

CMLL NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 4 / Issue 1



EVENTS 2019/2020

Distinguished Lecturer Series:
Dr. Anne Quinney, October 2

Mississippi Foreign Language Association Conference:
November 8-9 @ The Mill

ISOLC language tutoring:
Wednesdays 4:00-5:00 pm

Language Clubs meet regularly during the year.

CMLL @ ACTFL in Washington DC (November 21-24)

CMLL Language Expo:
February 20 @ Colvard Student Union

CMLL @ SCOLT in Mobile, AL
March 26-28

FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

There's a hint of autumn in the air, and we've made an excellent start to another academic year. CMLL is thriving and growing (we've added Arabic to our regular offerings!), and our new lecturers and instructors seem to be fitting right in. Thanks to the hard work of many individuals, we've made superb progress toward launching an online Master's degree program and a study abroad opportunity in Classics. This summer saw the inaugural launch of a French program in Tours, led very capably by Ms. Lydia King. We've also been engaged in vigorous curricular renewal and expansion, particularly in our East Asian languages. The annual numbers of our faculty's publications continue to grow, and they are delivering important papers at conferences across the globe. More students than ever are majoring or minoring in foreign languages; the number of students we sent (and granted scholarships) for study abroad grew again this year. And of importance to all, Dr. Robert Wolverton started his 42nd year as a distinguished member of the department. Finally, I want to be sure to note that on 8-9 November, the department will host the annual conference of the Mississippi Foreign Language Association – a great opportunity for us to showcase our outstanding faculty and students.

It's very rewarding for me to work in this dynamic environment with (and for) such talented people. I encourage everyone who reads this to keep up their ties with CMLL. Feel free to reach out to me, too, if the department can assist you in any way. As always, Hail State!

Peter

CMLL DISTINGUISHED LECTURER SERIES: DR. ANNE QUINNEY

Anne Quinney received her PhD in Romance Studies from Duke University in 2000. She is currently Professor of French at The University of Mississippi where she teaches courses on contemporary French and Francophone literature and film. Her publications include *Le goût de la révolte* (Mercure de France, 2008), *Paris – Bucharest, Bucharest – Paris: Francophone writers from Romania* (Rodopi, 2013) and articles on Dumas, Cioran, Ionesco, Blanchot, Sartre, Camus and Duras. She is also a translator, most notably of French psychoanalyst J.B. Pontalis' autobiographical work, *Fenêtres*. Her presentation is titled "Marketing French Existentialism in the USA 1945-1951." [A.M.]

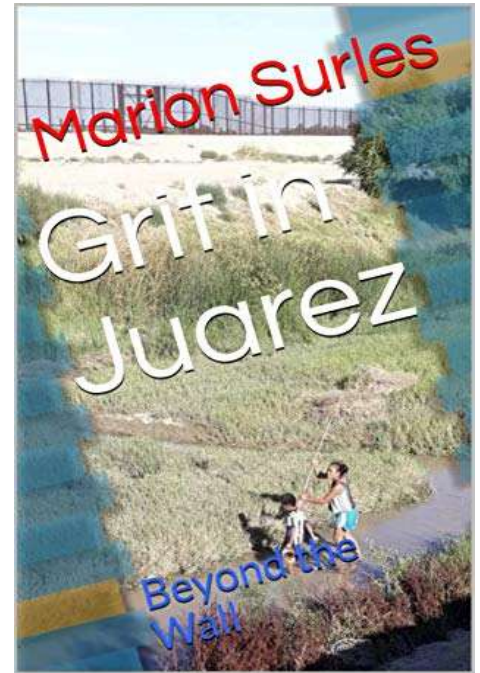


MARION SURLS: THE STORIES OF “GRIT IN JUAREZ”

Marion Surlis attended MSU in 1975-79 for a BA in Spanish and Social Work. We asked her about her memories of MSU, her work, and her recent book *Grit in Juarez* and its Spanish version *Valentía en Ciudad Juárez*. The proceeds from the book support Love and Literacy, her mission in Juarez, which encourages kids to read and stay in school.

What are your memories of MSU and our department? How did your experience at MSU shape your career?

