

February 2011

# NEWS from Foreign Languages and Literatures

PURDUE  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

## Message from the Head

Greetings! I joined FLL as Department Head in August 2010, after many years at both LSU and Colorado; finally I feel like I'm home.

We cover the globe in our research: FLL's scholars are among the most productive in their fields, contributing annually to discoveries in the realm of classical antiquity, medieval and early modern literature and culture, historical and applied linguistics, second language acquisition, modern and contemporary literature and culture devoted to Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Given the centrality of studies in and around the many languages and cultures we represent, it is not surprising that FLL's faculty are engaged in teaching and research that help to power many of the interdisciplinary degree programs and research institutes fielded by our College, significant examples of which are Film/Video Studies, Asian Studies, Classical Studies, Comparative Literature, Italian Studies, Latino and Latin-American Studies, Linguistics, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Philosophy and Literature, Religious Studies, Women's Studies, and the Center for Cognitive Literary Studies (see their brand-new title *Theory of Mind and Literature*, Purdue UP, 2011). These linkages and bridges are constantly expanding, adding value to the degrees offered by FLL and to the quality of education needed by students in the global age.

One of Purdue's three strategic plan goals is "meeting global challenges," something FLL is both prepared and eager to do. We serve as the University's academic portal to the world, on the basis of our diversity of language and culture expertise, and we are charged with providing international opportunities for our students and our faculty. As our graduates readily understand, studying and living abroad is an expensive proposition, and FLL is determined to continue its proud tradition of enhancing the student experience through study abroad by raising funds for student scholarships in particular. The relevance of our majors and minors, as well as the language and cultural proficiency provided by our beginning and intermediate courses are precious resources in a global economy – there has never been a better time to invest in the languages.



I am interested in hearing from our alums. There are changes affecting higher education, many of them posing new challenges to maintaining the quality and integrity of our degree programs as the state universities continue to sustain deep budget cuts. You are the best possible proof of the value of a degree in the languages – our greatest asset is to have your support, in whatever form that support might take.

Thank you, and feel free to send me an email at [adelcaro@purdue.edu](mailto:adelcaro@purdue.edu)

Cordially,

Adrian Del Caro

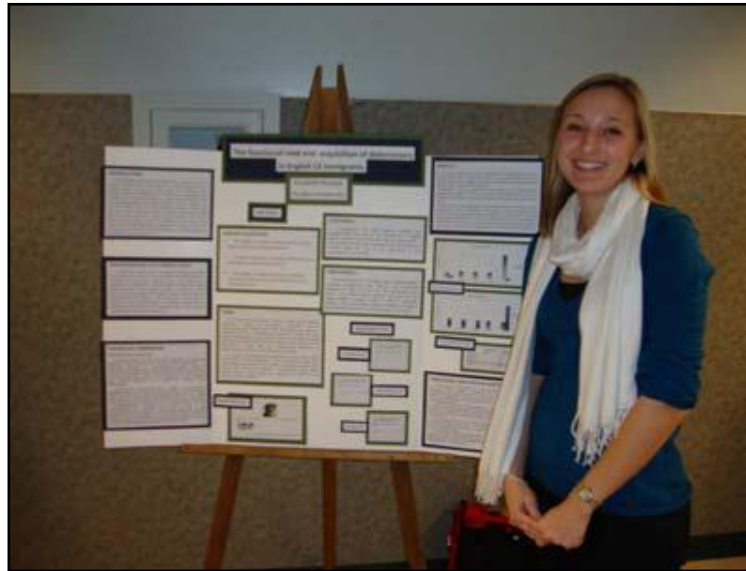
## On Campus

**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Central Association of Teachers of Japanese** (CATJ 22) was held on campus May 22-23, 2010. The CATJ theme was "Research, Practice, and Theory of Japanese Language Education". Japanese faculty welcomed 60 participants from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin, Arizona, Washington, New Jersey, and Tokyo.

In addition to the keynote speech by Dr. Endo-Hudson (Michigan State University) and Dr. Nobuko Chikamatsu (DePaul University), fourteen thought-provoking presentations were given during the meeting. "The Proceedings for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Central Association of Teachers of Japanese" (edited by Mariko Wei and Atsushi Fukada) was published, and the online version of the proceedings is available by visiting:

[http://www.cla.purdue.edu/fll/japanese/CATJ22\\_Proceedings.html](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/fll/japanese/CATJ22_Proceedings.html)

**Linguistics Workshop**—The First Linguistics Workshop was held on December 7, 2010, in the foyer of Stanley Coulter Hall. FLL 519 and FLL 575 students presented their final research projects.



