November 2017, in partnership with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and with the support of 10 cosponsoring UO units, the Department of Romance Languages hosted Guadeloupean author Gisèle Pineau and RL PhD alumna Professor Florence Ramond Jurney.

Born in Paris of Guadeloupean parents in 1956, Gisèle Pineau began her literary studies at the Université de Paris X Nanterre before becoming a psychiatric nurse in 1979. She moved to Guadeloupe and pursued simultaneously her nursing and literary career starting with La Grande drive des esprits (1994), which won several prizes. Pineau is the author of several books for children and young adults as well as nine novels, including the acclaimed L’Espérance-Macadam (1995), the autobiographical L’Exil selon Julia (1996), and the most recent Cent vies et des poussières (2012) and Les voyages de Merry Sisal (2015). Her novels have been praised for their memorable, resilient characters, their humor and optimistic energy, and their engaging nonlinear narratives. Each novel explores, among many other themes, race, gender, sexuality, aging, childhood, memory, slavery, and women’s bodies, within the bittersweet realities of Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Haiti’s relationships to France.

Florence Ramond Jurney, PhD ’02, is professor of French and chair of her department at Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania. She is the author of Voix/es libres: Maternité et identité féminine dans la littérature antillaise (2006), and Representations of the Island in Caribbean Literature: Caribbean Women Redefine Their Homelands (2009).

Professor Ramond Jurney, a Caribbean studies specialist, edited a special issue of Nouvelle revue francophone dedicated to Pineau’s work and interviewed the author in Guadeloupe.

The successful visit, the one and only stop on the West Coast of Gisèle Pineau during her book tour, included many highlights. “Portraits de femmes d’hier et d’aujourd’hui dans les romans de Gisèle Pineau” was our first event in French, a luncheon seminar around Cent vies et des poussières, where Francophone and Francophile students, faculty members, and community members enjoyed a candid, highly personal account of Pineau’s life, her sources of inspiration, and her fondness for female characters. Professor Ramond Jurney skillfully probed Pineau to reveal more and more of her writing process and her interest in Guadeloupe’s past and present.

Professor Ramond Jurney then moderated a public lecture that Gisèle Pineau delivered on “le sens de l’écriture dans le contexte postcolonial français,” which Géraldine Poizat-Newcomb simultaneously translated into English. More than 60 people attended, listening attentively to Pineau’s direct, moving story of finding her identity in, around, and
Greetings from the Department Head

Dear Friends of Romance Languages,

Once again I have the pleasure of sharing with you a few of the activities and plans that have engaged students and faculty members in Romance languages over the past months. We’ve been busy, developing new experimental courses, planning interdisciplinary events, and sharing the words and music of our languages with the wider community. We take pride in the diversity of our voices and the variety of scholars and artists we are able to attract. We have been fortunate to host a number of distinguished visitors in recent months. Luca Vallo complemented his film on Italian nonverbal language with a lively bilingual workshop. From Guadeloupe, we welcomed novelist Giselle Pineau. Pineau was joined by RL PhD alumna Florence Ramond Jurney, now professor of French and chair of the French department at Gettysburg College. Our students have traveled the world, to study and to work; you can read about a few of their experiences in the pages that follow.

Our beloved Zach

By Linda Leon

There are many excellent, dedicated workers to be found within the ranks of university employees, but we feel our undergraduate coordinator, Zach Lazar, is among the best. Zach joined the department in 2008 during a major changeover of administrative staff. There was no doubt in anyone’s mind that Zach’s education and training in international studies would be a big help with getting settled into the department. Not only did he settle in, but he has become a major hub for working with students from all walks of life, members of the department, and colleagues within the university community. This spring term will be a bittersweet moment for RL as Zach leaves the department to start his new life as a student teacher in the UO College of Education’s teaching certificate program. Zach’s interest in become a high school teacher is a natural progression from his several years serving as Sheldon High School’s varsity boys soccer coach. He’s going to do a great job because he really is a great person who takes the time to stop what he’s doing to listen and give input.

Zach has been a wonderful member of the department. We are going to miss him, but we send him off with respect, appreciation, and good wishes for success in his new role as an educator.

Sincerely,
Amalia Gladhart
Department Head
Professor of Spanish

Language Out Loud event was a success!

By Cecilia Enjuto Rangel

Out of a wish to celebrate—and to make audible as well as visible—the many, many languages we speak, Amalia Gladhart and the Department of Romance Languages, with the support of the College of Arts and Sciences, organized on November 29, 2016, a cultural event, a four-hour multilingual “speak out” that took place at the EMU Amphitheater. This coming spring term, we plan to organize another Languages Out Loud event, coinciding with Foreign Languages and International Studies Day (FLIS) in early May. It will take place at the EMU Amphitheater, just as the one organized in November.

