

Foreign Languages and Literatures

The Foreign Languages and Literatures Section (FL&L) is dedicated to providing MIT students with the tools for a sensitive and successful involvement in the global community and to contributing to the internationalization of their MIT education. During the 2005–2006 academic year, 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 became section head in July 2005, succeeding professor of Spanish and Latin American studies Elizabeth Garrels. Professor of French studies and film Edward B. Turk was on leave during the academic year. Professor Garrels was on leave during fall 2005. Associate professor of Chinese studies Emma Teng was awarded the Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship for recently tenured scholars to begin in fall 2006. Assistant professor of Japanese cultural studies Ian Condry was awarded a fellowship from the Japan Society and an advanced research fellowship from Harvard University's Program on US-Japan Relations for 2006–2007. Senior lecturer in German Ellen Crocker and senior lecturer in Chinese Julian Wheatley were awarded a 2006 School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Other Academic Infinite Mile Award.

FL&L was successful in raising substantial funds from donors for the Chinese and French programs, and for the HyperStudio, which was led and administered by FL&L. The studio engages in cutting-edge research and development for digital teaching materials across disciplines in SHASS and their delivery for classroom use for FL&L and the humanities.

FL&L was fortunate to have Nilüfer Göle, author of *Musulmanes et Modernes* and *The Forbidden Modern: Civilization and Veiling*, as a visiting professor and Center for Bilingual/Bicultural Studies (CB/BS) fellow in the fall of 2005. She taught the class "Topics in Globalization—Close Encounters: Islam, Gender and the West," was a central part of the CB/BS annual colloquium and participated in the MIT Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar. FL&L also welcomed visiting associate professor Roger Celestin from French and Francophone Studies at the University of Connecticut. Professor Celestin taught 21F.312 Basic Themes in French Literature and Culture, and 21F.052 French Film Classics.

This year FL&L co-hosted talks by several guests, including Tak Toyoshima, author of the editorial comic "Secret Asian Man" and editor at the *Weekly Dig*, and Sun Lijun, dean and professor of doctoral studies at the animation school of the Beijing Film Academy. Narendra Subramanian, associate professor of political science at Bowling Green State University, delivered a talk about "Legal Change and Gender Inequality: Changes in Muslim Family Law in India;" Berlin-based performance artists Cristina Gomez-Barrio and Wolfgang Meyer presented a series of works followed by a discussion of sex, the

city, and music; and Radhika Gajjala, associate professor of communication studies, also at Bowling Green, spoke on “Consuming/Producing/Inhabiting South Asian Digital Diasporas.”

Additional events co-sponsored by FL&L included a cabaret-style evening entitled *L'Amérique dans la Chanson Française: An Evening of French Songs about America*; a screening of the film *The Name of the Disease*, a documentary exploring the voices of patients, shamans, doctors, and health officials in rural Rajasthan, India, directed by lecturer in French and CB/BS fellow Arundhati Banerjee; and an MIT short film festival of European short films and Chinese animation, which presented recent films by young directors from European film academies, award-winning films presented at European Festival, and a selection of student films from the Beijing Film Academy.

The Spanish group celebrated the good news of winning the award for Educational Quality from the Institute of Advanced Studies for the Americas of the Organization of American States. The distinction is given annually and is dedicated to recognizing projects that contribute to addressing the solution of socioeducational problems related to the development of human potential. In addition, a documentary by Margarita Ribas Groeger, director of Spanish, about Latina students at MIT called *Nuestras Voces* was shown at the New England Film and Video Festival in October.

At the beginning of the fall semester, several FL&L members participated in MISTI Week, celebrating international education at MIT, as part of the panel “Is There a Global Communication Culture?” The following members gave talks: Kochi Prefecture-John Manjiro professor in Japanese language and culture Shigeru Miyagawa (“OpenCourseWare Around the World: Japan, Africa,...”); lecturer in German Bernd Widdig (“Communicating Across Cultures”); CB/BS fellow Göle (“Transnational Publics and National Prejudices: Islam and Europe”); senior lecturer in French Gilberte Furstenberg (“Learning from Cultural Differences—The Cultura Project”); Professor Condry (“Global Music Sharing—New Intellectual Property Challenges”); and director of English language studies Jane Dunphy (“English as a Global Language”).

