

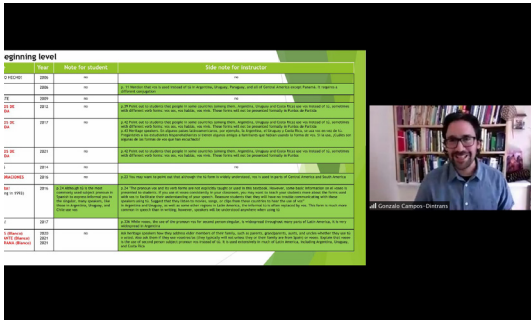
NEWSLETTER OF UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON MODERN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

CHAIR UPDATE: By Dr. Marcel Rotter

The 2020/21 Academic Year was in many respects a quiet one. Covid locked us mostly out of our classrooms, and events could only be held virtually. After all face-to-face instruction had come to a sudden stop on March 17, 2020, classes continued fully online for the remainder of the semester and through the two summer sessions. We started to offer a few classes in Chinese, French, German, and Spanish in person or hybrid, but over 75% of language classes continued to be taught online. The language coordinators who had to leave in early April 2020 could not be replaced by new ones for this year due to travel restrictions and the suspension of visas. Thanks to our advanced language students, we could continue to offer tutoring services and conversation hours remotely.

In the Spring of 21, the department offered a few events such as a book discussion with the author of *94 Paradoxes to Consider in the 21st Century*, Leopoldo Martinez Nucete. The German program joined forces with other Virginia German programs and formed a Collaboratory for German Studies in Virginia (CGSV) that organized an online bi-weekly panel discussion series "The New Normal: Germany and the U.S. Now."

We are planning for a fully in-person academic year 21/22 with the return of our Language Coordinators and many of our beloved events.



Assistant Professor of Spanish, Gonzalo Campos-Dintrans, gives a virtual talk in the Social Research Colloquium (Sep. 30, 2020)



Senior Lecturer, Maysoon Al-Sayed Ahmad, with her Arabic 202 students.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Congratulations on Retirement!

A longtime member of our faculty, Professor of French Marie A. Wellington, retired in May 2020. Marie came to UMW in 1991 with impeccable credentials that included a B.A. from Wellesley College and a M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. Prior to teaching in our institution, she held positions at Michigan State University, Loyola University in Chicago, and Notre Dame University. During her tenure at UMW, Marie taught nearly all of the courses in the French curriculum, but she preferred the first-year sequence and upper-level literature courses. As a specialist in eighteenth-century French literature, Marie enjoyed introducing students to the great thinkers and writers of the Enlightenment. As Marie begins her well-deserved retirement, she plans to explore new interests and continue with old ones, like traveling abroad.



Alumni & Student Updates

The 2020 recipient of the Sheila Cockey Award, **Sarah Patterson**, had a paper accepted for presentation at the 2021 Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (MACLAS) conference. The title of the presentation is “Prison Writing: A study of Si me permiten hablar by Domitila Barrios de Chungara and “Letter from the Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King.”

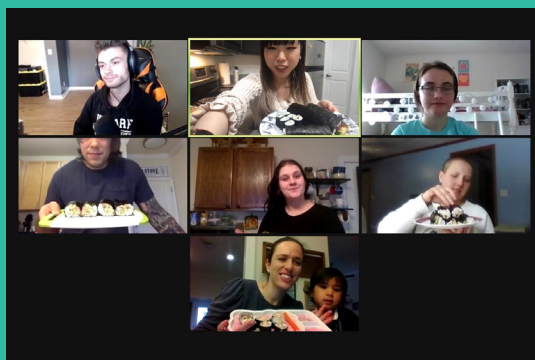
Eleanor Garrett, a member of the 2019 graduating class, is currently teaching English in Japan through the JET Program. While at UMW, she majored in English literature with an Asian studies minor. She is currently living in Oita, Japan where she works as an assistant language teacher. She says her “job” is to be a teacher, a cultural ambassador and, at times, what feels like a cool older sister to her 800 Japanese high school students.

Delphine Kattal, who graduated from UMW in 2016 with a major in French and Spanish just published her first novel in French with VÉrone publishers. Entitled *Ces couleurs qui nous trompent* (These colors that deceive us), the story recounts the trials of an immigrant in the United States during the pandemic. She is currently a teacher of French and Spanish at Skyline High School and at the Governor’s School.

2016 UMW Graduate, **Anita Johnson**, published part of her dissertation in the Columbian Journal, *Magazin Literario*. She studied a selection of short stories from the collection ¡Oh Gloria Inmarcesible! by Colombian writer Alba Lucía Angel (1939). Her published article focuses on the story “*El Polaris*”. The article can be found at magazinliterario.com

Virtual Events

Over the last year we stayed connected, from a distance.
We are looking forward to having everybody back together in person!



Rina Okada, the Visiting Japanese Language Instructor, with UMW students and other locals making traditional rolled sushi together.



Author, Leopoldo Martinez Nucete, led a discussion on his book, *94 Paradoxes to Consider in the 21st Century*. You can watch the event on our [YouTube Page](#).



MDLL Faculty hosted our first Alumni Social that included updates, breakout rooms and a game of trivia!



Professor Tang and her student aide, Andy Chen, adapted the Chinese New Year Celebration to a virtual event.