The November 29, 2016, event was very successful in bringing together faculty members, undergraduate and graduate students, and diverse members of the community. We listened to people read poems and excerpts of novels, singing songs, and give testimonials and short speeches in languages such as Chinese, Japanese, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Quechua, Mapuche, Aymara, Russian, Arabic, Hebrew, and Sulludaj, among many others. We heard kids sing songs in French; our own Lauraetta De Renzo Huler read a poem in Italian; colleagues from music joined in—Stephen Rodgers sang in German, Ed Wolf sang in Quechua and Aymara, a friend from the community, Selena Lewis Young, talked to us in Chinese and talked about her experience as a Chinese American growing up in Eugene, graduate students such as Yosa Vidal Collados and Dorabela Pérez Ibáñez, among many others; recited poems in Spanish.

We asked participants to say a few words in a language that was meaningful to them—one they were studying, one they learned at home, one that belonged to their family’s heritage, and one they use in research. All languages were welcome (ASL emphatically included). This gathering responded to reports of community members who have recently felt uncomfortable speaking languages other than English in public, and it builds on the important, continuing work of Claudia Holguín Méndez and the rest of the faculty members and students in the Spanish Heritage Language Program, whose organization of events such as National Spanish Day (also celebrated in the EMU Amphitheater) continually highlights the ways in which living bilingually may be liberating, but can also be sharply constrained. The current atmosphere feels more charged to many, but the challenges of speaking Spanish or any other language in public are not new. We must treasure and protect our multilingual, multicultural society. This cultural and academic event is just one among many efforts in our Romance languages department that demonstrates our commitment to academic excellence, and to fostering a University of Oregon where diversity and inclusion are at the core of everything we do.

Promising doctoral student

By Maryam Saedl

I’m an Iranian student and I have earned both my bachelor’s and master’s degrees in French literature from the University of Tehran. For my master’s thesis, I worked on a book entitled Fleurs Bleues by an oulipian French writer, Raymond Queneau. This work contains all areas in literature that I’m fond of: dream and reality, intertwixuality, wordplay, and exploring unintended possibilities of language and style.

Currently, I’m pursuing my PhD in Romance languages at the University of Oregon. I have come a very long way, figuratively and literally, to be here and it means a lot to me to study in this university. This is my first experience in the United States, and I have felt a huge change in myself in a short space of time. Looking back to one year ago—comparing my situation and motivations then and now—pushes me to move forward with all my force and to set new goals for my life.

Being here as an international student, people keep asking me: “What surprised you in the United States?” I believe that the reason is knowing English. Knowing a language is not just about having a conversation; it’s about knowing a different culture, different people, and their lifestyle. That’s why I enjoy learning new languages. Learning among students with different backgrounds and cultures encourages me to maximize my potential to be able to compete with them. I am very honored and grateful to receive the Promising Scholar Award, which gives me much more time and energy to pursue my academic goals. Being regarded as a promising scholar, I’m trying to seize the chance to learn as much as I can. That is why, along with my graduate-level courses, I’m learning Spanish and studying film theories and techniques.

What I like the most about education in Romance languages is the diversity and flexibility of this program and also the opportunity for interdisciplinary studies. These factors, as well as support and guidance from experienced faculty members, make the RL department a very suitable context for my future research projects.
Making music in celebration of National Spanglish Day

By Heather Quarles

If you happened to walk by the EMU Amphitheater on Monday the 24th of October, you were in for a translanguaging treat. Between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., more than 800 students of Spanish performed original rap in Spanglish, proposed new additions to the Spanglish dictionary, read their collaborative poems in Spanish, expounded on the history of language in contact resulting in Spanish, sang their own música folklórica in Spanglish, belted out a cappella karaoke in Spanglish, and clapped, hooted, and hollered in Spanish in support of their classmates and peers.

Among the students of first-, second-, and third-year Spanish who shared their reflections and creations in Spanglish were quite a few original music performances. I had a chance to sit down and chat with two of these músicos and musiqueras.

Caption about photo goes here. Please provide copyright.

Caitlyn Sweat, an undergraduate in biology currently taking Spanish 201 with Macarena Tejada-Lopez, said about the experience, “Being able to apply Spanglish to my songs and poems outside of the classroom allows me for more room for creativity. In my opinion, Spanglish offers new depth and meaning when applied to any art or conversation. That is something that will stay with me long after class!” When I asked her if there was a line of her song she thought exemplified Spanglish, she responded, “Mi alma gemela, mi best friend, mi fé,” because “It is a line that I think sounds meaningful and heartfelt, while using code-switching.”