In October CB/BS 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 “Emerging Muslim Identities in Diasporic Communities,” which included presentations, readings, and panels with noted authors Moustafa Bayoumi, Miriam Cooke, Nilüfer Göle, and film director Ismael Ferroukhi. The series also included film screenings of *Le Grand Voyage*, *Ae Fond Kiss*, *Head On*, *Poniente*, *Yasmin*, *L’Esquive*, and *My Son the Fanatic*. The series finished with a panel discussion in March with MIT students, “Being Young, Being Here, Being Muslim.”

CB/BS also began a new brown bag lunch seminar series, led by professor of French studies Isabelle de Courtivron and Professor Emma Teng. The seminar’s aim is to provide a forum for informational discussions of issues related to the history and ramifications of translingual, transnational, and transcultural phenomena. This inaugural year included the following talks: “‘Native Speakers?’ A Dialogue on Issues

of Asian Anglophone Writing,” by fellow Tuli Banerjee and Professor Emma Teng; “Fragments of an Identity Crisis: France from Cocacolonization to Globalization,” by Professor Celestin; “Globalization: Is It Fair?” by Kenan Sahin dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Philip Khoury; and “You Mixed? Race, Adoption, and Identity,” by professor of philosophy Sally Haslanger.

During the year CB/BS also co-sponsored with FL&L “France in Turmoil: A Discussion of Current Events,” with Nilüfer Göle, Professor Celestin, lecturer in French Johann Sadock, and MIT alum Jovonne Bickerstaff. CB/BS also helped to successfully publish the second edition of *E-merging: Voices of the New Diasporas*, a student web-based e-journal which aims to give artistic expression to the ways in which the new global realities affect questions of identity in a generation that identifies itself in fluid transnational and trans-cultural terms. The web address for *E-merging* is <http://web.mit.edu/emerging/>.

Professor Condry coordinated a two-day symposium in April at MIT entitled “Violence and Desire in Japanese Popular Culture” as part of the MIT research project *Cool Japan: Media, Culture, Technology*. Panel presentations about anime, art and world politics, and the violent commodification of desire, and an anime screening and discussion on anime hip-hop samurai warriors filled the two-day event.

Thanks to a generous gift from an MIT alumnus and his spouse, FL&L continued its fourth non-credit French cultural immersion program, “January Scholars in France.” The program, led this year by Professor Turk, gave seven undergraduate students a two-week experience in Paris focusing on French arts, letters, and history during MIT’s Independent Activities Period (IAP). 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/>.

Senior lecturer Furstenberg conceptualized and executed an MIT–École Polytechnique student exchange program entitled “The Shadowing Project” as an adjunct to her *Cultura* program. Two students from each school visited classes, lived in the dormitories, and experienced the culture of France and America respectively. The students created a writing blog to describe their experiences at <http://www.trefle.over-blog.com/>.

During the 2005–2006 year, members of FL&L participated in many foreign language and literature–related activities outside MIT. Professor Wang served on the editorial board and/or advisory board for *The Chinese Journal of Communication and Society*, *Taiwan: A Radical Quarterly in Social Studies*, *Portal: Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies*, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Journal: Movements*, *Advertising and Society Review*, *positions: east asia cultures critique*, the cultural studies series at Hong Kong University Press, and “Critiques/Cultural Studies” book series for Ju-liu publishing company, Taipei, Taiwan. Professor Wang is the organizer of monthly faculty seminars on “Critical Policy Studies of China,” an inter-international and multidisciplinary collaborative project with scholars from China based in the greater Boston area, and Australia, China, and the United Kingdom. She is also the chair of the International Advisory Board of Creative Commons in China. 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 her work as president for the International Institute in Spain, and as an instructor for the Teachers as Scholars program through MIT. Professor Teng served as associate editor for pre-20th-century China for the *Journal of Asian Studies*. Professor Condry was elected councilor and served on the executive committee of the Society for East Asian Anthropology for the American Anthropological Association. Senior lecturer Furstenberg served as a board member of CALICO (Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium). Senior lecturer 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 to the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning, and became a member of the Modern Language Association (MLA) Language Map advisory committee. Senior lecturer Wheatley served on the executive board of the Chinese Language Teachers Association as nominating committee chair. 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*. Lecturer Widdig served as a member of the advisory board for Baden Württemberg International. Research associate Kurt Fendt was an external moderating examiner for Cambridge University and a visiting professor at the University of Klagenfurt in Austria during a week in summer.

