In this, our third year of existence as a department, the Department of World Languages and Literatures (WLL) has been as active as ever with workshops, field trips, invited speakers, and end-of-semester get-togethers that celebrate languages and cultures from around the world. This newsletter includes reports on these events as well as examples of student work, study abroad experiences, alumni updates, and student and faculty profiles.

Students in Professor Mehta’s Advanced French class worked on a two-part Wiki project on the 2017 French Presidential Elections. For the first part, they researched how the elections are run and in the second they presented the programs of the five frontrunners. The class closely followed the results of the first and second round of elections that took place on April 23rd and May 7th respectively.

WLL faculty members continue to be active scholars and remain engaged in the community. Professor María José Luján (Spanish) published an article, “Temas diversos, formas variadas y mujer en crisis en el teatro de Maricel Mayor Marsán” in La mujer en la literatura del mundo hispánico, Vol. IX. Eds. Juana Alcira Arancibia and Rosa TezanosPinto. Instituto Literario y Cultural Hispánico. Buenos Aires: 2016. 87-94.

In January 2017, Professor Mehta (French) gave an invited lecture at the Alliance Française of Greenwich on African American writers and musicians in Paris during the Jazz Age of the 1920s and their interactions with African and Afro-Caribbean writers in the 1930s. On March 25 2017, she was a panelist at a Q & A following the screening of eight short French-language films at the Francophonie à Harlem event held at the Maysles Theater in Harlem.

After forty years of service to Manhattanville College, Professor of German Gabriele Wickert will be retiring in December 2017. Professor Wickert served the College both as an administrator and a faculty member during those years, making invaluable contributions to the German and the International Studies Programs. You can read all about her time at Manhattanville, in her own words, in this newsletter.

As we look forward to 2017-2018, we would like to announce that thanks to student demand we are offering a course in Modern Standard Arabic starting in fall 2017.

Finally, I would like to thank Isabella Brascetta Guerra’18 for her invaluable help in putting this newsletter together.

Binita Mehta, Ph.D.
Chair, WLL
On October 15th, 2016, Madame Mehta took students from her Paris in Literature and Film class to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on a sort of scavenger hunt involving artists studied in the course. We were asked to collect information about specific paintings displayed in the museum, document our findings on paper, and come back to the group to discuss the works’ influence in on the cultural life of Paris in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Some of the artists discussed in class were Pablo Picasso, Edgar Degas, Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet, and Georges Seurat, all of whom made an impact on the artistic life in Paris during that time. Before, during, and after the visit, Madame Mehta spoke about the exhibits on our list and others we encountered along the way that were relevant to the course. We discussed the use of color in the paintings, the medium used to create them, the techniques the artists’ utilized, and the symbolism of the images they created, always emphasizing what these meant in the context of Paris and its development.

–Marina Nouel ‘17

On October 16, 2016, Professor Luján took students from her Magic Realism Writers class to the Repertorio Español in New York City to see the play, “Doña Flor y sus dos maridos.” Professor Luján decided to take her students to this play to experience magic realism through theater. “Doña Flor y sus dos maridos” is an adaptation of Jorge Amado’s Brazilian novel of the same name. Flor, the main character, marries Teodoro, a staid pharmacist, after her first husband/bad boy Vadinho dies. The magic realism emerges when Vadinho returns as “ghost” to seduce Flor once again. It was a fun and educational experience for all.

–Isabella Brascetta ‘18
An ACTFL Workshop: Revisiting Language Instruction with Technology

On Wednesday, October 26th, 2016, the Department of World Languages and Literatures hosted a one-day professional development workshop entitled, “Revisiting Language Instruction with Technology,” at the Center for Teaching Learning and Scholarship (CTLS). The ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) -sponsored workshop was funded by the Mellon grant received by Manhattanville College and was led by Kevin M. Gaugler, Associate Professor of Spanish at Marist College.

Professor Gaugler shared technology tools, for the most part free, and his own personal experiences using various technologies in the Spanish-language classroom. He demonstrated how the integration of technology with language instruction, when conducted in a meaningful way, helps students develop intercultural competence and interpersonal skills by connecting with speakers of the target language both locally and globally. We also looked at enhancing presentational skills in the target languages with the help of technological tools.

