



EXPANDING HORIZONS

International Programs, The University of Montana, September 2009

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Journalists from Nepal Visit UM

By Peggy Kuhr, Dean, School of Journalism



Prayer flags in Nepal.

While we don't exactly live in a world without borders (try crossing from Canada to the U.S.), it's undeniably true that, among our students, boundaries are blurring and visions are expanding. Whether they travel, study or engage in some sort of mission abroad, more of our students are experiencing new worlds—and in the process seeing their own world through new eyes. They come back more mature, more focused and more determined to succeed. The School of Journalism has also hosted international students for many years. Each has left his or her unique imprint on us, and each has taken a meaty piece of our journalistic culture back, hopefully applying their skills to the betterment of their country. Now, with the arrival of our visitors from Nepal, we are engaging in a deepening of this process, exploring an exchange relationship in which our faculty and students, and those from Nepal, will be able to experience each other's world, and benefit society in the process. We are undertaking this process slowly and deliberately, for there is much to iron out, and as good journalists, we ask a lot of questions. But we have high hopes that this visit by our Nepalese friends will serve as a springboard for expanding visions.

By Clem Work, Professor, School of Journalism

Growing up in India in the 1950's, I probably first became aware of Nepal because of the Gurkhas, the Nepalese soldiers who proudly wore the sharp-bladed kukri knives that symbolized their fierce warrior tradition. Many years later, I met a different kind of Nepalese warrior right here at UM, a journalist with more than 30 years experience, a warrior for truth, who had weathered death threats by Maoist rebels and was now seeking a master's degree to solidify his already substantial resume. I was then head of the School of Journalism's graduate program. I welcomed Rajendra Acharya to the program and helped him complete his master's degree in 2005. He wrote a brilliant thesis on censorship in developing democracies, informed by the very real crackdown by King Gyanendra. Soon after, Rajendra left for home, determined to fight for press freedom. He became news director of Nepal Television and scrapped harder than ever for real news, not propaganda.

Nepal cont. on p. 3

Ainu the Nak

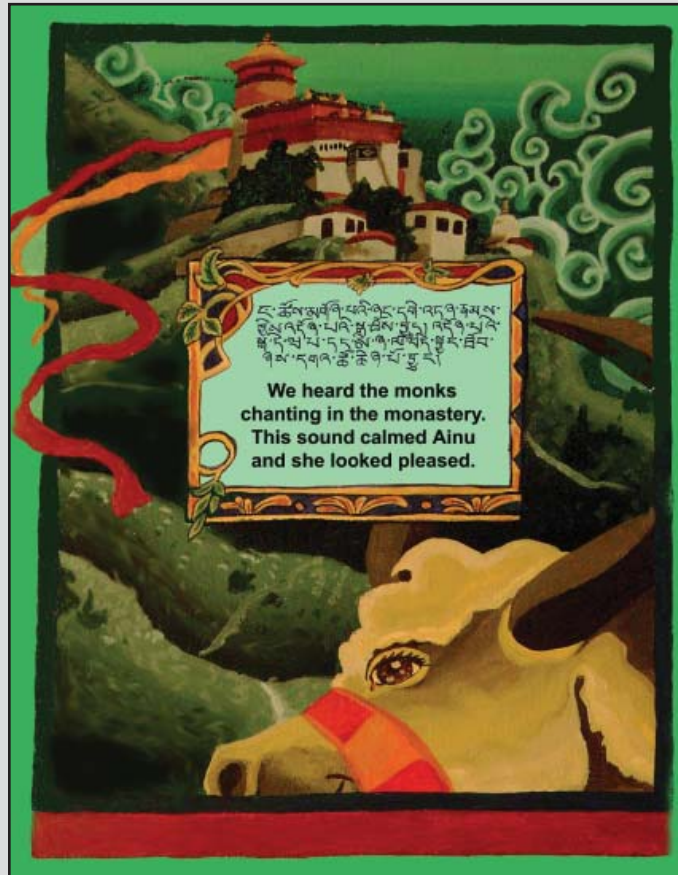
By Kimber Haddix McKay, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology

