

# CMLL NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 2 / Issue 1



## EVENTS 2017/2018

Classical Week hosted by Honors College and CMLL 9/25-29/17

Fall Picnic 10/27/17

CMLL Language Expo 2/16/18

ISOLC language tutoring:  
Wednesdays 5:00-6:00pm in Lee Hall 001

Language Clubs meet regularly during the year.

Please check the CMLL website for additional events.

## CMLL WELCOMES NEW DEPARTMENT HEAD

*We are excited to introduce to you our new department head, Dr. Peter L. Corrigan. We are enthusiastic to see his administrative and academic leadership as he oversees the growth of our department. Dr. Corrigan has a strong administrative background. Most recently, he served as the Associate Dean at the State University of New York at Geneseo. We are glad to have him join us and help our department evolve. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Corrigan and take a moment to read his letter below.*

Dear Friends of CMLL,

I want to thank each and every person associated with CMLL for the warm and gracious welcome my family and I have received since our arrival in July. It's very easy to feel at home in this department where we all share strong commitments to the same things (languages, teaching, scholarship) and the same people (our students, each other). This is an outstanding department and, I predict, it's only going to get better.

As a growth-minded person, I'm making plans to increase this department by way of curriculum, resources, and people. My first action will be to establish a department strategic planning committee as mandated by the Dean of Arts & Sciences, thus assuring that our growth will be missional. I'm talking to key faculty both in the department and outside it about how to increase capacity in some undersubscribed languages and programs. I also initiated a writers group among department faculty with a view toward raising scholarly productivity.

Perhaps my greatest aspiration at this point is to offer regular, solid opportunities for all our students to experience study abroad. Studying in native environments improves language skills and cultural competencies, it makes us better students and world citizens, and quite simply, it helps us to become better human beings. Part-and-parcel of increasing study abroad opportunities is a necessary dedication to improving accessibility; therefore, I'll be exploring every avenue for funding student travel grants.

I'm so happy that you will participate and partner in the growth of our great department. CMLL's greatness can only be attributed to you and all the folks on campus who teach, publish on, and promote languages and literatures. Please join us in our common call to proficiency, transformative learning, excellence, and lifelong success.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ANA GONZALEZ

Ana Gonzalez is a Senior in French and International Business. She was born and raised in Panama and came to the United States six years ago. We asked her some questions regarding her experiences at MSU.

### How and why did you choose MSU?

I applied to several places during my senior year before deciding to come to Mississippi State; I often feel as if MSU chose me more than I chose it. The International Business program was one of the best in the SEC, so it was a big factor when making my decision.

### Who inspired you most while you were at MSU?

Someone who inspired me the most my first two years at MSU is my close friend Vanessa Velazquez. She is a driven person, she never gives up, and she knows how to embrace failure and adversity. I believe that the ability to accept failure and to learn from it is an important characteristic to have.

### Did you study abroad? What did you learn from that experience?

I did not study abroad, but I interned abroad and it was wonderful. I had the opportunity to intern at the Panama Canal during the expansion of the locks. It was a very special experience.



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*“Ever since I was young I knew I wanted to learn as many languages as I could. Travelling is something I have always wanted to do and in order to travel and fully immerse myself in a culture it is important to have different languages.” –Ana Gonzalez*

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### What was your most memorable course? Why?

There are actually two courses that I most enjoyed during my time at MSU. The first one was Consumer Behavior taught by Dr. Breazeale. During the course, I learned what drives humans to consume and how to better engage with your customer. The second course was the Le Clézio class taught by Dr. Moser. My favorite topic was how globalization is slowly ending indigenous civilizations and cultures across the world.

### Have you participated in extracurricular activities?

I have served MSU as an Alumni Delegate since my Junior year, and this year I am a part of the executive board as secretary. I have been a College of Business Ambassador since my sophomore year and a member of the International Business society as well. Since my junior year I also joined the Latino Student Association and Sigma Alpha Lambda Honor Society.

### Why do you think students should study languages?

Language can often be a barrier. Understanding another language not only opens a communicative door, but it lends you the ability to view culture in ways that only a native speaker can. Being fluent in multiple languages not only allows communication, but also it presents an opportunity for a relationship, for a connection.

