



EVENTS

SPRING 2017

CMLL artist-in-residence:
Sebastián Suki Beláustegui.

Study Abroad Scholarship Awards
Ceremony

CMLL Spring Celebration and
Graduate Recognition

SUMMER 2017

Study Abroad Programs to Berlin,
Germany and Alcalá de Henares,
Spain

ACADEMIC YEAR

2017/2018

Classical Week hosted by Honors
College and CMLL

Fall Picnic

CMLL Language Expo

ISOLC language tutoring:

Wednesdays 5:00-6:00pm in Lee
Hall 003

Language Clubs meet regularly
during the year. Please check the
CMLL website for times and
locations.

THE INTERSECTION OF LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND ART: SEBASTIÁN SUKI BELÁUSTEGUI VISITS CMLL

In March 2017, CMLL in cooperation with the Department of Art and the Institute for the Humanities will host a visit from Sebastián “Suki” Beláustegui, an Argentinian humanitarian and photographer. Suki travels the world documenting the lives and cultures of minority tribes. Suki’s current work includes the project “Africa in the Americas,” which portrays people of African descent in the American continent. We asked Dr. Karina Zelaya and Dr. Rosa Vozzo to tell us more about Suki’s work and his visit to MSU.

How did you become interested in Suki's work?

Rosa: Suki is a well-regarded, well-known, and respected photographer in Latin America; I became aware of his work through a network of Dominican photographers.

Karina: When I met with Rosa and she told me about Suki’s work, I became intrigued. I looked up his portfolio online. The photographs were aesthetically gorgeous, a superb artistic composition and use of natural light, but there seemed to be something more. The way he portrayed his subject, the gaze, the lighting under which they appear, is like nothing I had seen before. It is difficult to explain, having grown up poor and in midst of a civil war, there was something in the photographs that reminded me of the emotions that cannot be expressed in words. Somehow, Suki, without a single word, had allowed the people in the photograph to tell their story. Shedding light and taking seemingly forgotten communities out of the shadows is one thing, but giving them a voice and present them in the raw – their struggles, their pain, their passion as well as their richness, their beauty, that is revolutionary art! And truly magical! The more I learned about his work, the more convinced I became of the need to have him visit us. He and his work can teach a lot, but the Magnolia State and our MSU community in general, I’m certain, can also share our unique history with him. I think his visit can serve a platform for a dialogue about the importance of history preservation and the beauty of diversity.

What made you decide to invite Suki to MSU campus?

Rosa: It really was a ‘Facebokaso’! As members of a Dominican photo group, a few people I know were part of a discussions regarding Suki’s upcoming workshop in Oaxaca. I got in touch with him... then as soon as he shared a bit

about his current project *Africa in the Americas*. I mentioned the South, and Mississippi in particular, he became enthused about the idea of visiting and we began the conversation. And from there I thought about the possibility of supporting his visit. I spoke with Dr. Holt, the Interim Chair of CMLL, and also contacted Dr. Funderburk and shortly after met with Dr. Zelaya. Dr. Funderburk referred us to Dr. Angie Bourgeois, Chair of the Art Department and Dr. Marita Gootee. Later that

summer I participated in a workshop he led in Santo Domingo and at this point, Dr. Zelaya had become very interested in collaborating in a plan to bring Suki to Mississippi State. We discussed the possibility of a visit in the Fall so that Suki could participate in our department's upcoming Symposium that year. I left to Dominican Republic to attend the workshop and Dr. Zelaya met with Dr. Holt and Dr. Hay (Director of the Institute for the Humanities at Mississippi State). It was at this meeting that Suki's potential visit to our region and our campus was envisioned as a series of events that were of a greater magnitude.



Sebastián Suki Beláustegui

“Photographing someone is an attempt to portray their soul. It’s to be done with love, respect, and dignity.”

– Sebastián Suki Beláustegui

How does his photography relate to your work?

Rosa y Karina: We both teach language and culture courses; Karina also teaches literature. Actually, our whole department believes in including culture in foreign language instruction. Suki's work and emphasis in cultural diversity around the world fits in perfectly with our pedagogical practices and our University's overall vision.

