

MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES NEWSLETTER

Department News

Department Meeting

There will be a department meeting Tuesday December 10 at 11 in the Language Resource Center. All department personnel are encouraged to attend. There will be three items to discuss: an amendment to the bylaws, potential curriculum changes, and merit guidelines/apportionment. The lecturer representative will have a vote on curriculum changes; tenured, tenure track, and professor of practice faculty will vote on all others.

Dissertation Defense

Nydia Jeffers will be defending her dissertation “El Protagonista Negro en la Narrativa Antiesclavista Latinoamericana del Siglo XIX” Wednesday, December 4 at 10:00 am in 1206 OLDH.

Othmer and Chancellor's Fellowships

The Department has been awarded an Othmer (\$8000) and a Chancellor's (\$4000) Fellowship for the academic year 2014-2015. These fellowships will assist in recruiting graduate students.

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|----------------------------|-----|
| Department News | 1 |
| Important Events..... | 1 |
| Finals..... | 2 |
| Alternative Exams..... | 2 |
| Spotlight | 2 |
| Calls for Paper | 3 |
| Kelly Fund Proposals | 3 |
| Office Closing | 3 |
| Language Clubs | 3 |
| Department Calendar | 4 |
| Attachments..... | 5-9 |

Important Dates

DECEMBER

- 9th- Faculty Development Leave Requests Due
10th- Department Meeting
12th- SMAC Meeting
20th- Holiday Shut Down

Please send your announcements, Bravos and events for the weekly newsletter to Casandra (csiefkes2@unl.edu) by 5 pm on Thursdays.

Finals!

The Final Exam schedule has been posted on the door of 1107, if you have any questions let Shannon know!

Unit exams will take place December 19 from 6-8pm.

Alternate Exams

Alternative exams are currently scheduled as follows:

French will be Monday, December 16th from 10am-12pm in 1126 OLDH

The Spanish exam will be Tuesday, December 17th, 12pm-2pm in the Language Lab (302 BURN)

Spotlight on Abla Hasan

A recent addition to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Dr. Abla Hasan received her PhD in Philosophy of Language from UNL in the spring of 2013 and was shortly after hired as a Professor of Practice of Arabic Language and Culture. Dr. Hasan brings a diverse background of study in topics ranging from feminism and religious studies to second language acquisition theories. This diversity in teaching and research interests equips Hasan with the necessary skills to teach a language which many students come into with some apprehension.

Hasan understands the trepidation she sees in many of her new students. "Arabic," she says "is misunderstood to be a 'difficult language to learn.'" However, Hasan is quick to point out that "Arabic is different, not difficult." For Dr. Hasan, the best way to introduce the Arabic language to new learners is to focus on culture. In her 100-level courses, each week has a different theme, once a week a class is devoted to the discussion of cultural issues related to the week's theme. "It makes learning more interesting," says Hasan, "and takes the focus off abstract grammar." During these cultural lessons Hasan incorporates games and guest speakers to break up the often intensive learning of Arabic grammar which can be daunting to new learners. These games, which incorporate newly acquired vocabulary and apply them to culturally significant situations, aids adult students with acquisition by applying what has been taught in a low-pressure situation.

Born and raised in the Middle East and a native Arabic speaker who learned English as an adult, Dr. Hasan empathizes with her students who are learning an entirely new language later in life. This ability to commiserate along with her background in the Philosophy of Language allows Hasan to apply recent theories in language acquisition to aid her students in her studies. Dr. Hasan has students take tests to discover their learning styles and then incorporates the results of these tests into the way she teaches her courses; a practice that Dr. Hasan says helps her "sense a way with her students." Hasan focuses on learning each student's name as quickly as possible and treating them as persons not numbers.

As a teacher of a Less Commonly Taught Language, Hasan faces question about the validity of Arabic study and the application of Arabic acquisition. She responds that, "Arabic is now a Critical Language in the United States. The Arabic Spring brought about change in 22 countries and while the Arabic Spring brought about what we see as chaos, chaos brings a new world." Hasan sees this event not just through the lens of an Arabic educator but also with the knowledge that comes with her upbringing in the Middle East. Because of this insight Hasan notes that the "changed relationship between the Middle East and the Western World" will open up many opportunities in many different fields. Hasan believes that "opportunity comes to those prepared for it," and by learning Arabic and familiarizing themselves with cultural practices of the Arabic speaking world, her students are preparing themselves for just such an opportunity.

