

## Foreign Languages and Literatures

The Foreign Languages and Literatures (FL&L) Section is dedicated to providing MIT students with the tools for sensitive and successful involvement in the global community by contributing to the internationalization of their MIT education. During the 2006–2007 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

Professor of Spanish and Latin American studies Elizabeth Garrels was awarded the Best Translation Prize for 2005 (with cotranslator A. Zatz) by the New England Council of Latin American Studies for Domingo Faustino Sarmiento's *Recollections of a Provincial Past* (Oxford University Press, 2005). Associate professor of Japanese cultural studies Ian Condry was awarded the Mitsui career development chair to begin July 2007. Lecturer in German Dagmar Jaeger was awarded a 2007 School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) Infinite Mile Award for her continued outstanding service and innovative teaching at MIT. Research associate and director of the HyperStudio Kurt Fendt will be promoted to principal research associate and Sabine Levet will be welcomed as a senior lecturer in French in July 2007.

Shiseido, the 100-year-old Japanese cosmetics giant, formally signed with the Visualizing Cultures project led by Kochi Prefecture-John Manjiro professor of Japanese language and culture and professor of linguistics Shigeru Miyagawa and Ford International professor of history John Dower. Shiseido will provide visuals of feminine beauty during the time of Japan's modernization. The images, many of which have not been seen for 50 to 100 years, are from Shiseido's private collections.

During the fall term, FL&L welcomed visiting professor Sharon Kinsella, who taught Topics in Culture and Globalization as well as Japanese Popular Culture. FL&L welcomed Hansjörg Schertenleib as a Max-Kade writer-in-residence in spring 2007. Schertenleib taught Germany and Its European Context and presented a reading and discussion at the Humanities Library from his latest novel *Der Glückliche* (*The Happy One*). Professor Condry, professor of European cultural studies Charity Scribner, and senior lecturer in Chinese Julian Wheatley were on leave during 2006–2007. Associate professor of Chinese studies Emma Teng and Professor Garrels were on leave during fall 2006.

This year FL&L cohosted talks by several guests, including philosopher, writer, and teacher Michel Onfray ("Vivre sans dieu" and "Socio-techno du plaisir et du loisir: Le rôle de l'ingénieur") and professor of film studies at the University of Caen Geneviève Sellier ("Paris dans les films de la Nouvelle Vague: Un cinéma au masculin"). FL&L cosponsored a shakuhachi (bamboo flute) performance by Elizabeth Reian Bennet and the film screening of *Abduction: The Megumi Yokota Story* followed by a discussion with the directors, Chris Sheridan and Patty Kim. Also, FL&L cohosted MIT's third European

Short Film Festival in April, which features such films as *Nummer twee* by Guido van der Werve (Netherlands, 2003), *Waves* by Daniel Burkhardt (Germany, 2007), and *We Are the Faithful* by Michael Koch (Germany, 2005).

In October, the Center for Bilingual/Bicultural Studies (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 "Hip-Pop in French: Contemporary Theater, Film, Dance, Comics and Graphic Arts," which included "Konnnecting Souls," a talk and demonstration by the Franck II Louise Company; a discussion and book signing with internationally best-selling and award-winning comic book author Marjane Satrapi; "Comic Strips of Belgium or the Big Success of a Small Country" with Willem De Graeve, director of the Belgian Comic Strip Centre; and the film screening of three experimental short films, *Quand nous étions punk*, *Carwash*, and *Début*, as well as the stage performance of *Le début de l'A* by French author and director Pascal Rambert.

CB/BS also continued its brown bag lunch seminar series, led by professor of French studies and Ann F. Friedlaender professor of humanities Isabelle de Courtivron, Professor Teng, and CB/BS fellow and director of the MIT-India Program Arundhati Banerjee. The aim of the seminars is to provide a forum for informational discussions of issues related to the history and ramifications of translingual, transnational, and transcultural phenomena. This year's talks included "The Pedagogy of Intercultural Understanding" by senior lecturer in French Gilberte Furstenberg; "Multiculturalism in the Netherlands: Complexities and Contradiction" by Marja Roholl of Amsterdam University; "The Politics of Creolistics" by associate professor of linguistics Michel DeGraff; "Justice, Gender, and the Politics of Multiculturalism" by assistant professor of political science Sarah Song; and "On Hybridity: Representations in Francophone Literature and Cinema" by Caroline Beschea-Fache of Indiana University.