What do you hope students get from this visit?

Rosa y Karina: Our nation is currently undergoing a critical moment, it is a time when cultural diversity and acceptance

is seemingly challenged. We feel that now more than ever; we as a people/humans need to be compassionate to one another. Cultural awareness and the learning of the richness of world cultures is an invaluable treasure to us. With Suki's photo exhibit and his general talk, we hope that students will develop a cultural sensitivity and strengthen their understanding of ethnically diverse groups. We are confident that his visit will also contribute to advance Mississippi State University's vision of being 'a leading public research university that is globally aware and involved', Office of the President.

Suki's visit will include the following events:

- General lecture on March 8th, Foster Ballroom in Colvard Student Union sec. U, 6:00-8:00pm; open to all
 - Photo exhibit: “Africa in the Americas: The Heritage or African Communities in the Americas” – open now until March 24th, open and free to the general public
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CODY FONDREN: GLOBAL OUTLOOK FROM A LOCAL VIEWPOINT

Cody Fondren is a new lecturer of German in CMLL. He was born in Starkville, but lived most of his life in Eupora, MS. After graduating from Ackerman High School, he attended Mississippi State University working towards a Bachelor's in Anthropology with a minor in Linguistics. His family is from Germany and many family members spoke German at home. As a kid, Cody spent considerable time in Germany traveling and visiting family, but never picked up the language. Once he saw he needed hours in a world language for his degree, German was his first choice. He instantly fell in love with the language and added a second major in German. He joined the MSU German Club to meet others studying the language. Eventually he became president of the club and helped plan trips to Helen, GA, an alpine-like German village in the Georgian mountains. In the summer of 2013, he studied abroad for six weeks with a group of MSU students in Bavaria, Germany. During the trip, he experienced the southern German cities of München, Augsburg, Nürnberg, and Garmisch-Partenkirchen, home of the 1936 Winter Olympics, while studying the language.

“While taking classes in Berlin, I was introduced to other students from around the world, who were also learning German. Many times German was our only common language, so all communication with them has been solely in German. One example comes to mind, when I explored parts of Berlin with a French-speaker from Switzerland, who spoke no English.” –Cody Fondren

After receiving his Bachelor’s, Cody began working towards a Master’s degree in German while minoring in Curriculum and Instruction. During this time he worked in the department as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, teaching German I and II labs and eventually his own German I and II classes. Last summer, he accompanied the Berlin study abroad trip as a teaching assistant, traveling with students on trips to Dresden, Weimar, Erfurt and Potsdam, while also studying German at Die Neue Schule in Berlin. His most memorable international experience has been meeting people from around the world and being able to communicate with them. Cody wishes to continue his career as a German teacher, in hopes of introducing more students to the German language.



Cody Fondren in Germany

JOY OF TEACHING: DR. ROBERT WOLVERTON SHARES THE FOUNDATIONS OF HIS SUCCESS

Recognized and respected by students, faculty, and administrators, both past and present, Dr. Wolverton is the most iconic teacher of CMLL. Two things have kept him motivated throughout his career: students and subject. Dr. Wolverton loves what he does. He loves the students and is enthusiastic about teaching. He recognizes that students now are different than they were when he first started teaching. The access to technology and the overflow of information have had a tremendous impact on their writing. The instant availability of information can be viewed as a positive, but often students are not able to integrate this information and think critically. This is where languages come in because “one of the virtues of studying any language is that it makes you read closely.” Language education is more important now than it ever has been because languages provide students with a global perspective.

Dr. Wolverton has a unique method of approaching his students each semester as winners. His goal, beyond teaching them the subject matter, is to show students that they have already won coming to MSU and learning here. He relates his classroom to historical events, national and international, and brings the world into his classroom. He welcomes his students as winners and recognizes their achievements not only within his classroom, but also from other classes and personal situations. This positive and personal approach is part of what makes Dr. Wolverton such a successful teacher. Students respond to him and know that when they are in his class he will care about them and will go out of his way to get to know them.



