

# NEWSLETTER

## Department of Classical & Modern Languages & Cultures

Spring — Summer 2011



### News of the CMLC Department faculty, staff, and students at John Carroll University

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## ARABIC

Interest in **Arabic** language and culture has steadily grown at JCU. Spring 2011 marked the end of the second year of offering two sections of on-campus Beginning Arabic courses. In the fall of 2011, we will add the intermediate level that JCU students themselves requested. Also in 2011-2012, Arabic and French [*France has pre-and post colonial ties with Arabic speaking countries*] will sponsor a field trip for students to visit the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. Other students and faculty will also be invited to participate, pending the number of places we will be able to offer.



**Ramez Islambouli**

Our Arabic instructors include **Professor Ramez Islambouli**, a native of Lebanon, who moved to the United States in 1985 to pursue his academic studies. He holds an undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering and a graduate degree in bioethics, both from Case Western Reserve University. Besides his affiliation with JCU, he is also an adjunct professor of Islamic law at the CWRU Law School, and of Islamic Studies in the Dept. of Religious Studies. Also at CWRU, in the Dept. of Modern Languages and Literature, he is a full-time lecturer and section head of Arabic language. In addition to teaching Arabic language courses in CMLC here at John Carroll University, he teaches courses on Islamic Studies via the JCU History department. He also teaches Islamic Studies at Cleveland State University and at Cuyahoga Community College. He serves as a Muslim Chaplain at University Hospitals and at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility. Currently he is the President of Uqbah Mosque Foundation in Cleveland.



**Sawssan Khoury**

Our other Arabic Instructor is **Professor Sawssan Khoury**. She is a native of Syria, where she attained her Bachelor of Arts in French Literature at the University of Damascus. She immigrated to the United States with her husband who was pursuing his medical training in Cleveland, Ohio. There, she received her Master of Arts in French Literature from Kent State University, minoring in Arabic, French and English translation. She has regularly tutored secondary and tertiary students in the Arabic language, and has taught at Solon Montessori School for 17 years. She is also active in the Arab community in Cleveland and also Washington, DC. She has organized several cultural functions, hosting reputable artists including the poets Nizar Qabbani and Mahmoud Darwish. She served on the management board of Access for five years, a local civil society organization which helps Arab-Americans attain economic and social assistance, including the teaching of English as a second language. Since 2008 she has been on the management board of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, the largest

grassroots Arab-American organization in the country, whose core objective is the defense of civil rights and liberties.

## CHINESE



**Cai Wei**

*Professor Cai Wei, pictured with her daughter, **above**, represented JCU at the Asian New Year Festival in Cleveland's Asian Town Center - February 5, 2011*

We are pleased to announce that JCU now offers Chinese language instruction at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels, an achievement made possible by our Confucius Classroom program. Our Confucius Classroom is affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh's Confucius Institute and is a project of Hanban, an arm of the Chinese Ministry of Education that promotes the study of Chinese language and culture around the world.



**Shao Zhenping**

In Fall 2010, we welcomed our first Confucius Classroom visiting instructor, **Professor Cai Wei**, from Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. This fall, we will welcome Cai Wei's successor, **Professor Shao Zhenping**, as John Carroll's new Confucius Classroom instructor. Before coming to JCU, Professor Shao (whose English name is **Sharon Shao**) was a Chinese Professor in the Modern Language Department at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. She is completing her graduate studies at the Faculty of Arts, Wuhan University, majoring in Chinese Teaching for Foreign Learners. Professor Shao has also been awarded many prizes in Chinese Dance competitions as well as many other Chinese cultural activities.

## CLASSICS (Ancient Greek, Latin, Classical Studies)



**Dr. Gwen Compton-Engle**

**Dr. Gwen Compton-Engle** will be leading a new study tour to Greece during the first two weeks of January, 2012.

**Dr. Compton-Engle** presented a paper entitled: *“Doing Funny Things with Costume in Greek Old Comedy”* at the Ancient Drama in Performance conference at Randolph College in October, 2010. The conference took place outdoors in a Greek-style theater and was held in conjunction with Randolph College’s annual Greek play. **Dr. Compton-Engle** also presided over a session about Greek literature at the Ohio Classical Conference, hosted by the Ohio State University, also in October of 2010.

Classics student **Adam Foley '11** delivered a paper at the Classical Association Conference at the University of Durham, England in April, 2011.

Classics student **Sam Amos '11** won third prize in Latin Composition in a translation contest sponsored by Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics Honor Society. This is the third year in a row in which a JCU classics student has won a prize in this nation-wide contest.

**Sam Amos** was also accepted into the highly selective MAT program in Latin at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.



**Dr. Kristen Ehrhardt**

The CMLC department will be welcoming a new Visiting Assistant Professor in Classics, **Dr. Kristen Ehrhardt**. She completed her degree in Classics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2011, with a Ph.D. minor in Art History. Her research interests include Greek and Latin poetry, the interplay between art and text, and representations of symposia from the eastern influences on early Greek symposia to later Roman adaptations of feast scenes. At JCU, she will be teaching courses in Latin, Greek, and Classics.



