General News and Announcements

• Continental Coffee Hour this Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 3:30 in the Departmental Lounge. There will be a special guest, Dr. Egon Schwarz (Professor Emeritus at Washington University), who will be visiting Dr. Andress' class on German exile literature earlier in the day. An exile himself. Dr. Schwarz fled Vienna in 1938 for South America where he lived for ten years in Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador. In 1948 he came to the US, earned a PhD in German literature from the University of Washington and had a long and distinguished career at Harvard University and Washington University. His autobiography, Unfreiwillige Wanderjahre. Chronik einer Flucht vor Hitler (translated as Refuge. Chronicle of a Flight from Hitler), recently won the Cotta book award in Germany.

• Our own Siham Bouamer, a graduate student in French, was recently portrayed in The University News of Oct. 9, 2008, p. 2. The article may also be viewed on-line at: http://media.www.unewsonline.com/media/storage/paper953/news/2008/10/09/News/Let-Us.Introduce.You.To.Siham.Bouamer-3480471.shtml. Siham, great to have you in MCL!

Meetings

• All graduate students in Spanish and French on Thursday, Oct. 30 at 3:30 in RH 102. This is one of two annual meetings with graduate students to discuss any concerns you might have and to get some symposium planning for the spring going.

Deadlines

LLC

• Service Survey – In the interest of providing you the best service possible, the LLC would like your input and feedback. Please take a minute to respond to a short questionnaire about your interaction and experiences with the LLC. Your response and comments will remain anonymous and will be used to help improve services. If you have already responded, thank you very much for your constructive criticism and suggestions. Click on the link below to access the survey which will be available online until October 31. http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=P_2fZggqUGXK9Q_2fTivmPFXaw_3d_3d

• Sony Soloist Software – ITS and the LLC took advantage of the long weekend and upgraded all of the computers in RH331 with the latest Soloist software. Although the interface is nearly identical, the upgrade should be a great improvement in terms of stability and bugs. In addition, several other problems were identified and fixed during the course of the install.

• Computers in RH331 and 302 – Please understand that the computer workstations in both rooms are scheduled to be replaced after this academic year. The computers are approaching the end of their life cycle and are showing signs of age. The hardware failure has been greater than expected, and it has been an ongoing process of replacing these components as they fail. The LLC has service warranties with ITS on all of these machines, and we have been working closely together to fix computers that are not performing optimally. It is important that unusual computer behavior be reported to the LLC so that problems can be addressed as they arise.

Kudos

• At a SLU meeting of the North American Society for Exile Studies focusing on “New Orientations of World View in Exile,” members of the German Division gave the following papers:
  • Dr. Reinhard Andress (Professor of German): “Der Fall des Kabarettisten, Schriftstellers, Journalisten und Diplomaten Benno Weiser Varon: vom passiven zum aktiven Zionisten im Exil”;
  • Dr. Gregory Divers (Lecturer in German): “Feliz Pollak and Benefits of Doubt: Finding One’s Voice through the Exile Experience”;
  • Dr. Evelyn Meyer (Assistant Professor of German): “Reading Parzival’s Quest for the Grail as a Unique Exile Experience.”
In addition, Dr. Meyer organized a session on “Exile in the Middle Ages” and moderated one on “Exile in St. Louis.” Dr. Divers moderated a session on “New Political and/or Cultural Orientations in South America.” Dr. Andress was the session moderator for “The Beginnings of Exile Studies.”

From the Chair