Dr. Chatham was department head of foreign languages. Other memorable professors were Carmen McClendon and the Drs. Lopez. The social work professor I can remember was Margaret Swain. I returned to MSU for my Master's in Spanish because of a state grant that paid for teachers to study if they were being certified in teacher shortage subject area. My first course for my Master's was for Spanish teachers from across the state. More than anything, the course helped me network with other teachers. Having professors from different parts of the world opened up my world. Many students complain about not being able to understand their foreign professors, but if we can get past the accents, these professors have so much to teach us besides just the syllabus.



You have devoted your life to connecting two cultures. Tell us more about your work in that area.

I have taught Spanish to all age levels from preK to adult. I have also taught English as a second language. During my breaks from teaching, I have taken many short-term mission trips as a translator to several Latin American countries. In the 1990's Mississippi began to have an influx of Hispanic workers partly driven by the tree farm industry and the chicken plants. As the workers began to bring their families, I began to receive calls from many people needing translation. Soon I was helping enroll children in school, get moms and kids to the health department, help workers fill out job applications, explain traffic court, comfort patients in the emergency room and inmates in jail, and attend to many varied needs. Our church formed a Hispanic Mission Center, and our clients became involved in many of our church's activities. Stories were shared and cross-cultural friendships were formed.

Tell us about your new book *Grit in Juarez*. What inspired you to write it? What made you decide that these accounts needed to be shared?

Grit in Juarez is the story of children growing up in poverty just across our southern border. The last few years I have been working in mission in Juarez, Mexico which is across the border from El Paso, Texas. The children I work with have few dreams and few options. There seems to be little value in education nor in the ability to change the course of one's life. I wanted someone to hear the voices of these children. Although the book is fiction, it is based on many of the families I work with. The border is in the news today more than ever. My book is not political, but hopefully we will have a better picture of life beyond the wall. We are so blessed here. Sometimes we need to remember how blessed we really are.

Do any of the people, their stories, or their situations stand out as particularly memorable for you personally?

The book is focused on two families, one who struggles with medical issues and one who is dysfunctional. Both represent the struggles that these families face. No matter how hard they work, they feel they can never get ahead. Or they do not appear to try, preferring to stay in the only life they have known. The children from the dysfunctional families do not have the safety nets we have here. They are the ones who break my heart.

What would you like the readers to take away after reading your book?

Many Americans have gone on mission trips to build houses or to offer medical help at a make-shift clinic. This help is a blessing. But, I would like to see more follow up and long-term relationships between them. I know that not everyone can come to live in the United States. I know there is much corruption among politicians on both sides. But with the technology available today, relationships can be forged and maintained to help each other. We need to hear their stories, and we have so much to share. Let's get to know each other! [A.D.]

MSU TO HOST MISSISSIPPI FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Mississippi Foreign Language Association (MFLA) is an organization dedicated to advancing the teaching and learning of foreign/world languages in Mississippi K-12 schools, colleges, and universities. As the new Vice President of Programs, Dr. Kelly Moser, an Assistant Professor of Spanish and Pedagogy in the department, is responsible for developing the call for proposals and organizing the program sessions in conjunction with other board members (see image below) for the next two years. This year's conference on November 8-9, 2019 will be hosted by the department at The Mill Conference Center. Sessions allow educators to share practices and research related to linguistics, pedagogy, literature, and more.

In addition to the annual conference, the MFLA also supports educators through regional professional development opportunities. These workshops throughout the state assist language teachers in improving their skills and staying abreast of best practices in the field. Workshops not only bring excellent Mississippi teachers together who often lead sessions, but they also include guest presenters who are nationally recognized for their work in proficiency-oriented teaching (see images of workshops). They also provide in-service K-12 teachers with opportunities to earn continuing education units to renew their teaching license. Further, the MFLA recognizes excellence in teaching through multiple awards and student scholarships. [A.M.]

If you would like to learn more about the MFLA, see <https://sites.google.com/site/mississippifla/home>



President: Laura Hall

Vice President of Membership: Lorie White

Executive Director: Elizabeth Harrison; Edgar Serrano

Vice President of Programs: Kelly Moser



Photos from the workshop in Pascagoula High School with Annabelle Allen ("la maestra loca").

STUDENT ORGANIZATION CLOSE-UP: CLASSICS CLUB

The MSU Classics Club is advised by one of our Classics professors, Dr. Scott DiGiulio. The Classics Club is open to all Mississippi State students who are interested in learning more about the classical languages. After talking to the Club president, John Haynes, we found out a little more about their club activities.



