

# The Department of English Newsletter

(University of Macau)

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*This is the first issue of a quarterly Department of English newsletter to be distributed in the University, to English Studies alumni, and to students in our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The aim of the newsletter is to improve communication between all who have an interest in what we do: those who teach and study here and those who have already graduated, and, indeed, those who may be planning to come to the University to pursue their studies in the next few years.*

*The Department of English is now also designing a new webpage, and once this is ready, at the end of October, this newsletter will be accessible through our Departmental Portal. Staff, students and alumni are encouraged to submit news and contributions for inclusion in this quarterly bulletin. These should be submitted to Dr Hari Venkatesan at [hariv@umac.mo](mailto:hariv@umac.mo). All suggestions on what might be included in future issues are also very welcome. I would like to thank Dr Venkatesan for agreeing to take on the organisation and editing of this newsletter.*

*As the new semester has only recently begun we do not have very much by way of news but are pleased to include reports on activities and academic achievements by staff and students alike, as well as news of forthcoming Departmental events. We would like to welcome Dr Francine Pang, who has joined us on a service contract for this semester. Dr Pang, who completed her PhD at CUHK, is teaching first-year linguistics courses and we are most grateful to her for stepping in at such a short notice. Professor Kim Hughes Wilhelm has taken up the role of MA Co-ordinator and she is now working hard to compile a database with information on all postgraduate students, past and present; MA students who have already completed their studies are urged to inform her of their latest e-mail IDs and addresses. Dr Chiu Man Yin continues as Undergraduate Co-ordinator.*

*Professor Evangeline Almqvist will continue to teach in the Department despite earlier retirement plans and we are delighted to have her back on board. She is currently on a two-month leave-of-absence but will return to teach an MA course and take up other duties in early November.*

*We are now in the era of the long-anticipated New Charter: none of us really knows what it means but we will see how things unfold over the coming months. I wish you all every success in this 25th Anniversary Year and look forward to receiving news items for future issues of this newsletter.*

*✉ Professor Glenn Henry Timmermans  
Head, Department of English*

## Giving Back to the Community

In late August, Brian visited Anhua, Hunan, as a volunteer with a dozen friends under a program organized by Cornerstone, a Hong Kong-based charitable association that provides financial subsidy and professional service to needy students in China. Altogether there were twenty students under the sponsorship scheme this year. Apart from the planned activities with the students, there were two unexpected episodes.



*Brian Chan in Hunan, China*

Three reporters from the Hunan Public Channel (under Hunan Television) followed Brian's group on the second day when they visited some students' homes far way in the mountains. Initially, there was a certain tension when reporters bombarded the volunteers with piercing questions in *Putonghua*, but the atmosphere eased up soon after both groups sat down and sipped green tea together. When Brian finally revealed his identity as a teacher at the University of Macau, most people were astounded; Brian looked so young that they thought he was probably a student. The topic now turned to the character and lifestyle of students in Hong Kong/Macao and that of mainland students. According to the website of the secondary school, edited versions of the programme were broadcast as a part of evening news in Hunan on August 23, 24, and 25.

On the fourth day, the volunteers headed to another town and met another batch of sponsored

students. Their job was to organise a small English workshop with a mixed group of around sixty students with widely varying proficiency levels. Brian conducted a game called "Noah's Ark," something he had learnt and played in student and church camps. The students imagined they were animals ready to board Noah's Ark just before the horrendous flood. The boys would imitate the various animals and the girls had to match them correctly. Those who failed to pair up had to go through an additional test; they had to pose as a kind of fruit (e.g. apple, orange, grape, pineapple, durian, etc.). There was then a conversation about "fruit" and these students, crouching down, jumped up whenever they heard their "name." There were lots of fun and laughter.

Leaving Hunan, Brian was already thinking of what better activities he could conduct with students next time.

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## Warm Welcome to Dr Francine Pang



Francine Soi-Meng Pang obtained her MA in Applied Language Studies from Carleton University, Canada in 2002, and has recently

completed her PhD in Applied English Linguistics from the Chinese University of Hong Kong under the supervision of Peter Skehan. Her primary interests are cognition and metacognition of second language reading, and she is also interested in second language acquisition, language teaching and language testing. Her recent research includes her dissertation on EFL reading, a study with Skehan on task-based performance, a Macao-based study on English learning, and several studies on think-aloud reading. She enjoys teaching as much as exploring the study of language and the wonders of the world.

