

CHAIR UPDATE: By Dr. Elizabeth Lewis

The 2019-2020 academic year has been busy as usual for faculty and staff of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

Our language coordinators and residents in South Hall have hosted fun events for all of our students such as a Master International Chef cook-off, a Holiday Market, and Short Film Festival.

In the early fall semester we hosted guest speakers on seventeenth-century medical culture in Spain and twenty-first century Spanish language communities in the southern US. For Latino Identities month, we celebrated 500 years of the Spanish-Aztec Encounter.

In November we celebrated German campus weeks with a visit by filmmaker Elin Hare showed her film "From Us to Me" and another visit by Jennifer Taylor of William and Mary who gave a talk on women in German films during the era of the Weimar Republic.

We also welcomed back a group of young alumni in November who shared their stories with our students at the Career Forum. We look forward this spring to celebrating Chinese New Year in February, Arabic Culture Night (the 10th anniversary of this popular event!), our international film festival in March, and Research and Creativity day in April.

At the end of this academic year, I will be stepping down as department chair and transition into my new role as Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Marcel Rotter will be taking over as Department Chair. It has been an honor to serve our students, faculty, and alumni for the last six years, and I look forward to the next chapter for the department under Professor Rotter's leadership.



One of the Latino Identities Month displays "Creating a New Culture". There were many interesting books, maps and artifacts relating to the encounter between the Aztec Emperor Montezuma and the Spanish conqueror Hernan Cortés in México 1519!

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

UMW to Offer Japanese Language Courses

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has inaugurated a new Japanese language program funded with a generous two-year grant from the Japan Foundation. We will teach beginning and intermediate Japanese language and culture starting in Fall 2020.

Japanese studies have already been proven popular on the UMW campus. Minae Uehara, Japan Outreach Initiative Coordinator, has been offering informal, non-credit instructional "Japanese Conversation Hours" each week, as well as cultural activities such as cooking, origami and calligraphy.



UMW in SPAIN



Since 2002, a group of UMW students participate in our UMW in SPAIN summer study abroad program in Bilbao, Spain. Dr. Jose Sainz and Dr. Martinez-Mira lead this program at the Universidad de Deusto in Bilbao, a bustling, friendly, and beautiful city in the Basque country on the coast of northern Spain. In addition to taking courses on Spanish, Business, or International Affairs, among others, students also attend cultural events (e.g. the world-famous Running of the Bulls in Pamplona), enjoy day trips, do site visits and travel around Spain and Europe. Studying and having a great time is possible, after all!

Maria Laura Bocaz-Leiva Book Launch

Associate Professor of Spanish, María Laura Bocaz-Leiva, completed the annotated critical edition of one of the main novels of José Donoso (Chile 1924-1996) “*El lugar sin límites*” (1966). It is part of the Series, “*Colección biblioteca chilena*” published by university press Ediciones Universidad Alberto Hurtado. Among the contributors to the volume is Professor Gonzalo Campos-Dintrans who contributed with several notes analyzing the representation of “voseo” in the novel. The book launched in Santiago Chile, on January 7, 2020 at an event hosted by the director of the collection, Dr. Juan José Adriasola, and the edition presented by two renowned literary critics: Dr. Eliana Ortega and Lorena Amaro.



Modern Languages Career Forum 2019

UMW Alumni, Mackenzie Poust ('19), Tyler Christesen ('07), Alicia Persson ('08), Barbara Ailstock ('10), Hannah Rothwell ('19), Gustavo Castillo ('13), Anna Krus ('19), were guest speakers at our Career Forum where they discussed how to utilize your language skills after graduation. We even skyped with 3 of our Alumni who are currently located in Amman, Jordan! Each incorporated a second language into their next phase after graduation through working as educators, consultants, writers and in technical management. Thank you for taking the time to share your experience with us.



Italian VLC (2019), Martino Loiacono, having some fun with students during his conversation hour.



Congratulations to our 2019 inductees to the UMW Foreign Language Honor Society, Phi Sigma Iota.



We organized our 1st UMW International Ball in April 2019. There was international food, music and dancing!