

DMCL NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Merry Christmas and French News	1
French continued, Spanish, and German	1-2
News, activities and events	3
Christmas in Japan, Germany, and France	4

Hope Study Abroad Students

We had several students from the DMCL study abroad worldwide this year through CIEE, IES, Meiji Gakuin, and the Hope-Queretaro Programs. Listed below are the countries and the number of students who spent a semester abroad:

- France: 13
- Senegal: 3
- Argentina: 7
- Chile: 3
- Dominican Republic: 1
- Spain: 25
- Japan: 15
- Germany: 2
- Mexico: 4
- Peru: 2
- Costa Rica: 1
- Ecuador: 1
- Jordan: 1
- Morocco: 2

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

This past year has been quite exciting for the DMCL! All the language programs offered a wide variety of interesting co-curricular activities for faculty and students: the Latin Fest and the French Gourmet Dinner at Phelps; German students attended the Stammtisch twice month during the fall semester. In addition to the films, panel presentations, and lectures, French students had the opportunity to visit the Art Institute of Chicago, while the Spanish students attended exhibits at the Holland Arts Council and the Saugatuck Center for the Arts.

In this issue, I would like to highlight our students' accomplishments for the year, and take the opportunity to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas Season!! *Maria Claudia André, Chair*



French

In March 2009, six French student researchers were invited to attend the *Ninth Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creative Performance:*

Ryan Alfuth ('11) presented his research on French President Nicolas Sarkozy's role and political policies. Women who worked in the Resistance Movement during the Nazi Occupation of France were the subject of **Rachel Sikkema's** ('11) research. **Avril Wiers** ('11) wrote on: "The French Trinity of Egyptology: Napoleon, Champollion, and Vivant - Denon in Egypt." **Sarah Williams** ('09) who researched the life of sculptor Camille Claudel presented: "A Woman Ahead of her Time: The Life of Camille Claudel" while **Allison Hawkins** ('09) researched the life of French artist Paul Gauguin in her paper, "Gauguin and the Polynesian Myth."

Allison also presented "Motion Masters: The Influence of Calder on Tinguely's Quest for Innovation in Sculpture" at the *National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse*. Allison's work will be published in the Conference Proceedings; she will be studying Contemporary Design at Sotheby's Institute of Art in London next year.

Mortar Board, a National Honor Society begun in 1918, presented awards to French students **Lauren Moak, Jeeyeon Park, and Jeffrey Vrendenburg.**

French student **Karen Luidens** received both the *Dean for the Arts and Humanities Award* and also placed second in the *Multicultural Essay Contest Award* for the CrossRoads Project.

French continued...

French majors and minors were elected to the prestigious and nation's oldest honorary society Phi Beta Kappa: **Allison Hawkins, Nova Hinman, Rachel Rees, Laura Shears** and **Sarah Williams**.

Spanish

Students in the Spanish teaching program **Jeff Minkus, Kara Oakley,** and **Caroline Sierra** assisted Prof. Daniel Woolsey with evaluations and interviews of students in the immersion at Zeeland Christian School.

Lani Pickard received a Fullbright, and she is now teaching in Colombia.

Zoe Lalo is working for Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP) as an instructor coordinator for the ESL program. There are around 15 Hope students volunteering in this program.

Nicole Potter and **Emily Sicard** read papers at the NCUR, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse this year. Nicole presented "A case study of Southwest Community Campus School, a two-way Spanish immersion program in Grand Rapids, Michigan" and Emily, "Chicano Spanglish/code-switching in Gloria Anzaldua's Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza."

Emily was also the recipient of the Summer scholarship to study in Cuernavaca, Mexico at the Universidad Internacional / The Center for Bilingual Multicultural Studies.

Christen Jackson presented "El mundo conflictivo en Primera Memoria de Ana María Matute" in the Michigan Academy Conference in Detroit, March 2009.

This year, the Spanish Honorary Society Sigma Delta Pi nominated: **Michelle Roose, Jenna Grove, Carolyn Courtade, Hilary Carmichael, Marni Nixon, Diego Romero, Elizabeth Rypma,** and **Ayannah Abiade**.

Classical Studies

Eta Sigma Phi inducted the following new members in April 2009: **Brigid Maniates, James Richardson, Kimberley Boyd, Mariah Tamanaha, Shawna Rholl,** and **Stephen Shaffer**.

