family members, and basketball buddies. They rode the overcrowded “guaguas” from one side of Havana to the other. And they spoke Spanish...with taxi drivers, guides, teachers, “jineteras,” friends, and security guards.

Life in Cuba can be trying and difficult. The students faced blackouts, plumbing problems, and delays, but they also made a good number of friends and experienced emotions that will stay with them forever. ♦

## ALABAMA-GREECE INITIATIVE

For a number of years, the College of Arts and Sciences has taken students to Greece as part of two summer study abroad programs—through the Classics program and Religious Studies. This Initiative is an effort to move beyond these summer programs and develop more of an ongoing relationship with Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, one of Greece’s major research universities.

As an initial move in this direction, a committee of faculty representing multiple units planned a series of events for the Spring 2011 semester, highlighting some of the possible collaborations and topics that an extended connection with Greece will enhance. The goal was to host events that could better gauge the interest across the College for a long term relationship with Greece.



*Dr. Tatiana Summers*

The high point of the events was bringing two faculty members from Aristotle University, Dr. Aneliki Ziaka (Religious Studies) and Dr. Danae Stefanou (Music), to the UA to share their research and insights. Of great interest were also the two Greek films that Dr. Tatiana Summers screened, “Brides” and “Touch of Spice,” as well as the symposium that included four research presentations, each with its own respondent. All activities were very well-attended by both professors and students and succeeded in creating momentum and enthusiasm for the Initiative throughout the college.

The Initiative has received generous support from various agencies, including the Dean of A&S, the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, Religious Studies, New College, and others.

For more info: <http://www.as.ua.edu/greece> ♦

## CHINESE

A Graduate Teaching Assistant from Ocean University in China, Xiaosheng Yang, joined our program in Fall 2010. Thanks to Dr. Xiang Zhang developing the program these past several years, the number of Chinese minor students has increased. We also opened a new Classical Chinese Literature class in Spring 2011.

## CLASSICS

The Classics program had a banner year, with the following eight students graduating with a Classics major in May/August 2011: Jennifer Lantrip, Jill Heintzelman, Jon Thompson, Shauna McDaniel, Ryan Stitt, Hunter Parker White, Caitlin Smith, and Ernest McEmore. The Perry Scholarship for the next academic year has been offered to current majors Alex Vawter, Emily Thomas, and Jesse Munoz. The Hansen award goes to Meghin Smith, while the Lang goes to Bethanie Yeomans. At this year's Honors Day, Hunter Parker White received the award for Outstanding Student in Latin, while Mitchell McMillan received the award for Outstanding Student in Greek. We congratulate all of them for their strong showing this year. The summer program to Greece continues to draw a large number of students. In the summer of 2010, twenty-four students went on the program; this year, twenty-one are slated to go. 2008 Classics graduate Samantha Dansby, who worked for two years as our Graduate Teaching Assistant while pursuing a Masters in Library Science, will be helping Dr. Tatiana Summers with the program this summer. Special kudos go to four of our recent graduates for demonstrating just how relevant and useful a Classics degree can be, even in a tough economy.

1. Ashley Flubacher, 2007 graduate in Classics, received an MBA last year in

Enterprise Consulting while serving the Classics program as a Graduate Teaching Assistant. She currently works as Senior Associate Analyst for Dunn-Humby USA in Minneapolis, MN.

2. Lauren Wilder, 2004 graduate in Classics, earned her MBA in 2007 after finishing first in her class. She now works at Hess Corporation in Houston, TX as a Land Negotiator. She spends a large part of her year traveling to such far-flung places as Africa.

3. Ashley Phares, 2009 graduate in Classics, is currently studying dental medicine at the University of Connecticut.

4. Clint Light, 2006 graduate in Classics, worked in China and DC after graduation, before attending the Hague Academy of International Law and now studies Energy and International Law at Stanford. We know that many other former students are doing great things out there and we'd love to hear from them!

