

# Literatures

# CUA

# Irish Languages

# Arabic

# Modern

# French

# Portuguese

# Spanish

# Chinese

# German

# Italian

Welcome to the Spring 2015 Alumni Newsletter brought to you by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at CUA! We hope you will enjoy reading about our featured alumna, Stephanie Siciarz (Italian), our Professor in the Spotlight, Dean Claudia Bornholdt (German), our Student in the Spotlight, Davon Lee (Chinese), and our Fulbright students (Portuguese, Irish, Arabic). You will also find a showcase of our faculty's academic accomplishments together with the highlights from last semester and our social media outlets. Enjoy!

(The Alumni Committee 2014-2015: Dr. Serena Ferrando, Italian; Dr. Charmaine McMahon, Spanish; Dr. Katharina Rudolf, German)

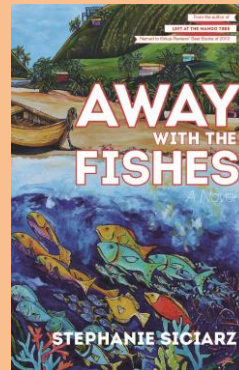


### SPOTLIGHT ON A PROFESSOR: DEAN CLAUDIA BORNHOLDT (GERMAN)

Dr. Claudia Bornholdt, the Acting Dean of Arts and Sciences, came to the United States 19 years ago where she first became fully immersed in American culture. She earned her PhD in Germanic languages and literatures at Indiana University where she found herself surrounded by a myriad of cultural and linguistic backgrounds, which inspired her love for education. Shortly after arriving at the University, Dean Bornholdt was the recipient of the 2010 Teaching Excellence in Early Career Award from CUA for her outstanding work with undergraduate students.

Dean Bornholdt sees the mission and future of the Department of Modern Languages and

### FEATURED ALUMNA: STEPHANIE SICIARZ (ITALIAN)



After finishing my undergraduate studies at Georgetown University, where I majored in Italian and French, I moved to Italy and began teaching English. I loved living in Italy and experiencing the culture firsthand, but I had always planned to pursue a Master's degree, and so eventually I had to come back home. Catholic University made my decision to leave Italy very easy, which is saying a lot, if you know anything about Italy! At CUA I was able to combine graduate studies with the things that I loved: the Italian language and culture, and teaching—and all of this in Washington, DC, one of my favorite cities in the whole world. I earned my Master's degree while teaching first- and second-year



Literatures as a community where diversity thrives. Among her many accomplishments, the creation and implementation of the Interdisciplinary Certificate in European Studies stands out. What seems to be the driving force behind Dean Bornholdt's approach is the wish to provide the students with an environment which is conducive to a sense of solidarity and unity. "All of the faculty have a common goal ... everyone cares so deeply for teaching language ... I think teaching language is the most rewarding [subject] you can teach ... students have feelings of true accomplishment."

Essentially, it is seeing the students grow and develop that fosters her love for teaching language, culture, and literature. Under her tenure, the Department maintains an emphasis on viewing the study of language as a way to tap into the true spirit of any given nationality or culture. Dean Bornholdt's belief that languages are tools with nearly limitless utility informs the cultural ethos of the Department. It is hard not to be excited for the coming years.

-by Richard Bochicchio (student, Chinese)



Italian as a Teaching Assistant, and soon after I landed a job in the office of the Italian representative to the International Monetary Fund, in Washington. But my dream had always been to write, and so after ten years at the IMF (during which time I also earned a Master's degree in Writing from the Johns Hopkins University), I took a leap of faith and quit, and relocated to Ohio, to live near my family and to write full time. Almost five years later, my first book, *Left at the Mango Tree*, was released, and it went on to be named one of the Best Books of 2013 by Kirkus Reviews. My second book, *Away with the Fishes*, was released a year later. Both books are inspired by my travels to the Caribbean islands, which I've been fortunate to have visited extensively.