**Dr. Thomas Nevin**

Classics Professor **Dr. Thomas Nevin** will be on leave for the academic year 2011-2012 on a Grauel Faculty Fellowship Award. While on leave, **Dr. Nevin** will be working on a book-length manuscript, tentatively titled *"The Murder of God."* The work will examine doubt, denial, and betrayal of Christ among German Protestant thinkers. **Dr. Nevin** will be living primarily in France while he conducts his research and writing.

## **FRENCH**



**Dr. Hélène Sanko**



**Darlene Nelson**

**Dr. Hélène Sanko** and **Professor Darlene Nelson** took a group of ten students to Paris during Spring Break 2011. Three relatives accompanied three of the ten students. A total of seventeen people successfully completed a very memorable tour of Paris and Versailles, and explored several world famous museums, in particular the Louvre, Carnavalet, Cluny and Gare d'Orsay. Plans are underway for a possible trip to Provence, in the south of France, for spring break 2012.

**Dr. Hélène Sanko** was a presenter at OFLA (Ohio Foreign Languages Association) in Columbus, Ohio in March, 2011. Her presentation dealt with French “*dictées*” [dictations] and their successful use in teaching and assessment. She also represented a nonprofit French Canadian Foundation (*la Fondation Guerin Lajoie*) that specializes in promoting “*dictées*.” At the Conference she also distributed posters and literature on the Foundation as well as *dictée* topic.

Also in March of 2011, **Dr. Sanko** attended a NEOLA workshop at Walsh University (Canton, OH) on teaching trading strategies and techniques not only in French but in foreign languages in general. [*NEOLA® is an organization that provides school districts with a complete service for developing and updating Board Bylaws and Policies, Administrative Guidelines/Procedures, Forms, Staff Handbooks and Student/Parent Handbooks in electronic and printed format. NEOLA® is currently working with more than 750 superintendents and school boards in Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and West Virginia.*]

**Dr. Hélène Sanko’s** review of “*L’Afrique noire est-elle maudite?*” by Moussa Konaté appeared in *The French Review* 84.4 (2011) 842-843.

On July 7, 2011, **Dr. Sanko** delivered a presentation at the AATF Convention [= American Association of Teachers of French] in Montréal, Québec, Canada, entitled “*Marguerite de La Roque, a Brave Woman.*” In the early 1500s, Marguerite de La Roque was the first known European noblewoman to be marooned on an island near the Labrador and Newfoundland. After hearing her presentation and later during the Conference, the editor of the *French Review* [one of, if not the, top academic journal in French], approached **Dr. Sanko** about the possibility of writing a screenplay for a film about the life of Marguerite de La Roque. **Dr. Sanko** is pursuing these possibilities.

During her trip via Greyhound bus, and her stay in Montreal in an apartment setting, **Dr. Sanko** evaluated the possibility of offering a Spring Break in the Canadian province of Quebec, a possible alternate to the Spring Break trip in Paris. In preparation for this eventuality, **Dr. Sanko** and the French section of the CMLC will offer a Québécois Film Festival featuring films by Québécois filmmakers (dates TBA).

The Maison Française de Cleveland, a subsidiary of the “*Fédération des Alliances Françaises*,” a worldwide organization that promotes French language, literature, and culture, has invited **Dr. Hélène Sanko** to speak on the 19<sup>th</sup> century French woman painter Rosa Bonheur, an animalist realist artist, and sculptor, who actually greeted Buffalo Bill, his circus and his cowboys show when he visited France. The event is planned for February, 2012. Rosa Bonheur’s works are exhibited in the Musée d’Orsay in Paris, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC, as well as in our own Cleveland Museum of Art’s French Collection. Bonheur is widely considered to have been the most famous female painter of the nineteenth century.



**Dr. Martha Pereszlenyi-Pinter**



**Dr. Nancy J. Conrady**

**Dr. Martha Pereszlenyi-Pinter** organized and supervised the “*Concours [Contest] de la Maison Française de Cleveland*” in March-April 2011. The French contest has a high school as well as a college division, and invites all advanced students of French to participate. The high school division is open to all schools throughout Cuyahoga as well as neighboring counties, and the college division is open to colleges and universities in NE Ohio. The top winners are awarded cash prizes up to \$1,000 at the Awards Banquet held annually at the Cleveland Skating Club in Shaker Hts. **Dr. Nancy J. Conrady**, who serves as the Secretary of the **Maison Française de Cleveland**, was instrumental in organizing the Awards Banquet.