### What are your plans for the future?

I plan on going to graduate school next fall and getting a Master’s in Business Administration with emphasis in Social Entrepreneurship.

## FACULTY FEATURE: FUMIKO JŌO

*In 2016, we welcomed Dr. Fumiko Jōo (pronounced Hoo-me-koh Joe-oh) to jumpstart our newly created Asian Studies program. She hailed from Shiga Prefecture, as suburb of Kyoto, Japan, and received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Being one of our newest professors, she's perfect for this issue's Faculty Feature!*

### **I'd like to talk about you, first. What is your research focus and interest?**

I am an interdisciplinary and transregional scholar of early modern East Asian literature and cultural history. I specialize in gender, religion, and the supernatural of late imperial China and Tokugawa Japan.

### **And you just published a book, right?**

Yes, I did! Our book is designed for students and scholars of Chinese studies who have absorbed the basics of academic Japanese and want to be able to penetrate scholarly articles and books on Chinese history and culture in Japanese. It has been known that scholars of Chinese history and culture must keep abreast of scholarship in Japan, but the great majority have found that to be difficult. That's why this textbook was born! Actually, my coauthor Dr. Joshua Fogel already started this project many years ago, but he faced some difficulty. Then, he heard that I was organizing a Japanese reading group with the faculty and graduate students of Chinese history at Johns Hopkins University when I was a postdoc there, so he asked me to use the manuscript in our reading group. That's the beginning of my involvement into the project, and shortly he invited me to join the book as full-fledged author.



### **Tell me a little more about your current research. I know that you recently spent the summer in Japan and China doing research.**

I had a great research trip in China and Japan this summer! I visited many libraries and museums to look at the primary materials for my book manuscript. This research project examines the 14th-century Chinese tale called "The Story of the Peony Lantern" as a way to discuss how production, circulation, and consumption of ghost tales occurred at the micro-regional and trans-regional level in early modern East Asia. This story is included in the collection of ghost tales entitled *New Tales for the Trimmed Lampwick (Jiandeng xinhua)*, one of the most popular Chinese books in early modern East Asia. I focus on various groups of reader-writers from the early modern period – local writers from Ningbo and Hangzhou, two port cities in China, Japanese Zen Buddhist scholar-monks, and an eighteenth-century Japanese female writer – and the ways that they interpreted ghost tales within their own cultural arenas. My project also investigates the gendered dynamics of the ghost heroines within these communities of readers, writers, and publishers and articulates the socio-historical, religious, and literary discourse of women's metamorphosing bodies, desire, and death.

### **That's fantastic! I have to say that you're focus is very interesting, and I love that you're teaching things such as ghost stories as part of your curriculum. Which brings me to my next question, what's it been like working on getting the Asian Studies program running?**

Building the Asian studies program is really exciting! Because CMLL has long provided both Chinese and Japanese language courses, we do not have to create the Asian Studies concentration totally from the air. In particular, Chitose Iida Little sensei has taught Japanese here for many years. So, we already have a solid

foundation of the East Asian language program in the curriculum. Moreover, there are several courses related to Asia already offered on campus. What we are doing is reorganizing these scattered pieces, adding more courses and requirements, and integrating those pieces into the systematic program.

**What’s been the greatest struggle in the process?**

Time! Also, since you’re building an entire program, the procedures are very specific. But thanks to the support of those inside and outside of the department, I’m sure we’ll be able to achieve our goals in due time.

**Greatest success?**

Since I’ve joined MSU, I’ve seen many students show their enthusiasm about learning East Asian languages and cultures. Each semester, I see more and more.

**Thinking ahead, where would you like to see the program in 5 years? 10?**

I am certain that Asian studies will be thriving. In the next decade, I hope we can add more tenure-track faculty to the program so that we can offer a more regional, linguistic, and disciplinary variety of courses. Although this is my personal vision, I hope this program encourages students to nurture their perspectives into the transnational cultural interactions in Asia and on the globe. I, a scholar of transregional East Asian literature, would like to emphasize the significance of expanding students’ views into the trans-Asian movements of thoughts, objects, and figures, based on the strong foundation of their target Asian language.

