

# Notes from Wescoe ...



## Out with the old and in with the new!

Greetings from the Chair!  
With thanks for all your support this year, and for staying in touch with us – we appreciate it!



Caroline Jewers  
Associate Professor  
Medieval Studies,  
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KU SLIC.

This summer, as we get ready for the start of another busy fall term, change is in the air! This is particularly true in the chair's office, as your humble correspondent makes way for Bruce Hayes. Bruce is a specialist in French Renaissance literature, and was until the end of last semester our esteemed graduate director – a post he held for many years. Bruce led the charge in re-envisioning our graduate programs for the twenty-first century, and under his leadership the Department rethought, and redesigned, almost every aspect of the MA and PhD.

Most recently, Bruce was co-director (along with Paul Scott) of our Study Abroad Program in Paris this summer – his tenth trip! More on this year's program below!



Bruce's research focuses on the uses of sixteenth-century political satire – making him a true Renaissance Man – skills that will no doubt come in very handy as he chairs the Department! We now play a large role in our KU School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (now in its second year) – as a unit, we hope to make our mark, and continue in a long

tradition of excellence in French and Italian Studies that goes back to when KU first opened its doors to students, in 1866. The challenges now are different, but our commitment to maintaining high standards, and opening doors to so much of the world for students, remains the same. As the outgoing chair, I wish him well for the coming terms!

### DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOT:

#### First and Second Year Students:

French 1: 385

French 2: 265

Italian 1: 208

Italian 2: 99

#### French & Italian Majors: 77

#### French & Italian Minors:

French: 84

Italian: 18

**Master's Students:** 6 graduated in the spring of 2016, 6 more will begin in the fall.

**PhD Students:** 7



## Jayhawks on tour ... 2016

One of the great strengths of our Department has been our tradition of Summer Language Institutes to France and Italy – to Paris and Florence! Our programs are among the

longest established in the nation, and go back to 1958. We are so lucky, thanks to our donors, to be able to offer substantial scholarships to each qualified participant – and while the cost of programs like

ours has increased over time, we can still help to ensure our students experience first-hand the rich cultures of the French and Italian-speaking world! It makes all the difference, and changes lives.



Paul Scott, Bruce Hayes (far left) and graduate assistant Mary Claire Chao (center, second row, fourth from the right) take students out for a group meal at *Pain, Vin, Fromages* in Paris. If you follow us on Facebook, you know that our tour route goes around Normandy and Brittany, then to Paris via the Loire Valley and Chartres, before our intrepid travelers study for a month in the nation's capital. Pictured left: Brittany, and, with Bruce, our intrepid coach driver of many years, Roby Strotz, from Luxembourg – a staunch Jayhawk – and Louis French, alumnus!

Verdict: "The world is a much bigger place now. This experience has turned me into an adventurer, and I can't wait to travel across the globe!"  
(CJ Strohmeyer, 2016 Paris SLI)

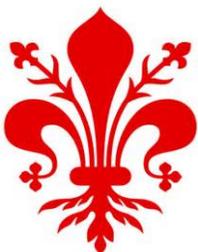


Another student wrote: "An experience like study abroad is one that is priceless. I feel that I am a better person having had the honor of representing my school, my state, and my country. Now that I have challenged myself through study abroad I feel that I am more aware of the challenges faced by foreigners, not just in the US, but anyone put in situation where they are the outgroup, the minority. I believe that being able to put yourself in someone else's shoes and view a situation from their point of view is a skill that could help change the world." Paris, 2016.

## Meanwhile, in Florence ...

*Every year we are able to offer over \$40,000 in scholarships to our students. Our donors make it possible. Every contribution helps!*

Being used to Kansas summers was good training for being in Florence this year! But the heat did not deter our travelers studying Italian language and culture in Tuscany. This year's directors, Diego Bertelli and Massimo Ferrara, know the city well, and are great guides. As for Paris, our students have a packed program of visits to cultural sites, and get to know the city well. In Florence, there are also cooking classes. Many of our SLI alumni from France and Italy develop an interest in gastronomy, and go on to be excellent cooks, as well as linguists! Is this a coincidence? We think not!



## Faculty news ... summer edition

**Tom Booker** is working on his current projects in Lawrence and Colorado.

**Patrizio Ceccagnoli** is in New York City completing two articles (on Boccaccio and Leopardi) and continuing research on his current book, which focuses on the late works of Filippo Marinetti. In the fall term he will be a fellow at the Beineke Library at Yale, and divide his time between NYC and New Haven.



**Bruce Hayes** has spent this last year working to complete a new book-length study on uses of cruel humor within the context of post-Reformation religious conflict in France. The tentative title of the book is *Castigating Comedy: Polemical Humor Leading up to the French Wars of Religion*.



