

## Foreign Languages and Literatures

The Foreign Languages and Literatures (FL&L) Section is dedicated to internationalizing the education of MIT students and to providing them with the tools for a sensitive and successful involvement in the global community. During academic year 2005, FL&L faculty continued to provide national and international leadership in the fields of foreign language pedagogy, technology in the humanities, and literary and cultural studies, while demonstrating their commitment to educational excellence within the Institute.

### Highlights of the Year

S. C. Fang professor of Chinese language and culture Jing Wang will take over as section head starting July 2005, succeeding professor of Spanish and Latin American studies Elizabeth Garrels. Professor of French studies and film Edward B. Turk was awarded the John E. Burchard professorship in the humanities. Associate professor of Chinese studies Emma J. Teng was named this year's recipient of the Levitan Prize in the Humanities and corecipient of the Harold E. Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award. Professor Teng will use the Levitan Prize to continue her work on the image of the Eurasian in the United States and China around the turn of the 19th/20th century. Assistant professor of European cultural studies Charity Scribner was a recipient of the Alexander von Humboldt Award, which she is using to continue work on her next book project: a study of the aesthetic and cultural response to the rise and fall of left-wing militancy in Germany. Professor Scribner also received the Class of '54 career development professorship. Bernd Widdig, lecturer in German and associate director of the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives Program (MISTI), was honored with the Infinite Mile Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching and Service in the School of Arts, Humanities, and Sciences at MIT. Professor Scribner and assistant professor of Japanese cultural studies Ian Condry were on leave during the academic year.

This year FL&L cohosted talks by several guests, including the following: director of Times of India Group Bhaskar Das, "New Media Strategies in a Changing Economy"; poet and director of the Centre for the Arts at the National University of Singapore Edwin Thumboo, "The Role of the Writer in Multilingual Singapore"; author Ahlam Mosteghanemi for "An Evening of Modern Arabic Literature"; professor of Romance languages, French and Francophone studies at Texas Tech University Hafid Gafaïti, "De la révolution à la transnationalité: Les identités multiples de la France"; cofounder and managing director of Central Park Media John O'Donnell, "American Entrepreneurs and Japan's Gross National Cool: Launching *Anime* and *Manga* in the United States"; film director and screenwriter Inés París, who conversed with students and faculty following the screening of her film "A mi madre le gustan las mujeres (My Mother Likes Women)"; author Ken Belson, "The Japanese Cultural Phenomenon of Hello Kitty"; and author and principal advisor to the Reserve Bank of India Narendra Jadhav, who discussed his best-selling autobiography, "Outcast": *A Memoir*.

Additional events cosponsored by FL&L included the US premiere of director Kazuo Kuroki's film "The Face of Jizo" as part of the Global Hibakusha Film Festival recognizing the 60th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; "MIT

Short Film Festival: German/European Short Films and German Avantgarde”; “Two Evenings with Romanian Cinema: Filantropica (Philanthropy)” and “E pericoloso sporgersi (Don’t Lean out of the Window)”; a film documentary, “Réveil: Waking Up French”; and the Boston Asian American Independent Film Festival “Silkscreens.”

In October the Center for Bilingual/Bicultural Studies (CBBS) continued its annual series devoted to the exploration of the intersections between the politics of language and cultural productions in the shifting global realities of the 21st century. The theme for this year’s series was “Beyond Exile: Central European Writing and Film,” which included presentations, readings, and panels with noted authors Andrei Codrescu and Dubravka Ugresic and celebrated filmmaker Agnieszka Holland.

During the fall and winter of 2004, “Visualizing Cultures: Black Ships and the Samurai,” a project of Kochi Prefecture–John Manjiro professor in Japanese language and culture Shigeru Miyagawa and Ford International professor of history John Dower was exhibited on Broadway in conjunction with the play “Pacific Overtures” by Steven Sondheim. The project featured some 200 Japanese and American graphics depicting the 1853–1854 mission by Commodore Matthew Perry that led to the opening of Japan to the outside world and gave audiences additional information and understanding of the musical’s story about Perry’s arrival in Japan. The Visualizing Cultures project received many awards this past year from iCampus, the Center for Global Partnership, and the Japanese consulate of Boston.

Thanks to a generous gift from an MIT alumnus and his spouse, FL&L continued its third noncredit French cultural immersion program, “January Scholars in France.” The program, led this year by Ann F. Friedlaender professor of the humanities Isabelle de Courtivron, gave seven undergraduate students a two-week experience in Paris focusing on French arts, letters, and history during MIT’s Independent Activities Period. The trip was followed by a two-week project in which students chronicled their experience. Details of the program and experiences of the students can be found on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/jsf>.

