FROM THE CHAIR
As we approach the end of the semester at what feels like lightning speed, we report a rich array of activities in which the Foreign Languages Department and community are involved. With a thought-provoking interview commemorating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the unification of Germany, the final installment of the Freud Centennial with the “Global Freud” symposium, news of the launch of a new Spanish literary magazine, and a Spanish class’ community service, our students and faculty continue to delight us with their energy and resourcefulness. As the semester draws to an end, we take this opportunity to wish those students who will be on their Clark Study-Abroad program adventures in January, a rich and productive time. As always, the Newsletter will find a place to include your postcards from abroad.
To all the members of our department and the larger Clark community, we wish you Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year!

Marvin D’Iugo

CLARK’S FIRST-EVER SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE MAGAZINE: CHÉVERE

Students Roselanie Cano (’11, Spanish and ID), Georgia Hann (’10, Undeclared) and Hannah Miller (’10, Undeclared) are collaborating on the Department’s latest student project. Miller writes: “Chévere aims to show different perspectives and provide a space in which people can share their experiences and how those relate to the Spanish language. Articles will be in both Spanish and English, with topics including politics, creative writing, as well as CD and movie reviews. Chévere is still in its developing stage; the process has been nothing but exciting. The student body is responding very well to this project, and the group working to create the magazine is fully invested. If you are interested in contributing to the magazine, email us at cheveremagazine@gmail.com”. Chévere is scheduled to debut in print December 10, 2009. A sample from the magazine, the first stanza of a poem by Gabriel Josué Yarleque Ipanaque, (’12, Undeclared) is available on the Clark Foreign Languages Department webpage.

As faculty sponsor for Chévere, Assistant Professor of Spanish Belén Atienza has guided the whole process as needed, from choosing a name for the magazine to the final editing. She says: “they have done such a great job that my role has been more that of a ‘faculty cheerleader’ than a ‘faculty sponsor’. They are an amazing group, very self-reliant and creative.”

ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Wagner sat down with her friend of 35 years, Gudrun Krüger, Reference Librarian at the College of the Holy Cross and former East German, to discuss Krüger’s experiences in the German Democratic Republic and her perspectives on the German—German Unification. Here is part of their interview: Wagner: Frau Krüger, you grew up as a child in the GDR [German Democratic Republic or “East Germany”]. What are your memories of that time? Krüger: My father did not return after the war. We listened to radio broadcasts every night listing the names of the people returning but my father’s name was never among them. After a time it was decided that he was missing in action. My mother had to work on local farms. She worked the fields in exchange for food and lodging for the two of us. For me, life as a child was good -- I didn’t know anything else. There were no children around on the farms where we lived, so the farm animals became my friends. Wagner: As an eight-year-old, you and your mother fled the GDR. How did your mother manage to flee with you into the West and eventually to America? Krüger: One day my mother started packing. She told me: ‘here is your doll, -- hang on to her, we are going away’. We went on a train patrolled by Russian soldiers. They asked us for our identification. We went in a train patrolled by Russian soldiers. They asked us for our identification. Our destination. My mother told them she and I were going to a wedding in Berlin and they let us stay. In Berlin we went to a transitional camp for several months. I know that it was 1953 because we could see the June 17 Uprising of 1953 - (a labor riot by overworked German workers) from our camp. Over the next several years, we were transferred to various camps in Bavaria and Westphalia. In Westphalia, a woman doctor asked my mother: ‘Would you like to go to America’? The doctor had connections and was able to get us on a boat to the US. We went in 1956. Wagner: As a woman who fled before the fall of the Wall, do you have a different relationship to the unification of Germany than your friends and relatives in the east? Krüger: I don’t think so. I only know that I watched television on November 9, 1989, and was simply in a state of shock. Like all other Germans, I was thrilled by the opening of the border. My friends in the GDR were just as enthusiastic. We cried on the telephone. It was so difficult living in the GDR: our freedoms were so restricted, we could not travel anywhere. We were so limited in what we could do. Wagner: How do you feel 20 years after the unification? Krüger: Sometimes I still cry for joy. Not many can understand what life was like in the GDR. I still have that blonde plaster doll who kept me company from East Germany to America.
in Spanish) have been conducting a Story-Writing Project with 2nd and 4th graders from Woodland Academy, a Worcester public elementary school. Based on the Mariposa Stories Project at Duke University, https://community.duke.edu/duke/schools/mariposa.html, in which college and elementary school students collaborate on children’s story books, Montross and Rojas-Rimachi planned a similar collaboration of Clark and Woodland Academy students. Meeting weekly, the Clark students began by reading children’s picture books to their students. The elementary school students responded by ‘writing what they know,’ with stories about their favorite sports teams and their families. Designed to link a language and a cultural experience and to incorporate community service within the academic setting, the project has been an invaluable educational experience for all. The final product, sixteen stories entitled ‘Wednesdays in the Fall’,(Miércoles de otoño) should be available in print on December 9th. An excerpt from a story is below; an additional selection from the book will be available on the Department of Foreign Languages website soon.