In addition to her colleague **Dr. Hélène Sanko**, **Dr. Martha Pereszlenyi-Pinter** has also been invited to give a lecture in September, 2011, for the Maison Française de Cleveland, entitled “*Fêtons le bicentenaire de Franz Liszt (1811-2011); ses années d'intrigues à Paris,*” which will celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of Franz Liszt as well as his years in Paris. Although Liszt is normally associational with Hungarian and German identity, his formative years and the bulk of his musical education was actually spent in Paris. As a 12-year-old prodigy, Liszt gave his first public performance in Paris in February, 1824, two months after his arrival in the city. As an adult, he played an integral part in the Romantic period of European art, literature, and music, and was associated with all the leading figures of the Romantic Age, including French masters such as Victor Hugo, Alfred de Musset, Hector Berlioz, and Camille Saint-Saëns.

**Dr. Pereszlenyi-Pinter** also read a paper entitled “*‘Sirva vigad a magyar’: Melancholy Mirth and Witty Woe in Hungarian Literature,*” at the 127th MLA Annual Convention [Modern Language Association] in Los Angeles, CA, in January of 2011. The paper was part of a special session entitled “*Ha- Ha Hungary: Humor in Hungarian Film and Literature,*” sponsored by the MLA division on Hungarian Literature [See also **Dr. Katherine Gyékényesi Gatto**, *under Spanish*].

JCU senior and French major **Natalie Talis '11** spent several weeks during summer 2011 participating in a study abroad program in the French speaking city of Brussels, Belgium. She was partially sponsored by the René Fabien Study Abroad Scholarship via the CMLC department. Natalie wishes to pursue a career in international relations and diplomacy, politics and business. In Brussels, she lived with a family who conversed with her only in French, and she reports that the experience of living and studying abroad was priceless. She particularly credits her previous JCU courses in Business French as well as those in Political Science as exceptionally beneficial in preparing her for the Belgium experience.

The following FRENCH faculty members and FRENCH undergraduate students participated in JCU's "CELEBRATION OF SCHOLARSHIP" week (March 28 – April 1, 2011) with the following poster projects:

***"Quelques Grandes Dames de Paris - Celebrated Women of Paris"***

Students from FR 319 and FR 399 "Paris Plaisir" Classes

**Dr. Hélène N. Sanko**, faculty sponsor, and undergraduate students **Hélène Andang, Sarah Bickerton, Gillian Calig, William Cook, Grace-Sephora Fadiga, Hallie Fetterman, Alyssa Harr, Allison Hibbard, Laura Kisthardt** and **Katherine O'Meara**

Through the ages, in the arts, in literature, in religion and in politics, a great number of Parisian Women have left their marks on French society. Students from the FR 319 (Paris Plaisir) and FR 399 (2011 Spring Break Short Immersion Stay in Paris) recognize the following Parisian Women whose presence (past or present, living or legendary), and contributions to Parisian French life and culture, continue to be significant and long lasting. Among them are the historian and novelist Maryse Condé, the Queen Catherine de Medicis, The Lady with the Unicorn from the Cluny Museum, the Patron saint of Paris Sainte Geneviève, the essayists Simone de Beauvoir and Hélène Cixous, the author and film director Marguerite Duras, the French Revolution activist Olympe de Gouges, the actress Juliette Binoche and the Impressionist painter Berthe Morissot.

***"Doing Business in France"***

**Dr. Martha Pereszlenyi-Pinter**, faculty sponsor, and undergraduate students **Megan Broadrick, Gillian Calig, Daniel Deptowicz, Alyssa Harr, Adele Koury, Lauren Penkala, Elizabeth Schaffner, Natalie Talis, and Kenneth Tubbs**

Now in 2011, as the world's fifth largest economy, centrally located within the European Union, and positioned at the heart of the world's largest market, France offers a favorable economic environment. Trade and investment between the U.S. and France are strong. On average, over 1 billion dollars in commercial transactions take place between France and the U.S. every day, with the U.S. being France's sixth-ranked supplier and its sixth-largest customer. In general, the commercial environment in France is favorable for sales of U.S. goods and services. Marketing products and services in France is similar to the approach in the U.S., notwithstanding some significant differences in cultural factors and certain legal/regulatory restrictions. Students enrolled in FR 306 French for Business will present three posters: one highlighting cultural difference in US-France business environments and one poster each profiling a select US and a select French business who each engage in cooperative cross-trade.

***"China through the Eyes of the French"***

**Dr. Hélène N. Sanko**, Faculty, Classical and Modern Languages and Cultures

In 1735 Jean Baptiste Du Halde, S.J., published a « *Description géographique, historique, chronologique, politique et physique de l'Empire de la Chine et de la Tartarie chinoise* » or « *Description of the Chinese Empire* ». This description was based on the letters that the Jesuits in China were sending to their superiors and which are known as the « *Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses* ». These letters were meant to trigger the interest of donors who were contributing to the work of the Jesuits in China. Jean-Baptiste du Halde used these letters as primary sources to describe some aspects of the country and its culture and include Images relevant to Confucius, the imperial Chinese court, the men and women's attires, landscapes, new vegetation, new type of boats, money samples and the various steps of the silk industry. They are among the first representations offered to the Western eye. Research sponsored a Grauel Fellowship.