Calls for Papers

See Bulletin Board in 1107 for more information

- 2014 James A Rawley Conference in the Humanities; UNL; DUE: 1 December
- Diálogos 11; University of Michigan; DUE: 1 December
- Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery; Colorado Springs, CO; DUE 9 December
- Department of Spanish & Portuguese; Ohio State University; DUE: 12 December
- Southwest Council of Latin American Studies; San Diego, CA; DUE: 20 December

Language Clubs

French Table

Fridays
4pm-6pm
Yia Yia's
#UNLTableau

Spanish Table

Thursdays
6pm
Yia Yia's
#UNLMesa

Japanese Table

Lvl 1: Mon // 4-5
Lvl 2: Thur // 4-5
Lvl 3: Wed // 3:30-
4:30
Kawasaki Reading
Room

Komenský Club

4 Sept
6:30 Union
#UNLKomensky

Stammtisch

Tuesdays
5:30pm-7pm
Panera Bread
#UNLStammtisch

Russian Table

Tuesdays
2-3:30pm
1107 OLDH
#UNLRussClub

Portuguese Table

20 Sept // 5:00 pm
Yia Yia's
#UNLBatePapo

Russian Club

#UNLRussClub

Arabic Table

The Arabic table
will continue
Spring 2014
#UNLArabicNadii

Kelly Fund

Attached is the 2014 call for Kelly Fund proposals for research that is dedicated to the *improvement of teaching in the university*. Kelly Funds are distributed and awarded by Central Administration. Again this year, Central is prioritizing research proposals which emphasize interdisciplinary, intercampus, or international approaches in subject matter or audience. More details can be found in the attachments.

Proposals for funding, including the attached application and budget worksheet should be submitted electronically to the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (academicaffairs@unl.edu) by Friday, January 24, 2014.

Questions regarding Kelly Fund proposals should be directed to Amy Goodburn (agooburn1@unl.edu) or 472-3751.

(If you would like an excel version of the budget sheet please contact Casandra)

Office Closing

The DMLL Office will be closing

Tuesday, December 3rd
at 3:45 pm

for the College of Arts & Sciences Holiday Celebration

Stop by the Hewitt Center to celebrate with us at 4:00!

November

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat | Sun |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|-----|-----|
| | | | | 01 | 02 | 03 |
| 04 | 05 | 06 Global Cafe 10:30 // 316 Seaton Research Fair 3:30 // Love Library | 07 Research Fair Oscar Clemente Movie 3:30 // Love Library | 08 Oscar Clemente Video & Presentation 10:30 // 102 Hamilton Hall | 09 | 10 |
| 11 International Education Week | 12 International Education Week | 13 International Education Week | 14 International Education Week | 15 International Education Week | 16 | 17 |
| 18 NUFlex Benefits Enrollment Begins | 19 | 20 Vladimir Vertlib Presentation 6:30 // Great Plains | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 STUDENT HOLIDAY | 28 STUDENT AND STAFF HOLIDAY | 29 STUDENT AND STAFF HOLIDAY | 30 | |

December

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat | Sun |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|-----|
| 02 | 03 Cultural Ambassadors 1126 OLDH // 2:30 | 04 Global Cafe 10:30 // 316 Seaton | 05 | 06 Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto Lecture | 07 | 08 |
| 09 Faculty Development Leaves Due DEAD WEEK | 10 Department Meeting 11:00 // 1126 OLDH DEAD WEEK | 11 DEAD WEEK | 12 SMAC Meeting 11:00 // 1111 OLDH DEAD WEEK | 13 DEAD WEEK | 14 | 15 |
| 16 FINALS WEEK | 17 FINALS WEEK | 18 FINALS WEEK | 19 FINALS WEEK | 20 Graduate Commencement FINALS WEEK | 21 Under-Grad Comcmnt FINALS WEEK | 22 |
| 23 HOLIDAY SHUTDOWN | 24 HOLIDAY SHUTDOWN | 25 HOLIDAY SHUTDOWN | 26 HOLIDAY SHUTDOWN | 27 HOLIDAY SHUTDOWN | 28 HOLIDAY SHUTDOWN | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

Department of Modern Languages & Literatures

Dissertation Defense



**“El Protagonista
Negro en la Narrativa
Antiesclavista
Latinoamericana del
Siglo XIX”**



Nydia Jeffers

Modern Languages PhD Candidate with
a specialization in Spanish under the
direction of Dr. Rigoberto Guevara.