Research and Publications

—FL&L research and publications include Professor Wang's coedited book *Locating China: Space, Place, and Popular Culture* (London and New York: Routledge), which was published in paperback in 2006. Professor Wang also had the following papers published: "Bourgeois Bohemians in China? Neo-Tribes and the Urban Imaginary," in *China Quarterly*; and "MotoMusic: Cool Culture and Cell Phone Branding" in *Global Media and Communications*.

—Professor Miyagawa's chapter "EPP and Semantically Vacuous Scrambling," was published in the book *The Free Word Order Phenomenon: Its Syntactic Sources and Diversity* (Mouton de Gruyter).

—Professor Teng's book, *Taiwan's Imagined Geography: Chinese Colonial Travel Writing and Pictures, 1683-1895*, was released as a paperback in January. Professor Teng had the following papers published in the following books: "What's 'Chinese' in Chinese Diasporic Literature?" in *Contested Modernities in Chinese Literature* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan); and "The West as a Kingdom of Women: Woman and Occidentalism in Wang Tao's Tales of Travel" in *Traditions of East Asian Travel* (London: Berghahn Books). Her paper "Eurasian Hybridity in Chinese Utopian Visions: From 'One World' to a 'Society Based on Beauty' and Beyond," was published in *positions: east asia cultures critique*.

—Professor Condry had the paper "Japanese Hip-Hop and the Globalization of Popular Culture" published in *Conformity and Conflict, 12th edition: Readings in Cultural Anthropology* (Allyn and Bacon).

—Senior lecturer Furstenberg had the chapter she cowrote, "The Cultura Project," published in the book *Internet-mediated Intercultural Foreign Language Education* (Boston:

Heinle & Heinle), and the chapter “Approches, outils et pratiques—une réflexion à partir du projet *Cultura*” published in the colloquium proceedings of *Quelle didactique de l’interculturel dans les nouveaux contextes d’enseignement-apprentissage du FLE/s?*

Senior lecturer Morgenstern had a piece published in the book *Contrastes*, a collection of statements from 140 important figures, including president George Bush, Bill Gates and Jacques Chirac, assessing the actions carried out by UNESCO for the protection and promotion of culture and mankind in its 60 years of activity.

Conferences and Presentations

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

—Professor Wang gave the following talks: “Cell Phone Branding and Music Marketing,” CMS Communications Forum, MIT; “Creative Industries, Cultural Industries, and Creative Commons,” International Conference on “The Third Space,” People’s University, Beijing, China; “Cell Phone Branding and Youth Culture in China,” Harvard Business School, Harvard University; “Knowledge Commons and Creative Commons: Expectations and Blocking Stones,” People’s University, Beijing, China; “Hello Moto: Cell Phone Branding and Music Marketing in China,” Chinese University of Hong Kong; and “Marketing ABCs in China,” Hakuhodo—a transnational Japanese advertising agency, Tokyo, Japan.

—Professor de Courtivron presented the paper “Bilingualism of the Other” at the 20th/21st-Century French Studies Conference in Miami, Florida.

—Professor Garrels gave the talk “En busca del Santiago de dos décadas: La ciudad de los años 1840 y 1970” at the regional office of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, Santiago de Chile.

—Professor Resnick gave the talk “A Finished House, Renewed” at the International Colloquium on American Women’s Education in Madrid, Spain.

—Professor Teng gave the following talks: “Strait Talk: A Multi-Track Symposium on US-China-Taiwan Relations,” Watson Institute for International Studies and East Asian Studies, Brown University; “On the Limitations of Taiwan’s Postcoloniality,” International Conference on the History and Culture of Taiwan, the Taiwan Historical Association; “Other As Self?: The ‘Civilized Barbarian’ in Dong Yue’s ‘Poetic Exposition on Korea,’” Imagining Korea, Imagining the World Conference, Leiden University; “Chinese Identity and the Fiction of Passing: Wang Tao’s ‘The Story of Mary,’” Association for Asian Studies annual meeting; and “Chinese Idealizations of Eurasian Racial Hybridity: What Can We Learn from a Cross-Cultural Reading of the Past,” “Legacies of the Past” Brown Bag Series, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University.