### ***“Paris Commune, 1871”***

**Kathleen O'Neil**, Undergraduate, French and History student

The Paris Commune of 1871 was a 68-day alternative government that erupted in Paris on the heels of several major military and political events: 1) the end of the Franco-Prussian War, and with it, Napoleon III's Second Empire; 2) treaty language that ceded Alsace-Lorraine to Prussia and agreed to war reparations; 3) a five-month siege of Paris by the Prussian army; and 4) dissatisfaction with the French provisional government in Versailles. The revolutionaries of the Paris Commune enjoyed neither wealth nor privilege; poverty, starvation, a political vacuum and the aggressive stance by absent leadership pushed them to act. In the end, the efforts of the Paris Commune of 1871 and the individuals who participated almost disappeared.

## **GERMAN**



**Dr. Julia Karolle-Berg**

**Dr. Julia Karolle-Berg** will become the new Director of the Honors Program at JCU.

Additionally, **Dr. Karolle-Berg** was the recipient of a JCU 2011 Summer Research Fellowship, and spent part of the 2011 summer in Germany. She was engaged in completing primary research on German-language detective novels, with the goal of writing an article length manuscript. Her working title is: *“The Case of the Missing Detective Novels: Tracking Down a Tradition in the German-Speaking World (1900-1933).”*



**Timothy Cable**

The CMLC Department also welcomes a new, part time German instructor, **Professor Timothy Cable**.

Following his Master's studies at Bowling Green State University (OH), **Professor Cable** recently completed a year as a Fulbright English teaching assistant at Heinrich-Mann-Gymnasium in Cologne, Germany. In fact, he just returned to the Cleveland area at the end of July, 2011. His Fulbright experience certainly furthered his competency as a language instructor and deepened his intimate knowledge of German language and culture.

**Professor Cable's** course work in German has covered a broad range of topics and eras, from Middle High German to contemporary politics, and has been complemented at every stage by extended stays in Germany and Austria. His love of Germany actually came by accident. He arrived at BGSU as a freshman English major and chose to take German for the foreign language requirement. A study abroad trip to Austria in 2005 through BGSU's Summer Salzburg program changed his career path. He later spent a year in Hamburg, Germany, and fell in love with the language and the country.

As a teaching assistant at Bowling Green State University (OH), **Professor Cable** gained valuable experience motivating undergraduate students to develop language skills and transcultural competence. He also received consistently positive evaluations from his students and supervising professors attest to the success of his teaching methodology. He has lots of experience with advanced technology, including computer- and web-based instruction, examples of which he will be most likely delighted to share with us here in CMLC.

## ITALIAN



**Dr. Santa Casciani**



**Dr. Luigi Ferri**

**Dr. Luigi Ferri** has been appointed Assistant Professor of Italian, tenure track commencing fall 2011. He has also been appointed co-Director of the IBLC [*International Business, Language, and Culture*], and in this capacity he will work with **Dr. James Martin**, the co-Director for the Boler School, to develop and oversee this joint CAS-BSOB program. With respect to the IBLC program, **Dr. Ferri** will represent not only Italian Studies but the entire CMLC department and

all its languages. He will be involved with staffing the required courses as well as securing internships abroad for IBLC students.

**Spring semester 2011:**

During spring semester 2011, **twenty-four JCU students** were enrolled in IC 299C – “*The Role of Italian Women through Opera and Literature*,” taught by **Dr. Luigi Ferri**. The course included a Spring Break field trip component Tuscany and Lombardy, in Italy. **Dr. Santa Casciani** also accompanied the group, in Italy. The course was also a pilot project, as it was the first on campus to be completely delivered via “*iPad*.” **Dr. Jeff La Favre** (Director of the CMLC Language Learning Center) was present during the Spring Break field component in Italy to help with iPad and other technical assistance.

**Dr. Santa Casciani** presented a paper entitled “*Darkness of Silence: Bonaventure and Dante*,” at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University.

**Dr. Luigi Ferri** presented a paper titled “*Lunga promessa con l’attender corto*”: *Dante in Today’s Italian Politics*,” at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University.

JCU student **Steve Borowy** completed a semester of studies at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Gesù in Milan, Italy, as part of the new IBLC major. During the summer, Steve had an internship c/o SMC Italia, one of the companies that will offer this experiential opportunity to JCU students graduating in IBLC.

**Summer semester 2011:**

Fourteen students participated in the **Bishop Pilla Summer Institute in Rome, Italy** (6 JCU students + 8 students from Belmont Abbey College, NC). Students took courses in Italian language and IC 260 – “*Italian Literature and Film in Fascist and Post-Fascist Italy*” (also taught via iPad). The program included weekend excursions to Tuscany and Abruzzo. The institute was directed by **Dr. Santa Casciani** and **Dr. Luigi Ferri**.



