

LINGUA FRANCA

Newsletter of University of Mary Washington
Modern Languages and Literatures

Chair Update

by Dr. Marcel Rotter

Greetings from Fredericksburg. A few weeks ago, our Department of Modern Languages and Literatures held its annual Career Forum and Member Mingle, although this time in hybrid form. Some of our alumni joined via Zoom from as far as France, others presented in person on the role that language learning played in their careers. Current students, faculty, and alumni chatted in virtual and in-person language-specific breakout rooms while eating pizza. For me, this event demonstrated once more the unifying effect that speaking a foreign language or languages has on people. Understanding a different culture has effects on the learner as well: openness, humility, tolerance are only some of them.

IN THIS ISSUE

MEET OUR VLCS
PG. 2

DEPARTMENT UPDATES
PG. 3

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
PG. 4

SAVE THE DATE!
GIVING DAY
#MARYWASHDAY IS
BACK APRIL 4TH, 2024

Stay up to date!
Like us on Facebook
and Instagram.
Search **UMWMDLL**



Some of our readers might have heard of the university's restructuring process. While students might not notice any difference, our faculty was watching carefully the re-assignment of departments to Schools, all of which then make up a college. The new organizational structure offers new chances for cooperation between departments. Our department will be in a School of the Humanities (this title might change) together with English, Classics, Philosophy, Religion, Art History, Anthropology as well as the Department of Digital Studies. I can imagine several research projects and new classes springing from this new organizational unit.

The reorganization also made the different programs and departments think about what their essence is. I think our name change over a decade ago expresses this nicely: Instead of being a department of foreign (=other) languages, we stress the fact that the Modern Languages we teach are native languages to millions of people, even to most of our faculty. And the Literatures highlight that we teach more than just languages and that almost all our faculty do research on literary works. Therefore, I am confident that we will find connections to our colleagues in the English-speaking literatures, to the linguists, the art historians, and Philosophy.

Meet our Visiting Language Coordinators!

Our Visiting Language Coordinators have become an integral part of our educational experience, offering students immersive, beyond the classroom experiences that not only enhance linguistic skills but also cultural understanding. Through interactive tutoring sessions, movie screenings, game nights, and cooking demonstrations, our coordinators are opening new doors for students, unlocking opportunities for growth, connection, and global citizenship. Here’s what a few of our VLCs had to say about their experience.

Alexander Beyejen

Italian

My experience these first couple of years at Mary Washington have been very interesting and challenging. I’ve gotten to meet new people and to teach my language for the first time to non native speakers.

Nelson Leung

Japanese

I really enjoy my time with the VLC classes, as it allows me to share my experiences of learning a second language and the various techniques that can help students progress further in their journey of second language acquisition.



Charlotte Handwerk

German

Coming to UMW as a VLC has been a great experience. I’ve met many lovely people during Tutoring and Conversation hours. We have had lots of amazing conversations, and the students seem very interested in the German culture and language.



Wendy Li

Chinese

Hello everyone, I am so glad to talk to you~ during the communication time, we will talk about Chinese culture and history, and share excellent Chinese movies and novels with you! Welcome to enjoy time with me



Department Updates

GUEST SPEAKER: ROBERTO ZURBANO



Mr. Zurbano with student Norah Walsh

On Tuesday October 24th, 2023

Roberto Zurbano Torres, internationally recognized Afro-Cuban writer, cultural critic, and activist against racism in Cuba, visited several classes to speak on the translation of his controversial NYT article, “For Blacks in Cuba, the Revolution Hasn’t Begun” and on a film screening of a documentary on his life entitled “Zurbano y su conciencia racial” (2022). Dr. Marisa Martinez Mira and Dr. Ana Chichester provided simultaneous translation. Mr. Zurbano gave a public lecture on RACE AND RACISM: THE BLACK EXPERIENCE IN CUBA. Introduced by

Dr. Marcelo Fajardo-Cárdenas, English interpretation was provided by Dr. Patricia Orozco Watrel and Dr. Gonzalo Campos Dintrans. In addition to MDLL, Mr. Zurbano’s visit was sponsored by several departments across campus, including Classics, Philosophy and Religion, Bachelor of Liberal Studies, English and Linguistics, History and American Studies, and the Khatib Program for Religion and Dialogue. Spanish major and editor of the Weekly Ringer, Norah Walsh, interviewed Mr. Zurbano. Scan to code to read the article.



Scan the code for the Weekly Ringer article

GUEST SPEAKER: MR. MARCELO LOBOS DE GEYTER

On February 8, 2024, **Mr. Marcelo Lobos De Geyter**, Chief Founding Officer of 2talk, Chile, lead two workshops in the Advance Conversation Class of Dr. María Laura Bocaz, and gave a talk “¿Cómo prepararte para ser un buen líder en el mundo laboral?” (“How to prepare yourself to be a good leader in the workplace?”). Students, faculty, and members of the Fredericksburg Community attended the talk which was followed by Q&A, and a reception.



CAREERS WITH LANGUAGES PODCAST

Life After Mary Washington Podcast

Careers with Languages



We're excited to introduce "Life After Mary Washington: Careers with Languages," a new podcast dedicated to exploring the career opportunities for language learners. Through engaging interviews with Mary Washington alumni, listeners will gain insights into how language skills can pave the way for diverse and fulfilling careers. Each episode aims to inspire and provide practical advice for anyone looking to leverage their language proficiency in their professional journey. Stayed tuned for new epsidoes!



Scan the code to listen now!

Scholarship Opportunities with MDLL

**Individual scholarship award amounts depend on the number of recipients selected, selection committee discretion, and financial aid guidelines.*

Elizabeth Baylor Neatrour '54 and Mary Ellen Stephenson Memorial Scholarship in French

Total average award budget \$4,500* Rising juniors or seniors with a declared major in French. Students may also use this scholarship for study abroad in countries where French is the predominant language. Interested students should seek advice from their major advisor and the Center for International Education to select an appropriate program of study.

Grace Cutler Hamilton Scholarship for French Study

Total average award budget \$2,400* This scholarship supports semester or year-long international study in France. The scholarship is open to French majors or to any student who is interested in furthering their facility in French and experiencing French culture. Special consideration is given to students with demonstrated financial need. *Students should seek advice from their major advisor and the Center for International Education to select an appropriate program of study.*

Kathy Liggett Leis '69 Scholarship for French Study

Total average award budget \$2,000* This scholarship supports semester or year-long international study in France. The scholarship is open to French majors or to any student who is interested in furthering their facility in French and experiencing French culture. Special consideration is given to students with demonstrated financial need. *Students should seek advice from their major advisor and the Center for International Education to select an appropriate program of study.*

Fita Rivas Scholarship in Spanish

Total average award budget \$1,600* Rising juniors or seniors with a declared major in Spanish and who are planning to continue their studies in graduate school. **Applicants should complete the Future Graduate School section of the application.**

Steve Rabson Scholarship in Japanese

Two awards of \$750 each. The scholarships are awarded to two UMW students continuing their studies of Japanese language beyond the Beginning level.

Please email mdll@umw.edu for more information.

Scan the code for
additional
opportunities