**Are there any plans for a future Study Abroad?**

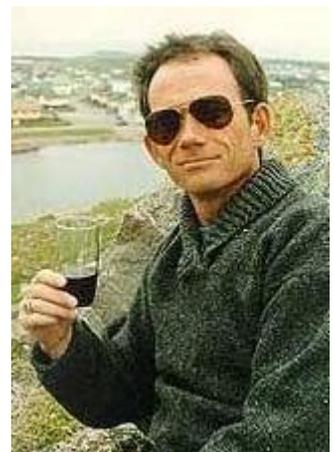
Not right now, but I hope to create a program for both Chinese and Japanese in the near future!

**Well no one can say that you’re not busy! It’s exciting to know what’s in the works, and I cannot wait to hear the reception of the full program. Let’s end on happy note, what’s something you’d like our Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alumni to know about you?**

Hmm...I love to listen to prog rock and death metal. Also, I’m a foodie and enjoy watching mecha-anime!

**REMEMBRANCE OF DR. JACK JORDAN**

In May 2017, former CMLL Department Head Dr. Jack Jordan passed away. Dr. Jordan was a distinguished professor at Mississippi State for over 25 years and served as Department Head for 7 years. He is a notable French scholar with a strong focus on the philosophical world of French writer Marcel Proust. He is survived by a sister, nephew, niece, and his 4-legged children: Marcel, Andalou, and Odette. The service was held in his hometown of Chatom, Alabama.



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*“Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.”*

*–Marcel Proust*

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## STUDENT ORGANIZATION CLOSE-UP: SPANISH CLUB

The Spanish Club at Mississippi State University is a social organization that offers a great and fun environment for students to speak and practice their Spanish skills, learn more about the culture, and share experiences. The Spanish Club is open to all Spanish-speakers at any level.



The club provides many opportunities for language practice, cultural activities and events, including watching Spanish-language movies or videos, playing games in Spanish, having guest speakers, and participating in conversations. The Spanish Club is a student-run organization that engages in many exciting activities to promote the Spanish language and culture.

The Spanish Club hosts several meetings and activities each fall and spring semester. Some examples of last year's activities and events include: MSU International Fiesta, MSU Annual Halloween Carnival, Latin American and Spanish movie night, "Noche Latina," organized by the Latino Student Association, and dining at Mexican restaurants.

The Spanish Club has many awesome events planned for this academic year, and there are plenty of opportunities to participate. Come and practice your Spanish with us. The club always welcomes new members and their ideas! For more information about the club contact: Arleana Moya ([adm201@cml.msstate.edu](mailto:adm201@cml.msstate.edu)), Faculty Advisor.

## DR. LYNN HOLT CONCLUDES HIS TERM AS INTERIM DEPARTMENT HEAD



As we welcome Dr. Peter L. Corrigan, we must say goodbye to Interim Department Head, Dr. Lynn Holt. Dr. Holt was interim Head for three years, and during those years, strengthened the department in terms of enrollments, programs, and campus recognition. He returns to his post as Professor in the Department of Philosophy & Religion where he is very anxious to get back in the classroom. His office is located in 229 Etheredge Hall, and he maintains his open-door policy.

## ROTUNDA IN THE NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING DEDICATED TO DR. ROBERT WOLVERTON

Our very own Classicist and local celebrity, Dr. Robert E. Wolverton received the high honor of having a rotunda inside Old Main Academic Center dedicated to him. Old Main is MSU's newest, state-of-the-art classroom building. Dr. Wolverton has served as Vice President of Academic Affairs and has a career that spans more than six decades. The rotunda features a biography and various pictures of Dr. Wolverton and the original Old Main. It is located on the first floor of Old Main and can be viewed whenever the building is open.



## CMLL FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

We are excited to share with you some of the achievements of our faculty from academic year 2016/2017.

**Dr. Silvia Arroyo** published an article "'Eres sol con muchos rayos': la subversion heliocéntrica en Valor, agravio y mujer de Ana Caro" in *eHumanista*. She also presented papers at International Colloquium in Baton Rouge, LA and XI Congreso Internacional de AISO in Madrid, Spain.