**Giuseppina Mileti**

**The Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Program in Italian American Studies and 40 community members participated in a trip to Northern Italy in the Lake District, from May 24 through June 6, 2011. The trip was organized and led by Professor Giuseppina Mileti.**



***Above: The JCU Bishop Pilla Group at City Hall in Vicenza, May-June 2011; Professor Giuseppina Mileti, group leader, with Mr. Achille Variati, mayor of the city of Vicenza, one of Cleveland's sister cities***

Trip participants spent 6 nights in the city of Bergamo, and 6 nights in Vicenza, a city in the Veneto region, defined as the city of palaces, and a beauty of Renaissance art that is beyond description. One really must see the city in order to understand and absorb its magnificence. This beauty is because of Andrea Palladio, a Renaissance architect who enhanced the city with palaces, Palladian villas all around the Veneto region, and churches in Venice. The influence of Palladio even reached America, and the Capital building is one example of his style. Vicenza is also very famous for its trade in precious metal, known as the "City of Gold." While they were in Vicenza, the group was invited to City Hall by the mayor, Mr. Achille Variati, since Cleveland and Vicenza are also sister cities. During the first 6 days trip participants took daily trips to nearby cities and visited several important places, such as Padova, Venice, Verona, and Sirmione, a small town on Lake Garda. After their time in Vicenza, the tour moved to Bergamo in Lombardia, where they visited the cities of Bergamo, Milan, Parma, Cremona and Bellagio on Lake Como. These Northern regions were breathtaking in their natural beauty, because of the dramatic scenery and spectacular locations. The Alps were very visible from all these cities. The entire tour was enhanced by local English-speaking guides, who also accompanied the group to gourmet and wine tastings in the capital of excellent Italian cuisine: Parma. Participants were able to enjoy the 4 'P's of the region: "Parma, Prosciutto, Parmigiano, and Pasta"!

**Forthcoming:**

**JCU at Vatican City 2011:** 24 students will attend the JCU at Vatican City 2011, a Program sponsored by the **Bishop Pilla Program in Italian American Studies**. Students will study at the Vatican and will reside just outside the Vatican wall. They will have an excursion in Tuscany and in Northern Italy.

In October, 2011, the **Bishop Pilla Program in Italian American Studies** will organize a week of events focusing on **the presence of Italians in the Cleveland area**. There will be talks by doctors, professionals, artists, and a round table with **Dr. Adriano Alessandrini**, mayor of the city of Segrate (Milan), who is also collaborating in the creation of internships for JCU students majoring in the IBLC program.

Those who are interested in future programs or trips should contact **Dr. Santa Casciani** [scasciani@jcu.edu](mailto:scasciani@jcu.edu), or **Dr. Luigi Ferri** [lferri@jcu.edu](mailto:lferri@jcu.edu), or **Professor Giuseppina Mileti**, [gmileti@jcu.edu](mailto:gmileti@jcu.edu).

## JAPANESE



**Keiko Nakano**

**Professor Keiko Nakano** presented her paper, *“Mother Tongue and Other Tongue: Strategies of Linguistic Amalgam of Two Bicultural Women Writers,”* at the annual Conference of American Comparative Literature, in Vancouver, BC, Canada, March 31-April 3, 2011.

**Professor Nakano** also gave a lecture on Japanese pop culture, focusing on the Japanese film, *Train Man*, as a guest speaker for the Film Series at Lakeland Community College, February 11th, 2011.

JCU student, **Gregory Guttman**, who took Japanese for two years, will study abroad at Nanzan University, Nagoya, Japan, in the fall semester, 2011.

**Alcia Miller '08** has been teaching English in Akita, Japan for three years, through the JET Program (Japan Exchange Teaching Program.) The Jet Program is a very competitive one. More than ten JCU students have taught English in Japan through this program during the last decade.

**Alcia Miller** also volunteered to help the survivors of Tsunami/Earthquake in the northern part of Japan right after 3/11, in Akita, which is very close to the area of the earthquake and tsunami.

**Professor Keiko Nakano**, along with **Dr. Pam Mason** [Political Science] and **Dr. Jim Martin** [Boler School of Business], organized the first event of the “*Maroon, Inc. Discussion Series*,” on October 5, 2010. The speaker was **Mr. Koichi Tanaka**, general manager of Tomatec America, Inc. The title of his presentation was “*Business Culture and Business Practice in America and Japan.*”

The **JCU East Asia Festival** was held on October 4, 2010. The main event was a Taiko drumming demonstration. The festival drew about 200 people, including local high school students. Plans are under way for the **2011 JCU East Asia Festival** and will be announced soon.

The fourth **Japan Study Tour** held from 5/20 though 6/2, 2010, was conducted by **Professor Keiko Nakano** and **Dr. Roger Purdy** [History]. Seven students and one faculty member, **Dr. Jen McWeeny** [Philosophy], participated.