Dr. Robert Wolverton

Dr. Wolverton’s enthusiasm for language teaching can be seen by looking at the lists of his accomplishments going back to his first job at University of Georgia. When he started working with high schools in the state of Georgia, there were only four chapters of Junior Classical League and by the time he left, there were 44. His efforts have not lessened throughout his career. Even when he became an administrator, he continued teaching to ensure the continuation of the Classics program. He is the recipient of the John Grisham Master Teacher award, Ageless Hero Award for Creativity, and countless others. The College of Arts & Sciences gives a Robert Wolverton Legacy Award that recognizes individuals for their long-term contributions. Perhaps the most impressive thing is that even with all those achievements, Dr. Wolverton’s joy and enthusiasm have not diminished. He comes to work every day knowing that he makes a difference in the life of every student and colleague he meets each day.

CMLL SYMPOSIUM ON LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES

In our last issue, we announced the Department would be hosting its first CMLL Symposium on Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. In the wake of the first Symposium, we wanted to follow up with committee chair, Dr. Silvia Arroyo, and ask her a few questions about the future of the CMLL Symposium. For our original article, please visit cml.msstate.edu and look for the News & Views tab!

Looking back, what was the most memorable part of the Symposium?

Arroyo: For me, it was the atmosphere in the presentations rooms and in the corridor at the Mill: all spaces were boiling with scholars discussing their views, sharing their ideas, and establishing connections between their areas of research. Presentations were very high in quality, and attendants gave very valuable feedback, and to me, our [conference] was exactly what a high quality conference should look like. Our Symposium was a very engaging event where scholars had the opportunity to broaden their horizons on a given subject.



Luis Hernan Castañeda presenting during the CMLL Symposium at The Mill

The first one had a theme. Where did that come from, and do you think that you'll have one every year?

Our organizing committee had a brainstorming session, and we came up with two viable ideas, that were lately voted on and tweaked in order to suit as many disciplines as possible. Our first idea was to focus on "exile," but we soon realized the concept was too narrow to accommodate all perspectives. After consulting with other colleagues in the area, we agreed on tweaking our scope and choose a broader concept, that of "displacement," so that we would be able to include the description of more spacial experiences. Our project for the Symposium was always openly multi-

disciplinary, and we thought that the best way to attract researchers from various fields was to propose reflection on a topic that can be analyzed from different perspectives. Given the variety of fields represented in our past Symposium (classical studies, pedagogy, linguistics, Hispanic literature, and European literature), we can say that we achieved that goal. We have not made plans for the future, but I think our diverse Department will always support a dialogue across disciplines, and we will probably go on with topic-based Symposiums.

Speaking of next year, has the planning started for a 2017 Symposium?

Our initial idea was to hold a Symposium each year, but seen the amount of energy and effort it requires, we have decided to hold it on a bi-annual basis, so our next will be Fall 2018, if we count with the support of our faculty and our next Department Head, of course.

What kind of reactions did you receive from those who presented and/or attended last year's Symposium?

I had very positive feedback from presenters mostly, with whom I have exchanged emails afterward, related to our last organization phase (that of the Selected Proceedings publication). In those emails, attendants have repeatedly expressed their gratitude and their satisfaction with the experience, highlighting the warmth and welcoming atmosphere of the Symposium.



Final thoughts for next year's symposium?

We have learned a lot from this experience and we now have the infrastructure (i.e. website), contacts, and knowledge to make our next symposium nothing but better than this one, and hopefully less energy-consuming in terms of organization, so I am already excited about our next. A note to myself and to the organizing committee for the future is allowing more time for discussion after presentations. We had a tight schedule and it was a challenge to keep up to it in every session. Now that we know, we will do our best to give enough room for discussion and dialogue after presentations next time.

Language Emissaries Robyn Hadden and Sarah Phillips at the registration table

CMLL LANGUAGE CLUBS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



Pictured clockwise: Language Emissaries, German Club, Japanese Club, Spanish Club, French Club, and Russian Club



DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

The Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures at MSU, consisting of faculty members in Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish, offers Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts Degrees in Foreign Languages with concentrations in Classics, French, German, and Spanish.

East meets West, Classical languages converge with Modern languages giving our students the experience that will allow them to embrace diversity, while maintaining a solid sense of their own historical identity.

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