Workshop participants included full-time and part-time faculty from the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Education at Manhattanville College, as well as full-time and part-time faculty from Purchase College and Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT. The workshop was a wonderful opportunity for language faculty to discuss pedagogy, and many are ready to thoughtfully implement what they learned in the workshop into their language classes. We decided as a group to stay in touch and to share and assess our successes, and failures, in the language classroom.

-Professor Binita Mehta

International Film Festival

This year’s International Film Festival, “Monsters and Monstrosities” (WLL was one of its co-sponsors), included a wide variety of monster-themed films. The films complemented the study of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein, the First Year common read for 2016-2017. The line-up included the Spanish-language film Pan’s Labyrinth, the Australian film, The Babadook, the Korean film The Host, the Swedish film, Let the Right One In, and the “Iranian Vampire Western,” A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night. The respondents to the films included faculty and students - Jorge Porta’19, Tosha Taylor, Binita Mehta, Nasir Fleming ’18, Carleigh Brower, and Elizabeth Faber. The film festival included two memorable nights of short films made by students of the student club, Manhattanville Video Project.

Professor David Lugowski, Professor of English and Film Studies, superbly moderated the second night of student films held on April 20, 2017.

-Isabella Brascetta ‘18
One of the goals of the Department of World Languages and Literatures is to promote the linguistic and cultural diversity that exists at Manhattanville College. On December 8, 2016, I had the opportunity to participate in an evening of music, song, and dance sponsored by the Department. I was honored to represent the Spanish program by performing the merengue, a style of dance and music celebrated in the Dominican Republic. Additionally, I was enriched by the cultural traditions from other parts of the world. The programs in German, French, and Italian shared their culture through music and dance. Performers included students, faculty and staff from the Manhattanville College community. The evening ended with a performance of Indian classical music by the group “Innocent Sur” that featured Professor of Studio Art Alka Mukerji.

- Fernanda Moscoso ‘17

**Margot Ellis’78 Returns to Manhattanville**

On February 28, 2017, Manhattanville College alumna Margot M. Ellis’78 graced the Valiant community with her presence and a thrilling lecture. Ms. Ellis, a French major, was thrilled to be back on campus after a long absence. Before her formal talk, she shared memories about her time at Manhattanville College, the classroom in Reid Hall where French classes were held, and her fondness for her then French professor, Madame Jacqueline Sareil. The event was part of the Provost Distinguished Lecture Series and was co-sponsored by the departments of Art History, English, Studio Art, World Languages and Literatures, and the American Studies and International Studies programs.

The topic of Ms. Ellis’s lecture was based on her recent book, *Americans In Paris: Foundations of America’s Architectural Gilded Age*. With enticing visuals and storytelling, Ellis spoke about celebrated French school of Fine Arts, L’École des Beaux-Arts, in Paris, France. This world-renowned École was the place of study for famous American architects such as John Walter Cross, Arthur W. Rice, Richard Morris Hunt, Henry Hobson Richardson, among others. Taking inspiration from their studies in Paris, some of these architects returned to the United States to design important cultural and historical buildings such as The Boston Library, The New York State Capitol Building, the pedestal for the Statue of Liberty, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Pennsylvania Station, the Biltmore Estate, Kykuit, and many more structures built during the height of America’s Gilded Age.

Margot M. Ellis’s lecture not only enlightened the audience about art and architecture but also about French-American relations, highlighting the lasting influence that both nations continue to have on each other.

- Nasir Fleming’18
On April 26, 2017 at the Undergraduate Awards Ceremony (non-seniors) held in the West Room, the faculty of the Department of World Languages and Literatures presented awards to the following students for excellence in languages:

French - Nasir Fleming and Montserrat Mba
German - Francis Cruz
Italian - Tara M. D'Antona, Kaitlin Halloran, Bobbi L. Toscano
Japanese - Milica Milic
Spanish - Brenda Cárdenas, Evelyn Rodríguez, Valeria Oviedo, and Briyit Orellana

WLL End of semester get-together

On April 27, 2017, the Department of World Languages and Literatures organized a get-together of faculty and students to celebrate the end of the academic year. We enjoyed delicious food, and watched performances in French German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish. These performances included two French songs, L’homme qui te ressemble and J’ai faim, j’ai soif, sung by students in Professor Hollis’s Introductory French II class, a Spanish song, Cancionilla Sevillana, performed by Spanish professor Julie Dolphin, and a Hispanic dance performance by students from the Latin Fusion club. Another performance included a song in Japanese sung by a student from Professor Ann Tarumoto’s class, and two Italian students performed an Italian aria and an Irish step dance. Professor Jerry Kerlin of the Music Department taught many of those present the steps to an Irish dance that, after several minutes of rehearsal, they performed to music. The evening ended with two beautiful German songs sung by a student from Professor Andrea Ritter’s “Building German Proficiency” class.