The Japanese section participated in the “**1000 Origami Cranes Project**” held April 26-29, 2011, in the JCU Lombardo Student Center Atrium. The goal was for JCU students and all who were interested to donate 50 cents or more to dedicate an origami crane with his/her name and best wishes to Japan. All donations went to relief efforts in Japan for post-Tsunami reconstruction. Volunteers also demonstrated how to make one’s own origami crane. In Japan, the 1,000 origami cranes are believed to grant a person any wish when completed. The JCU wish was, of course, for Japan’s speedy recovery and to send to the origami cranes to Japan to convey our wishes. Collaborating groups included CMLC, RICE [a new student-led East Asian Club on campus], Allies, Japan Society, CLC [Christian Life Communities], and UNICEF. The event was sponsored by East Asian Studies.

“**RICE**”: A new student led group with interest in East Asian Cultures has been formed on Campus. It is called “**RICE**” which stands for “**R**Realizing your **L**OVE for **C**ultures of the **E**ast.” The “**I**” in the club logo of “**RICE**” is written to look like the character which means “love,” and this written character is common to many Asian languages.

## **SLOVAK & RUSSIAN**



**Fr. Gerald Sabo, S.J.**

In early summer, **Fr. Gerald Sabo, S. J.**, traveled to Slovakia where he spent several weeks updating his research projects, and also as current Rector of the local and JCU Jesuit Community, networking with the Jesuit community of Slovakia.

**Fr. Sabo** also reviewed "*Nauka reči slovenskey*," by Ludevit Štúr, in *Slovakia*, 40.74-75, 103-106.

## SPANISH



**Dr. Katherine Gyékényesi Gatto**

**Dr. Katherine Gyékényesi Gatto** read a paper entitled "*Humor and Heroines in Hungarian Folktales*" at the 127th MLA Annual Convention [Modern Language Association] in Los Angeles, CA, in January of 2011. The paper was part of a special session entitled "*Ha- Ha Hungary: Humor in Hungarian Film and Literature*," sponsored by the MLA division on Hungarian Literature [See also **Dr. Martha Pereszlenyi-Pinter**, *under French*].

**Dr. Gatto** published "*Su siglo veinte: El cine postmoderno de Ildikó Enyedi*" on *Cine realizado por mujeres* at [Cinelación.blogspot.com](http://Cinelación.blogspot.com) in February, 2011. Previously, **Dr. Gatto** had also published "Wither Spain? Humanism, the New Europe, and the Spanish State in *L'Auberge espagnole*," in *Rondas Literarias de Pittsburgh*, ed. Gregorio C. Martin. New Kensington, PA: Grelin Press, 2010.

**Dr. Katherine Gyékényesi Gatto** has accepted the appointment as the new co-Director of **MES** – the **Modern European Studies program** here at JCU – for the academic year 2011-2012. The first event to be co-sponsored is a performance by the Rajkó Gypsy Youth Orchestra. (*See below under "Joint Events" for additional information.*)



**Dr. Megan Thornton**

**Dr. Megan Thornton** served as one of the faculty leaders for the JCU sponsored El Salvador Immersion Experience in May, 2011. The Immersion Experience was led by two student leaders who are also Spanish majors (**Hannah Dubyoski** and **Sean Whalen**). The trip had 12 students total, and another Spanish major, **Alejandro Velez**, also participated. In addition to visiting some of the tourist sites in and around San Salvador, students stayed at COAR Children's Village in Zaragoza (just outside of San Salvador), where they tutored junior-high and high-school students in English and also played games with the younger children, many of whom live at COAR. [COAR was established in 1980 by **Rev. Ken Myers**, a Catholic priest from Cleveland, to house and take care of children who were orphaned during El Salvador's Civil War (1977-92). Today COAR continues to provide foster care for about 100 students and also serves as a day school for approximately 800 students.] **Dr. Thornton** will be participating in another immersion trip in January 2012, this time to Guatemala, again with the JCU Center for Service and Social Action.

**Dr. Megan Thornton** has had a very productive first year at John Carroll University. She was awarded a 2011 Summer Course Development Fellowship to design and implement a course on immigrant experiences. The course, SP 330: "Hispanic Immigrants in Film, Literature & Music," will be offered in Spring 2012 and will look at diverse cultural representations of Hispanic immigrants in the United States. The course will be taught in Spanish and, in addition to reading texts, watching films and listening to music that focuses on Mexican and Central American immigrants, students will also participate in service learning through the Center for Service and Social Action to learn how borders are socially and culturally constructed in the Cleveland community.

**Dr. Thornton** also presented a paper entitled "Breaking the Silence: Literary Resistance in Alicia Gaspar de Alba's *Desert Blood*" at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in April, 2011. Her presentation was a part of the session "Violence and Femicide on the U.S.-Mexico Border," for which she also served as the moderator.

As the 100-level coordinator for Spanish, **Dr. Thornton** also encouraged the Spanish section to adopt an online workbook and lab manual for all sections of SP 101-102. To facilitate the transition, **Dr. Thornton** is planning and organizing a training workshop for instructors and professors on August 25, 2011 with **Mr. Josh McClary**, the textbook representative from VISTA

Higher Learning. This cutting edge technology workshop will be open to all colleagues in CMLC, not only to those teaching Spanish.