During Spring semester, the Classics Club participated in a “volunteer day” in which the students volunteered at the Mississippi Junior Classical League. This convention took place at the Mississippi School for Math and Science. The students helped judge costumes and art. During the Spring semester they also participated in the International Fiesta. They sold Greek Butter Cookies and they enjoyed telling people about Classics.

For this Fall, the Classics Club plans to have Boardgame Nights. The students will enjoy playing with Roman boardgames provided by Dr. DiGiulio. They are also planning a movie night. One of the biggest things that the club has been working on is the introduction of Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics Honor Society. The Honor Society will be inaugurated this Fall.

In addition to the club activities, the Classics Club also provides tutoring for students who are currently taking Classics. If you are interested in joining the club, you may contact John Haynes at jh3481@msstate.edu. [M.A.]



KRAKER, MOSER, AND VOZZO RECEIVE SCHILLIG GRANT FOR TEACHING TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Kelly Moser, Dr. Rosa Vozzo, and Ms. Julia Kraker were recipients of one of the 2019 Otilie Schillig Special Teaching Project awards. Their project allows the department to create a Studio for Integrating Technology for Teacher Excellence (SITE). The SITE project has three goals: (1) create a space to address technology needs; (2) pilot new programs and applications for language teaching and learning; and (3) train faculty related to best practices in distance language education. The SITE space includes lesson recording stations, a green screen with video-editing programs, and a new robot to record lessons and create “live” classrooms. Additionally, faculty have already been collaborating through a shared Canvas site to upload tutorials, exemplary lessons, and resources. [A.D.]

CMLL LANGUAGE EXPO SHOWCASES LANGUAGE RELEVANCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

CMLL Language Expo will take place at the Colvard Student Union at MSU on February 20, 2020. This is the second Language Expo organized by CMLL. In 2018, the event brought together over 70 students from eight Mississippi high schools to MSU. In addition, more than 150 MSU students participated in the event. The goal of the Language Expo is to give high school students a way to explore languages as they relate to other fields and showcase language-related careers.

This event will provide high school students an opportunity to learn about the relevance of languages in STEAM education. Students will explore the ideas of biliteracy, language relevance, and bilingualism, and learn about various language programs available at MSU CMLL, meet current MSU students and learn about language clubs and organizations, show their presentational communication skills in a supportive setting, and practice their interpersonal communication skills.

The program includes sessions in which students will learn about opportunities available with a foreign language degree and interactions between languages and other disciplines such as business, technology, the arts, and culture. Also included is a World Language Experience session that provides an opportunity to learn and practice various languages available at MSU. During this session, students will have a passport that they can use to travel around the CMLL world to experience languages and cultures represented at MSU. Additionally, students will showcase their language skills or cultural knowledge in a poster presentation session. Their posters will be judged and prizes will be awarded to winners of each group. The event is free and lunch will be provided.

In addition to the student benefits, their teachers can earn one CEU by signing up for a hybrid course, which includes eight hours online and two hours face-to-face during the Expo. The teachers will have a concurrent session, which will be part of the CEU. Teachers are not required to register for the CEU in order to participate in the Language Expo.



The CMLL Language Expo is made possible thanks to the great support from the Dean of College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Rick Travis; CMLL Department Head, Dr. Peter L. Corrigan; as well as CMLL students, faculty, and staff, and our sponsors from within MSU and outside.

Registration for the Language Expo will start November 8, 2019. For more information, teachers can contact Ania Debicka-Dyer adebicka@cml.msstate.edu. [A.D.]



FACULTY FEATURE: SALVADOR BARTERA BECOMES NEW GRADUATE COORDINATOR

Dr. Salvador Bartera is an Assistant Professor in Classics and has been with the Department since 2014. He took over as the Graduate Coordinator from Dr. Brian Davisson in August 2019.

You are originally from Italy, and now you are teaching Classics in Mississippi. Can you tell us about the journey that brought you here?

I came to the US as an exchange student in 1998. I was a sort of TA in Italian at the University of TN for two years, while I was finishing my MA in Italy. After that, I applied for PhD programs in the US and got a fellowship at UVA, where I earned my PhD in Classics. Meanwhile, I got married! I went back to UTK as a lecturer, first in Italian and Latin, and then in Classics. I was a senior lecturer when I got my job at MSU in 2014.

What are your research interests?