“Steady going places, vamas, vamos conmigo, a la cima va” are a few lines from an original rap by Sam Hancock, a junior in journalism with a focus on advertising who is studying Spanish 231 with Laurie deGonzalez this term. Sam has been writing and producing music for two years—so he confessed, “I’ve never performed before. I have always wanted to write something in Spanish but didn’t have the outlet. This celebration of Spanglish Day gave me that outlet!”

These performances formed part of the Department of Romance Languages Second Annual National Celebration of Spanglish Day. National Spanglish Day is officially recognized on the First of October since 2014, when a group of educators and linguists in Spanish as a Heritage Language—including our very own director of IHL, Claudia Hélène—attended the Second Annual Symposium on Spanish as a Heritage Language in Lubbock, Texas, and had a light-bulb moment. Since then, high schools and universities across the United States have been using the October 1 event to celebrate translanguaging as the most natural process in human communication.

National Spanglish Day celebrates the hybrid identity of those of us who use both Spanish and English in our everyday lives in the US, and serves as an opportunity to educate our communities about why we speak the way we do.

In fall 2017, I published an article in Modern Language Notes titled “Pour une sémiotique de l’espace de la petite maison. ‘La rencontre du libertinage et du luxe’ dans La Petite Maison de Jean-François de Bastide (1758).” Inspired by my graduate course on libertinage, the article discusses this unusual 18th-century story of seduction, wherein the female protagonist is gradually and indirectly trapped by the meekness of her seducer’s “petite maison”—its architecture, garden, and refined decorative arts.

In March 2017, I presented a paper at the annual convention of the American Society for 19th-Century Studies in Minneapolis, “On Linking Guillaume de Raynal’s Histoire des deux Indes to the First French Empire: Staël, Constant, Chateaubriand, Napoleon, and Lucien Bonaparte Readers of Raynal.” As a personal anecdote, I remember that as a child I used to walk to school every day through the rue Raynal in Rodez, France. Much later did I discover that this Raynal, born in a village near my home town, was a great figure of the Enlightenment, the author of a major history of commerce and colonialism. Serendipity.

I was awarded a fellowship, a 2017 College of Arts and Sciences Summer Stipend for Humanities and Creative Arts Tenure-Related Faculty, to work on a new project, “Gustave Doré’s Histoire de la Sainte Russie (1854): The Invention of Graphic Rhetoric for the Artist at War.”

I will conduct my research in Paris and in the Doré collection of the Bibliothèque des Musées in Strasbourg, which houses all of the original editions of Doré’s works, as well as hundreds of engravings of 19th-century artist Jacques Callot, one of Doré’s sources of inspiration.

Since appointed director of graduate studies in fall 2016, I have worked hard in support of MA and PhD students, to advocate on their behalf, to recruit strong applicants, to foster participation and communication, and to encourage an intellectual atmosphere that is optimistic, stimulating, and respectful. For the past two years, it’s been wonderful to participate actively in the Romance Languages Graduate Student Association’s works-in-progress and the student-led reading group, to organize the MA forums (12 presenters this year!) and the fall orientation, to collaborate with the graduate committee, to invite Guadeloupean author Gisèle Pineau, and to celebrate no less than six dissertation defenses in 2016! I am also teaching for the first time—RL 620, Graduate Study in Romance Languages—the required winter course for entering MA students who this year hailed from the US, Spain, Italy, and Cuba. The task of improving our graduate programs is continued, multifaceted, and collective. I’m honored to be part of this effort.

Students abroad – A letter from France

By Peter Coury

Peter Coury, an outstanding student who graduated from the UO last spring majoring in history of languages in contact and across the United States have been using the October 1 event to celebrate translanguaging as the most natural process in human communication. National Spanglish Day

By Amanda Powell

In fall 2016, Amanda Powell spoke on the literary translation from Spanish of texts from different ages and sources. She discussed translation as performance (and as performance) in works by 19th-century nuns and secular women poets for the panel “Translation Today” at the international Gemela conference (scholars of Spanish and Francophone women’s cultural production, professor in San Juan, Puerto Rico, September 2016). For the panel “New and Emerging Voices from the Caribbean: Dialogue from across a Changing Region,” she presented “Agu, Caribe… So Gay, Yet So San José!” on her translation of a contemporary Costa Rican novel by writer Urél Quesada at the American Literary Translators Association, Oakland, California, October 2016.

