

**Inside this issue:**

Faculty News	2
Scholarships	2
Arabic FLTA	3
Guatemala	4-5
Asian Topics	6
Film Fest	7-8
Gilman Award	8
Italian Club	9
Russia	9



*Dr. Madeleine Kernen*



**Missouri  
State**  
UNIVERSITY

Happy holidays from Modern and Classical Languages and welcome to our yearly newsletter which comes out a little later this year so you have a lot of time to read it (right after you come home from shopping).

We are finishing up an exciting year under our new Dean, Dr. Carey Adams, whose leadership abilities and wonderful sense of humor have made each week special--with Halloween being the crowning event when he showed up in a gorilla suit and entertained everybody, from staff and faculty to the president.

MCL continues to move forward in varying the foreign language experiences we offer, be it abroad or in the classroom: Our latest initiative to offer a free Spanish class to MSU faculty and staff has been hugely successful and we are planning to do the same thing with Chinese in Spring 2008. We now have a full-time Chinese faculty on staff, Ms. Weirong Yan-Schaefer, and our visiting faculty member from Qingdao University is Dr. Ling Tian, who in addition to teaching Chinese language and Culture, is offering the MSU and Springfield community short monthly workshops on some interesting aspects of China (check our website). Arabic is going strongly and we are lucky to be able to continue our Fulbright Language Teacher Program: this year's teacher, Ms. Lina Benabdallah. She has been a great addition to our department and is providing our students with a unique cultural experience. The brand-new Global Studies Major (which includes a large foreign language component) has already 20 majors and the very first introductory course, GLB 250, will be taught by Dr. Joseph Hughes, who will put to good use his passion for "superpowers".

We continue to be successful in growing our language offerings and students seem to consider more often how important it is to know a foreign language to have an inspiring career. Our motivated students are the reason we would love to offer more "funded" opportunities abroad so everybody can take advantage of the incredible opportunities MSU (through Study Abroad) and MCL have to offer (Ecuador, Chile, Quebec, Guatemala, Spain and Mexico).

I strongly believe that students need to learn a foreign language and need to go abroad: two weeks, a month, a year... it doesn't matter. Once you have done it, you will want to do it again and it will enrich your forever... and with this, I wish you a wonderful 2008. Please drop by for a cheerful bonjour, ciao, salud, hallo, zdravstvuite, khair, salve, oi, willkommen, ahlan wa sahan, benvenuto, irashaimasu, ongi etorri, foon ying, mabuhay, ukenereri, aloha mai, swaagam, khosh keldiniz, failte, beinvido, bervingut, bienvenido or willkommen.

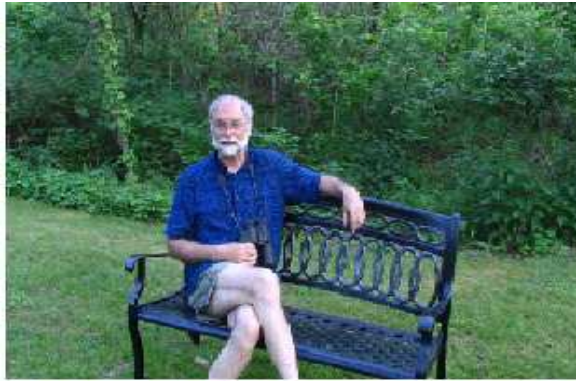
## FACULTY IN ACTION

Dr. Pedro Koo was awarded the 2007 Summer Faculty Fellowship.

Dr. Pedro Koo and Mr. Luis

Lombilla taught two Spanish classes during the Fall Semester at no cost to the faculty and staff at M.S.U.

Dr. Carol Anne Costabile-Heming has been elected Vice-President of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG). The term of office begins January 2008 for two years, to be followed by a two-year term as President of the organization. The AATG is the national organization for German teachers in the United States, with a membership of approximately 6000 from K-16.



Dr. David M Lee retired following the Spring 2007 semester. A native of Madison, Wisconsin, David Lee came to Missouri State in 1982 with his Ph.D. in French from the University of Wisconsin. David has always been a passionate advocate for all things French: French language, French literature, French culture, French food, and especially French

wine. For all of David's scholarly work and his extensive travels, the students always came first with him. A generation of French students will fondly remember "Dr. Dave," as they called him, the rest of their days.

