



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Department of
World Languages
and Literatures

The Annual Newsletter for the World Languages and Literatures Department

Summer 2019

College of Arts and Sciences

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present you news from our busy department! This year, our wonderful Chair, Dr. Molly Lynde-Recchia, stepped down after 7 years leading the department and will resume her teaching and research in the French section. Dr. Vincent Desroches has now become the new Chair. In 2018-2019, we had several notable events: in addition to the talk presented by our Alumni Achievement Award winner, Ms. Sarah Murray, we had the pleasure of hosting research presentations by Ian Hollenbaugh in Classics and by Dr. Seth Goss in Japanese Linguistics, as well as a Career planning workshop by Wayne Bond. In November, we hosted the Michigan Classical Conference annual meeting. In our Faculty Colloquium Series, three faculty members gave presentations on their research, Dr. Vivan Steemers, Dr. Xiaojun Wang, and Dr. Viviane Ruellot.

Two faculty members received Faculty Achievement Awards: Dr. Mustafa Mughazi for Research and Creative Activities and Dr. Vincent Desroches for Global Engagement. Congratulations also to Wessam Abdellaziz, our outstanding Arabic Instructor, who received the doctoral level Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Award this year.

Our department hosted several distinguished visiting scholars in various disciplines. Dr. Chanchan Ding conducted research in Chinese linguistics and Ms. Eman Noufal is working on a sociolinguistic project in her home city of Mansoura, Egypt. In addition, Dr. Helen Mundler, a Fulbright scholar invited by the English Department, and Dr. Urias Arantes, from France, presented their works in French undergraduate courses, eliciting many questions and lively discussions.

Thanks to generous scholarships and donations, 57 students from our department participated in study abroad programs, in China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Jordan. Our dual-enrollment Chinese program at Forrest Hills Northern High School in Grand Rapids continues to prosper and counts now three cohorts of students with remarkable Chinese linguistic skills.

Wherever you are, we send you our very best wishes from Kalamazoo, and we hope to hear from you soon. Please let us know if you are in the neighborhood!

A bientôt,

Vincent Desroches,
Chair



Dr. Vivan Steemers and three of the five laureats of the French section: Stacey Durham (Excellence in French), Megan Gust (Prix de l'Alliance Française) and Rahma Mumuni (Frances E. Noble Prize)

Honors and Awards Ceremony

cont'd. on pages 3 and 4

Josh Parks, recipient of the Mathilde Steckelberg Scholarship in Classics





Jacob Lambert, Presidential Scholar

Jacob Lambert is our Presidential Scholar for 2019. Jacob has been interested in historical languages since his arrival at Western Michigan University as a transfer student. A double major in English and Latin, he has studied Old Norse and Anglo-Saxon, ancient Greek and Latin, both classical and medieval.

These are not unusual research interests for our graduate students in Medieval Studies, but they are exceptional for an undergraduate. Jacob has promising abilities and disposition for graduate work in historical linguistics. He has been admitted to the post-baccalaureate program in Classics at University of Pennsylvania where he will continue his studies in fall. Beyond that, he plans to pursue a PhD in Classics. He is interested in the way languages categorize experiences into concepts and also the phonological and morphological distinctions that separate “old” from “classical” Latin.

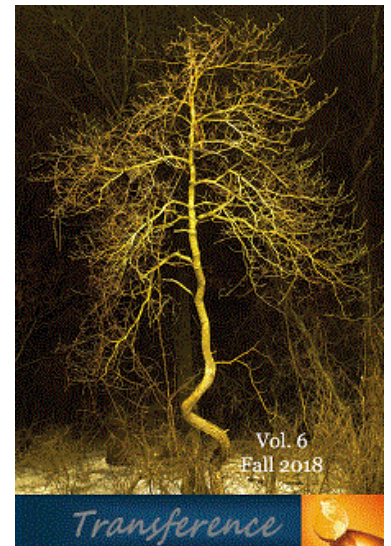


Dr. Molly Lynde-Recchia and Jacob Lambert

even a woodcutter
looks to be wearing brocade
when this morning's rain
thoroughly washes his sleeves
to the hue of autumn leaves

“On a mountain lane looking at maples” by Natsume Soseki, translated by Erk Lofgren (*Transference* 6).