-Isabella Brascetta’18
Mi Mamá

Mi mamá tiene pelo negro y grueso como el cielo durante el tiempo de la luna nueva. Su pelo se lleva con el viento y alumbraba bajo los rayos del sol y se transforma en el color del ébano. Su pelo natural es como las olas de las playas bajas y suaves. Sus ojos tienen el color de almendras cuando está mirando en la dirección del sol. En la oscuridad, sus ojos se convierten en un color oscuro como el café negro y fresco que se toma por las mañanas. Ella es baja de estatura y aunque no es de edad joven, yo puedo ver en ella la figura que aún mantiene de cuando tenía mi edad. Yo me parezco mucho a ella. Tiene una cara pequeña, pero muy bonita y sencilla. Cuando se sonrie se forman hoyuelos en ambos lados de sus mejillas. Cuando yo miro a sus manos pequeñas, yo puedo ver la frustración que tuvo en los días de trabajo. Mi mamá tiene una personalidad sabia y es consciente de las otras personas cuando necesitan consejos. Cuando ella se enoja, ella tiene la capacidad de convertir su color natural en un color rojo como los tomates. Aun así, ella tiene una mirada amable e inocente. Su voz es media y profunda cuando está tranquila. A mi mamá le gusta ir de compras y pasar el tiempo con mis hermanos y conmigo. A ella le encanta ver telenovelas en las noches y salir al gimnasio para olvidarse de su estrés. Mi mamá es una persona humilde a la que le encanta compartir momentos inolvidables. Ella será una mujer elegante, respetosa, y feliz para siempre.

-Jennifer Loja

Calligrammes, or pictorial poems, following the model of 20th century French poet Guillaume Apollinaire, by students from Professor Mehta’s Advanced French class.
Invented Fairy Tales in German - GER 4002, Professor Ritter

DAS GOLDMÄDCHEN


Das Goldmädchen war verzückt. Freiheit! Der Mond schien durch die Bäume. Die Sterne waren so hell, die Nacht war so warm und still. Ihr Glück dauerte nicht lange. Die Wipfel rauschten laut, und der Wind wurde kalt. Ein kluger Geist erschien. Das Goldmädchen dachte „Herr Geist kam her, um mir zu helfen! Er erkennt mich an meiner Goldkleidung. Er muss einer Prinzessin gehorchen.“ Das Goldmädchen fragte „Herr Geist, kannst du mir helfen? Ich bin allein, und weiß den Weg zum Dorf nicht.“ Der Geist war klug und machte einen Plan. Er sagte:

"Ich zeige dir den Weg zum Glück, Dann zeige dir den Weg zurück. Ich scheine dir ein bisschen verrückt, aber Mein Wissen gibt dir ein treues Goldstück."

Das Goldmädchen verstand ihn nicht, aber folgte ihm. Der Geist ging dem Goldmädchen zum tiefsten, dunklen Teil des Waldes voran. Als es verloren war, verschwand der Geist. Es weinte und verstand nicht, warum er es verließ.


"Ich zeige dir den Weg zum Glück, Dann zeige dir den Weg zurück.
Ich scheine dir ein bisschen verrückt, aber Mein Wissen gibt dir ein treues Goldstück."


"Ich zeige dir den Weg zum Glück, Dann zeige dir den Weg zurück. Ich scheine dir ein bisschen verrückt, aber Mein Wissen gibt dir ein treues Goldstück."


-Caroline Homer

Eine Reise zum Überleben

Es war einmal ein Hund namens Kyrre, der in einem liebevollen, glücklichen Hause lebte. Eines Tages, während er mit seinem Lieblingsspielzeug spielte, hörte er viel Aufregung im Zimmer seines Herrn. Kyrre, der die menschliche Sprache verstand, beschloß, zu sehen, was geschehen war, und war überrascht, eine traurige Atmosphäre zu entdecken. Stella und ihr Mann wollten nicht mit Kyrre spielen. Sie konzentrierten sich auf die Worte der Ärzte: Stella lag im Sterben ...