My research focuses on Latin literature, particularly imperial historiography. I am completing a book on Tacitus, the greatest Roman historian of the empire. In addition to that, I am interested in the reception of classical literature in the Renaissance, particularly Italy, where the classics were "reborn", as it were, in the 1400s. I like to work with texts, ideally Latin texts that have never been translated in any language yet.

Tell us about your teaching focus.

I teach languages and courses in translation. Although I like to experiment, and to teach with different methodologies, such as movie theories and digital humanities, at the core I remain a language-focused person, a pure philologist, as we say in classics. For me, first and foremost, what counts is that students have a good grasp of the languages, Latin, Greek, or Italian, the three languages that I have taught so far.

Your First Year Experience seminar introduces students to Italian food. What made you decide to teach this course?



Dr. Bartera cooking during his seminar (photo by Megan Bean /© MSU)

Why were you interested in becoming a graduate coordinator?

Because I have been teaching for 20 years now, and I need to do something other than just teaching. I have always worked in programs where classics was not offered at the graduate level, so I never had that option. I like the interaction with more advanced students, who are involved in research and aspire to becoming teachers or



Italy is my country of origin, and I will never stop being Italian in my heart. One of the most important cultural aspects of Italian life, perhaps the most important, is food. Everything, in Italy, depends on food. I love food, eating and cooking it. It's always been a passion of mine to experiment with recipes. Since in America it is very difficult to find authentic Italian food, and especially since I see, with pity, really, that the American youth is totally unaware of what good food is, I decided to promote my country through its most distinctive feature, food. I find it unacceptable that a 20 year old may find a microwavable meal a good meal.

start some other careers. I like advising people, and I like to see how a graduate program works. I also like to promote our program, both in the US and abroad. As a foreigner who entered a graduate program in America, I know how important that is.

Where would you like to see our graduate program in the near future?

I would like to see our program offering MAs in all the major languages, including Latin, both face-to-face and on-line, with two distinct tracks, one for people who want to pursue a PhD and one for people interested in a professional activity, as teachers or elsewhere. I am hoping that we will have a substantial number of people from different continents, with different backgrounds. Diversity of every kind is the strength of this country. What I like the most about our department is all the accents I hear every day!

What is something interesting about you that you would like to share with our readers?

Other than food, which is my No. 1 weakness (I can never turn down a slice of cake, even after a big meal), I enjoy the outdoors very much, whether it is cycling, hiking, or just walking. I like most outdoor activities, though I am not a daredevil (so, no free climbing for me). When the weather is not suitable, I spend my free time reading, mostly classic novels. I read all day serious stuff, so I need to unplug when I pick up a book, for the most part. I occasionally watch movies and TV shows, particularly "British" stuff, such as Downtown Abbey, Fleabag, or the very funny (and Irish, not British!) show Derry Girls. [A.D.]

DR. JAMES RAY CHATHAM (1931-2019)

Dr. James Ray Chatham died on August 12, 2019 at the age of 87. He served as Head of the Department of Foreign Languages at MSU from 1964-1983. He was also the Honorary President of Sigma Delta Pi, the Executive Director of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATS) from 1984-1993. He was an advocate of the Spanish Honor Society and worked to promote Spanish education in higher education. We are deeply saddened by his death and extend our condolences to his family. [A.D.]



MONIKA DUNLAP: A LEGACY OF KINDNESS

Beloved French and German Instructor Monika Dunlap passed away unexpectedly on 24 September. She left behind many devoted students and admiring colleagues. She was an excellent and inspiring teacher, she cared about her students and served as their mentor outside of the classroom, often forming strong bonds that extended beyond the college years. She was respected by her colleagues and served as an example of great work ethic and innovation in the classroom. Her gifts to our department were highly prized and will be missed for many years to come. [A.D.]



CMLL WELCOMES NEW STAFF AND FACULTY

Fall is always an exciting time for us with many new students coming to MSU, especially this year, with the highest enrollment across campus. This year, we are also welcoming many new employees at our department. Join us in extending a warm welcome!

Ms. Adrian Austin Administrative Assistant I
Ms. Hiroko Clay (Japanese)
Mr. Cody Fondren (German)

Ms. Liang-Yin Lin (Chinese)
Ms. BJ Massey (French)



DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

The Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures at MSU, consisting of faculty members in Arabic, 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.

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