German

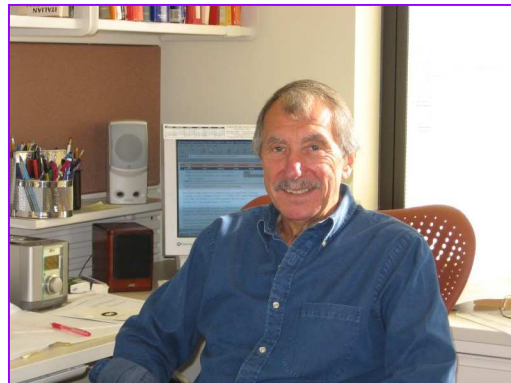
This fall semester **Jessica Warner**, senior German major, worked with Prof. **Mark Husbands** of the Religion Department and Prof. Sander de Haan of the DMCL in completing a translation from German into English of a lecture by Dr. Eberhard Jüngel on "The Relationship of the Christian Community to the Civic Community" in the city of Tübingen on the occasion of its celebration of 900 years of existence.

Japanese

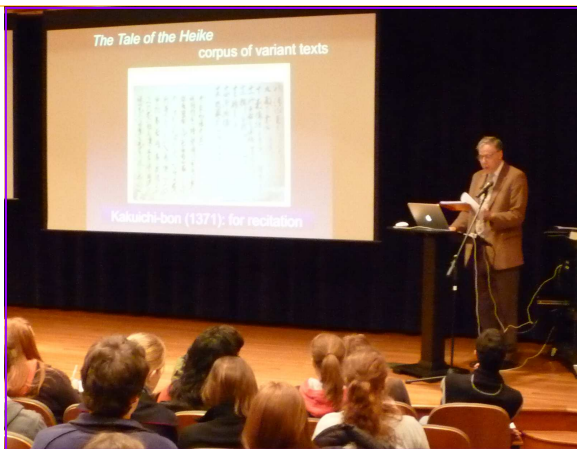
Majors **Alexander Krieg** and **Kari Bechtel** went to Japan this summer with Prof. **Roger Nemeth** to conduct a research on "The Role of Non-Profit Organizations in Providing Elderly Care in Japan." They received a grant by the **ASIANetwork Freeman Foundation** 2009 Student-Faculty Fellows Program for Collaborative Research in Asia.

NEWS, ACTIVITIES, AND EVENTS

Prof. Ion T. Agheana presented “The Western World: The Vagaries of History and Faith” Dec. 3, through the “Last Lecture Series” organized by the college’s Alcor chapter of the national Mortar Board honorary society to feature members of the faculty. Prof. Agheana is a native of Romania, and graduated from the University of Bucharest in 1961. He came to the U.S. in the latter 1960s, and completed his master’s and doctorate in Spanish in 1967 and 1970 respectively at Harvard University. He joined the Hope faculty in 1979 after previously teaching at Dartmouth College. He primarily teaches Spanish, but has also taught French, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian. The graduating senior class named him the recipient of the college’s “Hope Outstanding Professor Educator” (H.O.P.E.) Award in 1983.



He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and books, including the books “Existentialism and the Dynamics of Surprise,” “The Meaning of Experience in the Prose of J.L. Borges” and “A Reasoned Thematic Dictionary of the Prose of Jorge Luis Borges.” He is internationally respected as an authority on both Argentine author Jorge Luis Borges and Romanian philosopher and essayist Emil Cioran, and was one of only seven Borges scholars featured in the 1995 book “Conversaciones sobre Borges” (“Conversations about Borges”) and one of only six Cioran scholars featured in the 2007 book “Cioran. El pesimista seductor” (“Cioran. The Seductive Pessimist”).



On November 18, **Prof. Michael Watson** presented “L’echo des vicissitudes humaines: The Tale of Heike.” Michael Watson is the exchange professor from Meiji Gakuin University, where he is a professor of Japanese studies in the Faculty of International Studies. He was born in Australia and still has Australian citizenship. After attending secondary school in Canada and the United States, he studied at universities in the United Kingdom—first at Cambridge, then Manchester. He moved to Japan in 1980, and has taught full time at Meiji Gakuin since 1986. As an undergraduate he majored in European languages and literatures, and wrote a master’s thesis on medieval German literature.

Prof. Renata Fernandez Dominguez (Spanish) in collaboration with **Professors Julie Kipp** (English), **Anne Heath** (Art), and **Alfredo Gonzales**, Associate Provost and Dean for International and Multicultural Studies, organized the exhibit “The Women of Michoacan: Art and Artists, featuring the works of Ana Pellicer, sculptor; Leonor Solis, photographer; Dolores Gomez, ceramist; and the painters: Jeronimo Mateo, Marcela Ramirez, and Rosa Angelica Gomez Mier. The exhibit focuses on images of indigenous women, and it includes about 50 pieces representing a wide variety of media: ceramic, metalwork, painting, and photography.