My research site in Humla District, NW Nepal, is in a high Himalayan valley inhabited by ethnic Tibetan Buddhist and Hindu Nepali people. It is in one of the more remote areas of Nepal, and the district is accessible only by foot or plane. The cluster of villages where I've worked since 1995 lie between 9,000' and 14,000', and people there are Tibetan speaking subsistence farmers and yak herders. Their trade routes between the middle hills of Nepal to the south and the Tibetan Plateau to the north have been disrupted over the years by geo-political forces beyond their control, but despite this villagers still trade extensively throughout the region. The typical pattern is to take rice from the middle hills of Nepal, packed in sacks carried by their goats and sheep, and head north. Once reaching their own villages, they pick up surplus grain and lumber, which is packed on yaks or yak hybrids called dzos. The entire caravan then travels up and over the border into Tibet, where salt, tea, shoes, soap, fabric, and so on are purchased. Some of these goods are consumed in their own villages, and the rest is taken back to the middle hills of Nepal, to be exchanged for more rice. Yaks are the primary beasts of burden in the area, and the source of almost all dietary protein (dairy products). As such, they are well-loved and the traits of each one is known and praised.

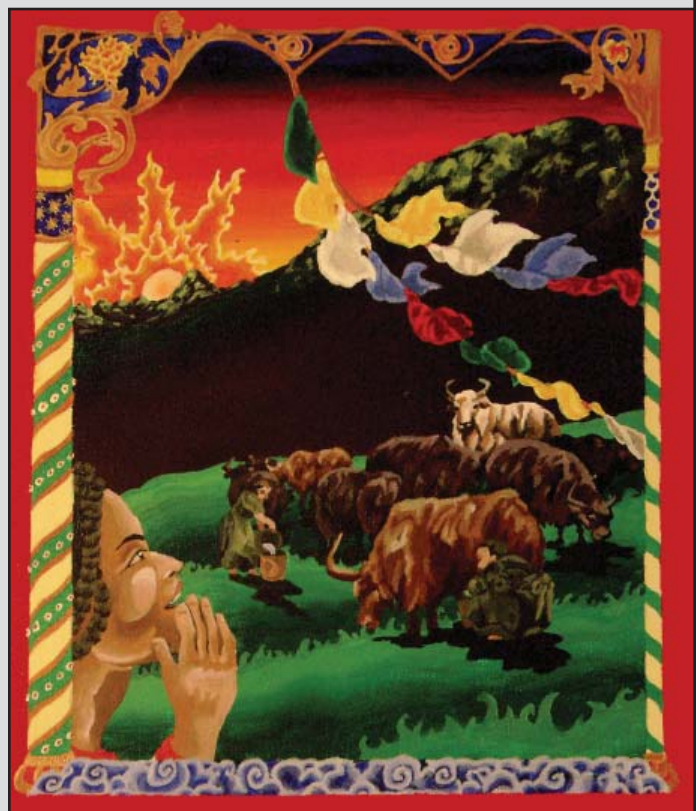
Originally, I went to live in this region to study marriage and demographic patterns, due to my interest and training in human evolutionary ecology and demography. The local culture is unusual in that the normative marriage pattern is polyandrous, meaning that women have and co-habit with multiple husbands at once. During that period, it was hard to ignore the lack of medical facilities in the villages, as well as the weak education system. Village schools are common, but each one is usually staffed by one teacher who does not speak Tibetan, has no chairs, desks, blackboards, or more than a handful of tattered textbooks. I have consulted since 1998 for organizations involved in sustainable community development projects in the region, designed to address the gaps in health and education. One of the projects that I initiated addresses the fact that there are no books just for kids to enjoy in these villages. The 'children's books' available are those few textbooks, jealously guarded by the teacher, that are used over and over, every year, no matter what the students' age or class level. In the village where I lived, the few textbooks used in the school were collected at the end of each school day, to be locked up at night in the teacher's home.

I decided to write a story about a little girl and her brother, and their favorite yak, Ainu. The story is based on my closest village friend's own nak, Melong (a nak is a female yak in the local dialect). Melong was a gorgeous, personable, black, white and grey nak, who would look up if you called her name across the mountainside pastures. After I wrote the simple story of their walk up from the village, past the hot spring and monastery to the yak camp where their mother awaits, I put an ad in the

McKay cont. on p. 4



Pages from the book, written by Kimber Haddix McKay and illustrated by UM BFA student Lillian Shottliff.



