

Comparative Literature NEWSLETTER

Volume 1

The University of Georgia

Spring 2014

A Note from the Department Head



Welcome to our first Newsletter, which will provide information about the scholarly activities undertaken by our faculty and highlight current events in the Department. We hope also to use this forum to stay in touch with our Alumni and to include in it, when possible, news about our Alumni.

Ours is a large and diverse department with faculty from all over the world, including East Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. This diversity reflects the interests of the students who study language, culture, and world literature. We offer courses that focus on the cultures of Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and Latin America. We teach world literature, literary theory and interdisciplinary studies focusing on the intersections of literature and film, the visual arts, literature and politics, literature and music, and literature and nature. We also offer courses in four East Asian languages (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese) and two African languages (Swahili and Yoruba). Students can major in Comparative Literature, in Japanese, in Chinese, and minor in Comparative Literature, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, African Languages and Literatures, and East Asian Languages and Literatures.

For more information about our Department and its programs, please visit our Web site: cmlt.uga.edu.

Faculty News



Dr. Dezso Benedek, who served as the Director of the Asian Language Programs of UGA for over eighteen years, has spent several years doing Anthropological fieldwork in Austronesia. He is teaching several popular Comparative Literature/Anthropology courses using his recorded materials, courses where he acts as “the field” and the students are “the researchers.”



Dr. Ronald Bogue presented the plenary address at the Deleuze Studies in Asia Conference in Taipei, Taiwan. His talk, “Theatrum Philosophicum Asiaticum,” drew parallels between Deleuze’s philosophy of drama and the theory and practice of three forms of Asian theater: Beijing Opera, Kathakali Dance Drama, and Nō Drama.



Dr. Thomas Cerbu continues to shuttle between Athens and Rome; he has a contribution scheduled to appear in volume 3 of the new *Storia della Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana*, currently being published by the Vatican Library.



Dr. Dorothy Figueira was recently awarded the 2014 Distinguished Research Professor. Dr. Figueira has been busy this semester finishing up the 2014 issue of *Recherche litteraire/Literary Research*. She is especially proud, as editor of this journal, to see students in writing reviews that become their first publication. In addition, she is co-editing a handbook on Comparative Literature based mainly on contributions from Indian comparatists. She is also editing a special issue of the Hungarian comparative literature journal *Neohelicon* dealing with religion and the novel.



Dr. Ari Lieberman published a novel entitled *The Champions of Innocence* (Tel Aviv: Yediot Books, 2014), which, according to one reviewer, “invites readers to take the literary equivalent of a hallucinogenic drug.”



Dr. Dainess Maganda is investigating the role of local and global trends in the formation of linguistic ideology of the Swahili speakers currently residing in the United States, while exploring the relationship between the use of dominant languages such as English in advancing economic development, specifically the income per capita (GPD) in three Sub-Saharan African countries.



Dr. Masaki Mori’s research interests include modern Japanese writers, such as Kawabata Yasunari and Murakami Haruki. His article on Murakami, “A Bakery Attack Foiled Again,” appeared in *Japan Studies Review* 17 (2013). Dr. Mori is currently working on an article about his activities as a translator. He is the Director of the Japanese Program.



Dr. Lioba Moshi spent four months in Ghana this summer, having been invited by the University of Ghana-Legon to serve as a visiting scholar. She used this opportunity to continue her research on the sustainability of globalized languages.



Since 2007 **Dr. Karin Myhre**, a specialist in Chinese language, culture and thought, has served as Co-Principal Investigator for a multi-million dollar National Science Foundation education and research project that brings together students and researchers investigating migration and species invasion in China, Japan, Taiwan and the United States.



Dr. Peter O'Neill was recently elected to the UGA's University Council, as well as the University Council's Human Resources Committee, starting in Fall 2014. He was also appointed a special adviser for the forthcoming special issue of *Atlantic Studies: Global Currents* on "Memory and the Irish Famine." His latest article, "Memory and John Mitchel's Appropriation of the Slave Narrative," will appear in this issue.



Dr. Akinloye Ojo, Director of the African Studies Institute, participated in the 4th Southeast African Language and Literature Forum (SEALLF) in Gainesville, Florida, in October 2013, along with **Dr. Karim Traore** and **Dr. Dainess Maganda**. At the Forum, Dr. Ojo presented a paper entitled "Opinions of Language Learners on Effective African Language Pedagogy," and chaired a panel on "Orality, Discourse and Society."