## CRITICAL LANGUAGES CENTER

As one of the biggest institutions of LCTL (Less Commonly Taught Languages) in the South, the UA Critical Languages Center under the direction of Dr. Koji Arizumi, offers UA students an opportunity to learn languages such as Arabic, Farsi, Hebrew, Korean, Portuguese, Swahili, Turkish and many more. Since 2009, the CLC continues to develop online resources for students to practice listening and reading with video contents on the web. <http://bama.ua.edu/~clc/video.html>. The CLC Web Development studio is equipped with chroma key digital image compositing capability and video editing software. The computers in the studio have web cameras which we use during tutoring sessions and external oral exams. This allows us to work with students and professors anywhere in

the world. CLC also added a new Arabic Instructor in 2010-11, Nehad Shawqi of Egypt.

## FRENCH

In the past two years the French faculty has greatly increased the department's connections to a wide intellectual and artistic community. We were greatly honored by the presence on campus of two internationally-renowned writers. On April 13, 2009, **Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni**, author of *Palace of Illusions* and *The Mistress of Spices*, spoke and signed books in an



Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni



Francine D'Amour

event sponsored by many groups including the department of MLC and the Indian community of Tuscaloosa. On February 3, 2001 **Francine D'Amour**,

*continued on next page*

author of many novels including *Écrire comme un chat*, and *Pour de vrai, pour de faux* spoke and signed books as part of five-stop tour organized by Dr. Metka Zupancic, sponsored by MLC, CIP, and Arts and Sciences, in conjunction with partners at Samford and Auburn Universities, l'Alliance Française of Birmingham and the AATF/AAFLT. This was, in addition, the first such event sponsored by the government of Quebec. Dr. Carmen Mayer-Robin organized another successful creative endeavor, the concert and the workshop by the FISHTANK ensemble, in fall 2009. The French house has continued to flourish, and Florina Matu, one of our graduate students, began on March 8, 2011 what we hope will become a long tradition there, the bal masqué, attended by students and instructors alike. Ms.

Matu was also inducted into the Forum des Jeunes Francophones des Amériques, and selected as an ambassador with duties that include writing articles about various Francophone events for the Forum's website.

### GERMAN

The German program continues an active agenda of teaching, service, and scholarship. Faculty organized the Fall of the Wall event in the Ferguson Center in fall 2009 as an interdisciplinary, public event to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain. A successful instructor search was carried out in summer 2010 to hire Steve Krause of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a second assistant professor search

has concluded successfully with the hiring of Dr. Viktoria Harms of the University of Washington. For the first time, the German summer abroad program will take place in Berlin in 2011. Faculty have secured a substantial increase in scholarship support for 2011-2012 from Mercedes-Benz USI for students to study abroad, and numbers of students participating in our exchange through the Federation of German-American Clubs is at a peak. Faculty and students have worked on a service/outreach project with the Aliceville Museum to translate documents from German prisoners of war in Alabama, and they continue to coordinate and/or assist with the local German Supplementary School, our Goethe Institute international testing center, the German House living/learning center, and the Alabama-Germany Partnership for business and education. In Spring 2010 Dr. Barbara Fischer published her translation of a Holocaust survivor's memoirs, and together with Dr. Thomas Fox she published the second edition of *A Companion to Lessing*.

### ITALIAN

The Program in Italian at UA celebrated its 20th anniversary during AY 2009-2010. The program, which offers a minor concentration in Italian, has more than doubled its enrollments since 2003 (with currently over 600 students enrolled in Italian), and has a thriving summer study abroad program, the Alabama-in-Italy Language and Culture Program, that brings an average of 20 students to Florence, Italy each year. 14 Italian students were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa during the past two years. In fall 2009 the program added Lidia Ciccone as a new full-time instructor, and she recently defended her Ph.D. dissertation. Gabriella Merriman published a textbook, and Dr. Maurizio Godorecci

published a book of poetry translated into English by Dr. Barbara Godorecci.