Lecturers in Spanish Solivia Marquez and José Ramos led a Spanish cultural program entitled “In Search of Don Quijote” this year, which gave 10 undergraduate students a tutored immersion in the cultural life of Madrid and La Mancha during the celebration of the 4th centenary of Don Quijote. The trip began in late June and will conclude in July 2005. At the conclusion of the trip the students will create a website and documentary film detailing their experiences.

FL&L was fortunate to have Eva Hoffman, author of the recently published book *After Such Knowledge: Memory, History and the Legacy of the Holocaust*, as a visiting CBBS fellow in the fall of 2004. She taught the class “German and Jewish Responses to the Holocaust: Literature of Extremity and Responsibility” and was a central part of the CBBS annual colloquium. FL&L also welcomed Max Kade writer-in-residence Perkles Monioudis during spring 2005. Mr. Monioudis taught “German and Its European Context” and gave readings and discussions of his work during the term at the Humanities Library and for the Science, Technology, and Society program.

During AY2005 year, members of FL&L participated in many foreign language and literature–related activities outside MIT. Professor Wang continued to serve on the editorial board for *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique*, *Advertising and Society Review*, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Journal*, and *Portal: Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies*. Professor Wang is also the organizer of monthly faculty seminars on “Critical Policy Studies of China,” an international and multidisciplinary collaborative project with scholars from China, Australia, and the United Kingdom based in the greater Boston area. Professor Turk continued his work as assistant film editor for *The French Review*, a journal of the American Association of Teachers of French. Associate professor of Hispanic studies Margery Resnick continued as president of the International Institute in Spain. Professor Teng was chair of the Association for Asian American Studies conference. Senior lecturer in French Gilberte Furstenberg served as a board member of the Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium. Senior lecturer in German Ellen Crocker served on the American Association of Teachers of German Executive Board. Senior lecturer in Spanish Douglas Morgenstern continued his service as MIT’s representative on the governing board of the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning. Senior lecturer in Chinese Julian Wheatley served on the editorial board of the *Journal of the Chinese Language Teachers Association*. Director of Japanese language Yoshimi Nagaya served as board member for the Japanese Language Teachers Association of New England. Lecturer in German Dagmar Jaeger served as a book reviewer for *German Quarterly* and *Monatshefte*.

### Research and Publications

FL&L publications include Professor Garrels’s cotranslation of Domingo Faustino Sarmiento’s autobiography, *Recollections of a Provincial Past*, published by Oxford University Press in the Library of Latin American Series, 2005. Garrels also provided an introductory essay to this first edition in English of Sarmiento’s autobiography.

Professor de Courtivron’s paper “Colette: The Art of Paradox” was published in the book *The Modern Woman Revisited: Paris Between the Wars* (Rutgers University Press).

Professor Miyagawa’s paper “A-Chain Maturation Re-Examined: Why Japanese Children Perform Better on “Full” Unaccusatives than on Passives” was published in *Papers on Language Acquisition* (MIT Working Papers in Linguistics).

Professor Wang’s coedited book *Locating China: Space, Place, and Popular Culture* (London and New York: Routledge), was published in 2005. The following papers by Professor Wang were published in academic journals: “The Politics and Production of Scales: How Does Geography Matter to Studies of Local, Popular Culture?” in *Locating China*; “Bourgeois Bohemians in China? Neo-Tribes and the Urban Imaginary,” in *China Quarterly*; and “Youth Culture, Music, and Cell Phone Branding in China,” in *Global Media and Communications*.

Professor Teng’s paper entitled “An Island of Women: The Discourse of Gender in Qing Travel Accounts of Taiwan” was reprinted in the book *Bodies in Contact: Rethinking Colonial Encounters in World History* (Duke University Press). Also her chapter entitled

"*Pihai jiyou: An Early Exploration Account of Taiwan*" was published in the *Hawai'i Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture* (University of Hawai'i Press).

Professor Condry's paper "Cultures in Music Piracy: An Ethnographic Comparison of the US and Japan," was published in the *International Journal of Cultural Studies*.

Professor Scribner's published papers included "Alexander Klug Awarded Buchner Prize" in *Rethinking Marxism* and "Nostalgia and Obstinacy: *Prometheus* and *Brassed Off* in the Kulturindustrie" in the journal *Studies in European Cinema*.

Senior lecturer Morgenstern's interview-article "Shirley Geok-lin Lim: Influencias hispanas" was published in *Contrastes*.

### Conferences and Presentations

FL&L members were invited to numerous national and international conferences during the year.

Professor de Courtivron gave a talk entitled "Bilingual Writers: Exile and the Incomplete Return" at the Trans-Atlantic Project Colloquium at Brown University.

Professor Miyagawa spoke on "How to Create an OpenCourseWare Program" at Keio University, Tokyo. He was also the invited keynote speaker at the Japanese/Korean Linguistics Conference, Tucson, AZ, and at the Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics at Keio University, Tokyo.