Kyrre erkannte, dass dies die Leute waren, die ihn von der Straße retteteten und die ihm die besten fünf Jahre seines Lebens gegeben hatten. Es war Zeit für ihn, sie zu retten! Allerdings wusste er, dass der Weg, es zu tun, über die Kontaktaufnahme mit seinem Feind Myers ging. Myers war eine Straßenkatze und sie haßten sich nicht aus natürlichen Gründen (die ewige Rivalität zwischen Katzen und Hunden), sondern weil Myers' Vater Kyrres Mutter in einem Kampf umgebracht hat. Aber Kyrre wusste, dass Gorvell (Myers' Bruder) für Heilkräfte bekannt war und er musste Stella retten. Myers stimmte zu, Kyrre mit einer Bedingung zu helfen, die er nicht erwähnte und Kyrre, verzweifelt, akzeptierte. Es würde eine dreitägige Reise sein, was Kyrre besorgte, weil Stella nicht viel Zeit hatte.


– „Womit kann ich dir helfen?“ fragte Gorvell.

– „Bruder, du erinnerst dich nicht an mich!“ sagte Myers.

Nachdem sie alle ihre Grüße gesagt hatten, erklärte Kyrre, warum er kam: „Meine beste Freundin Stella ist in Gefahr und sie wird bald sterben. Wie es bekannt ist, hast du die Macht, sie zu retten. Ich gebe dir was du willst, wenn du mir hilfst.“ Worauf Gorvell antwortete: „Gott hat mir die Kraft der Heilung gegeben, um anderen selbstlos zu helfen. Sag mir jetzt: was
Für ein Tier ist sie?“ Kyrre war verwirrt, er verstand nicht, woher das kam - Myers wusste absolut, dass Stella menschlich war. Als Kyrre Myers ansah, sah er sehr peinlich aus, aber es war wahr und er wusste davon. „Es tut mir sehr leid, aber es gibt nichts, was ich tun kann. Die menschliche Magie ist ausserhalb meiner Reichweite“ unterbrach Gorvell.

Und so begannen die beiden Tiere ihre Heimreise. Kyrre wollte die letzten Stunden mit Stella, seiner besten Freundin, verbringen und obwohl er wütend auf Myers war für seine Lüge, wusste er, dass er versucht hatte, ihm zu helfen. Als sie zurückkamen, war Kyrre überrascht zu hören, wie Myers flüsterte „Abgesehen von unseren Unterschieden war ich immer eifersüchtig, dass du ein Haus hattest und ich nicht.“ Kyrre erkannte das Einzige, was er tun konnte, um ihm auch ein Haus anzubieten - Kyrre war selbst lange auf der Straße gewesen und er wusste, wie es sich anfühlte. Nicht einmal sein schlimmster Feind sollte es durchmachen und beide gingen ins Haus.

Drinnen waren die Dinge sehr düster. Alexander, der Ehemann von Stella, war sehr wütend auf Kyrre, weil er ein weiteres Haustier ins Haus brachte, aber sobald Stella Myers sah, lächelte sie. Es schien, dass, obwohl Gorvell nicht in der Lage war, Menschen zu retten, Myers diese Macht hatte und er wusste es einfach nicht und so wurde Stella besser und er hatte endlich die Liebe zu einem Haus - auch wenn sein Feind / jetzt-bester Freund auch da war.

-Frances M. Cruz Santos

Calligrammes, or pictorial poems, following the model of 20th century French poet Guillaume Apollinaire, by students from Professor Mehta’s Advanced French class.

-Marina Nouel

-Nasir Fleming
Recipe in Spanish-Professor Martinetto’s SPN 2009 class.