David's colleagues will remember him fondly for the many gatherings he has hosted with his wife, Polly, who has also retired as manager of the Library Station. His legendary rapier wit will also never be forgotten by anyone who experienced it. David will be sorely missed, and in fact, already is.

- Joe Hughes

David, pictured, enjoying his park bench from the comfort of his yard.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS for 2007-2008

(Pictured below)

BALLINGER-COLÓN-COMPTON AWARD, Allison Calhoun  
ANNA LOU BLAIR SCHOLARSHIP FUND, Megan Walters  
 and Shelley Plaster

WANDA GORCZYNSKI LATIN SCHOLARSHIP, Megan Walters

WILLIAM AND JUNE ROSS HOLMAN CULTURAL STUDY ABROAD AWARD, Kristan Fullington

FLORENCE C. PAINTER SCHOLARSHIP, Randi Jacobs and Jennifer Dunkman

JAMES WOODWARD GERMAN SCHOLARSHIP, Benjamin Lachmann

MCL DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP, Benjamin Lachmann  
INTERNSHIP TO MEXICO, Caleb Lines

MCL TRAVEL FUND, Caleb Lines

MCL DEPARTMENT GENERAL FUND, Cary Catlett and Melissa Erickson



## Teacher from Algeria

by Madeleine Kernen, Head of Modern and Classical Languages

**For the past three years, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages has participated in the Foreign Language Teaching Assistant program (FLTA) in order to offer Arabic at Missouri State.**

According to the Institute of International Education's website, the goal of this program is "to strengthen foreign language instruction at U.S. educational institutions by establishing a native speaker presence.

**The FLTA program provides an opportunity for young, international teachers of English to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency, and extend their knowledge of the cultures and customs of the United States."**



Pictured from left: Provost, Dr. Belinda McCarthy, Ms. Lina Benabdallah and Dr. Madeleine Kernen, Department Head for Modern and Classical Languages.

The first year MCL was part of this program we hosted Abdul Al-Balushi from Oman, the second year Riadh Kedidi from Tunisia, and this year Lina Benabdallah from Algeria. It is a pleasure to introduce Lina to you: She is an engaged teacher who speaks Arabic, French, and English. Lina applied because of the prestige of the FLTA program and her determination to improve her English in context. She was selected from a pool of 300 applicants (a total of 3 were chosen), and we picked her because we were excited to host a woman and therefore give our students a different perspective of the Arab world. Lina has a Masters in TEFL (teaching English as a foreign language) and in applied linguistics. In Algeria, she currently would be teaching full-time at the University of Algiers. Lina enjoys the many opportunities MSU has to offer and is enjoying Springfield's lifestyle, diversity, geography and local color.

Lina loves week-ends and enjoys the numerous activities that are available since week-end activities in her home country have been severely restricted for fear of terrorist attacks. Things are getting better, but it will take time for people to readjust. She also notices some differences as a student (she takes two graduate classes) and as a teacher: in the U.S., you are taught as an individual; what's important are your needs, your desires-- in Algeria it's more likely everybody is taught the same way and likes and does the same things. As far as American life, she thinks people here deal with a lot more loneliness compared to the Algerian lifestyle where family and friends are sacred and young people, especially women, stay at home much longer. She thinks it's very important to make friends here so they become your family.

Lina works hard here, spending many hours studying and teaching and doesn't have much time for anything else; however she does enjoy video games. Food, of course, seems to be an issue for all foreign-born visitors to Springfield, but she admits she is a recent convert to ketchup!

What surprised Lina most is how architecturally flat, spread out, and without skyscrapers Springfield is --the movies never show that about the United States, she says. Lina, as Riadh and Abdul before her, very much enjoy life in Springfield and

### Baby News.....

Congratulations to Amie Koncz on the birth of daughter, Trinitie, November 17th.

### Coming soon.....

Weirong Yan Schaefer is expecting the birth of a son the end of January.

## The Cost of Development in a Developing Country by Caleb Lines

I was fortunate enough to be awarded a new scholarship from Missouri State University that allowed me to spend a month in Guatemala studying Spanish and working at an under-funded elementary school. I went not knowing much at all about Guatemala, thinking that all Central American countries were the same; this is, of course, not true. Guatemala has a very rich culture with about 23 different ethnic groups and about 26 different languages. This is the land where the Mayan Civilization once flourished, and equality between men and women was implicit.