Nepal cont. from p. 1

As Nepal's fragile democracy sputtered along, UM journalism students began seeking internships in the beautiful mountain kingdom. Rajendra encouraged them and he and his wife, Salina, even hosted them in Kathmandu. For every student, it was a life-changing experience, living and working in a strange but heady stew of politics, culture, religion and society unlike anything they had experienced before. When Gyanendra was forced to abdicate in June 2008, UM photojournalism student Tess McEnroe and my son, Brendan, a junior at Swarthmore, were there to witness it and the swearing-in of Nepal's first president. In August, I made my first visit to Nepal, and of course stayed with Rajendra because he would not have it any other way. It was a breathless two weeks or so of sightseeing, photography, an 8,000-foot climb to a sacred lake preceded and followed by a journey on an overloaded bus on mountain roads that forces you to take stock of your life. And it was an opportunity to meet Nepali journalists and educators, including Prabal Pokhrel, head of the Journalism and Mass Communication Department at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu. I also was able to speak to classes, to philosophize with Rajendra and to sit cross-legged on Salina's kitchen floor and scoop dhal and curry with my fingers from a never-empty plate.

As the homeward plane swept past the Himalayas, aloof but magnificent above the clouds, the still-inchoate thought probably started to form in my head. There below, in this puzzling but fascinating country, could be an opportunity for other journalism students and faculty to hone their skills, exchange ideas and broaden their perspectives. And Montana, probably just as puzzling to them, could host their students and faculty for exactly the same reasons. Soon after I returned, I began to lay out my idea to Dean Kuhr and to the faculty. A unique set of circumstances made the idea of exploring an exchange relationship very compelling. In Nepal's fragile democracy, the news media were exploding in numbers and scope but not necessarily in quality. We could do our bit to help journalists there address issues of ethics and practice by inviting some of them to experience our imperfect but more robust news media climate, and to engage with students, teachers and practitioners. Similarly, our students and faculty could experience and report on Nepal's colorful and vibrant multi-cultural, multi-religious society, see some of the country's environmental and social challenges, and be able to communicate with many people in English.

It was not a hard sell. And now (I'll gloss over the planning), with invitations, visas and tickets in hand, Rajendra Acharya and Prabal Pokhrel will be visiting our campus Sept. 14-18, when we will engage them in a busy week of class visits, conversations, forums, meals and other events. We hope that the campus will welcome them and that their visit will serve as the first step toward a more meaningful relationship between UM and Montana, and Nepal and South Asia. Our next step may be a return visit to Nepal next year. It has been a great pleasure collaborating with the Office of International Programs, without whose help this visit would not have been possible. Dr. Mehrdad Kia and his able staff have offered guidance and support all along. I hope that our deliberate steps toward exploring an exchange relationship with Nepal will serve as a model for making this campus a leader in international education.

All events relating to the visit by the journalists from Nepal have been co-sponsored by the School of Journalism, International Programs, Office of the President, and Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

McKay cont. from p.3

Kaimin asking for people interested in illustrating the book to contact me. To my delight, Lillian Shotliff, a UM BFA student, phoned me right away. Not only was she interested, but she had a longstanding passion for the artistic tradition of Tibetan thangka painting, and already had ideas about how to illustrate the story in that style. Together, we worked out how to illustrate the story line and Lillian painted 18 separate oil paintings, each of which became a page of the book. Embedded in each painting is the text of the story, written in English and Tibetan.

I had the books printed on water- and rip-proof paper, and bound. On a trip to work with my local research assistants on our current longitudinal study of the social and health changes associated with different community development projects, I took 25 copies of the book and gave them to local school teachers, friends and children. The attached picture shows my friend looking through the story, as I described to her the fact that it was based on her beloved Melong, now deceased.



Kimber Haddix McKay sharing her book.

In October I'll be returning to the field for more work in the same villages, and will take more copies of the book for the new school in the next village up the valley from where Melong lived, where English, Nepali and Tibetan are taught to the students. While there, I'll have the opportunity to visit with one of our Anthropology PhD students, Catherine Sanders, who is conducting her dissertation research there with NSF support.