## LANGUAGE LEARNING CENTER (The “LLC”)



**Dr. Jeff La Favre**

**Dr. Jeff La Favre** served as technical support for **Dr. Luigi Ferri's** course: IC 299C “The Role of Italian Women through Opera and Literature” during the spring semester, 2011. **Dr. La Favre** was responsible for developing methods to format curricular materials for the iPad and preparation of the iPads for student use. He accompanied **Dr. Ferri, Dr. Santa Casciani,** and **24 JCU students** to Italy, March 2-12, 2011, where they visited Orvieto, Arezzo, Florence, Venice, Milan, Siena, Pisa, Cremona, Bergamo, and Torre del Lago. During the trip, he served as technical support for the iPads. Near the end of the semester, he created a survey that the students took online via Blackboard. The purpose of the survey was to document how the JCU students used the iPads during the semester and during the trip to Italy. The survey also provided students with the opportunity to assess the value of the iPad as a device for college students. He then prepared a report of the survey results that was distributed to interested parties at JCU. Now, here at JCU, we plan to continue using the iPads for other courses in CMLC for the 2011-2012 academic year. In addition, students who went to Rome this summer with **Dr. Casciani** and **Dr. Ferri** were also provided with iPads to assist in their studies.

## JOINT EVENTS



**RAJKÓ GYPSY YOUTH ORCHESTRA**, in concert in Dolan auditorium, Friday evening, September 9, 2011, at 8 pm. The concert is sponsored by **Mr. Walt Mahovlich**, of INSIDE World Music, and co-sponsored by **CMLC (Dr. Martha Pereszlenyi-Pinter, Department Chair), MES – Modern European Studies (Dr. Katherine Gatto, co-Director with Dr. Anne Kugler, History),** and the **Office of Global Education (Dr. Andreas Sobisch, Director).**

**Tickets for the Rajkó Concert:** All JCU students and all JCU employees are eligible for one voucher per person to exchange for a free ticket at the door, the evening of the concert. There is a ticket fee for all others. Ticket vouchers may be obtained in person from **Mrs. Elssy Lawrence, secretary, CMLC Department** (216.397-4371), or **Mrs. Kathy Schiffer, secretary, Office of Global Education** (216.397.4320), Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm (closed from 12- 1 pm for lunch).

**About the Rajkó Orchestra Members:** Beginning in 1952, the most musically talented Roma (Gypsy) children living in the Carpathian basin area of Europe were invited to study at the newly formed Rajkó Music School in Budapest, where starting at the age of 8 and graduating at about 18-19, they learn to become professional musicians. The exceptional professional skills of the Rajkós are due to a special educational method that concentrates on preserving their natural aptitude for improvisation an essential precondition of virtuosity. The Rajkó Orchestra performs in many different formations. The fifty strong main orchestra and the six to eight splinter chamber groups are equally celebrated guests on the world’s most prestigious stages. The incredible range of their repertoire covers many genres from classical to folk, and from operettas to of course gypsy music. In their highly successful tours throughout Europe, North and South America, Australia and Far East they have thrilled and fascinated audiences.

**About the Gypsies:** Contrary to popular misinformation, Hungary is not the “home” of the Gypsies, but rather one crucible in which Gypsy culture developed and spread to many other lands. Historians and linguists trace their origin to north India, from which they fled in the eighth century due to war or famine. By the tenth century the Persian poet Firdusi records them as nomadic musicians, and by the 11th century they had reached Europe. In their own language they refer to themselves as “Roma” and their language as “Romani.” “Rajkó” actually means “young Gypsy lad” in the Gypsy-Romani language. Gypsy musical prowess has long been noted, and families of musicians tended to settle down in areas where the demand for their art was greatest. While preserving the percussive and vocal music of their own folklore, Gypsies adopted the instruments and repertoire of the non-Gypsy majority to make a living. In the past, Gypsy musicians were often hired by nobility and provided with the more fashionable violins, violas, and cellos - considered emblematic of western musical culture. To these instruments was added the *cimbalom*, an instrument with a long tradition in Asia, and by the end of the 18th century, Gypsy orchestras were an established feature of Hungarian entertainment.

## 36<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL AHEA CONFERENCE:



**Dr. Katherine Gatto and Dr. Martha Pereszlenyi-Pinter** (along with German instructor **Mr. Endre Szentkirályi** of Nordonia Schools, OH) were the local organizers and co-sponsors of the **36th Annual AHEA Conference [American Hungarian Educators Association]** held on the JCU campus, April 14-17, 2011.

The event was open to all JCU students, faculty, and staff, as well as to the general public. The various events were also co-sponsored by the JCU Center for Global Education (**Dr. Andreas Sobisch**, Director); the JCU Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies (**Dr. Zeki Saritoprak**, Chairholder); MES - Modern European Studies Program (**Dr. John McBratney** and **Dr. Anne Kugler**, co-Directors 2010-2011); as well as the JCU Department of Classical & Modern Languages & Cultures (CMLC, **Dr. Martha Pereszlenyi-Pinter**, Chair). Additional outside support was provided by the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society and Museum, the Hungarian Association (international, Cleveland – based), and the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Fulbright Association.