*Graduate student Elizabeth Barajas exhibits her research titled "The functional load and acquisition of determiners in English L2" at the first Linguistics Workshop.*

### Confucius Institute Translation Center

The Confucius Institute Translation Center has been officially approved by the University. They can now translate and notarize Chinese documents including driver's licenses, diplomas, transcripts, etc. for students and the community.

<http://www.purdue.edu/confucius>

### Department Rankings

The Department is proud to be recognized in the recently released rankings by the National Research Council.

Among the fields surveyed, taking an average of the multiple criteria used to rate programs, the Spanish department at Purdue ranked at no. 18 of the 59 graduate Spanish programs included. This is in the top third of all programs studied, one of only three Big 10 departments to rate that highly (the other two are Penn State and Iowa).

Unlike earlier rankings, this one includes a host of quality factors based on the student experience, and again unlike previous rankings, this newly released one strives to be comprehensive and nuanced.

In addition, Ginger Walkup, Schedule Deputy, retired in January.

### Teaching Awards 2010

- Charles B. Murphy Teaching Award--Keith Dickson
- CLA Award for Excellence in Education--Howard Mancing
- Distance Education Award--Sílvia Oliveira
- Learning Outcomes Assessment Grant--John Sundquist
- FLL Faculty Teaching Award - -Ahmed Idrissi Alami
- FLL Graduate Student Mentoring Award--Beate Allert
- FLL Outstanding Continuing Lecturer Award--Elizabeth Mercier
- FLL Excellence in Teaching, Continuing Lecturer/Visiting Professor --Lucia Hannau, Aurore Vernay



*FLL Students and Faculty on a summer study abroad in Madrid, Spain*

## Study Abroad

### Summer 2010 Madrid

Twenty-eight students were part of the 2010 Summer Madrid Program led by teaching assistant Mass Giorgini and Professor Sonia González.

The official program dates were May 29-July 13, 2010, but many decided to arrive earlier and stay later. Mass Giorgini gave tours around the city which included sightseeing in the Plaza Mayor, visits to the Palacio Royal, walks by the Prado and San Jeronimo, and stops at the Real Academia.

All the students lived with host families spread around the city. As part of the course the students visited all of the major sites in the city at length. Students also had the opportunity to explore additional parts of the city including the windmills of Don Quixote and the town of El Toboso.

All of the official classes were held at the Universidad Nebrija of Madrid, but many of the excursions were directly related to class topics. For instance, one of the classes was specifically about three important classic painters of Spanish History (El Greco, Diego de Velázquez, Goya), and included three separate visits to the Prado to more closely view and discuss their works in front of the actual pieces.

### Spring Break 2011

Professor Becky Brown's French food culture course will visit the Écoles des Trois Points in Roanne, France during spring break 2011.

### Summer 2011 China

Beginning in the summer of 2011, Purdue students will have an opportunity to study the Chinese language and special topics in China for six weeks. Students can earn Purdue credits for their courses in Peking, China. For information, contact Professor Wei Hong at (765) 494-3859.

## GRADUATE PROGRAM

### Graduate Symposium

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures Announces the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium on Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

#### *Theme*

### Identity and Culture

Saturday, March 5, 2011  
Purdue University

#### *Keynote Speaker*

### Dr. Thomas Turino

Professor of Anthropology and Musicology  
University of Illinois Urban-Champaign

#### *Graduate Student*

#### *Newsletter Website:*

<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/fll/main/graduate/Newsletter.html>

## FLL Retirements

The Department has had four recent retirements. We will miss them and wish them all our best.

From the faculty, Floyd Merrell, Professor of Spanish, Araceli Merrell, Continuing Lecturer of Spanish, and Elisabeth Cook, Continuing Lecturer of Spanish recently retired.

# RE-VISIONING TERRORISM

*An Interdisciplinary and International Conference*

SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2011 at PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Papers and/or panel proposals from scholars across the humanities and social sciences are invited for a three-day conference on re-visions and re-presentations of terrorism from antiquity to the present, to coincide, roughly, with the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attack directed at the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001.

Refereed proceedings will be published.

The aim of this interdisciplinary conference is to look at terrorism to see how it has been perceived and represented over the centuries in literature, art, theater, and most recently, in the audio-visual media with the hope of arriving at a better understanding of this phenomenon.

While we do not expect to find a unitary definition of and/or explanation for terrorism, we hope to encourage a more flexible response to one of the most serious problems confronting the world today.

For information contact Elena Coda and Ben Lawton  
(Conference Co-Directors) at [lawton@purdue.edu](mailto:lawton@purdue.edu)

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