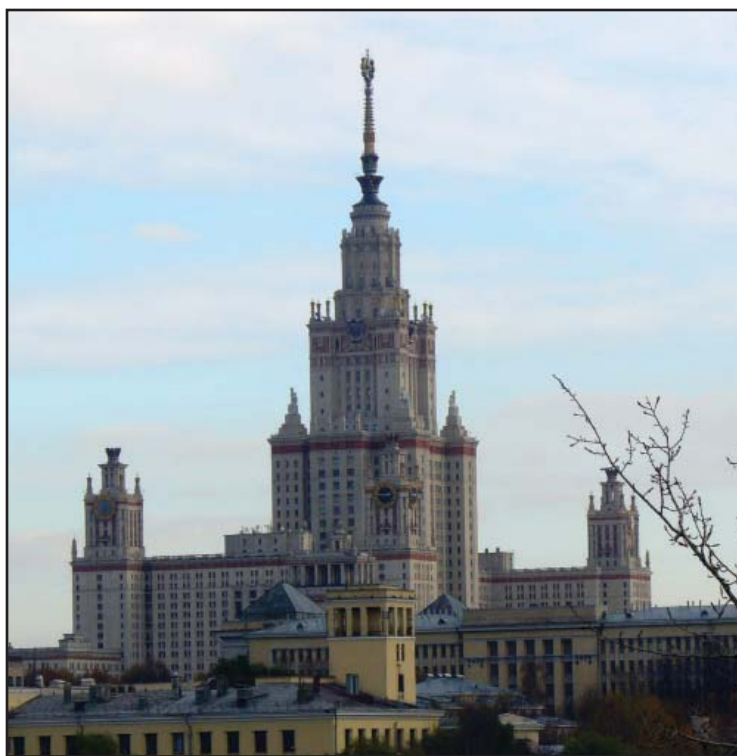
Faculty Exchange: Visiting Sister Universities in Russia, Japan, Ireland and Finland during 2008 - 2009 Academic Year

By Professor Leonid Kalachev, Chair, Department of Mathematical Sciences

During 2008 – 2009 academic year I participated in the UM faculty exchange program. My travel plans included visits to several sister universities of the UM: Moscow State University (Russia), Toyo University in Tokyo (Japan), University College Cork (Ireland), and University of Helsinki (Finland). In each place I had a chance to work with scientific groups and individual scientists that are the world leaders in their areas of research. I consider this exchange year to be extremely successful: I was able to strengthen important long lasting scientific collaborations and start a number of new joint research projects in several areas, where applied mathematics proves to be useful, including nano-science, semiconductor physics, economics, ecology, chemistry, biology, and others.

In Moscow, where I stayed in September and October of 2008, I was affiliated with the Division of (Applied) Mathematics in the Department of Physics of Moscow State University (MSU). Numerous scientific groups in this Division work in a number of research areas that range from applied partial differential equations, asymptotic and perturbation methods, computational modeling to inverse and ill problems, methods of synthesis of materials with desired properties, and others. The Division of Mathematics faculty play important role in developing math text books for middle and high school students. In particular, Professors Butuzov (who visited the UM several years ago) is a co-author of the School Geometry textbook (grades 6 through 11) that is currently used in more than 90% of schools in Russia. During the time spent at Moscow State University I participated in the work of two seminars, the so-called, "Small Parameter" seminar headed by Professors Butuzov and Vasil'eva (leading world famous forum for those who wants to get acquainted with the latest scientific developments in the area of perturbation methods and their applications), and seminar on Inverse and Ill-Posed Problems headed by Professors Yagola and Goncharskii (another seminar where researchers from all over the world working in that area discuss their problems and current research). I gave presentations at each of these seminars on my recent research results. In addition, I continued my work with Professor Vasil'eva on modeling bio-switches in spatial domains

(such models are used, e.g., for designing effective pest control strategies). In the fall of last year a delegation from MSU was going to visit the UM, but for the reasons beyond anyone's control this visit did not materialize. I do hope that it will be possible to organize another MSU delegation visit sometime in the near future.