When I got to the airport, I waited for the driver who would take me to the city where I was to live and study. All I had to go by was a little picture of Marvin, the driver, and I knew that he would be driving a blue Toyota. Of course, there were hundreds of people by the gate waiting for their friends and family to arrive from the United States. So, I stood around for a bit; telling cabbies and others trying to help with my bags "No gracias." I started looking for a blue Toyota and asking people in my broken Spanish "Are you Marvin?" Of course, the answer that I got was "No." Eventually I did find Marvin, we laughed later, because he told me that he had been doing the same thing on the other side of the huge crowd. When I got into the car, I realized that Marvin didn't really speak any English, so I struggled to make conversation. But I soon realized that this is what made the GuateSpanish Language School so different...it was total Spanish immersion. At many schools students speak more English than Spanish, but this school is small and there are

not very many students. You either speak Spanish, or don't speak at all.

I stayed with two different families, each for two weeks. The first family, the Morales family, was a fairly typical Guatemalan family; there were ten people living in the house, other than myself. The grandfather sold natural gas from a small garage, and the grandmother took care of the chores. Their three sons also lived in the house. Two of the sons were married, and each had two children; one son was single. The rooms weren't connected like they are here, but rather, to get to another room you would go outside where the cars were parked in a sort of "garage open to the sky." Of course, it rained there every night. So, in the middle of the night I had to dodge the rain to go to the bathroom. This is also where the family hung their laundry. They didn't have a washer or a dryer, so they washed all of their clothes in a giant sink. Marvin told me that almost everyone has cars, but you can tell that someone is really well-off if they have a washer or dryer. The second family I stayed with was pretty well-off. I believe they did have a washer, but not a dryer. Two of their children were married, but did not live in the house. However, their two younger daughters were school-aged and lived there. This family hosted quite a few students, so they had a whole wing (separated by a garden) for students. So I went from sharing one bathroom with ten other people, to having my own private bathroom.

While I was in Guatemala, I had opportunity to work at an elementary school. The most meaningful part of my trip was getting to help out at this school in a little town called Chiquilaja. I worked in a two-room school house with 54 students.

I worked  
in a two-  
room  
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students.  
Grades 1  
and 2  
were in  
one class  
room and  
grades 3-  
6 were in  
another.

Grades 1 and 2 were in one classroom and grades 3-6 were in another. By Guatemalan law, the school needs about 10 more students to keep both teachers, so my Spanish school was paying the other teacher. The school had a dirt floor, and the building itself was made from rusted aluminum, old plywood, and had torn plastic sheets for windows...of course there was no running water for bathrooms. The children didn't have many supplies. The supplies that they did have, had either been purchased by the teachers from their own salaries or other volunteers. Most of the time, there was one workbook per grade that one student would have to read so the others could copy. The average family size in one of these small towns is about eight children, and workers on farms usually make about \$2 a day. These kids are lucky to make it to the sixth grade, because their families often need them to work so that the family can eat. Few, if any of these kids will go on to high school (in fact, there was only one girl in 6<sup>th</sup> grade), and college is definitely not an option. I was told that it's pretty typical for a girl to get married at age 13 or 14. With this being said, you can imagine how tight money must be and how desperate we would be in the same situation. But these kids did not

seem discouraged at all; they were welcoming and some of the happiest kids that I had ever met. They took me in, despite my broken Spanish early on; they taught me to play soccer, of course, and dealt with my poor pronunciation of Spanish words as I tried to teach English class; I was the English teacher. Of course, as my Spanish grew more fluent, we all got along even better. With rare exception, the kids were very nice to each other and even the boys would hold hands as they walked down the dirt path to the school. One day one of the kids bought me a Popsicle from a little store that some ladies set up at the school. On the last day, they threw me a party complete with balloons. They had all drawn my pictures and had even chipped in to get me a present...deodorant!