The Conference Opening Night Keynote Speaker, in the Dolan Center for Science and Technology, was **Dr. Ahmet Yükleýen**, Croft Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Mississippi, who spoke on *“Localizing Islam in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities of Islamic Pluralism.”* The keynote speaker was introduced by JCU’s Nursi Chair of Islamic Studies chairholder, **Dr. Zeki Saritoprak**. Host for the evening was **Dr. John McBratney** (Chair, JCU Dept. of English and 2010-2011 co-Director of MES / Modern European Studies), who also introduced **Dr. John Day**, JCU’s AVP / Academic Vice-President, who welcomed the audience and all guests to JCU’s campus.



**AT LEFT:** Conference Opening Night Keynote Speaker, Dolan Center for Science and Technology, Dr. Ahmet Yükleýen, Croft Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Mississippi, speaking on *“Localizing Islam in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities of Islamic Pluralism.”*

The event also included an Opening Night Film, entitled *“About a Village,”* produced and directed by **Dr. John C. Swanson**, Associate Professor in the History Department of Utica College, NY. The film was about forced post-WW II population relocations and their after-effects on ordinary citizens even up through the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

On Friday afternoon, the **Oberlin College Balkan Music Ensemble** performed a free Concert. The Concert was held in the atrium of the Lombardo Student Center, so that not only AHEA Conference participants, but that **everyone at JCU and in particular JCU students** who were passing through the atrium could attend. The Oberlin College and Conservatory student

musicians are under the directorship of **Ian MacMillan**, Ethnomusicologist at Oberlin College and Conservatory (Ohio). The group combines traditional instruments from Southeastern Europe (such as *tambura*, *tapan*, and *kaval*) and standard instruments from Western classical and popular music. The Balkan ensemble performed a variety of traditional musical styles from many Southeast European countries, including Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, and Serbia, and from neighboring countries such as Hungary.

Also on Friday afternoon and during the Conference, there was a film showing of documentary film entitled "*Outcasts: a Love Story*." The subject matter was about the attempts of a Christian man to smuggle his Jewish fiancée out of Hungary during WW II. The director, former Cleveland native **Susan M. Papp**, is a television and film producer, director, and writer, and winner of two of the most prestigious awards in Canada: The Michener Award and The Best Investigative Award of the Canadian Journalists Association. After working for the CBC for 15 years, **Ms. Papp** founded her own television production company, Postmodern Productions based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, which produced her current film.

The Conference also included a Friday Night Piano Recital by **Dr. Judit Gábos**, born in Cluj, Romania (Kolozsvár, Transylvania). Among her many accomplishments, since 2003 **Dr. Gábos** has been a guest faculty member of the Académie de Musique de Chambre in Belgium, and has appeared in performance in Turkey, Serbia, Spain, and Finland. In the United States, she has been a visiting guest professor and played concerts at the University of Minnesota (Duluth) and Valdosta State University (Georgia), among others. She has been a guest faculty member at numerous American universities (1993, 2001, 2002, 2006). This spring 2011 during her trip to JCU and Cleveland, she was Visiting Fulbright Professor at the University of South Carolina, Columbia. For her recital, **Dr. Gábos** played selections by Liszt and Bartók. The audience was welcomed by **Dr. Jeanne Colleran**, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at JCU, and the pianist was introduced by **Dr. Thomas Nevin**, Professor of Classics in CMLC Department.



**Dr. Jeanne Colleran**,  
Dean of the College of Arts and  
Sciences at JCU,  
welcomes the audience at the  
AHEA Friday evening piano recital.



**Dr. Thomas Nevin**,  
Professor of Classics,  
JCU - CMLC Department,  
introduces the pianist,  
**Dr. Judit Gábos**.



**Dr. Judit Gábos**,  
Fulbright scholar from Hungary,  
performs Liszt and Bartók.

After the Piano Recital, the Conference hosted a “*Táncház*” or dance house, with folk dancing instructions by members of the Cleveland based **Regös Hungarian Scout dance troop**.

Saturday afternoon the Conference co-hosted **Dr. Piro Kramár**’s lecture entitled “*The Lure of the Mountains*” at the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Museum, in the Galleria in downtown Cleveland. **Dr. Kramár** participated in the first American ascent of the Himalayas, to the top of one of its highest peaks, Annapurna I, whose highest point stands 8091 m., making it the 10th-highest summit in the world. This American Women’s Himalayan Expedition became the first American team to climb Annapurna I. The team’s physician, Hungarian born eye surgeon **Dr. Piro Kramár**, participated in the climb.

The Conference events also included a Banquet at the Balaton Restaurant, and optional Sunday program of visits to the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage on Richmond Road, or a choice of Hungarian church services at local Catholic, Reformed, or Lutheran churches.