4 Dec 2013

1206 OLDH

10 am

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln not to discriminate based upon age, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, gender, sex, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran's status, marital status, religion or political affiliation.

Call for Proposals

Kelly Fund

2014

Research to Improve Teaching

The University of Nebraska, under the will of Mabel Elizabeth Kelly, holds funds to be used “at the discretion of [the] Board of Regents to foster research looking to the improvement of teaching in the University.”

“To foster research looking to the improvement of teaching in the University” means that all successful proposals must request funds for research that hopes to improve teaching. **This year’s Kelly Funds will go to research proposals which emphasize interdisciplinary, intercampus, or international approaches in subject matter or audience.** Grants are generally in the range of \$5,000 up to \$25,000. Grants will not cover fringe benefits; any benefits paid will be the responsibility of the campus.

Proposals will be ranked at the campus level and must be approved and submitted through the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in order to be considered. The Vice Chancellor’s Office shall rank the proposals in terms of how they further university/campus strategic goals and forward no more than the top five to the Provost’s Office for review.

Funding may be requested for up to two years. Funding for a second year will be contingent upon a project progress report to the Executive Vice President and Provost by March 13, 2015.

The attached application form must accompany your proposal. The proposal should not exceed five pages, including diagrams, illustrations, references, and the budget sheet. Additionally, the proposal should be single-spaced with a font size of 12 and with one-inch margins.

Proposals for funding should be submitted to the campus Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs by January 24, 2014. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs should forward to the Provost’s Office by February 28, 2014 the ranked list of proposals from the campus.

Kelly Fund Proposal Requirements

Each proposal should include the information requested below. **Your total application, excluding cover sheet, should not exceed five single-spaced pages.** Deadline to turn in to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs is January 24, 2014. The Vice Chancellor's Office should forward the applications to the Office of the Provost by February 28, 2014.

1. Application cover sheet (see attached form)
2. Brief Description of the **Research** the applicant intends to carry out
3. Evidence that this research will be used to improve teaching
4. Description of how this proposal will advance campus/university strategic goals
5. Indication of whether this proposal is for one or two years of funding
6. Timetable for completing the project
7. Detailed budget sheet indicating how the funding will be used over year 1 and year 2 (if applicable)

Kelly Fund Application Cover Sheet

Title of Proposal: _____

Primary Applicant: _____

Rank: _____

Department: _____

Campus Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Co-Applicant(s), Department, and Campus:

Total Amount of Funding Requested (**by year**): _____

History of Other Sources of Funding for this Project:

Primary Applicant's Signature

Date: _____

Signature of Support from Applicant's Dean

Date: _____

Kelly Fund Budget Sheet

1. Faculty who will receive funding or stipend from the proposed grant:

| Name | Rank | % of FTE | Amount Requested Year 1 | Amount Requested Year 2 |
|------|------|----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

2. Graduate student assistants who will receive funding:

| Name | % of FTE | Amount Requested Year 1 | Amount Requested Year 2 |
|------|----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

3. Support staff who will receive funding:

| Name | % of FTE | Amount Requested Year 1 | Amount Requested Year 2 |
|------|----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

4. List major expenses for the project:

| | Amount Requested Year 1 | Amount Requested Year 2 |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Travel | | |
| Research Materials | | |
| Equipment | | |
| Other (specify) | | |
| | | |

5. Funding from other sources:

| | Amount - Year 1 | Amount - Year 2 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

6. Total amount requested for year 1 and year 2 (if applicable)

| | Amount Requested Year 1 | Amount Requested Year 2 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | |