Modern Foreign Languages & Literatures

Annual Newsletter – Spring 2013

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Véronique Lamothe Bell. Master's student in French. Véronique is in her second year as a graduate teaching assistant in the French Master's program. She is a native French Canadian from Montreal and graduated in French and Francophone Literature from Université de Montréal. Her research interests include "Quebecois" Literature and the problematics of exile, as well as comparative literature with Maghreb francophone Literature. She presented a study of "Alienation and Exclusion in French Canadian Literature" at the University of Louisiana in March 2012. Her current research is focused on "Realization of Exile within French literary history of Quebec through its Migrant writers," to be presented in November 2012 at the Southern Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA) Conference in Durham, NC. Much of this work will be reflected in her Master's Thesis on Exile and Migrant writers in Quebec and the Maghreb. Aside from teaching, she enjoys expanding her perspective on the francophone world through reading, watching movies and documentaries, and spending time at home or travelling with her husband and three young children.

Joanna Broda-Schunck. Doctoral student in Modern Foreign Languages with a first concentration in German. Joanna was born in Cracow, Poland. She learned English by living in West Lafayette, Indiana, and German by living in Jülich, Germany. Her contact with the French language began at school and now is strengthened through her marriage to a Frenchman. Her first studies were at the Teacher's College of Foreign Languages, German Section at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. She finished with a Licentiate (Bachelor) degree by writing a thesis on the use of songs in teaching German as a foreign language. She then began to teach German at a technical high school in Krakow, Poland, where she worked for eight years. At the same time she continued her studies for a Master's Degree at the Jagiellonian University, finishing it with a thesis on school dictionaries in German. After getting married in 2006, she moved first to Madrid, Spain, for four months, where she attended Spanish classes; and then to Knoxville. In Fall 2008 she joined UT's Ph.D. program in Modern Foreign Languages with the first concentration in German, second in Applied Linguistics, and third in French. In 2010 she received the Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. She is also the recipient of the Nordsieck Scholarship and the Gerti Wunderlich Award given by the German Department at the University of Tennessee. She is now in the final stages of writing her dissertation on the construction of the 'socialist male personality' in the GDR youth literature and visual art of the 1950s and 1960s.

Joanna Merkel. Doctoral student in Modern Foreign Languages with a first concentration in French. Joanna is from Strasbourg, a beautiful medieval city in Eastern France. Her mother is from France and her father is from Morocco. She likes to have this double culture, which has allowed her to discover a new country and a new language. Before starting her higher education, she spent two months studying in a high school on the Gold Coast in Australia. She has a B.A in history with a minor in teaching from the University of Avignon and a M.A in French history from the University of Strasbourg. She did her thesis about familial criminality in the duchy of Lorraine in the 16th and 17th centuries. She focused on analyzing a dozen trials related to the family, like incest, homicide and infanticide. Before coming to the U.S, she was a Language Teaching Assistant as well as a boarding house tutor in a private high school in Canterbury, England. She also spent a year teaching French as a Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant at Lincoln University, PA, the first HBCU in the country. While working at Lincoln University, she had the opportunity to volunteer as an English-French translator at the United Nations in New York City during a Civil Society Forum. Currently, she is studying at UTK, doing her PhD in French and Francophone studies. Joanna loves Spain and currently tries to improve her Spanish in her free time. She also likes traveling and has visited 16 countries as well as 17 states in the U.S.

Lisa Y. F. Parker. Doctoral Student in Modern Foreign Languages with a first concentration in Spanish. Lisa is originally from Puerto Rico. Upon completing her undergraduate degree in Microbiology from the University of Austin, Texas, Lisa was commissioned as an Officer of the United States Army and served in the Medical Field both in Europe and the States. After completing her military career, Lisa worked in various upper management and corporate level positions in the Medical Industry for over twenty-five years. As an avid volunteer in the community and her church, working primarily with Hispanic families, Lisa was encouraged and challenged to continue higher education. She received her Master's in Spanish from the University of Tennessee in the fall of 2009. Currently in her third year as a PhD student, Lisa is writing her dissertation on a new reading of two crucial, yet fluid factors at the center of Puerto Rico's national debate: language and identity, and how they weaved into the literature. Recently, Lisa was the recipient of two very prestigious awards: the 2012 Sigma Delta Pi Graduate Research Grant Award and the University of Tennessee's W.K. McClure Scholarship Fund for the Study of World Affairs, which allowed her to travel to Puerto Rico during the first half of this past summer to continue her dissertation research. Lisa is also a Teaching Associate and served, for two consecutive years, as the Graduate Student Spanish Representative from 2010-2012. She has presented several scholarly papers at national conferences. Lisa is married to Duane, and they have two daughters and one son-in-law.

Àngela Pérez del Puerto. Doctoral student in Modern Foreign Languages with a first concentration in Spanish. Ángela is in her first year as a graduate teaching assistant in the Spanish doctoral program. She is from Spain, having graduated in 2007 after earning a Bachelor of History from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) in Spain. Thanks to a scholarship, she completed her junior year abroad where she finished her history degree at the University Paris X-Nanterre (France). She continued her education with a Master's Degree in Modern History at the UAM in 2009 and immediately she was admitted into the doctoral program at the same University where she is writing her dissertation. Her research interests are focused on gender studies during the Franco regime in Spain. In 2011, she was hired as Assistant Teacher of Spanish at St. Norbert College (Wisconsin). In 2012 she was admitted to Georgetown University (Washington, DC) as a visiting researcher where she continued her research. She has participated in many international Conferences where she has published four papers including, "IX Encontro da ANPHLAC" at the Federal University of Goiás, Brazil, in 2010, "XIII Jornadas de Interescuelas" at the National University of Catamarca, Argentina, and "III Encuentro de Jóvenes Investigadores de la Asociación de Historia Contemporánea" at Vitoria University (Spain).

Yansan►, Abdoulaye (French) book "Destin►e, le r►cit personnel d'un voyage forc►" goes international (Paris, Canada). For more information, visit Abdoulaye's Facebook.

Abdoulaye Yansan► shares the stage with Cornell West (Professor at Princeton) and President Obama.
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