Main building at Moscow State University

My stay at Toyo University in November and December of 2008 started with participation in the 6th International Symposium on Bioscience and Nanotechnology. A number of specialists from the US, UK, France, and Japan gather during the symposium to share the latest results and developments in the general area of applied nano-scale science. During the stay I had a chance to work with Professor Toyabe, Dean of School of New Interdisciplinary Science, on modeling nano-scale polymer semiconductor devices. I also worked with Professor Maekawa, Director of Bio-Nano Electronics Research Center at Toyo University, on problems related to conversion of near critical carbon dioxide (i.e., carbon dioxide in the state where it is neither gas nor liquid) into pure

carbon and oxygen using laser irradiation, as well as on modeling of micro structures' translation in predetermined spatial direction using oscillating magnetic field. Possibility of organizing in Missoula sometime in the future a UM – Toyo U mini-symposium addressing various Nanotechnology topics was mentioned in conversations related to further expansion of research collaboration between the scientists of our universities. During the meeting with the Head of International Programs Office at Toyo University, Professor Oshima, we discussed the future of faculty and student exchanges between the two universities. In particular, Professor Oshima has mentioned that Japanese language program at Toyo University had been recently refurbished, and its quality greatly improved to accommodate the needs of growing number of exchange students from sister universities located all over the world.

In February and March of 2009 I visited University College Cork (UCC) in Ireland. School of Mathematical Sciences at UCC consists of three departments: Applied Mathematics, (Pure) Mathematics and Statistics.

Kalachev cont. on p. 5

Kalachev cont. from p.2

I was affiliated with the Applied Mathematics department and, in particular, I worked on a number of projects with the department Head and the Associate Director of the Institute for Nonlinear Science, Professor Pokrovskii. The group on mathematical models of hysteresis that was formed at UCC under the leadership of Professor Pokrovskii is considered to be one of the strongest and most active in this area in the world. I participated in the seminars of the hysteresis analysis group, made several presentations, and started joint research projects on models with hysteresis in economics, population biology, and nano-technology applications. I also gave a lecture at UCC to mathematics and biology faculty on the UM Montana Ecology of Infectious Diseases IGERT program sponsored by the National Science Foundation (IGERT stands for Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program). The faculty members from various departments at UCC are interested in starting a similar program at their university, and they want to take our IGERT core courses' curricula and use them as examples for building their own courses. Because of the great interest in this program at least one graduate student from UCC is coming to the UM specifically to take some of the IGERT core courses (as well as applied mathematics courses) during the fall semester of the 2009 – 2010 academic year.

During my visit to University of Helsinki in Finland in April and May of 2009 I participated in a number of research projects with Professor Haario and his colleagues. The main topic of our joint research is related to methodology of reduction and identification of complex dynamical models using experimental data. I also communicated with Dr. Laine of Finnish Meteorological Institute. The scientific cooperation between the University of Montana and various Finnish universities and institutions is constantly expanding. Professor Haario has visited Missoula several times before. He is an active participant in the above mentioned IGERT program at the UM: he has given workshops on Bayesian approach to statistical estimation

of model parameters for IGERT students; he also actively participates in preparation of the written materials for one of the IGERT core courses. Dr. Laine has visited The University of Montana last spring (invited by Professor Crone from the UM College of Forestry and Conservation) for scientific presentations and discussions. A graduate student from Lappeenranta University of Technology (another sister university of UM) spent the last academic year in Missoula supported by Fulbright fellowship. He took classes and participated in research projects with faculty from Mathematical Sciences Department and from the Division of Biological Sciences. Possible further enhancement of collaborations between the UM faculty and Finnish researchers as well as faculty and student exchange programs were discussed during my meetings with Ms. Tauriainen, Staff Exchanges Coordinator at the University of Helsinki, and with Ms. Makkonen, the Head of International and Career Services at Lappeenranta University of Technology.