### JAPANESE

Our Japanese program is one of the biggest and highest regarded programs in the South. Many students have transferred to UA just to study Japanese. Every semester we have students study in Japanese universities as exchange students. So many of our graduates are living or working in Japan, or working for Japanese-related companies in the USA, that we have begun a UA Japanese Language Alumni social network on Facebook that is very active. MLC Japanese instructors are Chika Kobayashi, Dr. Koji Arizumi and Laurie Arizumi. Under the direction of Laurie Arizumi, online Japanese continues to grow since coming to MLC in 2006. The online Japanese program has over 100 high school, Early College and college credit students around the US and across the world from Japan to Norway. Ms. Arizumi and a teaching assistant are the only personnel to staff online Japanese, which provides private tutoring over Skype. Ms. Arizumi is now also directing the newer online Arabic and Chinese courses. In 2010-11 the Japanese faculty participated in an extensive and successful Japanese film and literature series, co-sponsored by MLC.

### SPANISH

The Spanish faculty is proud of our new faculty hires and the new positions we were granted in the past two years. In 2009-10 we brought in Nineteenth-Century Spanish American Literature and Culture expert, Dr. Sarah Moody. In 2010-11, we were joined by a Transatlantic specialist, Dr. Alvaro Baquero-Pecino, and a Linguist, Dr. Erin O'Rourke. Both our graduate and undergraduate students have benefitted greatly from these new faculty members.

*continued on next page*

## GODORECCI A CAMPUS LEADER

In 2009 **Dr. Barbara Godorecci** served as a McNair Scholars Faculty Fellow. She led a series of lectures on the “Careers and Culture of Academe” for the McNair Scholars seminar in the fall. This is the final seminar in a three-part series designed to prepare McNair Scholars for successful entry into, and completion of, doctoral programs. Since 2009 Godorecci has also served as President of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Alpha of Alabama Chapter. Over the last two years, she has coordinated finding keynote speakers for our annual initiation ceremony. The President of the chapter typically presides over the initiation ceremony (along with the Secretary), and works with the other members of the Executive Committee to vet and select new candidates for initiation each year. Only the top 10% of qualified students will be asked to join PBK each year. Phi Beta Kappa, founded in 1776, is considered to be the oldest and most prestigious honor society in the United States. The Alabama chapter was founded in 1851 and, besides William and Mary, was the only Southern chapter during the nineteenth century. ♦

## FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHY

**Dr. Michael D. Picone** was a featured speaker helping launch the special exhibition *Henri Cartier-Bresson: The Modern Century* at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta (February 19 - May 29, 2011). The retrospective exhibition devoted to the founder of photojournalism includes more than 250 photographs from around the globe, many enjoying



*Henri Cartier-Bresson, Hyères, France, 1932*

iconic status in the collective public memory. In association with the inauguration of the exhibit, Dr. Picone conducted a workshop centered on using the photographs of Henri Cartier-Bresson in various teaching contexts. The workshop, attended by French teachers from around the Southeast, was sponsored by the Consulat Général de France in Atlanta (this is a second

similar collaboration for Dr. Picone with the French Consulate) in conjunction with the High Museum of Art. ♦

### PROGRAMS, *continued*

In 2011-12 we will be joined by Dr. Karina Vázquez, an expert on contemporary Spanish America. The Spanish program is also proud of our Spanish Club, which meets once a week to view films, practice the language and enjoy each others’ company. A new Spanish Living Learning Community will open in Fall 2011, headed by Dr.

Sarah Moody. Activities are planned that will bring together majors, minors, and house residents. The new Latin American Studies Working Group has met several times, where colleagues share research and open new venues for publication cooperation. Dr. Ignacio Rodeño is serving as Vice-President of the Alabama Chapter of the American

Association of Teachers of Spanish. Spanish Outreach continues to serve the Tuscaloosa Community and the Alabama in Cuba Program is once again a great success. Related to that, the faculty and graduate students in Spanish were heavily involved in a successful campus-wide Cuba Week held in Fall 2010. ♦