### **Macao Stories and Poetry Reading Day**

Friday October 6<sup>th</sup>

Venue: University of Macau's International Library, STDM Auditorium

Specially organised for Macao schools, this event will feature story and poetry readings, musical interludes and other entertainment by University of Macau students, staff and alumni. The event is divided into two parts: the story reading from 4 p.m. till 5.30 p.m. and the poetry reading from 5.30 p.m to 7 p.m. All members of the audience will receive the booklets of stories and poetry (Chinese/English bilingual text) which have been prepared specially for the event. The event itself, though mainly in English, will be partly in Cantonese and Putonghua. The poetry reading will be in English and Chinese.

Congratulations to our graduate students - Jenny Lao, Agnes Vong and Oscar Balajadia - whose original poems and poetry translations appear in an important new collection of contemporary Chinese poetry, featuring quite a number of China's top living poets... please follow the link below:

<http://www.thedrunkenboat.com/chinafeature.html>

UM has a representation of six in this anthology (including Yao Jingming [Yao Feng], Agnes Lam and Christopher (Kit) Kelen) - so the university is doing rather well in terms of national poetry profile on the international (English language) stage.

Poems and translations by graduate students Amy Wong and Hilda Tam - responding to the Tang poet

Meng Jiao - appear in an article by Christopher Kelen in the latest issue of *Segue*:

<http://www.mid.muohio.edu/segue/current.htm>

and also in the prestigious *Cipher Journal* (along with some of the world's top names in literary translation):

<http://www.cipherjournal.com/html/forum.html>

Graduate student Elisa Lai has a poem in the current issue of *JulieMango*:

<http://www.juliemango-publications.com>

The new issue of *New Writing* (Multilingual Matters in the U.K.) features an article containing stories and dialogue from UM students (and alumni) Linda Lei, Vivian Kuan, Carmen Lao, Amy Wong, Hilda Tam, Gloria Leong and Silvia Wong. All in all UM's Creative Writing publications output is looking very healthy on the international stage.

The original student poems mentioned above also appear in the poetry anthology that has been created for the University's Silver Jubilee. That anthology will be launched at our schools' reading day on October 6<sup>th</sup> (STDM Auditorium, International Library, at 4 pm).

Christopher Kelen's latest volume of poetry *Eight Days in Lhasa* published this year by VAC in Chicago, Illinois.

### **European Film Festival at the University of Macau**

November 14 – 20, 2006

The University of Macau International Film Society, in conjunction with the Cultural Group of the Consuls of the European Member States in Hong Kong, and the English Department of the University of Macau, will again present a European Film Festival this November. Following the success of last year's event, this promises to be an intellectually stimulating cultural experience for all. Admission is free and all are welcome.

(SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS)

### European Film Festival Screening Schedule

Date	Time	Film	Country	Format	Length	Venue
14 November (Tuesday)	6 pm	<i>Mother of Mine</i>	Finland (2005)	DVD	104 mins	STDM Auditorium
15 November (Wednesday)	2 pm	<i>Mobutu – King of Zaire</i>	Belgium (1999)	DVD	135 mins	tba
15 November (Wednesday)	6 pm	<i>The Measuring of the Calves or The Wild Life of Wolfgang Mozart</i>	Austria (2005)	DVD	90 mins	STDM Auditorium
16 November (Thursday)	2 pm	<i>Heart of the Festival</i>	France (2004)	DVD	160 mins	tba
16 November (Thursday)	6 pm	<i>Vagabond</i>	Hungary (2002)	DVD	102 mins	STDM Auditorium
17 November (Friday)	2pm	<i>The Mozart Brothers</i>	Sweden	VHS	110 Mins	tba
17 November (Friday)	6 pm	<i>Chopin – Desire of Love</i>	Poland (2002)	DVD	123 mins	STDM Auditorium
18 November (Saturday)	2 pm	<i>The Manns – Novel of the Century (Part 1)</i>	Germany (2001)	VHS (DVD?)	100 mins	STDM Auditorium
	4 pm	<i>Perlasca</i>	Italy (2002)	DVD	195 mins	STDM Auditorium
	7.30 pm	<i>Joan the Mad</i>	Spain (2001)	DVD	117 Mins	STDM Auditorium
19 November (Sunday)	2 pm	<i>Dark Blue World</i>	Czech Republic (2001)	DVD	108 mins	STDM Auditorium
	4 pm	<i>The Battle of the Three Kings</i>	Portugal (2004)	DVD	75 mins	STDM Auditorium
	6 pm	<i>Mrs Henderson Presents</i>	U.K. (2004)	DVD	103 mins	STDM Auditorium
20 November (Monday)	6 pm	<i>Twin Sisters</i>	Netherlands (2002)	DVD	129 mins	STDM Auditorium

Language: All films are screened in the language of the country listed with English sub-titles, except *Mother of Mine*, which is in Swedish with English sub-titles.