Currently I'm working on my third novel, and I also coordinate the Italian Language Program at Kent State University, where I teach, too. I think of my years at DMLL often and fondly. I credit my success at undergraduate foreign language instruction to the excellent training that I received, as in incoming TA, from Dr. Margaret Ann Kassen. I have never met anyone with such a passion for second-language acquisition methodology, and still today in my classroom I consciously adopt the strategies I learned from her. As far as my writing life goes, Dr. Joan Grimbert, a professor with whom I studied medieval literature at CUA, has pointed out to me some medieval literary influence that she discerns in my novels, with regard to the stylistic choices I make, and I find it truly thrilling that something of the texts I read in her classes seeped into my narrative voice. Another CUA personality that I recall frequently, when I write, is Dr. George Gingras. I studied literature with him as well. I remember that he was very impressed with a particular paper I had written for him, and he stopped me in the DMLL office one day to say so. As he handed it back to me—I'll never forget it—he smiled one of those knowing smiles of his and told me, "Someday, someone might pay to read what you've written."



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST SEMESTER

### A “World Cup” of our own: Portuguese & Brazilian students win the 5th annual CUA Soccer Championship:

Every fall for the past five years, the DMLL language clubs have hosted this fantastic event which allows language enthusiasts to compete on a sportive level. On September 28, 2014, students, faculty, friends and “fans” enjoyed a particularly beautiful fall afternoon, against the backdrop of the gleaming Basilica. Cheering and shouts in the various languages could be widely heard from the Basilica lawn, while the eight teams- Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Irish, Italian, Brazilian/Portuguese, Spanish battled for the title of CUA World Champion. Special thanks goes to the Spanish Club for organizing a flawless tournament and providing lots of well-needed refreshments for thirsty players and excited supporters. Next year, organization will fall to the language club, whose team placed second this year: the French. *Avant les bleus!*

### Cultural events at the DMLL:

Teaching Modern Languages at CUA means more than classroom instruction. Each language club organizes a variety of events that immerse the students into the cultures about which they are learning. The Department organizes academic lectures, outings to concerts, exhibitions, and many cultural events in D.C. Among the most popular events were:

The **Moon Festival**, a celebration of the Chinese and Taiwanese holiday, with traditional lanterns and lots of music, games, audience participation, and moon cookies, of course;

Students of *Arabic* helped organize the **Morocco Day**, displaying authentic dresses and ornaments, food, film, and live entertainment;

The *German Studies* program hosted a week-long celebration of the **25th anniversary of the Fall of the**

**German Wall**, featuring two movies, a reading by East German author and political activist Martin Drs. Poutrus (Vienna, Austria), historians Michael Kimmage and Árpád von Klimó (both CUA), Stephen Silvia (AU), and the German Embassy’s Secretary of Communications, Karlfried Bergner, and a trip to the Newseum’s Wall exhibit in D.C.;

*Italian Studies* had the pleasure to host Prof. Eugenio Bolongaro (McGill University) for their **10th Annual Frank R. Mastrangelo Lecture**. Prof. Bolongaro’s talk was titled “Resistance Never Ends: The Legacy of World War II in Italo Calvino’s Work as a Writer and Intellectual”;

*Irish studies* were happy to host Prof. Gregory Castle (Arizona State University) who gave a **Lecture on “Yeats, Revival and the Temporalities of Modernism”**;

The French Club **immersed their students**- body and soul- with Yoga in French, game nights and – *naturellement*– French crêpes making;

*Spanish* offered many fascinating cultural events: students could learn about **Cuban** literature, art, music, dance, and meet members of the Cuban Interests Section; celebrate the **Day of the Dead** (*Día de los muertos*), practice the basics of **Salsa**, and learn about the Chilean transition to Democracy from the Academy-award nominated **film “NO”** (2012).





## ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Colón, Daniel was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship to conduct research in Salvador, Brazil for his current book project *Folklore and the Narrative Tradition in Latin American and Luso-African Fiction*.

-The Spanish for Health Care Program directed by Jennifer Maxwell was awarded a \$50,000 grant from a foundation in Maryland that supports Health Care, medicine and public health initiatives.

\* \* \*

-Campos Dintrans, Gonzalo., Pires, A. and J. Rothman. "Subject to subject raising and the syntax of tense in L2 Spanish: A Full Access approach." *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* (17 2014): 38-55.

-Colón, Daniel. "Crear y ser creado: poesía y autobiografía en Pablo Neruda." *Revista Iberoamericana* (79.244-245 Jul-Dic 2013): 665-83.

-Deeny, Anna. Essay, "Love in the First Person," and translations, *Dreams for Kurosawa* by Raúl Zurita and selection of *Floating Lanterns* by Mercedes Roffé, featured in *almostisland.com*, New Delhi, Winter 2014.