**Van Kelly**, Professor of French, travelled to Saly-Portudal, Senegal, to present a paper on the intersection of place and psyche in the novels of

Boubacar Boris Diop, at the annual conference of the Conseil International d'Etudes Françaises (CIEF). He also conducted research in Dakar, Sénégal and at the Archives Nationales in Paris. Here he is, at the edge of the Atlantic, in Senegal.



**Caroline Jewers** is in London at the British Library working on her research on an article about, and edition of Claude Platin's *Roman de Giglan*. She will be traveling briefly to Italy in August. She will be Associate Director of the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures starting this coming fall.



**Kimberley Swanson** is hard at work on her linguistics research, and dividing her time between Lawrence and Minnesota.



**Paul Scott** co-directed this year's Paris SLI, and continued research on his current work on subversion in the *Ancien régime*. He also visited Angers, in connection with our semester abroad program, and Leiden, where he met with publishers and colleagues about his work with *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies*, of which he is general editor. He was also named this summer to the editorial board of *Cahiers Tristan L'Hermite*, an annual published by Garnier.



**Allan Pasco** has been in Paris this summer at work on his study of 19th-century short stories, *Masterpieces in Miniature*, and on his long-term project on *Balzac, Sociologist*. He recently delivered a lecture on the same theme to *Les Amis de Balzac* at the Maison de Balzac in Passy.

**Antje Ziethen**, whose specializations are migration studies, urban studies, and Francophonie, also attended the CIEF conference in Senegal, and after a brief trip to Paris, is researching in Quebec on her current book project, *African Heteropolis*, and preparing for a conference this fall.

### Getting involved ...

During term-time we have many ways to draw students to the Department – the Tavola Italiana, the Cercle français, a French reading group (started for undergraduates by MA student MaryClaire Chao) – and a program of lectures, films, and colloquia. With lunches, open houses, and visitors, we hope to create a sense of community, and provide opportunities for scholarly exchange.

This year's MA graduates threw themselves into their studies, and it will be great to what they do next. **Amelia Wells**, who joined us from Princeton, is on her way to a PhD in French at the University of Texas - Austin. **Clarisse Barbier** joined us as exchange student from the Université de Franche-Comté in Besançon, and will stay for the PhD, with a focus on contemporary French studies and SLS. **Megan Belaire** wants to teach too, and will be an instructor with us. **Douglas Bartel** will Teach for America in Kansas City, helping newly-arrived political refugees, and **Talal Khelifi** will be an instructor with us as he prepares for a PhD program in Francophone Studies. **Madeline Farron**, MA, will pursue a Master's in Public Health at University of Michigan, with a focus on global public health. She hopes to apply her studies to public health projects in West and Central Africa, and will be a graduate student instructor in the International and Comparative Studies

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This summer, graduate student instructors Lucie Dubail, Clarisse Barbier, Madeline Farron, Christina Lord, Hannah Sondreal, and Mary Mba took part in a special program designed to help our country's military build their language skills and cultural competency. This intensive, on-campus Language Training Center Program was a first for our department, but won't be the last, and we are taking part in a variety of initiatives to train military personnel before deployments.



**Books, books, and more books ...** After a lot of sorting, categorizing, reshelving, and rebuilding, the departmental library can at last have an organized collection, and integrate some recent generous book donations from the estates of Fern DeGeorge and Samira Sayeh, as well as other recent gifts we added to our holdings. We now have a space for study as well as meetings, and have mediated the space so that we can have talks and presentations too. As you can see here, raising the shelves was quite a workout!



## Recent MA Graduates ... in their own words

**Douglas Bartel:** "Looking back, I had a really wonderful graduate school experience. I met so many incredibly intelligent and generous people. My professors were absolutely outstanding and I cannot imagine having been in any other department. During graduate school, I also discovered that I am passionate about teaching, and that is now what I am pursuing ... there were many stressful moments, late-night study sessions, minor panic attacks, and much caffeine. Despite this, I now realize that this was because my professors held me to very high standards, and I do not think that I would have retained as much as I have

without being pushed in this way. My favorite part of graduate school was when I was selected as the program assistant for the 2015 Paris SLI. Being back in France and sharing my passion for Paris with a group of undergraduate students - many of whom had never been out of the country - is, without a doubt, my fondest memory from grad school."

**Talal Khelifi:** "Graduate school was an amazing experience, I not only learned how to write but also how to publish and what to publish targeting the main publications in my field."

**Madeline Farron:** "I enjoyed the opportunities to engage in other types of experiences besides the typical classroom experience. I loved that I had the chance to take Wolof through a Foreign Language Area Studies grant. I was also able to integrate technology, current issues, and pedagogy with a French culture project for major level students... I had some very supportive professors as well who helped guide me through my studies and helped me arrive at this next step."

Nothing gives us more pleasure than seeing such great people succeed!