Director of the Korean Program, **Dr. Hyangsoon Yi**, led fifteen Foundation Fellows to Korean Seon (Zen) monasteries for their 2014 spring study travel. Dr. Yi was recently named Director of the Center for Asian Studies at UGA.

Department News



On April 2, 2014, the Department launched its first spring festival, the ***CMLT Jamboree: Languages, Cultures, and Literatures of the World***, which showcased the various programs in the Department: Comparative Literature, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Swahili, Vietnamese, Yoruba. Each program had a booth with information and representative food, and put on musical and dance performances representative of its culture. The Jamboree was a resounding success and was attended by hundreds of students and faculty.

New Appointments and Retirements



Dr. Yuanfei Wang will be joining the Comparative Literature faculty in the fall of 2014. Dr. Wang obtained her Ph.D degree from the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania in 2013. Currently she is a SSRC postdoc fellow and a visiting scholar at Columbia University. Her dissertation investigates how Chinese vernacular fiction in the late Ming and early Qing period (1560s-1660s) appropriated literary topoi such as exogamous marriage, family reunion, and adventure to construct distinctive imaginary visions of the empire, as different from and overlapping with other narratives such as historiography, drama, and religious treaties.



Dr. Ronald Bogue, Distinguished Research Professor and Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, will be retiring at the end of this school year, having taught in the Department since 1975. Dr. Bogue is a leading expert on the work of French philosopher Gilles Deleuze. His first book, *Deleuze and Guattari* (1989), was also the first of its kind to appear in English. Dr. Bogue went on to publish several monographs on Deleuze, including *Deleuze on Cinema* (2003), *Deleuze's Wake: Tributes and Tributaries* (2004), and *Deleuzian Fabulation and the Scars of History* (2010), as well as four edited books, two translations, and dozens of articles in leading journals. Dr. Bogue served as Graduate Coordinator from 1987 to 1990 and as Department Head from 1990 to 1995.

Graduate Student News

Three students in our Department completed their degrees in December: **Theresa Flemming** (MA), **Katherine Klimt** (MA), and **Gail Polk** (PhD), who had been a Presidential Fellow. And two more PhD students expect to defend their dissertations in time for a May graduation: **Laura Edmunds** and **Oksana Lutsyshyna**.

Outstanding Teaching Awards went to three students this spring: **Tuan Jung (Zoe) Chang** (PhD), **Josh McCall** (PhD), and **Becky Sexton** (MA). **Mike Papparone** (PhD) received a Willson Center Graduate Research Award in the fall for travel to collections.

Compass, the Department's graduate student organization, organized a lecture by **Keith N. Knapp**, "Noble Creatures: Filial and Righteous Animals in Early Medieval Chinese Thought," which took place on April 16, 2014, in the Miller Learning Center. Dr. Knapp is a Professor of East Asian History at The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, and an expert in Confucianism and social thought in early medieval China.

Undergraduate Student News



In the spring semester of 2014, the Senior Seminar in Comparative Literature produced and published the second issue of *Xenophile: A Journal of Comparative Literature*. The journal, which is available at cmlt.uga.edu/xenophile, began as a class project in the spring of 2013, with contributions by undergraduate and graduate students from around the world. Seminar members revised their own work for publication and accepted several outside contributions. In the seminar, which is the capstone course of the Comparative Literature major and has been run by Dr. Ari Lieberman since 2013, students put into practice the theories, the methodologies, and the critical and writing skills they had acquired during their university career.

Graduates in the Spotlight



Adrianna Gregory graduated in May 2013 with an A.B. in Comparative Literature and Russian. After graduation, she moved to New York, and in September she joined Oxford Economics, an international independent research and consultancy firm. As part of the editorial team, Adrianna is involved in all aspects of research and reporting—and she keeps up with her reading on the subway before and after work.



Melanie Ramey graduated from UGA in May of 2013 with degrees in Comparative Literature and Anthropology as well as a minor in Spanish. After graduation she spent six months in a small city in the coffee region of Colombia where she taught English to local businessmen and worked with a translation company doing Spanish to English translations. Her time there helped her decide to pursue law, particularly International Law with an emphasis on US-South American affairs. This coming fall she will begin her graduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.



Anisha Hegde graduated in May 2014 with double majors in Comparative Literature and Genetics. During her time at the University of Georgia she has led the campus chapter of the Roosevelt Institute, volunteered extensively through the Athens-Clarke County Mentor Program and Butterfly Dreams Therapeutic Riding Farm, studied abroad at Oxford University, and completed medical internships on three continents. This fall, she will begin medical school at the University of Virginia while continuing to pursue her interests in narrative medicine and maternal and child health.