Wasurut Vihokrut
Profesora Martinetto
1/25/2017
More Effective Reading Spanish

**Receta:** La Ensalada de Papaya Tailandesa

**Ingredientes:**
- Una papaya verde
- Un mortero
- 3-4 dientes de ajo
- 1-5 chile pimientos (cuanto más chiles, más picante)
- Tomates pequeños
- Azúcar de palma (o azúcar regular)
- Salsa de pescado
- 2-3 Limones
- Media taza de cacahuetes

**Preparación:**
- Pela la papaya, solo la parte verde
- Pon los chiles y los ajos en un mortero y machacalos
- Añade la papaya pelada y sigue machacando
- Añade salsa de pescado y el zumo de limón (opcional al gusto)
- Añade azúcar de palma (opcional azúcar regular) y sigue machacando
- Al final, añade los tomates pequeños y cacahuetes y mezclalo todo bien
- Sirve la ensalada en un plato con unas hojas de lechugas, y disfruta!

**Un Ingrediente típico de Tailandia:** Salsa de Pescado

En Estados Unidos, la gente usa mucha sal en sus platos. Los Tailandeses usan salsa de pescado como un substituto de sal. La usamos con muchos platos tailandeses. Usamos salsa de pescado en lugar de sal porque es más saludable. La salsa de pescado tiene menos sodio que la sal regular.

**Refencencia:** http://www.kwanhomsai.com/ensalada-de-papaya-som-tam/
A Service-Learning Experience by Jasmine Villegas, a Student of Italian

Over winter break, five Manhattanville students and I went down to Louisiana with Father Wil Tyrrell, the Director of the Duchesne Center, for a seven-day community service trip. Our trip included two service activities. The first service activity was through the St. Bernard project. SBP is a non-profit organization that was established in March 2006 after hurricane Katrina. The organization is currently located in Southeast Louisiana and has rebuilt approximately 1000 homes nationwide. Hurricane Katrina destroyed homes in New Orleans and ten years later, very little has changed. One of the homes that we helped fix was that of a woman named Ms. Dedra. Her house was destroyed by two hurricanes, Katrina and later Issac. Every day, except on Wednesday, we helped this sweet lady with her home. This trip was an amazing and eye-opening experience for me. I learned how to paint, strip walls, and how to use a drill. By the end of the trip, I did not want to leave. On Wednesday, we visited the Grow Dat Youth Farm that donates to community farms in the area.

Portraits - SPN 1005,
Professor Dolphin

Hola, soy Jean-Daniel Milius y soy escritor. A lo largo de mi vida he leído obras de muchas personas, pero admiro a J.K.Rowling. Ella es muy amable y dulce. Desde que era joven, amaba su trabajo y a ella como a una persona. Sus historias son llenas de tanta energía y vida. Nunca pierden mi atención. Su serie de Harry Potter es mi favorita absoluta de su trabajo. Me ha inspirado mucho. Yo tenía doce años cuando finalmente terminé su último libro. Fue entonces cuando supe que querría ser escritor. Encontré mi talento en escribir fantasía y misterio y eso es lo que quiero trabajar. También me dedico a la dramaturgia ya que el teatro se ha convertido en una gran parte de mi vida. Soy JD, y esto ha sido un chapuzón en mi vida.

GER 4002,
Professor Ritter.
4 "Elfchen"
(eleven words poems)
Omar Parra

Class of 2017
Major: Finance
Minor: French

WHERE DID YOU STUDY ABROAD?
I decided to study abroad in Montpellier, France at the Université Paul Valery Montpellier III.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANCE?
I chose this program because I was very interested in continuing my studies in French at a French university. Along with my travels in France, I got the opportunity to travel across Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Andorra, and Germany.

WHERE ELSE DID YOU TRAVEL?
My favorite thing about my study abroad experience was the people I met. Apart from making many connections with French students, I was also privileged to interact with other study abroad students from countries like Australia, Costa Rica, Colombia, etc. Having the ability to travel with other students and share ideas, customs, and cultures is the best asset you acquire from studying abroad.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO OTHER STUDENTS INTERESTED IN STUDYING ABROAD?
To students seeking to study abroad, my number one advice is to not to second-guess the decision to study abroad. It is absolutely worth the experience. Studying abroad will not put you behind on coursework as long as you plan accordingly, and there are many people out there willing to help along the way if you are motivated. I would also say step outside of your comfort zone and do not be afraid to study somewhere you have never heard of before. That is how you create your most memorable experiences.
Why did you study languages?
I come from a multi-cultural family and I started attending a French school at the age of three in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I pursued most of my education in French while English came in much later in life. Ironically, as my third language, English is probably the language I spent the most time studying. Given that, I see that being trilingual is nothing short of a privilege and an asset that allows me to understand perspectives from around the globe, to consider opposing views, and to reinforce my critical thinking skills.

