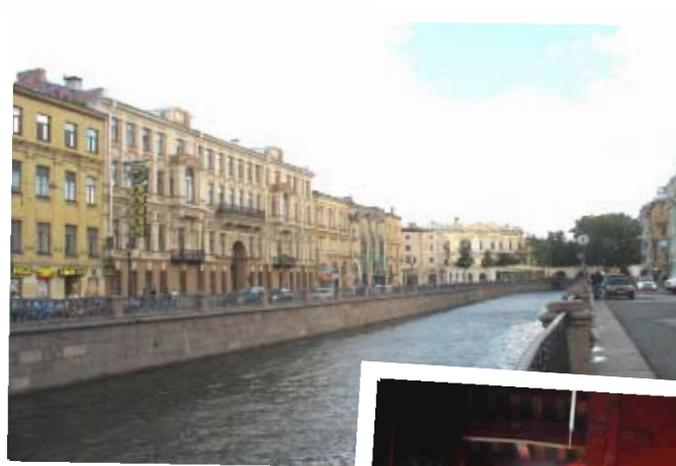


# Foreign Languages

Summer 2012 Newsletter



We hope that you are all enjoying your summer break and finding interesting new adventures wherever you are. We also hope, of course, that you're finding opportunities to use your language skills, whether abroad or curled up with a book (or a DVD) in your hometown.

We're sending this email to share with you some of the exciting things happening in our department this summer...We look forward to seeing you all once classes get started again in the Fall.

# Faculty-Student Research

## Oral Histories in Rural China

Keith Dede is working with a student, Neil Murray ('13, Physics Major/Chinese Minor), on collecting, transcribing and translating oral histories/biographies of rural residents in Huangyuan County, Qinghai Province, which lies in the foothills of the Tibetan Plateau. With the help of Keith and local collaborators, Neil is learning the local Chinese dialect and culture, which reflect the mixed Han-Tibetan ethnic heritage of the region. Keith is also translating a 100-year old county gazetteer, which includes sections on the county's ethnic diversity, folk customs, history and religion. The goal is to combine translations of the written and oral texts into a manuscript that allows English readers to learn about the region's rich history and culture.



## Bauhaus Weavers in New York

Therese Augst is in New York right now, having just finished a round of research on the Bauhaus weavers at MoMA and the Met. Her research is concerned with the relation between poetry and craft practices by women artists in the early twentieth century, when the growing emphasis on machines and mass culture led to radical changes in the approach to artistic production in various media. Ivy Buddenhagen, a German/English major and rising sophomore, met her in the city to collaborate on the project. They visited the Antonio Ratti Textile Center at the Met and the Study Center for Architecture

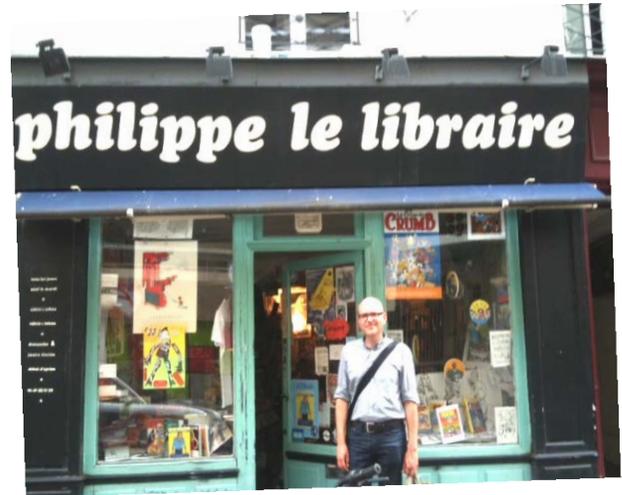


and Design at MoMA, where they were given outstanding access to dozens of textile samples, wall hangings, notebooks, and piles of letters to and from Anni Albers, one of the most prominent Bauhaus weavers and a favorite of MoMA from a very early stage in the museum's history.

# Summer Research

## National Identity, History and Memory in Paris

Philippe Brand, the new tenure-track Assistant Professor of French, was invited to spend five weeks in Paris this summer for a Summer Seminar sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, entitled “France’s Haunting Past: Debating Twentieth-Century History and French National Identity since 1990.” The seminar includes weekly meetings at the Institut d’Histoire du Temps Présent as well as excursions to a variety of museums and memorials. In addition to doing research for an article, Philippe is also working on incorporating the material of the seminar into a new class he is preparing for Spring 2013, which will focus on representations of twentieth-century French history in fiction and film. During his free time, Philippe has been enjoying the cafés and restaurants of Paris, and he was delighted to find a bookstore named in his honor.



## Brodsky in St Petersburg

Thanks to the research part of her Mellon Fellowship for 2011-2012, Rebecca is spending the month of June in St Petersburg, Russia, working in the manuscripts division of the National Library of Russia. She is studying the early archives of the poet



Joseph Brodsky -- Russian poet, American essayist, Nobel Prize winner, US Poet Laureate, the subject of her dissertation, and the subject of her future book. She is looking especially at two things to help set his work in a larger Soviet (and a-Soviet) context – the use of jazz as inspiration for poetic experimentation and the poet’s attitude toward monuments, real and literary. During the hours when the library is closed, she makes use of June’s white nights (there’s some twilight around 1 a.m., but no real “night”) to wander Saint Petersburg’s long streets, mesmerized by its combination of ornate architecture, flowing canals and expansive skies. Since the city is the backdrop of much of Russian literature (both its authors

and its heroes), there is a special joy in walking these terribly allusive streets – a joy “I’m constantly, and I suspect vainly, trying to capture with my camera.”

# Back from Abroad

## Exploring Pre-Olympic Tokyo

Bruce Suttmeier spent the spring semester in Tokyo, on sabbatical as an Exchange Researcher at Waseda University. His project studies Tokyo's massive campaign, from 1959 to 1964, to get the city ready for the 1964 Olympics. This involved trips to museums and archives, long walks around Tokyo with 1960-era maps, and, of course, lots of time in the library reading newspapers and magazines (both serious and trashy) to better understand the various notions of public space that so dramatically changed the built environment of the city. While in Tokyo, he got to spend time with students studying at the College's Waseda Program. In February, he headed south on the bullet train to Osaka, where he visited students studying at Osaka Gakuin and Kansai Gaidai, sitting in on classes, talking to teachers and administrators, and, of course, taking the group out to eat.



## Study-Abroad in Cuba

This past semester 15 students spent a fabulous, sunny, spring semester in Havana, Cuba. Led by Foreign Languages professor Freddy Vilches and his family, a group of 15 LC students participated in our 2012 Cuba Study abroad program. The students lived in Havana and attended school at the prestigious Instituto Superior de Arte de la Habana (ISA). Students had the opportunity to meet leading writers, musicians, film directors, and academics. They experienced life in a fascinating country with a unique history and culture. The semester concluded with a trip across Cuba to the south eastern tip of the island, visiting places like Santa Clara, Camaguey, Trinidad, Santiago, and Baracoa.