International Gemela Conference

By Amanda Powell

In fall 2016, Amanda Powell spoke on the literary translation from Spanish of texts from different ages and sources. She discussed translation as performance (and as performance) in works by 19th-century nuns and secular women poets for the panel “Translation Today” at the international Gemela conference (scholars of Spanish and Francophone women’s cultural production, professor in San Juan, Puerto Rico, September 2016). For the panel “New and Emerging Voices from the Caribbean: Dialogue from across a Changing Region,” she presented “Agu, Caribe… So Gay, Yet So San José!” on her translation of a contemporary Costa Rican novel by writer Urél Quesada at the American Literary Translators Association, Oakland, California, October 2016.

By Peter Coury

Peter (right) with his brother, Luke, behind the Temple Noof on the Massieu River, Metz, France.
The Story of a UO Promising Scholar

By Yosca Vidal

I am very pleased to return to the University of Oregon and continue my graduate studies. I previously spent three years in Eugene, during which time I completed my master’s degree. Upon completing that degree, I returned to Bolivia, worked for several years in the University Diego Portales where I taught Spanish, including a course that delved into the idea of suspicion in short stories by Julio Cortázar, as well as contemporary Hispanic literature. In addition, I had a precious little free time, and continued pursuing creative literary projects. I have produced various works of theatre, published poems and short stories in anthologies, wrote a book of children’s literature, El árbol de las ventanas (Ferencis Editores, Santiago, 2013), as well as a novel, El tarambana (Tajamar, Santiago, 2016). I await the future publication of the novel, El tarambana (Tajamar), as well as a series of short works, Los múltipatópodos (Overol), in 2019. Both El tarambana and Los múltipatópodos were written with the support of scholarships for literary creation awarded by the government of Chile.

In my research, I have examined the poetry of El Divino Anticristo (The Divine Antichrist), a transvestite panhandler who still inhabits the streets of Santiago de Chile. At the University of Oregon while completing a master’s degree, I studied the figure of the “nepo” (el nepo) in colonial Latin American literature (Stikels Scholarship), research that was paramount for my first novel El Tarambana. I also studied the representation of the family in four texts by female narrators of the postdictatorship period in Chile (founded by the Center for the Study of Women in Society at the University of Oregon). Linked to the work of representation of the postdictatorship family, I analyzed Leopoldo Alas Clarín’s short novel Duque Berto from a feminist perspective, proposing it as a text that disarticulates certain feminist precepts, in particular the very idea of “feminine” writing. These last two investigations have continued in various projects related to the question of gender and identity in literature and theory. I have also worked on investigations concerning the relationship among aesthetics, literature, and artistic theory in various periods; first, during the government of Salvador Allende (conference: Humor y derecho político: el mito en la historiografía política chilena. 2013). Also, between the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet (published Humor y mito: Metáfora y elipsis en la representación del dictador, Hiperamérica, April 2015). The doctoral thesis I would like to develop concerns the question of tráicion/tradición (betrayal/tradition) in literature of the Southern Cone. I am interested in the question of how betrayal relates to the conservation of tradition and culture, in particular in texts in which the interplay among enigma, historiographical revision, and metatext is present. This proposed research builds up and expands on the investigation I have undertaken until now, all of which concerns contemporary Latin American literature and its relationship to philosophy. I will focus my analysis on texts from the first half of the 20th century, such as El divino Anticristo, El Tarambana. My current research is focused on investigations concerning the relationship among aesthetics, literature, and artistic theory in various periods; first, during the government of Salvador Allende (conference: Humor y derecho político: el mito en la historiografía política chilena. 2013). Also, between the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet (published Humor y mito: Metáfora y elipsis en la representación del dictador, Hiperamérica, April 2015).

The doctoral thesis I would like to develop concerns the question of tráicion/tradición (betrayal/tradition) in literature of the Southern Cone. I am interested in the question of how betrayal relates to the conservation of tradition and culture, in particular in texts in which the interplay among enigma, historiographical revision, and metatext is present. This proposed research builds up and expands on the investigation I have undertaken until now, all of which concerns contemporary Latin American literature and its relationship to philosophy. I will focus my analysis on texts from the first half of the 20th century, such as El divino Anticristo, El Tarambana. My current research is focused on investigations concerning the relationship among aesthetics, literature, and artistic theory in various periods; first, during the government of Salvador Allende (conference: Humor y derecho político: el mito en la historiografía política chilena. 2013). Also, between the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet (published Humor y mito: Metáfora y elipsis en la representación del dictador, Hiperamérica, April 2015).