The Life of the Four Sisters

Four sisters live in Barcelona and play soccer for the Barcelona team. They frequently compete with the Madrid soccer team. They live in a mansion and have a pool and a place to practice soccer. Keyla has a kitten in her room, Samantha and Leivy have puppies, and Maggie has a bunny. One day, the four sisters were playing for Barcelona against Real Madrid and Barcelona won. The players of Madrid were not happy. They told them that they wanted to play against Barcelona again and that next time, they would win. The sisters refused. The sisters finished the day in their mansion by eating “pupusas” because they were missing their country.

- Leivy Vargas and Keyla Blanco, Woodland Academy 4th Graders

DR. TOM HANSEN TO SPEAK AT CLARK

On January 22, 2010, Tom Hansen, founder and director of the Mexico Solidarity Network, will speak about Mexican social movements in the coming year. 2010 is historically and mythically significant for Mexico as it celebrates the centennial of its Revolution and the bicentennial of its Independence. It is shaping up to be a momentous year although no one knows with certainty what will happen. Factors include the deteriorating economy and widespread political turmoil resulting in sporadic community unrest. Dr. Hansen has spent the past 15 years working in Mexico, establishing close solidarity relationships including the Zapatistas in Chiapas. The time and location of his talk are to be announced.

FACULTY CALENDAR AND NOTES


At the end of December 2009, at The Modern Language Association in Philadelphia, Professor Robert Tobin, Henry J. Leir Chair in Foreign Languages and Cultures will moderate the panel on “Writing, Reading and Teaching Queer Literary Relationships,” which he organized for the GL/Q Caucus. Tobin is the outgoing president of the caucus.

On January 14, 2010, he will be moderating a panel on ‘Freud as a Fictional Character’ at the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York City. Co-sponsored by the American Psychoanalytic Association, the event will feature Brenda Webster, author of Vienna Triangle (about a graduate student working with the elderly Helene Deutsch, who reminisces about her days as a student with Sigmund Freud), and Jed Rubenfeld, author of The Interpretation of Murder (about Freud’s visit to New York and Worcester in 1909, and the way his ideas are ingeniously used to solve a murder).

Saturday November 21, Clark University’s centennial commemoration, “Great Minds Come to Clark—Freud Revisited,” continued with a Global Freud Symposium and President’s Lecture, featuring cultural and literary historian Sander Gilman. Coordinated by Professor Robert Tobin, the day-long event featured a wide variety of speakers and topics that included the influence of Freudian thought and practice in Germany, Mexico, Francophone Caribbean, China and Japan. A special feature of the symposium was the participation of members of Professor Tobin’s Global Freud course who presented each speaker and moderated the ensuing discussion.
**interview: French teaching assistant**

**Roman Pacaud**

This year Department of Foreign Languages French classes have been enriched by three Teaching Assistants: Vicky Labat, Coraline Remise, and Romain Pacaud. Recently the Foreign Languages Newsletter sat down with Pacaud to ask him a few questions about previous experiences and his time at Clark.

**FL & L:** Tell us a bit about your background, and what you are doing currently?

**Pacaud:** I was born on November 21st 1988 in a French town called Pontarlier, located on the border with Switzerland. My childhood, as well as my adolescence, were marked by a series of moves to small villages throughout France. At fifteen, I moved to a new French town called Dole, where my family lives nowadays. I have been at the Université de Dijon for three years. Next year, I will start my Masters degree there.

**FL & L:** What are some observations you have about Clark and Worcester?

**Pacaud:** I really like Clark University. Its architecture is very different from my university in Dijon. There are no red brick buildings in Dijon! Clark University in the fall is really beautiful. I am very impressed by the library which I find very big and full of books that you cannot find so easily in France. I also appreciate all the services provided by Clark University. Compared to Worcester, Dijon is very different since it is a very historical town. It is as big as Worcester in terms of population. In Dijon, you can feel the history of France when you walk through the town center.

**FL & L:** What are some of your academic interests? Your future plans?

**Pacaud:** I am studying the English civilization and literature. I want to become a teacher of English in France. I love books by English writers. My favourite ones are Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* (1847) and Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited* (1945). I love contemporary literature and history and am also interested in the two World Wars, international relationships and diplomacy. I think that the Statue of Liberty – a gift from France – is a great symbol of friendship between the United States of America and France.

**FL & L:** What are some things you’ve done while here at Clark?

**Pacaud:** When I first visited Boston, I was elated. It is a very interesting city which belongs to the history of America. The Freedom Trail is the best way to visit the city. I also enjoyed visiting Providence and its. I was enchanted by the Waterfire. I also went to New York. Oh my God! It is so huge! I love Manhattan! I went to Times Square, Central Park and Fifth Avenue. I attended a Broadway show called *Chicago*. For Halloween, I went to Salem. I screamed in the haunted house and judged a witch during a performance. I am just like a little boy who is visiting the United States of America. I like it and I don't wanna stop. So many things to see! More of Pacaud’s interview and a discussion with French-Canadian Teaching Assistant Vicky Labat, is available on the Department’s website.