The French section commenced the fall semester with a colloquium by **Professor Vincent Desroches** of Western Michigan University commemorating the 400th Anniversary of Québec City. He spoke on the endurance of the francophone culture in North America.

In March, **Dr. Otto Selles** from Calvin College presented “Voltaire and Tolerance” and in September, **Dr. Glenn Fetzer**, also from Calvin, lectured on “Writing Exile Tahar Bekri and the Tunisia-France Connection.”

Christmas in Japan, Germany, and France

Christmas is celebrated differently in **Japan**. Many people think of it as fun holiday when they get to go out with their friends, have cakes, or give and receive some gifts. Some Christians in Japan though do celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. For New Year celebration in Japan, usually all the family members come home and enjoy the time together. Many of us look back on the ending year and are grateful for all the good and bad memories as we prepare our hearts for a coming year. People clean the houses, schools, temples, shrines, and other buildings neatly to show their appreciations for the things they are given as well. Most women in the family cook enormous amounts of delicious foods (*Osechi Ryori*, *Ozoni*, *Toshikoshi-soba...etc.*), and the children will play traditional games (*Hagoita*, *Tako-age...etc.*) as the men decorate the house with special holiday decorations: *kadomatsu*, *kagamimochi*, and *shimenawa*. Equivalent to Christmas tradition here in the U.S., we write greeting cards to friends, bosses, and relatives to thank them and send our best regards. Some people go to shrines or temples either on Dec. 31st around midnight or first thing in the morning on Jan. 1st to pray. Some may dress up in traditional Japanese dresses called kimono when they visit shrines, Buddhism temples, or greet people in neighborhoods. People like to watch a family TV program called, "*Kohaku-utagassen*" where famous singers and bands separate into two teams, red or white, to compete against each other by performing their hit songs. *Yui Hamada*



Christmas time in **Germany** always begins very early. At the beginning of September one can already find all kinds of Christmas goodies in the grocery stores, such as *Lebkuchen* (ginger bread), *Spekulatius* (spiced almond cookies) and *Christstollen* (Christmas stollen). To celebrate the advent of Christmas, children usually get a special calendar called "Adventskalender" on December 1. On each day until Christmas, the children open a small window on the calendar, behind which they discover a small gift, mostly chocolate. On the 6th of December, *Nikolaus* (Saint Nicholas' Day) is celebrated. On the evening before *Nikolaus*, children clean their boots and leave one boot in front of the door overnight. When they wake up next morning they find their boot filled with chocolates or small gifts. In Germany, we celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve, the 24th of December. Usually the entire family comes together and has dinner, which in many families traditionally consists of potato salad and wiener sausages.

Today, however, many families prefer to have a more festive dinner like goose or duck. Traditionally, it is the *Christkind* ("Christ-child") that brings the presents for the children after the family has finished dinner. Since the beginning of the 20th century, however, the *Christkind* is facing increasing competition from the *Weihnachtsmann*, the German version of Santa Claus. The two following days, the 25th and the 26th, are also national holidays. Most families use these days to meet the other members of the family whom they haven't been able to see on Christmas Eve in order to celebrate Christmas with them. The traditional Christmas markets, which can be found in almost every city, attract people from all over the world and make Christmas my favorite time of the year in Germany. *Michelle Berngruber*.

Nearly every **French** home at Christmastime displays a Nativity scene or creche, which serves as the focus for the Christmas celebration. The creche is often peopled with figures called santons or "little saints." An extensive tradition has evolved around these little figures which are made by craftsmen in the south of France throughout the year. In addition to the usual Holy Family, shepherds, and Magi, the craftsmen also produce figures in the form of local dignitaries and characters. The craftsmanship involved in creating the gaily colored santons is quite astounding and the molds have been passed from generation to generation since the seventeenth century. Throughout December the figures are sold at annual Christmas fairs in Marseille and Aix. The Christmas tree has never been particularly popular in France, and though the use of the Yule log has faded, the French make a traditional Yule log-shaped cake called the *buche de Noel*, which means "Christmas Log." The cake, among other food in great abundance is served at the grand feast of the season, which is called *le reveillon*. *Le reveillon* is a very late supper held after midnight mass on Christmas Eve.

French children receive gifts from Pere Noel who travels with his stern disciplinarian companion Pere Fouettard. Pere Fouettard reminds Pere Noel of just how each child has behaved during the past year. In some parts of France Pere Noel brings small gifts on St. Nicholas Eve (December 6) and visits again on Christmas. In other places it is le petit Jesus who brings the gifts. Generally adults wait until New Year's Day to exchange gifts. <http://www.the-north-pole.com/around/france.html>.