The HyperStudio received a generous gift from an MIT alumnus to help fund its cutting-edge research and development of digital teaching materials for classroom use in FL&L and the humanities. The HyperStudio also received a grant to develop a two-year project on Missed Opportunities? US-Iran Relations (1997–2005) in collaboration with the ongoing Persian Gulf Initiative at the Center for International Studies. The HyperStudio's Metamedia projects included: Eurasian Visual Archive (FL&L), Hip-Hop Japan (FL&L), American/British Authors (Literature), American Dance Archive (Music and Theater Arts), Early American Comics (Comparative Media Studies), Declarations of Independence (History), Jews of Shanghai Project, and Victorian Project/Revolving Doors (Literature). Research associate Fendt developed and incorporated new or enhanced existing FL&L projects as well, including the Revolving Door Project, Belgium Visual Archive, Marais Museum Project, Berliner sehen and Berliner sehen Exchange, Cultura, MITUPV Exchange and MITUPV Archive, Contempor@rt, A Glimpse on the Cultural Revolution, Memory and Commemoration, Kansai Dialect, Asian Games Village, and the Beijing Film Academy Archive.

FL&L began a new seminar series (the International Cultural Capital research group) in 2006, co-organized by Edward Turk, professor of French studies and film and John

E. Burchard professor of humanities, and Professor Condry. The seminars are a means of exploring diverse approaches to the study of culture and capital from international perspectives and investigating the processes by which culture is produced, be it brand culture, city culture, digital culture, theater culture, performance culture, or national culture. Participants include faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral students from Literature, the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies, Comparative Media Studies (CMS), and FL&L. This year's speakers included Professor Justin O'Connor from the School of Performance and Cultural Industries, University of Leeds; MIT assistant professor of literature Sarah Brouillette; and CMS postdoctoral associate Joshua Green.

As part of the MIT research project "Cool Japan: Media, Culture, Technology," Professor Condry coordinated a four-day conference at MIT and Harvard (Love and War in Japanese Popular Culture) exploring the power and import of Japanese popular culture. Highlighted events included a discussion with award-winning anime director Mamoru Hosoda, a performance by Japanese rapper Miss Monday, and a discussion with manga artist Takashi Okazaki. Panel presentations and discussions about Japanese anime, art, music, and popular culture rounded out the events. Two talks associated with "Cool Japan" were presented separately from the conference: "Authenticating Alterity: Stereotypes of the Black Other in Japan and the United States," by Professor John G. Russel of Gifu University, Japan, and "Toys as Media: Bandai, Giant Robots, and Future Entertainment."

Thanks to a generous gift from an MIT alumnus and his spouse, FL&L continued its fifth noncredit French cultural immersion program, January Scholars in France. The program, led this year by senior lecturer Furstenberg, gave five 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 experiences. More information can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/jsf/>.

In November, FL&L hosted a Consortium for Language and Learning workshop titled Social Computing Technologies: Experiences, Challenges, Opportunities. Participants and attendees from Yale University, Harvard University, Brown University, Princeton University, Dartmouth College, and the University of Pennsylvania convened to explore the pedagogical applications of new technologies including blogs, podcasts, online photo galleries, and vodcasts for instruction in foreign languages and literatures. The following FL&L faculty members gave talks at the workshop: senior lecturer in Spanish Doug Morgenstern ("Choices for Virtual Community Identity in Web 1.0 and Web 2.0: A Few Observations"), senior lecturer in German Ellen Crocker ("Listening in on the Community: Using Podcasts to Explore Language and Culture"), lecturer in Chinese Tong Chen ("Podcasting Assists Beyond the Classroom"), and director of Spanish language Margarita Ribas Groeger ("Audioblog Posting via Telephone").