Will you command of languages play an important role in your future career?
Since my area of study centers around questions that concern the global community, it is clear that I will use my language skills to broaden my understanding of the world and to make connections as I take my first steps into my future career path.

Any highlights of your time at Mville?
I am very fortunate that my time at Manhattanville College has helped me grow into an independent and self-confident person, whether it is in academics or in my social life. I certainly appreciate the fact that I have been taught by professors who approach issues from a variety of angles. My classes opened up my eyes to issues beyond the mainstream and exposed me to a diversity of views and perspectives. Also, the friends that I have made at Manhattanville come from as far away as the city of Tbilisi to nearby towns in Westchester. These are friends whom I will keep for a very long time. I remain grateful for that.

Mary Gebre Yohannes
Class of 2018
Major: Economics & International Studies
Minor: Communications & French

Mary Gabriela Caram
Class of 2017
Major: English & History
Minor: Spanish

Why did you study languages?
My mother always taught me that the more languages you spoke the more prepared you were for the future. Somewhere along the way I fell in love with languages.

Will you use your languages studies in your future career?
I want to! I want to visit and work in other places.

Any highlights of your time at Mville?
Getting published in the student-run Spanish literary magazine, Tinta Extinta, twice!
The child of an immigrant family from Germany, I came to Manhattanville in 1976, straight out of a doctoral program in German Literature. At this point it seems I am the longest-standing full-time member of the Manhattanville faculty. That’s hard for me to believe, since the years have flown by, but that’s what happens when you love what you do!

For my first 10 years here I taught German - some literature, but mostly language. By the early 80’s I began to see the handwriting on the wall – with the national decline in language enrolments (including German), German as a major was no longer viable and it seemed that the graduate training I had received in German literature was becoming less and less applicable to the classroom. I began to cast my net of academic interests a little wider, moving from my original specialty in classical and romantic German literature (I had published a book on Heinrich von Kleist), to literature and cultural politics of the GDR (Communist East Germany), and eventually to East European literature and film. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, I expanded this to the socio-cultural aftermath of communism in Europe, including the former Soviet Union. The 80’s and early 90’s were an exciting time for me, since I landed several grants that allowed me to live in the GDR and in Prague for extended periods, my little daughter, Eve, always in tow. In 1987 I was granted tenure in two departments (a first for Manhattanville) - German and International Studies. A number of scholarly articles came out of my grants and research stays of that time, and they also translated into several new cultural courses for INS - like Literature and Politics of the GDR, East European Literature, Literature in Exile, and the required INS core course in World Cultures in Literature and Film, among others. It was thrilling for me to develop these courses and to have students in class who came to share my fascination for these topics.

In the early 1980’s I was asked to become the director of the INS program, remaining in that position for almost 15 years. Those years were also made rewarding because I got to work together with fellow faculty members in a way that had not previously been possible when I was the lone member of the German department. Over the course of several years the INS faculty committee and I, in concert with the students, worked to revamp and improve the INS program and as a result, interest in that interdisciplinary major grew. I fondly remember working with wonderful colleagues like Jim Bryan, Ken Pittman, Kwan Ha Yim, David Eisenhower, Greta Levart, Lawson Bowling and others (some of whom unfortunately are not with us anymore). Then in 1996, my administrative skills (developed as director of INS, of the Language Lab, the Dammann Intercultural Dorm and Study Abroad), attracted the attention of the new president, Richard Berman, and I accepted his offer to become Dean of Studies, a full-time administrative position that I held for 9 years. Then, just when I was scheduled to return to full-time teaching, which I had sorely missed, I was again approached about an administrative position, this time to become the acting provost for a year until a search for a permanent provost was completed. In 2005 I finally returned to teaching (hallelujah!), also again picking up the directorship of INS. In 2013, I became the first chair of the newly founded department of World Languages and Literatures, though I soon passed that baton on to the very capable hands of Binita Mehta. My research of the first decade of the new century focused on German film, and, among other things, I developed a course that covered the wonderful cinematic contributions of both East and West Germany, called Art and Politics of German Cinema, which I still very much enjoy teaching.