-Ferrando, Serena. "Water in Milan: A Cultural History of the Naviglio." *ISLE. Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment* (21 2014): 374-393.

-Heimonet, Jean-Michel. "Dialectique et tétatologie, les lectures hégéliennes de Georges Bataille." *Le Collège de Sociologie, Anamnese* (8 2013): 27-41.

-Lima, Dolores. "La novela calidoscópica: Afecto y representación en Antonio Di Benedetto." En Caballero Vázquez, Miguel & Rodríguez Carranza, Luz & Soto van der Plas, Christina, eds. *Imágenes y realismos en América Latina*. Leiden: Almenara, 2014. 149-163.

- Lucamante, Stefania. *Forging Shoah Memories: Italian Women Writers, Jewish Identity, and the Holocaust*. New York and London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.



## DRAMA DEPARTMENT EVENTS: April 14-26, 2015

### Movie: *Toussaint*

April 14 @6pm – Busboys and Poets, Brookland

### Reading: *Danton's Death* by Georg Büchner

April 21 @8pm – Busboys and Poets, Brookland

### Roundtable Discussion: *French and Haitian Revolutions, the Genesis of a New World*.

April 25 @12:30pm – Hartke Theatre Upper Lobby

### The Revolutionists

April 23-26, 2015

By Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Eleanor Holdridge

Hartke Box Office: (202) 319-4000

[cua-drama@cua.edu](mailto:cua-drama@cua.edu)

## HANNA MARKS' RETIREMENT



Dr. Hanna Marks, Associate Professor of German and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in Arts and Sciences,

retired in January 2015, after 36 years at CUA.

As the coordinator of the German program for many years, she defined the goals of the German major and served as advisor, teacher, and mentor. She strengthened the ties with our academic partner, the Katholische Universität Eichstätt, and encouraged majors and minors to study abroad.

As Associate Dean, she helped shape policy and guarantee the quality of the graduate programs, serving on the Academic Senate, the Graduate Board, and the Academic Council.

Dr. Marks considers working with students - graduate and undergraduate - the most rewarding part of her career. She cared deeply about their progress, their struggles, and their success and instilled and promoted their love of learning.

## SPOTLIGHT ON A STUDENT: Davon Lee (Chinese)



I was recently accepted into Tsinghua University, one of China's top two universities for a Master's in International Development. I plan to use everything I've learned in the Nursing and Asian Studies Program

here at Catholic University in conjunction with the International Development program to help establish sustainable healthcare systems in developing countries. I would like to thank Hwang Shufen who has been my Chinese professor since Freshman year, the MLL Department, and my professors from the School of Nursing for their support and encouragement.

## FULBRIGHT TEACHING ASSISTANTS



Julanne Murphy (Irish):

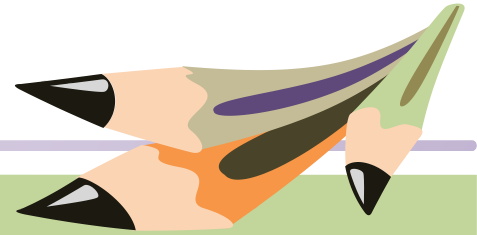
**Tá mo theanga go hiontach mar is teanga ársa í agus cuireann sí meon na nÉireannach in iúl!**  
(My language is great because it is ancient and it expresses the Irish perspective on the world!)

Andre dos Santos (Portuguese):

**Portugués é muito legal!**  
(Portuguese is really cool!)

Dina Sayed Ahmed (Arabic):

**لغتي رائعة لأنها ثرية بالمفردات و المعاني .**  
(My language is wonderful because it is rich with vocabulary and meaning)



## SUMMER COURSES AT THE GLOBAL VILLAGE



This year we are again offering the Summer Global Village experience where students live on campus, take language classes, and have the opportunity to participate in international-themed activities on and off campus: visits to embassies and museums, films and festivals, lunchtime presentations by select faculty, and cooking lessons.

<http://globalvillage.cua.edu/>

*We would love to hear from you!*

For questions, comments, to let us know what you have been up to, or to remove your name from our list email us at

[CUA-MLLalumni@cua.edu](mailto:CUA-MLLalumni@cua.edu)



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