FL&L offered two classes, 21F.400/450 German I and 21F.782 Spanish I, abroad for the first time during IAP. Twenty students started their adventure to Germany with a workshop with Siemens and Deutsche Bahn in Berlin where they met young German professionals from both firms. The group then studied German in Stuttgart with MIT

instructors and got to know two more cities in Germany's southwest, Konstanz and Heidelberg. In each city, they visited cultural and corporate sites. Eighteen students began their travels and learning of Spanish in Madrid. Lecturer in Spanish Solivia Marquez taught Spanish to the students and led them through many varied cultural experiences during their stay in Spain's capital in January 2007.

During the 2006–2007 academic year, FL&L faculty members participated in many foreign language–related and literature-related activities outside MIT. S.C. Fang professor of Chinese language and culture Jing 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 of the Hong Kong University Press; and the Critiques/Cultural Studies book series for the Ju-liu Publishing Company, Taipei, Taiwan. Professor Wang organizes monthly faculty seminars on Critical Policy Studies of China, an international and multidisciplinary collaborative project with scholars from China based in the Greater Boston area as well as Australia, China, and the United Kingdom. She is also the chair of the International Advisory Board of Creative Commons in China.

Associate professor of Hispanic studies Margery Resnick continued her work as president of the International Institute in Spain and as an instructor for the Teachers as Scholars program through MIT. Professor Teng served as associate editor for the pre-20th-century China section of the *Journal of Asian Studies*. Professor Condry continued as councilor and served on the executive committee of the American Anthropological Association's Society for East Asian Anthropology. Senior lecturer Crocker served on the American Association of Teachers of German Executive Board. Senior lecturer Morgenstern continued his service as MIT's representative on the governing board of the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning, along with new representatives from FL&L Yoshimi Nagaya, director of Japanese language, and Ribas Groeger, director of Spanish language. Director Nagaya also served as a board member for the Japanese Language Teachers Association of New England.

## Research and Publications

FL&L research and publications in 2006–2007 included books, book chapters, a CD-ROM, and journal articles.

Professor de Courtivron published “The Incomplete Return” in the journal *Life Writing* and “A Woman's Life in and Through Time” in the book *Writing Life/Writing Death: Essays in Honor of Elaine Marks*.

Professor Miyagawa's article “On the ‘Undoing’ Property of Scrambling: A Response to Boskovic” was published in the journal *Linguistic Inquiry*.

Professor Turk published “A Year of Theater: 2005–2006” in *French Review*.

Professor Teng published “Yu Yonghe: Chinese Explorer” in *The Oxford Companion to World Exploration*.

Professor Condry’s book *Hip-Hop Japan: Rap and the Paths of Cultural Globalization* was published by Duke University Press. His article “Youth, Intimacy, and Blood: Media and Nationalism in Contemporary Japan” was published in *Japan Focus*.

Senior lecturer Furstenberg’s *A la rencontre de Philippe* was released on CD-ROM (CLE International).

Lecturer Jaeger’s book *Theater in Medienzeitalter* was published by Aisthesis Verlag, Bielefeld, Germany.

### **Conferences and Presentations**

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

Professor Wang gave the following talks: “Brand New China: Visions of Cross-Fertilization,” BBH-China (a UK-based transnational advertising agency), Shanghai, China, and the keynote speech, “New Media and Creativity,” at the China Media Centre Conference, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia.

Professor Miyagawa gave the following talks: “Why Agree? Why Move?” at Keio University, Tokyo, Japan; “Visualizing Cultures,” at Singapore National University, Utah State University, and the University of California–Los Angeles; and “MIT OpenCourseWare,” at Keio University and at the Organization on Economic Co-operation and Development meeting in Barcelona, Spain.

Professor Turk presented the paper “Michel Vinaver: The Playwright as Director” at the City University of New York in collaboration with the PEN World Voices Festival.

Professor Resnick was a speaker at the International Symposium on Women and Cardiovascular Health in Madrid, Spain, as well as the keynote speaker at the MIT/Amita annual meeting in December.