## LIGHTFOOT WINS STATE TEACHING AWARD

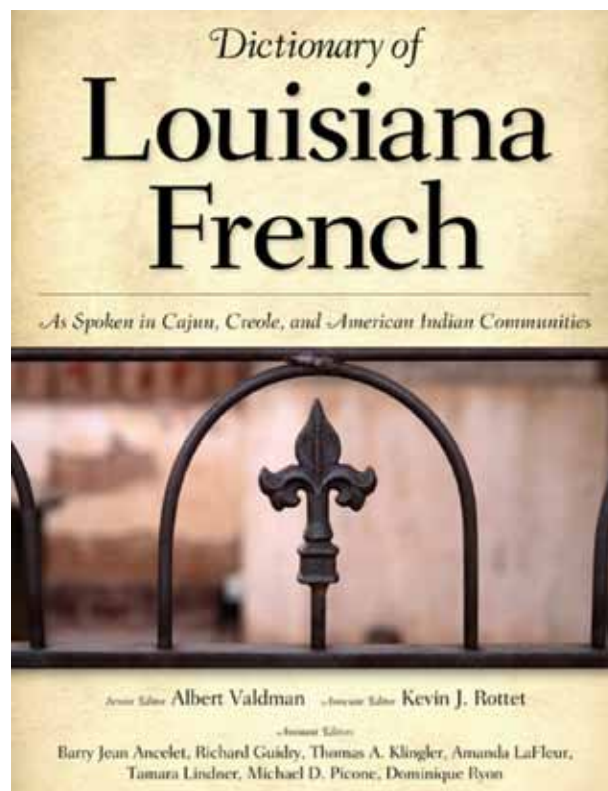


**Douglas Lightfoot** received the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers (AAFLT) 2010 SCOLT nomination for Post-Secondary Teacher of Excellence Award. The prize recognizes foreign language instruction at The University of Alabama and throughout Alabama. It was presented at the annual AAFLT meeting held at the University of Montevallo in February, 2011. The nominee goes forward to the regional level to be eligible for the similar award in the Southern Conference on Language Teaching, an organization comprised of more than a dozen states.

Lightfoot also serves the Alabama state chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) as Vice-President. The AATG supports the teaching and learning of German in a rich variety of ways, including providing resources for learners, awards to experience Germany, and teaching workshops. ♦

**BOOK OF THE YEAR**

Dr. Michael D. Picone was a member of the editorial team that published the *Dictionary of Louisiana French: As Spoken in Cajun, Creole, and American Indian Communities* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi) in 2010. The culmination of over a decade of field work as well as research on existing documents published post-1930, the 892-page volume provides by far the richest, most accurate inventory of French vocabulary in Louisiana. Because the dictionary has the distinction of including numerous contextual examples taken from real speech and from written sources for virtually every entry, it gives a full picture of the language in real usage and, simultaneously, opens up a window on countless aspects of the unique culture of Francophone Louisiana. Other members of the editorial team include native speakers of Cajun French who are renowned within the Cajun community for their efforts to restore French to prominence in Louisiana: Barry Jean Ancelet, Amanda LaFleur, and the late Richard Guidry. A boon to language-preservation efforts in Louisiana, the *Dictionary of Louisiana French* has become a best-seller for the University Press of Mississippi and is already well into its second printing, having just been released last year. The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities singled out the dictionary for its Humanities Book of the Year Award for 2010. ♦

**THE SONG IS OVER**

*Survival of a Jewish Girl in Dresden*

By Henny Brenner

Translated from the German by Barbara Fischer

Introduction by Barbara Fischer

Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2010

Growing up Jewish in Nazi Germany, Henny Brenner was long protected from deportation by the fact that her father was a Protestant. In early 1945 that could not protect her any longer, and Brenner received her deportation order. The cataclysmic bombing of Dresden in February 1945 saved her life. ♦

## TRA LI FIJEUME/BETWEEN RIVERS

By Maurizio Godorecci  
Translated by Barbara J. Godorecci  
New York and Ontario: LEGAS, 2010