All my colleagues at foreign universities complimented The University of Montana for providing this unique opportunity for UM faculty members to participate in international faculty exchanges. Involvement of the UM professors in the international exchange program enriches their research through participation in new joint research projects, enhances their teaching via participation in various types of seminars, colloquia, student co-supervision and lecturing activities, and increases their overall cultural awareness. I would like to thank Associate Provost for International Programs, Mehrdad Kia, CAS Dean Chris Comer and former CAS Dean Gerald Fetz, as well as Provost Royce Engstrom for their help in making my exchange year a success. I also would like to thank UM President George Dennison for his genuine interest in strengthening the international cooperation between UM and foreign universities, and for his support of various international activities that take place on campus.

UM Signs Agreement with Dubai University

By Jacob Baynham, University Relations

The University of Montana has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Dubai-based American University in the Emirates, paving the way for future collaboration including student and faculty exchanges.

"The United Arab Emirates is a very important country in a very important region," said UM Associate Provost for International Programs Mehrdad Kia. "We had always hoped to establish a strong relationship with a university in the Persian Gulf and now we have found one."

Kia said AUE administrators contacted UM with the hopes of forging a partnership. He said AUE has particular interest in collaborating with UM's College of Education and School of Business Administration. UM, for its part, would be able to strengthen its programs in Middle East studies and Arabic, fields of study that are seeing increased student interest, Kia said.

"This new relationship holds a great deal of promise for The University of Montana and its faculty and students," said UM President George Dennison. "We have planned several initiatives in the past, but world events interfered with bringing them to fruition. The American University agreement has significant benefits for both institutions."

The collaboration between the two universities could include joint research projects, conferences, meetings, seminars and workshops, according to the memorandum of understanding. Both universities are eager to begin working with each other, Kia said.

Korean National University of Education Teacher Training Program

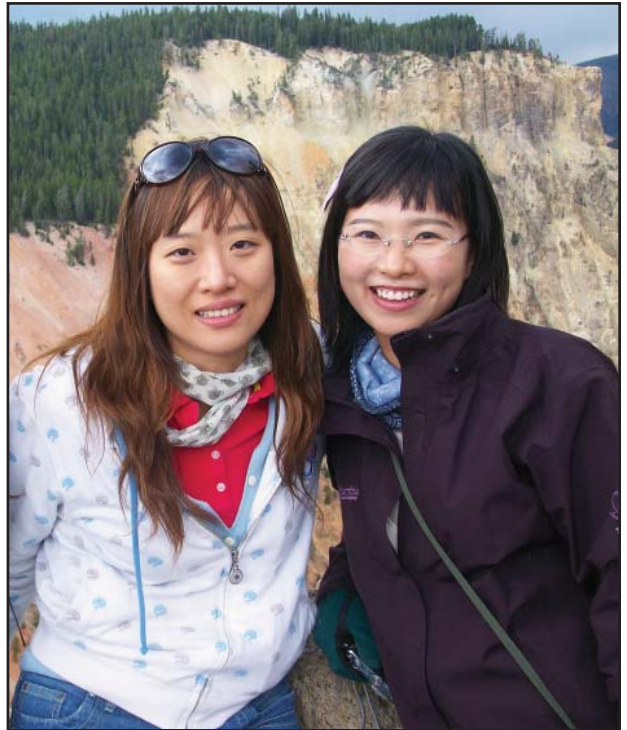
By Jana Hood, Director, English Language Institute

From July 20 to August 14, 2009, The University of Montana's English Language Institute (ELI) welcomed experienced teachers from the Korean National University of Education (KNUE) to the Best Practices in Teaching English as a Foreign Language Program for the seventh consecutive year. Thirty-two elementary school teachers of English from all regions of Korea worked with three ELI teacher trainers to hone their teaching skills in preparation for assignments in a rapidly changing educational system where by 2010 they will be required to teach in English only. The program serves as the capstone of a six-month intensive English teacher-training program sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Education.

The trainers provided sessions in best practices and their application in the participants' classrooms and workshops exploring key issues in English-as-a-foreign-language teaching. Outside the classroom, participants visited Paxson Elementary School and became acquainted with the learning context in Missoula public schools and interviewed and met teachers from the area at an informal teacher-to-teacher ice-cream social. Additionally, the participants also experienced other facets of American culture: Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, dinner with an American family, horseback riding, whitewater rafting, American folk dancing, the Western Montana Fair, several musicals and visits to downtown Missoula and Seattle.