The first time that I went to Chiquilaja, I was astounded by the lush, gorgeous mountains that surrounded the modest town. But, one of the things that I quickly noticed was the excessive amount of trash that flooded the dirt roads. The problem is that the people can afford to buy products like "Coke-a-Cola" every once in a while, but they cannot afford a trash service. The official depository for Chiquilaja is off the side of a mountain into a valley in the middle of town. However, most people just throw the trash on the ground. The problem is education. The parents do it, and then the kids do it. When the parents were younger there were not all of these products being rushed into the developing country. One day we

**I learned a lot about what it is like to live in a less fortunate country. I also got to see my Spanish improve tremendous amounts every single day. It was amazing how much difference there was between when I got there and when I left. Within just a few days I could hold a conversation in Spanish.**

went down by the river to play a little soccer (of course), and Letty (the volunteer coordinator at the GuateSpanish School) bought the kids some "Coke" and Styrofoam cups. When the children had finished their drinks, they threw the cups on the ground and into the river. When I tried to pick up the trash, they

took it out of my hands and threw it on the ground. Letty could see that I didn't find this game very amusing, so we decided to organize an Environmental Day in Chiquilaja. The Thursday before I left, we drew posters of a clean community and discussed the benefits of disposing of trash properly. Then on Friday, using trash bags and make-shift gloves that I had purchased, we picked up

trash and put up the posters around the community. Of course, we had to throw the trash off of the mountain, but it was a step in the right direction. This is one of my favorite memories from my trip, and it reminds me that each one of us can help to make a difference. When I left Chiquilaja for the last time, I left thinking that maybe one of those kids could grow up to change the economic and environmental situation in Chiquilaja or Guatemala. I hope that I was right.

This was a great experience for me. I learned a lot about what it is like to live in a less fortunate country. I also got to see my Spanish improve tremendous

amounts every single day. It was amazing how much difference there was between when I got there and when I left. Within just a few days I could hold a conversation in Spanish. By the time I was done, I could understand just about anything that was said to me. I made life-long friends with the people at both schools, and Guatemala will always have a special place in my heart. I just hope that I can do something to continue to help those students in Chiquilaja. I am very grateful to Missouri State for giving me this opportunity.



## ASIA IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Reflecting the growing importance of the Asia in the global economy, course enrollments at Missouri State University in the two major Asian languages (Chinese and Japanese) have been growing steadily during recent years. The combined enrollment of Chinese and Japanese at MSU has reached an all time high of about 120 students this semester. The largest portion of this increase has been in the Chinese enrollment, which has nearly doubled since Fall 2004. Courses such as Business Chinese have been recently added to the curriculum in an effort to meet this growing demand for Asian language courses.

To enhance the awareness and significance of the Asian studies at MSU, the Modern & Classical Language Department has initiated a series of monthly Chinese workshops, beginning this Fall semester through next Spring semester. These workshops cover a wide range of topics on China, including political, economic, cultural, religious, educational and social issues. On October 1, Dr. Dennis Hickey from the Political Science Department led off the series with his talk on China's Relations with the US and Taiwan. Weirong Yan Schaefer will give the next talk on November 12. She will discuss the Chinese Perspectives toward Capitalism and Communism. The remaining series of workshops will be led by Dr. Ling Tian, our visiting assistant professor from Qingdao University. She is going to talk about Chinese religious issues, family structure, social challenges and educational system transformations in the past two decades.

-Weirong Yan Schaefer  
Arts and Letters Asian Coordinator

## LING TIAN, QINGDAO EXCHANGE FACULTY

Ling Tian is the visiting professor from Qingdao University, China. She considers it an honor to be selected as a teacher to teach Chinese and Chinese culture at MSU.

She is deeply impressed by the students' eagerness to learn Chinese and to understand the country and its people. "They are warm, open and curious about Chinese culture. I love my students and I will teach to the best of my ability to help them. My department head and colleagues are all nice to me. It's very pleasant to work with them. I love to teach in MSU and I do enjoy it. What an exciting experience".

Ling's husband is an Associate Professor in computer technology at Qingdao University. Her son is ten years old. When Ling isn't teaching, she likes to read and listen to music.