In 2013, the department began publishing *Transference*, a peer-reviewed journal featuring poetry in English translation from the languages of our major and minor programs. The journal is freely accessible at <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/transference/>. Every issue includes short commentaries written by the translators to accompany their poems. It is our hope that the works published in *Transference* will lead readers to appreciate the complex interplay of language and culture that is brought to bear in poetic translation. Hard copies of *Transference* are available from the department for \$10 each.



Transference cover image:
Basswood Tree by Bill Davis



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ALUMNI NEWS

Sarah Murray, Alumni Achievement Award Winner



Meet Ms. Sarah Murray, 2018 World Languages and Literatures Alumni Achievement winner. So far, Sarah's career has included service with AmeriCorps, studying Swahili, research in Tanzania, and a master's degree from Michigan State University. She is currently Associate Director of the Office of International Development at Indiana University in Bloomington. Sarah Murray graduated from Western Michigan University in 2009 with degrees in French and Global and International Studies. While at WMU, she studied abroad in France, Germany, Greece, and Italy. Upon graduation, she participated in a term of service with LISC AmeriCorps and continued to work in community and economic development across Michigan.

Next year's Alumni Achievement Award winner will be Dr. Seven Mattes. She will give a presentation at 2 p.m. on Friday, October 11, 2019 in 3025 Brown Hall. It would be great to see you there!

Honors and Awards Ceremony



Dr. Wang presents the prizes of Excellence in Chinese to Ronald Deyoung and Daniel Yates



The Japanese Awardees: Robert Van Aartsen, Isaac Wittenberg, Sarah Aartila, Makayla Tussey



Recipients of the Travel and Study Abroad Scholarships: Destini Lindsey, Christian Post, Jacob Wolf, Laura Puckett, Daniel Yates



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If you would like to make a donation, please visit our website: <https://wmich.edu/languages/giving>



From left to right: Dr. Cynthia Running-Johnson, Dr. Molly Lynde-Recchia, President Montgomery, Dr. Vincent Desroches, Dr. Mustafa Mughazy, Dr. Viviane Ruellot, Dr. Peter Blicke.

To see the latest news, visit us and like us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WMU-Languages>

DIRECTORY

Dr. Vincent Desroches, Chair

Dr. Jeffrey Angles, Japanese

Dr. Peter Blicke, German

Dr. Olivia Gabor-Peirce, German

Dr. Rand Johnson, Classics

Dr. Peter Krawutschke, German, emeritus

Dr. David Kutzko, Classics

Dr. Molly Lynde-Recchia, French

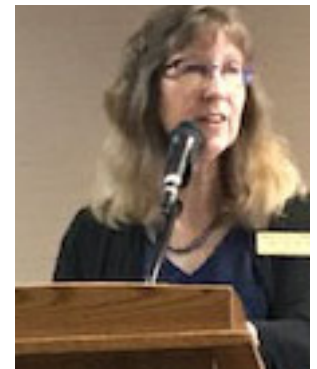
Dr. Mustafa Mughazy, Arabic

Dr. Dasha Nisula, Russian, emerita.

Ms. Nancy Landsberger, Office Coordinator

Ms. Madeline Alonso, Office Associate

Honors and Awards Ceremony



From the top left, clockwise: Dr. Mustafa Mughazy and Gabrielle Auber-mann, Dr. Peter Blicke, Dr. Li Xiang, Dr. Molly Lynde-Recchia.

Dr. Carlos Pimentel, Japanese

Dr. Viviane Ruellot, French

Dr. Cynthia Running-Johnson, French

Dr. Rika Saito, Japanese

Dr. Vivian Steemers, French

Dr. Xiaojun Wang, Chinese

Dr. Li Xiang, Chinese

Dr. Shu Yang, Chinese