Professor Turk was a guest lecturer at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and gave a talk entitled "Jean-Luc Godard's *La Musique*."

Professor Wang presented "Bobos in China? Lifestyle Cultures and Market Segmentation" at the *China Quarterly* special issue Workshop on Art and Culture in Contemporary China, Harvard University, and gave a talk entitled "Bourgeois Bohemians: The Tribalization of the Chinese Market" at the Center for East Asian Studies, University of Notre Dame.

Professor Condry gave the following presentations: "Fan Cultures and File Sharing: A Comparison of the US and Japan," Hakuhodo Music Conference, Tokyo, Japan; "Copyright, Digital Technologies and Japan," Japan Public Culture Works, Reischauer Institute for Japanese Studies, Harvard University; "Real Japanese Hip-Hop," American Studies Association meeting; and "Anime Fans and Copyright," Anime Explosion panel, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Professor Scribner gave the following talks: "'The Second World,' Modernity and Contemporaneity: Antinomies of Art and Culture after the Twentieth Century" at the University of Pittsburgh; "Goodbye Lenin" at Deutsches Haus, New York University; "Rachel Whiteread and Public Space," New York University; "Der Dumme Rest: A Western Take on the GDR," Ruins of Modernity Conference, University of Michigan;

and “Working Memory and the Second World,” Building Nomads Colloquium, Shristi School of Arts, Design, and Technology, Bangalore.

Senior lecturer Furstenberg gave several presentations during the year, including “Building Bridges across Cultures and Fostering Cross-Cultural Understandings: A New Mission for the Language Class,” Teach Europe Symposium, Columbia University; “Using On-Line Communication Tools to Foster Cross-Cultural Understandings in the Language Class,” University of Washington; “Meeting the Other through Technology,” Smith College; and “Approches, outils et pratiques: une réflexion à partir du Projet Cultura,” University of Louvain, Belgium.

Senior lecturer Wheatley presented “Chinese at MIT: Practical Pedagogy” at the New England Teaching Forum for Chinese Language Instructors at Harvard University.

### **MIT Service and Enrollments**

Members of the FL&L faculty contribute to MIT through their service on the following Institute-wide committees: Gender Equity Committee for the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Faculty Policy Committee, Council of Educational Technology, OpenCourseWare Advisory Committee, Comparative Media Studies (CMS) Steering Committee, Kelly-Douglas Traveling Fellowship Committee, Burchard Selection Committee, Committee on Graduation, Institute Committee for Edgerton Prize, Institute Nomination Committee, Committee on Discipline, Faculty/Administration Committee, CMS Graduate and Undergraduate Admissions Committees, Women’s Studies Steering Committee, Creative Arts Council, Cambridge–MIT Initiative, MIT–France Scientific Committee, CMS Curriculum Committees, MISTI China Program, and Crosstalk Forum.

Professor Resnick continued to serve as director of the MIT/Amita Women’s Oral Histories Project and became chair of the Committee on Discipline, as well as cochair of the Committee on Academic Integrity. Professor Teng served as faculty advisor to the MIT Association for Asian American Students. Director of Spanish language Margarita Ribas Groeger was a student group advisor and activities coorganizer for MIT’s Counseling and Support Services program Mujeres Latinas. Senior lecturer Wheatley continued his roles as housemaster for East Campus and as director of the China/Singapore MISTI Programs. Director of English language studies Jane Dunphy continued her work with MIT’s Teaching and Learning Lab and presented at MIT seminars for the Libraries, Orientation Workshop for Graduate Teaching Staff, and the Sloan Automotive Lab.

FL&L has maintained its commitment to making full-time appointments and to attracting qualified candidates from minority groups. In order to achieve these goals, FL&L has targeted historically black and Hispanic colleges and universities and has advertised in journals and association web sites focusing on the minority community. We currently have several members of our full-time faculty and full and part-time teaching staff who are minority representatives or women.

We have four majors in FL&L this year. All four are second BS degrees, two each majoring in Spanish and French. The number of students who proposed or completed



a minor is 45. We had 413 proposed or completed concentrators: Spanish (132), French (79), Chinese (73), Japanese (58), German (46), other languages (13), studies in international literature and culture (SILC) (8), theory of language (3), and English language studies (1). Spanish continues to have the largest enrollments at 515; French, 314; Chinese, 283; English language studies, 247; Japanese, 236; German, 151; and Italian, 21 (offered only during IAP). Enrollments in SILC courses (cross-cultural language and culture subjects taught in English) were 366.

**Elizabeth J. Garrels**

**Section Head**

**Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies**

*More information about Foreign Languages and Literatures can be found online at <http://web.mit.edu/fll/www/>.*