At the end of the program, the participants presented a talent show, worked on and shared an action plan for their future professional development and prepared a cultural-exploration topic which drew from their experiences in Montana. All three projects were part of a mini-conference on last day of the program. Each of these three projects clearly reflected a synthesis of classes and activities at the ELI, as well as the depth and breadth of what the participants had learned both in Korea and at the ELI.

As in other years, the program was very intense but also extremely rewarding, and the participants will certainly have an opportunity to introduce their pupils to Missoula and Big Sky country.



Above Photo:

KNUE trainees at Yellowstone National Park

Left Photo:

KNUE trainees pose in front of the Grizzly Bear statue on UM's campus.



UM Translators Collaborate to Publish Montana Poetry in France

By Sean Gibbons, UM Alum

The romantic portrayal of the American West has long fed the imaginations of men and women from around the globe. The French, especially, hold an enduring fascination with Montana's landscapes and peoples. Over the years, the French have read dozens of Montana-based authors such as James Welch, Raymond Carver, Richard Hugo and Norman Maclean, to name a few. The Native American writer James Welch was knighted by France and given the honorary *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*. The work of as many as fifty Montana writers is translated into French. Most of these translations are works of prose. Montana poetry has, by-in-large, not crossed the French/English literary divide. Even Hugo, arguably the most famous Montana poet, has not had his poetry translated. This, to my mind, represents a giant gap in the cultural exchange between Montana and France.

As an undergraduate, I studied French at The University of Montana (UM). When the time came for me to choose an undergraduate thesis for the Davidson Honors College my mind immediately leapt to my father, a Missoula-based poet, who received his MFA in creative writing from the UM in 1998. I had recently taken a translation course from Professor Michel Valentin and I approached him with the idea of translating one of my father's lengthier collections of poetry entitled *Connemara Moonshine*. Fortunately, Dr. Valentin was very enthusiastic about mentoring me on this rather ambitious project. I knew that the translation of poetry would be a difficult task, especially for an undergraduate, and I soon found out how much of my time it would consume. We worked on the book for almost two

years, before finishing just in time for my graduation. Once the translation was completed, Dr. Valentin encouraged me to send out bilingual manuscripts to several French publishing houses to see if there was any interest. After receiving around a dozen polite rejections, one publisher, PROPOS2 | editions, latched on to the book.

Michel Foissier, the chief editor of PROPOS2 | editions, was moved by the powerful voice and imagery that drive Mark Gibbons's poems. Foissier enlisted the renowned linguist and author Claude Held to revise and edit the translations, in order to ensure that the feel of the English poetry was effectively transmitted to the French reader. In September, PROPOS2 | editions will publish an abridged bilingual work entitled *Mauvaises Herbes (Weeds)*, which encompasses the first two sections of the original manuscript. Poetry does not generally sell like a novel will, which lowers the incentive for publishers to pay for its translation. Only by completing the majority of the translations as an academic endeavor were we able to make this collaboration economically viable. This successful partnership between academia and the private publishing world may serve as a template for future projects and lead to a larger body of Montana poetry available to French audiences.

For more information about the publisher, you can visit www.propos2editions.net
To learn more about Mark Gibbons, you can visit <http://markgibbons.blogspot.com>

South and Southeast Asian Studies

By G.G. Weix, Professor, Department of Anthropology

A new minor in South and Southeast Asian Studies is proposed this year by faculty in Liberal Studies, Anthropology, Sociology and Economics. The new minor will be 18 credits, and open to all students beginning autumn semester, 2010, if approved. Professor Ruth Vanita (Liberal Studies and Women's Studies), who teaches special topics courses on India, and who has written several books on South Asian societies and literatures, will serve as advisor for the new minor. Assistant Professor Brad Clough (Liberal Studies and Religious Studies), will contribute courses, including a new course on comparative studies of Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia. Associate Professor Teresa Sobieszczyk (Sociology and Women's Studies) who just returned from summer research travel in Tibet and Thailand, is teaching SOC 212X: Southeast Asian Culture and Civilization this semester. Next spring, ANTH 340H: Contemporary Issues of Southeast Asia, will be taught by Professor G.G. Weix (Anthropology and Women's Studies). Assistant Professor Ranjan Shrestha (Economics), also returns from a summer in Yogyakarta, Java, where he was studying Indonesian language, and continuing research in collaboration with the Center for Population Studies at Gadjah Mada University.