### CHINESE WORKSHOPS FOR SPRING 2008

Time:	Monday, February 4 <sup>th</sup> , 12-1pm
Location:	Traywick Parliamentary Room
Topic:	Chinese Religions: Taoism, Buddhism and Western Religions in China
Presenter:	Dr. Ling Tian
Time:	Monday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 12-1pm
Location:	Traywick Parliamentary Room
Topic:	The Changing Chinese Family Structure
Presenter:	Dr. Ling Tian
Time:	Monday, April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 12-1pm
Location:	Traywick Parliamentary Room
Topic:	Migration: Social Challenges for China
Presenter:	Dr. Ling Tian
Time:	May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12-1pm
Location:	Traywick Parliamentary Room
Topic:	The Chinese Educational Transformation
Presenter:	Dr. Ling Tian

**MULTILINGUAL FILM FESTIVAL SPRING 2008**

When: Thursday's, 6:00-8:00 P.M.

Place: Craig Hall 206

Sponsored by: Department of Modern and Classical Languages

All the Information on the Films from [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

**Thursday, Jan. 31st**  
**Quebec, Canada [2000]**  
**“UN 32 AOÛT SUR TERRE”**

Young Simone gets hit by a near fatal car crash, and as she questions her mortality, she also decides to have a baby. Her candidate for a father is her best friend Phillippe who happens to be seeing someone. He agrees, as long as they conceive in Salt Lake City, in the desert. The trip teaches many lessons about love, solitude, and self-discovery. *Written by [Jessie Skinner](http://www.imdb.com) ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com))*



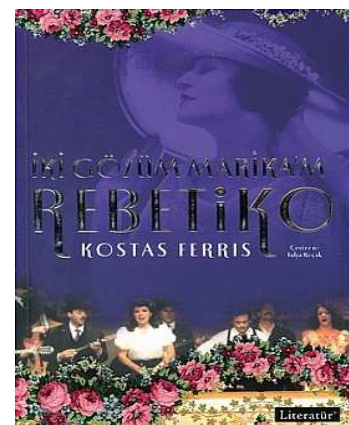
**Thursday, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Denmark / Sweden [2006]**  
**“AFTER THE WEDDING”**

Jacob Petersen has dedicated his life to helping street children in India. When the orphanage he heads is threatened by closure, he receives an unusual offer. A Danish business-man, Jørgen, offers him a donation of \$4 million dollars. There are, however, certain conditions... Not only must Jacob return to Denmark, he must also take part in the wedding Jørgen's daughter. The wedding proves to be a critical juncture between past and future and catapults Jacob into the most intense dilemma of his life. *Written by [Anonymous](http://www.imdb.com) ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com))*



**Thursday, March 6**  
**GREECE [2004]**  
**“REBETIKO”**

A musical and visual journey. A revealing portrait of Greece via its traditional folk songs. ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com))



**Thursday, April 3**  
**FRANCE [2006]**  
**"THE PAGE TURNER"**

Mélanie Prouvost, a ten-year-old butcher's daughter, is a gifted piano player. That is why her parents and herself decide that she sit for the Conservatory entrance exam. Mélanie is very likely to be admitted, unfortunately she gets distracted by the president of the jury's offhand attitude and she fails. Ten years later, Mélanie becomes the former president of the jury's page turner, waiting patiently to be revenged...

Written by [Guy Bellinger](http://www.imdb.com) ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com))



**Thursday, April 17**  
**ARGENTINA [2005]**  
**"THE AURA"**

Espinoza is a shy taxidermist who secretly dreams of executing the perfect robbery. On his first ever hunting trip, in the calm of the Patagonian forest, his dreams are made reality with one squeeze of the trigger. Espinoza accidentally kills a man who turns out to be a real criminal and inherits his scheme: the heist of an armored van carrying casino profits. Caught up in a world of complex new rules and frightening violence, Espinoza's lack of experience puts him in real danger. And he has another, more dangerous liability: he is an epileptic. Before each seizure he is visited by the "aura": a paradoxical moment of confusion and enlightenment where the past and future seem to blend. These attacks appear without notice when he least expects them, just when he needs all his wits about him...

Written by [celluloid-dreams official distribution company](http://www.celluloid-dreams.com).

([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com))



*Many thanks to Dr. Alessandra Pires for picking the films and organizing this event.*

**BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL  
 SCHOLARSHIP**

We are pleased to announce that **Rona M Babb** is the recipient of the Benjamin A Gilman International Scholarship given by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Rona Babb is a sophomore from Berryville, Arkansas, and is one of the first Global Studies majors at Missouri State University. This is a very prestigious scholarship and it will help her during her semester of study in Korea, Spring 2008.

