General News and Announcements

• Continental Coffee Hour on Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 3:30 to 4:30 in the Departmental Lounge.

• In the last MCLanguage Matters, there was a misspelling regarding the Who’s Who nominee from Russian. Correct is Gabriel Andrus. Sorry about that!

• Thanks to an American Library Association grant, Pius Library will be hosting a five-part Jewish literature reading and discussion series entitled “Let’s Talk About It: Jewish Literature – Identity and Imagination.” The discussions start on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 10:30 am in the Knights Room and will be led by MCL’s Dr. Julia Lieberman. For more information about the series, go to: http://www.slu.edu/x28047.xml.

• The Language Villa will be turning into The Global Villa next academic year with specialized language groups. Keep an eye out for more detailed flyers. Please help us spread the word about this residential learning community.

• The 7th Annual French & Spanish Graduate–Undergraduate Student Symposium will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 8:30 to 5:30 on the third floor of RH. Plan to come for a day of exceptional cultural and linguistic presentation, study and refreshment. To give a paper at the Symposium, please submit a 300-word abstract by Feb. 27 to Dr. Annie Smart for French (smart@slu.edu) or Dr. Elsy Cardona for Spanish (cardonae@slu.edu).

Meetings

Deadlines

• The Annual Activity Reports and Letters of Evaluation of all returning fulltimers will be turned into the Dean’s office on Monday, Feb. 2 (sign or unsigned, with a response or without).

• Nominations for the various subcommittees of the Faculty Council are due to the Chair by Wednesday, Feb. 4. There are still opportunities left on the Nominations Committee and as College Representative to the Faculty Senate (both a two-year and a one-year position). There are also elections for the positions of Vice-President (becomes President of the Faculty Council in 2010–11) and Secretary.

LLC

Kudos

• At the AATSEEL Convention in San Francisco in conjunction with the MLA, Dr. Yelena Belyaeva–Standen presented a paper on “Psychosemantic Analysis of the Words Denoting Complimentary Speech Acts in Russian.” She also functioned as the Chair of a panel on “Creating Subjects in Contemporary Media” and as a discussant at the business meeting of the Executive Committee on Language and Society.

• In December in the Literaturhaus in Vienna, Dr. Reinhard Andress spoke on “Benno Weiser Varon und sein Roman Ich war Europäer: ein ‘Luftmensch’ auf vier Kontinenten.” It was the formal presentation to the Austrian public of his and Egon Schwarz’ translation from Spanish into German of Weiser Varon’s 1943 novel of exile, Yo era europeo. The presentation was followed by a reading from the novel. In addition, Dr. Andress was interviewed by the Österreichische Rundfunk for a radio program that aired a few days later. The novel was also the December “Buch des Monats” (Book of the Month) in the Picus Verlag, the publishing house that brought the book out. It has been favorably reviewed in some eight newspapers and other publications in Austria, Switzerland and Germany.

From the Chair

• I am available this semester for departmental business in the morning and then starting again after 3 pm until roughly 5 or 6.

• In order to create some levity, we’ve started an International Humor Board. It’s the same bulletin board we used for our youth photos. Take a look at what’s already up and feel free to add anything with an international (or classical!) twist that will make us smile or laugh.