All the faculty members teaching in the new minor have extensive background, ongoing research and facility in regional languages (Thai, Nepali, Hindi, Pali, Sanskrit, Indonesian/Malay and Javanese). Although the minor is new, the courses are not; UM has offered introductory courses on the regions since the 1980s. New courses in the past decade have included study abroad and service learning tours in Nepal, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, and intersession courses on the arts in Bali, Indonesia. In 2001, the University purchased a gamelan, Balinese gong orchestra, and the School of Music has hosted Indonesian guest artists. UM exchanges in Thailand continue to draw students and faculty members from diverse fields; in 2008, new exchange agreements were signed for Vietnam. This semester, a visiting scholar, Dr. Ahn Tuan Hoang from Hanoi is offering two courses through the Mansfield Center (MANS 395: Vietnamese History in Retrospect, and MANS 395: Vietnamese Culture and International Relations).

The proposed minor for South and Southeast Asian Studies will consolidate these new opportunities for students to internationalize their undergraduate education, regardless of major, and to learn about South and Southeast Asia at The University of Montana-Missoula.



Fall 2009 International Brown Bag Series

All presentations are held from noon to 1 PM in the Central and Southwest Asia Program seminar room (Old Journalism 303) and are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact International Programs at 243-2288.

September 16

Nepal: Politics, Culture and Media in the World's Youngest Republic

Rajendra Acharya and Prabal Pokhrel, Visiting Journalists from Nepal

September 29

Advances in Conservation Biology Emerging from Collaboration with University of Porto, Portugal

Scott Mills, College of Forestry and Conservation, and Gordon Luikart, Division of Biological Sciences

October 22

Phenotypic Plasticity of Giant Goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*) in the US and in Hungary; or "what happens to the invaders if they are transported back home?"

Robert Pal, Visiting Fulbright Scholar, University of Pécs, Hungary

November 4

Family Planning, Community Health Interventions and Child Mortality in Indonesia

Ranjan Shrestha, Professor, Department of Economics

November 18

Role of Media in Gross National Happiness (GNH)

Passang Norbu, Visiting Scholar from Bhutan

We welcome items of international or intercultural interest for the next newsletter. Please send them to International Programs, International Center, or email us (goabroad@mso.umt.edu).

International Programs Staff

Mehrdad Kia

Associate Provost for International Programs

mehrdad.kia@mso.umt.edu

406-243-2289

Quincie Albrecht

Director

English Language Institute

quincie.albrecht@mso.umt.edu

Otto Koester

Director of Grantwriting and

Project Development

otto.koester@umontana.edu

Ella Bozigar

Assistant for International Programs

ella.bozigar@mso.umt.edu

Brian Lofink

International Liaison

Central Asia Program Coordinator

brian.lofink@mso.umt.edu

Heather Breckenridge

Instructor

English Language Institute

heather.breckenridge@umontana.edu

Jeanne Loftus

Assistant Director for Faculty Exchange

jeanne.loftus@mso.umt.edu

Julie Brown

Instructor

English Language Institute

julie.brown@umontana.edu

Anna Lokowich

Instructor

English Language Institute

anna.lokowich@mso.umt.edu

Nancy Gass

Assistant Director

Financial Affairs and Budgeting

nancy.gass@umontana.edu

Lee Ann Millar

Instructor

English Language Institute

leeann.millar@umontana.edu

Rick Graetz

Faculty Affiliate

rick.graetz@mso.umt.edu

Josh Rosenberger

Instructor

English Language Institute

Susie Graetz

Faculty Affiliate

susie.graetz@mso.umt.edu

Camela Swanson

Instructor

English Language Institute

Carolyn Grimaldi

Instructor

English Language Institute

carolyn.grimaldi@mso.umt.edu

Jim Taylor

Visiting Scholar

jim.taylor@umontana.edu

Erika Hutchison

Student Employee

erika.hutchison@mso.umt.edu

Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry

Assistant Director for Study Abroad

marjac@mso.umt.edu