Over the last 40 years I have developed personal interests that have sustained the creativity passed on to me by my artist-father and singer-mother (I do ceramics and collage work, am an opera aficionada, and a bit of a film-buff), but I am not ashamed to admit that, alongside my dear daughter Eve, Manhattanville has been my life. I have had such wonderful students and have enjoyed my classes so much. When campus politics (yes, there is such a thing!) were a challenge, I took refuge in the classroom, where my experiences were always positive. I have relished my relationships with students, have always tried to see them as individuals with their own paths to finding meaning and social relevance in their lives, and was elated when I could help them in any way, whether personal or academic. Watching their interests flourish and their horizons and social commitments expand has been nothing less than thrilling. I have also been fortunate to work with exceptional colleagues, both faculty and staff, from whom I learned a great deal. Perhaps my fondest memories in this regard are my cooperation and friendship with Ken Pittman, an extraordinary human being and beloved member of the Political Science department with whom I collaborated on International Studies until his untimely death in 1999. Present students may not remember him, but those who knew him will never forget him. (The Dammann Pitt is named after him.)

Looking forward, the prospect of retirement that looms for me now is a bit scary, but looking back, I am extremely grateful for the opportunities and experiences that Manhattanville College have provided me, especially the students, but also the staff, faculty and administration. And I do hope to be around teaching some of my favorite courses as an emerita adjunct for another few semesters! Wir sehen uns!
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

My name is Joshua Marrero and I graduated from Manhattanville in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Education. I continued my education at Manhattanville, and earned a Master's in TESOL in 2013. I started my teaching career teaching Spanish at Scarsdale Middle School and have since changed roles to teach English as a new language. I believe Spanish has helped me understand the importance of knowing more than one language. In addition it helps me connect with students, because I understand the difficulty of learning a second language. Spanish is undoubtedly important to me. It has helped make me, and

My name is Isabel Brito and I graduated from Manhattanville in 2012 with a Bachelor's degree in Spanish. I later pursued a Master's Degree in Childhood Education. I am currently teaching 3rd grade at P.S. 205 in the Bronx. I use Spanish on a daily basis at work. I have found that speaking Spanish has allowed me to make deep connections with my students. In addition, I have been able to establish a great relationship/bond with parents. There is no doubt that speaking Spanish is a great asset in my everyday life.

Hi! I'm Gabrielle van Welie '16. While at Manhattanville, I majored in English and Communications with a minor in Spanish. I also completed the Castle Scholars program and was the editor-in-chief for Graffiti and TintaExtinta. For the past months, I've been working as an editorial intern at RISMedia, a real estate news agency based in Connecticut. My next move involves getting into a PhD program in Latin American literature, but those plans are still in the development phases. Stay tuned!

Phuong Le '16 is currently completing her MA in Film Studies at King's College London. This year, she will be presenting her paper on the films of Elaine May at Bangor University’s “The American New Wave: A Retrospective Conference” in Wales. She will also be published in a scholarly publication for the first time, as her research on actor Dirk Bogarde will be featured in issue 8.3 of Film Matters, a peer-reviewed film studies journal.
I graduated from Manhattanville College in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, with a concentration in Latin American Studies and a double minor in Political Science and French. After my graduation, in August 2015, I began my six-month internship with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Secretariat (IASC) of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Although my experience at the UN has been unbelievable and it has been a tough decision to make, I will be resigning in June to accept Columbia University’s offer, beginning in fall 2017, to pursue a Masters Degree in Human Rights with a concentration in Human Trafficking.

-Lucia Vidal’15

I am currently completing my second year of the Bilingual/Bicultural and Special Education graduate program at Teachers College, Columbia University. Following my graduation in May 2018, I am planning to teach at a bilingual French-English Elementary School in New York City. In addition to working with bilingual children, I also have an interest in working with children with special needs. For the past two years, I have worked with my advisor at Teachers College collecting data for the college’s newly created Bilingual Special Education Program. Together with student teachers and bilingual classroom teachers, we analyze and seek ways to improve the graduate program in order to better assist the needs of children in schools.

-Elizaveta Nikitin’14

The Department of World Languages and Literatures mourns the untimely passing of Professor María José Luján’s son Antonio Morales Luján on May 9, 2017 in Murcia Spain. Our thoughts are with Professor Luján and her family.