### Translation Contest

The Department of English will be holding its first Translation Contest in October, 2006. The contest is open to all students attending translation courses in the second, third and final year of their undergraduate program. Preliminary screening will be conducted in the first week of October based on performance in class assignments. Students will translate a piece of literature for the final contest. The best three translations will be awarded certificates and prizes.

## Academic Activities of Department Faculty

### Conference/Seminar Presentations

Prof. Andrew Moody:

“English Medium Higher Education at the University of Macau” at the Invitational Symposium: *Language Issues in English-medium Universities Across Asia*, 8-9 June 2006, University of Hong Kong.

“English in the Media in Malaysia” (co-authored with Azirah Hashim) at the *Symposium on Malaysian English: Language and Literature*, 1-2 August 2006, University of Malaya.

Prof. Christopher Kelen:

“From the Other Side of the Delta – Towards a Pedagogy of Creative Empowerment for Women” at *Challenges and Possibilities in Gender Equity Education*, June 2006, Hong Kong Institute of Education.

“Sociology of a Literature in the Making” *Social Science Centre on Contemporary China*, June 2006, University of Macau.

“The Mirror in the Magic Pudding - Cannibal Commodification among Australia’s Fondest Wishes” *Association for the Study of Australian Literature*, July 2006, University of Western Australia, Perth, W.A.

Prof. Kim Hughes Wilhelm

“Student Projects Using IT for Content-Based Learning” at the *International Conference on Tertiary/College English Teaching: Instructional technology in English Language teaching*, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2006, Hong Kong.

Dr Brian Hok-Shing, Chan

“English in Canto-pop: a study of code-switching in planned /scripted discourse” at *The Sociolinguistics Symposium (SS16)*, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2006, University of Limerick, Ireland.

### Publications

Prof. Zhang Meifang

“Re-examining the Role of Modern Linguistics in Translation Studies?” *Chinese Translators Journal*,

2006 (3): 31-35.

Prof. Andrew Moody:

“English in Japanese Popular Culture and J-Pop Music” *World Englishes* 25(2): 209-222.

Prof. Christopher Kelen:

*Eight Days in Lhasa*, volume of poetry, Chicago, U.S.A.: Vac Publishing.

“The Story’s Vocation for Peace on Earth” *New Writing: The International Journal of the Practice and Theory of Creative Writing*. Vol 2, No 2, 2006.

“Who am I? How is my Soul Stirred” *Social Semiotics*, 16:4, 2006.

Prof. Kelen is the featured poet in the following international journals: *Sirena*, *Softblow*, *Segue & 63 Channels*.

Prof. Kim Hughes Wilhelm

“No Books and 150 Students” *English Teaching Forum* 44(3): 22-31.

“Teaching, Practicing, and Celebrating a Cooperative Learning Model” in McCafferty, S. G., Jacobs, G. M., & DaSilva Iddings, A. C. eds. *Cooperative Learning and Second Language Teaching*. New York, N.Y.: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

### Activities of Graduate Students

Sunny, QIAN Hong (PhD student)

“Investigating Unfaithful Translations via Appraisal Theory – A Case Study of the Translations of Six Advertisements”, presented at the *1st Pearl River Delta English Studies Graduate Student Conference*, Department of English, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Macau, 27-29, June 2006

Grace, WEI Xiurong (PhD student)

Currently working on her dissertation entitled “Dialogue and Discourse: Private and Public Language in Contemporary Irish Drama”, spent eight weeks in Ireland at Trinity College, Dublin, where she participated in a summer school while also undertaking library and archival research for her thesis. Grace was supported by the Research Committee of the University of Macau.

### Jubilee English Lecture Series

The Jubilee English Lecture Series is a series of six public lectures held to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Macau. Lectures feature topics in literature, linguistics, translation, or areas related to English studies.

Two distinguished scholars gave talks in April and May 2006. Prof. Eugene Eoyang, Chair Professor of Humanities in Hong Kong Lingnan University, spoke on teaching English as culture. Prof. Bill Ashcroft, Chair Professor of English in Hong Kong University, spoke on post-colonial globalisation and the Washington consensus.

#### **Lectures for this semester:**

**Prof. Jin Di** (Translation)

October 25<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, 4pm at L105.

**Prof. Juliane House** (Translation)

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4pm.

The series is organised by Dr Chiu Man Yin

### Translator Training Course for UM Administrators

This semester, our translation teachers, Professor Zhang Meifang, Dr. Vincent Cai and Dr. Hari Venkatesan are conducting a translator training course for UM administrators. This is an evening course organized by AHR-HRS with 33 people enrolled from 13 different administrative and academic units within the University of Macau.