Professor Teng gave the following talks: “Theories of Identity and Passing: Reading Wang Tao’s ‘The Story of Mary,’” at the Power of Words Workshop, Harvard University; “Taiwan’s Imagined Geography: Historical Perspective on Cross Straits Issues,” at the Intercollegiate Taiwanese American Student Association Conference, Harvard University; “Asian American Intermarriage: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives,” at Wellesley College; and “Essentializing Hybridity: Cedric Dover’s Construction of ‘The Eurasian,’” at the Asian Studies Seminar, Boston College.

Professor Condry gave the following talks and presentations: “Japanese Anime and the Global Imagination,” a panel presentation for the Program on US-Japan Relations, Harvard University; “Real Anime: Giant Robots, Technology, and War,” a panel paper for the Association for Asian Studies, Boston; “Schoolgirls, Intimacy, and Blood:

Youth, Media, and Nationalism in Contemporary Japan,” a workshop paper for the Blood Project, McGill University, Montreal, Canada; “Future Anime: Time Leaps and Generational Difference in Japan,” a paper for the 2007 “Cool Japan” conference at MIT; “Anime Revolution,” a paper for the Anthropology Department and the Department of East Asian Studies, Brandeis University; “Hippu-Hoppu, Ajia, Gurobarizeshon: Hansen Nihongo Rappu to Wakamono Bunka” (“Hip-Hop, Asia, and Globalization: Anti-War Japanese Rap and Youth Culture”), at the Asia Center, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan; and “Kaigai Anime Fan to Chosakuken Sensô” (“Overseas Anime Fans and the Copyright Wars”), for the Transnational Asia seminar series, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

Senior lecturer Furstenberg gave the following talks and presentations: “Resisting World-made Views or Culture as a Dynamic Process of Co-construction” and a presentation of *Cultura* at the Université en Sciences Sociales, Toulouse, France; “La communication interculturelle en ligne et la négociation des valeurs,” at the Use of New Technologies in Foreign Language Teaching Conference, Institut Universitaire de Technologie de Compiègne, France; and “Qu’est-ce que Cultura?” at the Centre de Ressources et de Recherche en Technologies d’Apprentissage des Langues, University of Paris.

### **MIT Service and Enrollments**

FL&L faculty members contribute to MIT through their service on a number of Institute-wide committees and groups: SHASS Gender Equity Committee, Faculty Policy Committee, Council of Educational Technology, OpenCourseWare Advisory Committee, OpenCourseWare Secondary Education Working Group, CMS Steering Committee, Kelly-Douglas Traveling Fellowship Committee, Burchard Selection Committee, Committee on Graduation, Institute Nomination Committee, Committee on Discipline, Faculty/Administration Committee, MIT-France Committee, MIT ACCESS, Academic Computing Strategic Planning Committee, Educational Architecture Group, Foreign Fellowship Committee, Global Education Opportunities at MIT Committee, and Crosstalk Forum.

Professor Resnick continued to serve as director of the MIT/Amita Women’s Oral Histories Project, chair of the Burchard Scholars, and MacGregor Hall faculty advisor as well as to participate in a long list of other 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 coorganizer for MIT’s Counseling and Support Services program Mujeres Latinas, as well as a faculty liaison to La Casa Hispana (Spanish House).

FL&L has maintained its commitment to making full-time appointments and 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 on association websites focusing on the minority community. Currently, several members of our full-time faculty and full- and part-time teaching staff are women or members of underrepresented minority groups.

We had no majors in FL&L this year. The total number of students who proposed or completed a minor was 57. We had 418 proposed or completed concentrators, broken down as follows: Spanish, 155; Chinese, 75; Japanese, 67; French, 57; German, 42; other languages, 17; studies in international literature and culture (SILC), 4; and theory of language, 1. Spanish continues to have the largest enrollment, at 554, followed by Chinese, 353; Japanese, 275; English language studies, 260; French, 232; German, 184; and Italian, 41 (offered only during IAP). The enrollment in SILC courses (cross-cultural language and culture subjects taught in English) was 217.

**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/>.*