General News and Announcements

On Saturday, April 6th, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages hosted our Annual French & Spanish Graduate & Undergraduate Student Symposium. The symposium, which is organized by SLU’s French and Spanish MA students, provides students from SLU and other universities the opportunity to showcase their research. This year, students presented on literature, theater, and history from Europe, Latin America, Africa, and North America. Topics ranged from Cajun identity, Literature and Urbanism in XVIIIth century France, Study abroad, Medieval Literature and Women, Baudelaire, the use of gesture in second languages, the effects of drug trafficking on South American communities, the poetry of Francisco Brines, and the representation of Latinos in popular American musicals, just to name a few.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Justo Bolekia Boleká, a native of Equatorial Guinea and a professor of French Studies at the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain. His talk focused on how African ethnicities maintained shared characteristics in a multicultural Africa, while maintaining distinguishable traits.

Here are some figures on the 2013 Symposium:

- Total # of presenters: 39
  - Spanish: 22 (9 Graduate students; 13 Undergraduate students)
  - French: 16 (8 Graduate students; 8 Undergrad students)
- Total # of sessions: 12
- Total # of universities represented: 9 (Creighton University, Lindenwood University, SLU, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Southeast Missouri State University, Truman State University, University of Missouri Columbia, University of Salamanca, Washington University)
- Total # of attendees: about 100

We are also happy to announce that volume 2 of *Confluence* will soon be available (see http://www.slu.edu/colleges/AS/languages/confluence/).

We are very proud of our students’ accomplishments!

Dr. Kara McBride, Director, MA-in-Spanish Program
Dr. Pascale Perraudin, Director, MA-in-French Program

Meetings

The final department meeting of the semester will take place on Thursday May 2, at 3:30 p.m., in Ritter Hall 222.

LLC

Kudos

Dr. Kathleen Llewellyn presented a paper, “The News in the Pews: Talking in Church and Other Early Modern Social Networks,” at the Renaissance Society of America conference in San Diego, CA on April 6.