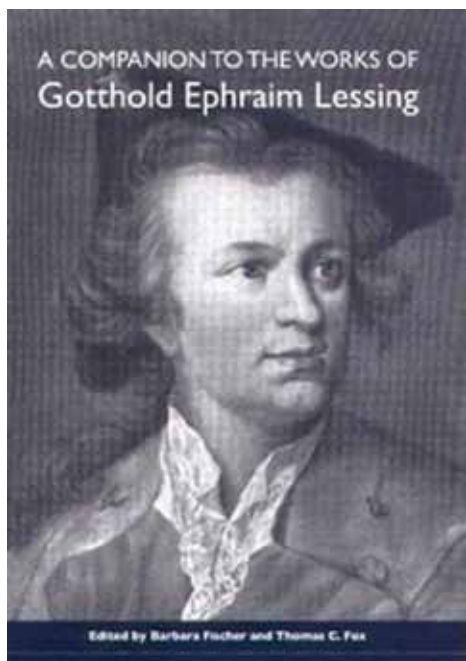
The book comprises a collection of original poems written by Dr. Maurizio Godorecci in Abruzzese, a dialect of central Italy, and translated into English verse by Dr. Barbara Godorecci. The author and translator introduced the book and read from it on the UA campus in the Gorgas Library on April 19, 2010. ♦



## A COMPANION TO THE WORKS OF GOTTHOLD EPHRAIM LESSING

Edited by Barbara Fischer and Thomas C. Fox  
Rochester and Woodbridge/Suffolk: Camden House, 2010.  
2nd edition (Paperback)

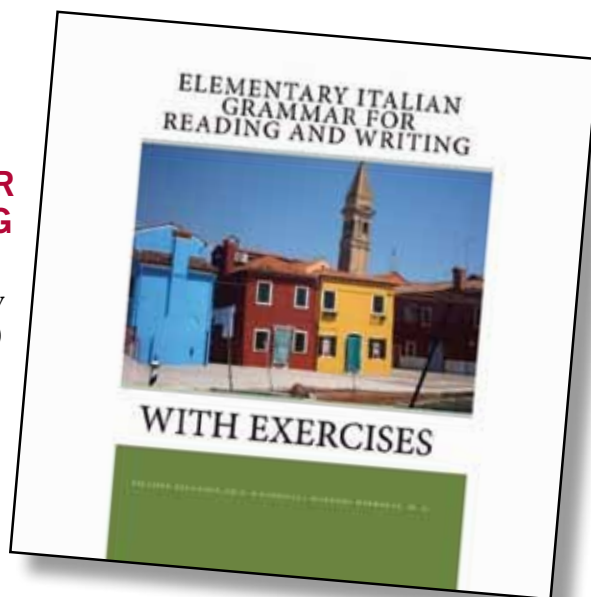
One of the most important German thinkers, Lessing (1729-1781) contributed in original and lasting fashion to literature, literary theory, philosophy, and theology. This volume, consisting of essays by an international group of experts, examines various facets of Lessing's life and work, as well as the international reception of that work. This is the first paperback printing of the volume. ♦



## ELEMENTARY ITALIAN GRAMMAR FOR READING AND WRITING

By Gabriella Marconi Merriman and Philippe Delannoy  
CREATESPACE, 2010

A new and innovative book for beginning Italian language instruction. ♦



## ÁLVARO BAQUERO-PECINO Assistant Professor of Spanish



**Álvaro Baquero-Pecino** received a Ph.D. in Literature and Culture Studies from Georgetown University in 2010. His research interests include the study of representations of violence, trauma, and the

impact of globalization in contemporary Spanish and Latin American Literature and Film Studies. He focuses on the study of cultural manifestations related to contract killers as well as genres such as detective novels, noir and neo-noir films within a transatlantic context. In 2010, Dr. Baquero-Pecino received a grant from the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) to attend the XXIX LASA International Congress; in 2011, he received funding from the University of Alabama's Research Grant Committee (RCG) for a research project entitled "On Violence and Beyond: Crime Fiction in Contemporary Brazil."

## ISABELLE DREWELOW Assistant Professor of French



**Isabelle Drewelow** earned her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has her *Maîtrise de Langues Étrangères Appliquées* from Université Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux, France. Dr. Drewelow teaches at all levels of the French studies curriculum. The graduate

courses she teaches include Methods of Teaching French and Introduction to Applied Linguistics Research Methods.