**Dr. Salvador Bartera** presented papers at OleMiss and Stanford University, staged Seneca's *Phaedra* at the Honors College (with a paper given at the symposium connected with it). He received a Mellon grant to attend a Paleography Workshop at the Getty Research Institute in LA, and another grant to attend the Digital Latin Library Workshop at the University of Oklahoma; and published a book review in the *Ancient History Bulletin*.

**Dr. Brian Davisson** published two articles: "La identidad nacional en la cartografía nicaragüense del siglo XIX," in *Re(I)maginar Centroamérica en el siglo XXI: Literatura e itinerarios culturales*, and "José Leiva's *El indio Juan* and the Discourses of National and Moral Progress in El Salvador" in *A Contracorriente*.

**Dr. Scott DiGiulio** received a research scholarship for Young Researchers from the Foundation Hardt in Geneva, Switzerland. He also co-organized a conference at Stanford called "DocuMentality: New Approaches to Written Documents in Imperial Life and Literature" and presented at the Society for Classical Studies' annual meeting in Toronto, Canada.

**Dr. Sally Gray** gave several conference presentations and presented a paper at an international conference in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

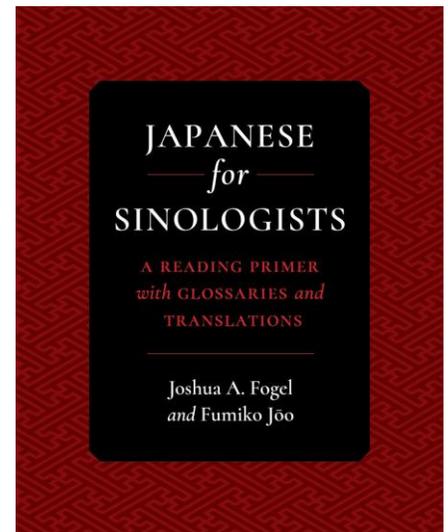
**Dr. Robert Harland** presented papers at CMLL Symposium, Mississippi Foreign Language Association Conference, and Vancouver School of Theology.

**Dr. Fumiko Joo** co-authored a book *Japanese for Sinologists: A Reading Primer with Glossaries and Translations*.

**Dr. Keith Moser** published a book *The Encyclopedic Philosophy of Michel Serres: Writing the Modern World and Anticipating the Future*. He edited a volume "Jean Baudrillard (1929-2007)" in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. He published numerous articles in the following journals: *Review of Contemporary Philosophy*, *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*, *The French Review*, *French Cultural Studies*, *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, *Cinematic Codes Review*, *Neohelicon*, *Popular Culture Review*, *Rocky Mountain Review*, *Germanisch-Romanische Monatsschrift*, and *The EFL Journal*. Additionally, he had an essay selected for inclusion in the special volume of *Mosaic*. He also serves on boards of *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*, *Cognizance*, International Ecolinguistics Association, and is a member of the scientific committee Ecocriticism 2018-International Conference on Literature, Arts and Ecological Environment, Green Lines Institute for Sustainable Development in Cooperation with CLEPUL (University of Lisbon), Porto, Portugal, and the Congress on Popular and Media Cultures, Paris, France.

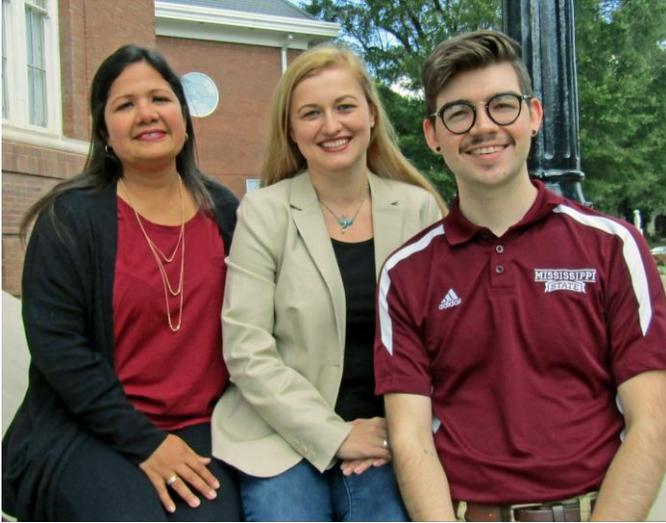
**Dr. Sol Pelaez** presented at the Biannual International Critical Concepts Working Group Seminar: *Finitude/La Finitud* organized by The Department of Comparative Literature, University at Buffalo (SUNY) and the Facultad de Filosofía, UNAM. She was also a session chair for "Nuevas hegemonías y fronteras intelectuales." Latin American Studies Association LASA, Pontificia Universidad Católica, Lima, Perú. She presented papers at LASA 2017 and at Mississippi Foreign Language Association Conference in Meridian, MS.