—Professor Condry gave the following presentations: “Anime Fans and the Copyright Wars: What Should Japan’s Content Industries do about Online Piracy?,” Program on US–Japan Relations, Harvard University; “Real Japanese Hip-Hop: From Gangsta to Samurai,” Asia Center, Michigan State University; “Globalization and Japanese

Culture: Examples from Hip-Hop and Anime,” Carl Becker House Colloquium, Cornell University; “Anime Fans and the Copyright Wars: Hip-Hop Samurai and Online Piracy,” University of Delaware; “Japanese Rappers, 9/11, and War: A Perspective on Heisei Youth and Global Media,” at the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, San Francisco, and at the Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan; “Japanese Rappers and 9/11: Anti-American Sentiments in “American” Popular Culture,” at the International Forum on US Studies at the University of Iowa.

—Assistant professor of European cultural studies Charity Scribner gave the following talks: “The Other Europe of Joseph Buys: Surveying the Fallout of State Socialism,” Changing Boundaries: Architectural History in Transition Conference of the Society of Architectural Historians, Paris; and “Working Memory: The Cultures of German Unification,” Annual Interdisciplinary German Studies Conference, University of California at Berkeley.

—Senior lecturer Crocker was invited by the German department at Wellesley College to give the presentation “Using ‘Berliner sehen’ as an Open Learning Environment in Language and Literature Courses.”

—Senior lecturer Furstenberg gave the following presentations: “L’Inter-culturel et l’Inter-net: vers un nouveau mode d’apprentis-sage,” Les Études française valorizes par les technologies colloquium, University of York, Toronto; “Developing Students’ Cross-cultural Understanding: the Cultura Model, Uses and Adaptations,” CALICO Conference, University of Hawaii; “L’Internet, outil de mediation interculturelle,” Graduate Center, City University of New York.

—Director Dunphy presented the following papers: “Developing Graduate ESP Writing Courses,” TESOL annual conference, Tampa, Florida; “Global English: Adopting and Adapting an Additional Language” and “The Impact of the Digital Age on English Language Pedagogy” at the International Conference on Digital Learning and Online Education, Taipei, Taiwan.

—Research associate Fendt gave the following invited talks: “Creative Learners—Collaborative Tools,” at the International Microlearning Conference held at the University of Innsbruck, Austria; “Metamedia and Media Literacy: Active Learning in Educational Media Spaces,” at the Medial Literacy Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and “Schreiben mit Medien—Medienkompetenz im Wandel,” at the Institute für Medien und Kommunikation-swissenschaft held at the Universität Klagenfurt in Austria.

MIT Service and Enrollments

Members of the FL&L faculty contribute to MIT through their service on a number of Institute-wide committees: gender equity committee for SHASS, faculty policy committee, Educational Technology Council, OpenCourseWare advisory committee, CMS steering committee, Kelly-Douglas Traveling Fellowship committee, Burchard selection committee, Commencement Committee, Institute Nomination committee, Committee on Discipline, Faculty/Administration committee, Martin Luther King Jr. planning committee, MIT-France committee, MIT ACCESS, academic computing strategic planning committee, Educational Architecture Group (eTag), Foreign Fellowship committee, MISTI China program, and Crosstalk Forum.

Professor Resnick continued to serve as director of the MIT/Amita Women's Oral Histories Project and as chair of the Committee on Discipline, as well as cochair of the Committee on Academic Integrity. She also added chair of the Burchard Scholars to her long list of MIT activities. Professor Teng served as faculty advisor to the MIT Association for Asian American Students and MIT HAPA Club. Director Ribas Groeger was a student group advisor and activities co-organizer for MIT's Counseling and Support Services program "Mujeres Latinas," as well as a faculty liaison to "La Casa Hispana" (Spanish House). Senior lecturer Wheatley continued his roles as housemaster for East Campus and as director of the China/Singapore MISTI programs.

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 websites focusing on the minority community. We currently have several members of our full-time faculty and full- and part-time teaching staff who are minorities or women.

We had two majors in FL&L this year. Both are receiving Bachelor of Science in Humanities and Engineering degrees while focusing on Spanish and East Asian Studies. The total number of students who proposed or completed a minor is 47. We had 380 proposed or completed concentrators, broken down as follows; Spanish (126), Chinese (74), French (64), Japanese (55), German (39), other languages (16), Studies in International Literature and Culture (4), and Theory of Language (2). Spanish continues to have the largest enrollments, at 523; Chinese, 394; Japanese, 351; English Language Studies, 281; French, 266; German, 222; Italian, 22 (only offered during IAP). Enrollments in SILC courses (cross-cultural language and culture subjects, taught in English) were 363.

Jing Wang

Section Head

S. C. Fang Professor of Chinese Language and Culture

More information about the Foreign Languages and Literatures Section can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/fl/ww/>.