- Dr. Madeleine Kern  
 Advisor for Global Studies

***Congratulations.....***

**Graciela Rosa Meilij**, completed her MEd in Spanish degree at MSU. She completed her masters research project and comprehensive exams on Nov. 29th, working with Drs. Fred Groves and Cindy Wilson in the College of Education and Dr. Mary Harges in Modern and Classical Languages. Graciela is originally from Argentina. She works with GED students at Crowder College.

## ITALIAN CLUB by Madeleine Kernen.

This past summer several community members and MSU faculty and staff inquired about a non-traditional way to learn Italian. I decided to give it a try and we met once a week in a location that had coffee and snacks (like Panera) where we could learn Italian in a relaxed setting. It worked so well that the group decided to keep going this fall, and we continued our meetings first weekly, then every two weeks because of scheduling conflicts. I had anywhere from 6-12 participants. The good part was that nobody felt stressed that if they could only show up occasionally or hadn't "studied" (there was no homework), that they would have to stop coming. No, it truly didn't matter since the goal of this get-together was to have fun and learn a language at the same time.



It is thanks to this experience that the department was emboldened to try a similar concept with Spanish this past fall, and will start such an initiative with Chinese in the spring. At the end of the semester I typically invite the students who attended either my regular Italian class or the informal club meetings to an Italian dinner for which everybody brings an Italian specialty. We celebrated Monday, 17 December, with Spaghetti carbonara, spaghetti a la pesto, frittata, tiramisu, Chianti and Valpolicella.

As far as the alternative Spanish class we started, the class invited Luis Lombilla and Pedro Koo to a wonderful Mexican meal at la Hacienda. You can say that food and drink is never very far from our thoughts.

Have a wonderful 2008!

Founded by Empress Catherine the Great, the Hermitage Museum is housed in the Winter Palace, former residence of the Tsars. It possesses over 3,000,000 works of fine art and averages nearly 2,000,000 visitors a year.

Picture by Dr. Joseph Hughes on one of his trips to St Petersburg, Russia



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Send us your news!

We would love to hear from you.

#### Full time Faculty

Dr. Ed Carawan, Classics  
Dr. Roger Dowdy, Spanish  
Dr. Larry George, German  
Dr. Mary Harges, Spanish  
Dr. Joseph Hughes, Classics  
Dr. Julie Johnson, Classics  
Dr. Jason Jolley, Spanish  
Dr. Pedro Koo, Spanish  
Mr. Luis Lombilla, Spanish  
Dr. Judith Martin, German  
Dr. Robert Norton, Spanish  
Dr. Pauline Nugent, Classics  
Dr. Alessandra Pires, French  
Dr. Tonia Tinsley, French

#### Visiting Lecturers

Ms. Lina Benabdallah  
Mrs. Ling Tian

#### Adjunct Faculty

Mrs. Janet Akaike-Toste  
Mr. Michael Boyle  
Mrs. Elisabeth Cheminel  
Ms. Anne Colombo  
Mrs. Malu Hayes  
Mrs. Lisa Hughes  
Ms. Andrea Jolley  
Mrs. Angie Keller  
Mrs. Amie Koncz  
Dr. Natalya Mann  
Dr. Stephen Trobisch  
Ms. Dane' Wallace

#### M.C.L. Staff

Miriam Burlison,  
Administrative Secretary  
Marcela Gonzalez,  
Graduate Assistant

#### Assignments

Dr. Art Spisak, Honors  
College Director  
Dr. Carol Anne Costabile-  
Heming, Assoc. Dean, COAL  
Mrs. Weirong Yan-  
Schaeffer, Asian Arts and  
Letters Coordinator

#### Emeritus Faculty

Dr. Robert J. Berndt, Ph.D.  
Dr. William L Holman, Ph.D.  
Dr. Gisela F. Kopp, Ph.D.  
(Dr. Kopp recently passed  
away in California)  
Dr. Curtis Lawrence, Ph.D.  
Dr. David M Lee, Ph.D.  
Dr. Lyle R. Polly, Ph.D.  
Dr. James R. Woodward, Jr.  
MA