Her research interests include second language acquisition, foreign language learners' attitudes and beliefs, the teaching of culture in the foreign language classroom, the integration of technology in language learning/teaching, and foreign language teaching methodology.

## STEVE KRAUSE Instructor in German



**Steve Krause** is a doctoral candidate (ABD) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His dissertation entitled "Other Reasons: Analogical Reasoning as a Heuristic in a Critical Aesthetic System" examines the role of analogical reasoning in 18th-century German philosophical aesthetics.

Other teaching and research interests include: Lessing's critical works; the theory of aphorism around 1800; and language and language crises in Novalis, Nietzsche, and Hofmannsthal.

## ERIN O'ROURKE Assistant Professor of Spanish



**Erin O'Rourke** earned her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2005. In her research, Dr. O'Rourke focuses on Spanish in contact with indigenous languages of Latin America (e.g., Quechua) from a sociolinguistic perspective. In particular, she examines phonetics

and phonology at the segmental level, in the realization of vowels and consonants, and at the suprasegmental level, in the expression of intonation and rhythm. Dr. O'Rourke teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Spanish and linguistics, and is interested in the acquisition of pronunciation in classroom and in study abroad contexts.



## NEHAD M. SHAWQI MOKHEIMAR Instructor in Arabic

**Nehad M. Shawqi Mokheimer** received a Master of Teaching English as a Foreign Language (MATAFL) from The American University in Cairo. Subsequently, Nehad worked as an Arabic instructor at The Arabic Language Institute (ALI) and (ALIN) at The American University in Cairo, where she was an Arabic instructor for non-native speakers for more than 20 years. Her publications include developing material in the sociolinguistics field, and a recently published book on Egyptian colloquial Arabic entitled *Ana Min Il Balad Di*. ♦

## BARBARA FISCHER, IN MEMORIAM

The Department is greatly saddened by the loss of **Dr. Barbara Fischer**, who died in May 2010 when a speeding motorcyclist lost control of his vehicle and struck her car.

Born in Germany, Barbara Fischer studied at the University of Regensburg and then the University of California-San Diego, from which she received her Ph.D. in 1991. After teaching at Concordia College (MN) and Samford University, she joined the faculty of the University of Alabama, where she attained the rank of Professor of German. She published two books on the canonical German Enlightenment writer Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. Last spring her translation of the memoirs of a Holocaust survivor appeared with the University of Alabama Press. She published numerous articles and reviews on Lessing, the Enlightenment, the question of tolerance, German-Jewish relations from the Enlightenment until today, Nazi Germany, and contemporary German literature, especially George Tabori. Among her many distinctions Dr. Fischer was the recipient of the Culture and Education award from the Alabama-Germany partnership, and in 2011 she was posthumously awarded that organization's highest distinction, the Rainer Bauer Award, reserved for those who have contributed substantially to building relations between Germany and the United States. Dr. Fischer was Vice-president and President-Elect of the international Lessing Society, a considerable honor. She is survived by her husband Thomas Fox, a Professor in MLC, and their two children.



To honor Dr. Fischer the University has created the Barbara Fischer Memorial Fund, Box 870101, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487, USA. ♦

## LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER REMODELED

After generous funding from Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Provost, the remodeled Language Resource Center (LRC) opened at the end of the Fall Semester 2010. The new LRC is larger and now has an L-shape because one adjoining classroom has been added to its space. The LRC can be subdivided into separate units, allowing two or even three classes to be accommodated at once. Mobile wall dividers prevent the classes from interfering with one another.

The LRC has been equipped with Macintosh computers. Since Macs are capable of running the Windows operating system, this gives instructors more options in terms of programs. One section of the LRC is equipped with desktop computers, the rest with laptops. The furniture in the laptop area can be re-configured, allowing the instructor to create new classroom constellations



*Provost Bonner and Dean Olin join MLC faculty in the newly remodeled LRC*

as necessary. There is also a multi-media control console with a wall projector for use by instructors when conducting class. ♦

## 12 POLYGLOT

The University of Alabama  
Department of Modern Languages and Classics  
Box 870246  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0246