**Dr. Karim Simpore** published papers in *Australian Journal of French Studies*, *Romance Notes*, *Cincinnati Romance Review*, and *Les Passage(s)*; presented papers at the Centre International d'Etudes Francophones (CIEF) annual conference, Martinique, and at 30<sup>e</sup> Conseil International d'Études Francophones (CIEF) Saly-Portugal, Sénégal.



## MEET THE EDITORIAL STAFF

**Dakotah Daffron** is the Administrative Assistant for the Department. He began working full time for CMLL in 2016 following three years of working part-time during his undergraduate studies. His past editorial experience includes working as Co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Streetcar*, MSU's creative arts journal, and as a McRae publishing intern at the University Press of Mississippi. Dakotah's central focus is helping students, professors, and occasionally parents as they enter the department. He especially enjoys helping professors coordinate departmental events such as our Distinguished Lecture series throughout the year or Graduate Recognition ceremonies each spring. Outside of the office, Dakotah enjoys cooking, baking, and in-house gardening. Stop by the main office in Lee Hall, and he will happily help you with whatever you need!



*Arleana Moya, Ania Debicka-Dyer, Dakotah Daffron*

**Ania Debicka-Dyer** is an Instructor of French and Spanish and Recruitment Coordinator for CMLL. She has been teaching at MSU for ten years. She got her B.A. in Romance Languages from the University of Georgia and M.A. in Foreign Languages from Mississippi State University. Ania was born and raised in Poland, and her passion for languages was sparked by her father, who started teaching her English when she was 6 years old. She studied various languages along the way but decided to focus on romance languages when she entered college. Her primary interests are in linguistics. Ania enjoys playing the violin, gardening for food and for fun, cooking, puzzles, crosswords, and playing outside with her family.

**Arleana Moya** is a Spanish Instructor in the Department. Currently, Arleana teaches Spanish I and Spanish II and is part of the group that develops departmental tests for both subjects. She has been the MSU Spanish Club faculty advisor for five years. Arleana is always looking for innovative ways to teach and share with the students her passion for the Spanish language and culture, and encourages them to see learning Spanish as an opportunity rather than a requirement. She is always encouraging her students to travel to Spanish-speaking countries to become more fluent and to add a secondary major or a minor in Spanish if they are pursuing a different degree. Arleana's goals are to continue to motivate her students and give them a new perspective on learning the Spanish language, as well as continue helping the CMLL to move to the next level. Besides teaching, Arleana enjoys traveling, reading books, cooking Venezuelan food, and spending time with her husband and her two daughters.

## CLASSICAL WEEK EVENTS AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

This Fall, CMLL will continue its annual collaboration with the Shackouls Honors College to host Classical Week. This year's events include the following:

September 26, 4:00pm – lecture "Literary Compilation and the Challenges of Information Overload in the Roman World" by Dr. Scott DiGiulio. Coskrey Auditorium, Memorial Hall.

September 26 and 27, 6:00pm - performance of Plautus' *Aulularia* (The Pot of Gold). If the weather is nice, it'll be outside. It lasts one hour, is free, and open to all. Griffis Hall Courtyard, Zacharias Village.

September 28, 2:00 PM – lecture series "Laughing with the Romans: Plautus Onstage" by Dr. Michael Fontaine, Dr. Timothy Moore, and Dr. Salvador Bartera. The lecture is aimed at the general public. Griffis Hall.



## DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

The Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures at MSU, consisting of faculty members in Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish, offers Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts Degrees in Foreign Languages with concentrations in Classics, French, German, and Spanish.

East meets West, Classical languages converge with Modern languages giving our students the experience that will allow them to embrace diversity, while maintaining a solid sense of their own historical identity.

### EDITORIAL STAFF

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Anna M. Debicka-Dyer  
Arleana Moya

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