The doctoral thesis I would like to develop concerns the question of tráicion/tradición (betrayal/tradition) in literature of the Southern Cone. I am interested in the question of how betrayal relates to the conservation of tradition and culture, in particular in texts in which the interplay among enigma, historiographical revision, and metatext is present. This proposed research builds up and expands on the investigation I have undertaken until now, all of which concerns contemporary Latin American literature and its relationship to philosophy. I will focus my analysis on texts from the first half of the 20th century, such as El divino Anticristo, El Tarambana. My current research is focused on investigations concerning the relationship among aesthetics, literature, and artistic theory in various periods; first, during the government of Salvador Allende (conference: Humor y derecho político: el mito en la historiografía política chilena. 2013). Also, between the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet (published Humor y mito: Metáfora y elipsis en la representación del dictador, Hiperamérica, April 2015).

The doctoral thesis I would like to develop concerns the question of tráicion/tradición (betrayal/tradition) in literature of the Southern Cone. I am interested in the question of how betrayal relates to the conservation of tradition and culture, in particular in texts in which the interplay among enigma, historiographical revision, and metatext is present. This proposed research builds up and expands on the investigation I have undertaken until now, all of which concerns contemporary Latin American literature and its relationship to philosophy. I will focus my analysis on texts from the first half of the 20th century, such as El divino Anticristo, El Tarambana. My current research is focused on investigations concerning the relationship among aesthetics, literature, and artistic theory in various periods; first, during the government of Salvador Allende (conference: Humor y derecho político: el mito en la historiografía política chilena. 2013). Also, between the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet (published Humor y mito: Metáfora y elipsis en la representación del dictador, Hiperamérica, April 2015).

The doctoral thesis I would like to develop concerns the question of tráicion/tradición (betrayal/tradition) in literature of the Southern Cone. I am interested in the question of how betrayal relates to the conservation of tradition and culture, in particular in texts in which the interplay among enigma, historiographical revision, and metatext is present. This proposed research builds up and expands on the investigation I have undertaken until now, all of which concerns contemporary Latin American literature and its relationship to philosophy. I will focus my analysis on texts from the first half of the 20th century, such as El divino Anticristo, El Tarambana. My current research is focused on investigations concerning the relationship among aesthetics, literature, and artistic theory in various periods; first, during the government of Salvador Allende (conference: Humor y derecho político: el mito en la historiografía política chilena. 2013). Also, between the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet (published Humor y mito: Metáfora y elipsis en la representación del dictador, Hiperamérica, April 2015).
Alumni, we would love to hear from you.

If you'd like to stay in touch with Romance languages, feel free to call David Wacks, acting department head, at 541-346-0950, or visit our website at rl.uoregon.edu/romance/news. You can also follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/uoromance or on Twitter at twitter.com/uoromance.

Serata Italiana

The Italian program during winter term has organized several social events and film screenings. “La Serata Italiana” met at Cafè Roma, 825 East 13th Avenue, every Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., where teachers and other speakers of Italian gathered for pleasant conversations.

On January 31, film director Luca Vullo presented his documentary La Voce del Corpo and conducted a workshop on nonverbal communication.

In celebration of Carnival, on February 16, in Global Scholars Hall from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., students and community members joined us for a presentations on typical Italian masks and characters of commedia dell’arte, painting and decorating masks, and the preparation of typical Carnival treats.

On February 21, a screening of Vacanze Romane took place at the Bijou Art Cinemas.

To assist our students in learning Italian, Lauretta De Renzo-Huter and Harinder Khalsa have offered free language-tutoring sessions to students of all levels in 175 McKenzie Hall (the new home of the Yamada Language Center), Mondays, 11:00–noon, Wednesdays. 3:30–5:00 p.m.

National Book Tour continued from page 1

between France and Guadeloupe. Her love of writing and reading from a young age became a call to record and testify about this experience.

Over the weekend retreat, French faculty enjoyed time with Gisèle Pineau, touring the Schnitzer museum, the Museum of Natural History, going to Skinner Butte and the Willamette River. Associate Professor Nathalie Hester generously hosted a pre-Thanksgiving dinner and party in her home for students and faculty members in French to enjoy Pineau’s conversation. They were joined by three French assistants in Eugene Roosevelt Middle School and Associate Professor Joyce Cheng in art history.

In addition to the above, Associate Professor Fabienne Moore organized a coffee hour at the Graduate School, where Ramond Jurney gave a talk titled “On Teaching and Working at a Liberal Arts College.” More than a dozen PhD students advanced to candidacy from various departments in CAS got career tips and an insider’s perspective on the specificity of liberal arts colleges.

Our grateful thanks to our PhD alumna Florence and to Gisèle Pineau for a memorable and uplifting visit!