Congratulations to Frances Munton for receiving Highest Honors for her honors thesis! Munton wrote her thesis under the supervision of Ana Peluffo, Associate Professor of Spanish and affiliated faculty member of Comparative Literature. Here is the abstract, and you can find her thesis in the Comparative Literature Library on the eighth floor of Sproul Hall:

Hard-boiled detective fiction has been lauded for its social criticism as much as it has been criticized for upholding oppressive social orders, particularly in regard to the portrayal of women. In the Mexican neopolicial Cosa fácil (1977) by Paco Ignacio Taibo II, hard-boiled tropes are used to investigate the exploitation of the female body and the structural oppression of the feminine. Cosa fácil can be seen as an investigation of sex and gender both in Mexico City and in the hard-boiled genre. The expansive novel 2666 (2004) by Roberto Bolaño also makes use of hard-boiled tropes to explore the femicide of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico within the fictionalized context of Santa Teresa. Whereas Taibo II fully immerses himself in the genre and Mexico City, Bolaño co-opts detective tropes intermittently in a larger literary and transatlantic context. In the comparison of these two novels, I will be exploring the violent effects of the idealization of hard masculinity and the ways that the detective genre can limit or enhance a discussion on sexual and gendered violence.

Congratulations!

To the Winter and Spring 2014 graduates: 
Best of luck in your work and studies after graduation! Please stay in touch and send news when you get a chance.

Winter 2014: Nancy Hernandez, Dana Hissen, Lyubov Karnaukh

Spring 2014: Rebecca Bloom, Catherine Broderick, Samual Carey, Ruiqi Rachel Du, Rachael Duke, Hilary Floyd, Bethany Judson, Zuha Khan, Michael Kung, Frances Munton, and Nicholas Talbott

To graduates who will receive honors: 
Keep up the excellent work!

Recipients: Samual Carey, Hilary Floyd, Rachael Duke, Frances Munton, and Nicholas Talbott

To winners of the 2014 Citation for Academic Achievement in Comparative Literature:
We hope that you always make time to read the books that you love and to write about them!

Recipients: Frances Munton, Samual Carey, Rachael Duke, Sarah Hinds-Friedl, and Hilary Floyd

Awards, Honors, and Fellowships Received by Undergraduates
Honors, continued

In June, Sarah Hernandez was awarded a Provost’s Undergraduate Fellowship. The fellowship provides Hernandez with funds to assist her in researching her proposed paper: “(Un)Smiling: Queering Chicana Dyke Smiles and Stories of La Familia.”

Winner of the Charles Phillip Gould Award for the 2013-2014 academic year:

Recipient: Frances Munton

This award is in recognition of her academic accomplishments and the Committee’s evaluation of her potential for future achievement. It is restricted to American Indians who are registered on the tribal roles.

Amy Lee Memorial Essay Prize

The Amy Lee Memorial Essay Prize, endowed in memory of Amy Lee, a graduate student in Comparative Literature, is awarded every year to an essay written in the Comparative Literature 001-004 course series.

The winner of the 2014 Amy Lee Memorial Essay Prize is: “Memoria est Imperfectus,” written by Grace Gordon. This essay was written for COM 003 taught by Shannon Hays in Fall Quarter 2013. Her winning paper can be read on the Comp Lit website.

The runner up is: “Self-Determined Social Liberation in Cervantes’s *Don Quijote* and Shakespeare’s *The Tempest,*” written by Lisa Bell. This essay was written for COM 002H taught by Brenda Deen Schildgen in Winter Quarter 2014.

We hope that you make the most of your excellent writing skills!

[Above] Comp Lit staff advisor, Amy Lowrey (left) with graduating student Frances Munton.

[Opposite Column] Student Grace Gordon (left) with her Comp Lit 003 teacher, Shannon Hays.
Introducing

The Press

Announcing The Press, a new literary magazine launched by undergraduates John Pitre and Meagan Faller. The magazine is on its third issue as of June. Check out The Press online at its website:

http://derneueclub.tumblr.com/


The mission statement of The Press is to be an accessible publication: if someone has something that they want to say, The Press is a forum they can use to say it. Therefore The Press is always looking for submissions of any kind. Fiction, nonfiction, poetry of any breed - all will be considered for inclusion. The Press, ideally, is a publication for everyone. Teachers, students, or anyone in between who wants to put something they created in print may do so through it. Submissions are welcome at any time at ucdavispress@gmail.com.

Undergraduate Study Abroad

Kamila Kudelska sent news in January that she has begun classes in Bordeaux in the second quarter of her study abroad in France.

During Fall 2013 Caity Tremblay attended the UCEAP/CIEE "Language and Culture" study abroad in Rabat, Morocco. She writes:

"I lived with a host family in a palace, yes, a palace, in the heart of downtown Rabat, a two minute walk from parliament. Classes were held with twenty-five other American students; my classes were Darija (Moroccan colloquial Arabic), formal Arabic, Moroccan culture, and Moroccan literature. Nearly every weekend I was traveling, and I've now seen almost every major city in Morocco as well as many smaller ones. I include a picture on a street in the northern coastal town of Asilah where the entire group traveled one afternoon. My time abroad was an incredible growing experience, especially for stretching my language capabilities; I fell in love with Darija and for the first time I dreamt in Arabic. I'm excited to continue my language studies at Davis and someday return to Morocco, inshallah."
Farewell to our Peer Advisor

Thank you to Frances Munton for serving as our peer adviser in 2013-2014, and we look forward to working with Rae McGlennon, who will serve as our peer adviser in 2014-2015!

Support the Department

Your charitable, tax-deductible gift to the Department of Comparative Literature is greatly needed and appreciated. Your support will be used for the highest priority projects in the department to support both undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, programs, and facilities.

The department currently offers the following awards: The Amy Lee Memorial Essay Prize and the Marc Blanchard Undergraduate Travel Award.

For more information, contact the Main Office at (530) 752-1219.

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