



THIS NEWSLETTER COVERS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE CLASSICS, PROGRAM IN COMPARATIVE AND WORLD LITERATURE, DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES, DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN, DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES, DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION, DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES, DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE, AND CENTER FOR TRANSLATION STUDIES.

## “He gave us a wonderful time together” – Friends, family and colleagues remember Xiaohui ‘Randy’ Zhang (1985-2020)

### School establishes award in Zhang’s honor

The School of Literatures, Cultures & Linguistics has established The Xiaohui Zhang’s Diversity & Community Engagement award, which honors SLCL student Xiaohui “Randy” Zhang (1985-2020). Mr. Zhang was a much beloved doctoral student in the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures. The award recognizes Mr. Zhang for his exemplary combination of academic and human qualities, as well as for his strong sense of community engagement, which guided his actions during his years at Illinois.

On Monday evening, Nov. 2, nearly 100 persons joined a Zoom “Celebration of Life” for Mr. Zhang, who died on Oct. 5 after a year-long battle with cancer.

Mr. Zhang, 35, was warmly remembered by family, professors, friends and colleagues, both during the hours-long Zoom celebration, as well as via comments submitted to Box and by a moving Power Point remembrance.

Chilin Shih, professor and head of EALC, served as moderator for the evening. She recalled that Xiaohui was sick in November 2019, diagnosed with cancer, and eventually went to St. Louis for treatment as his condition worsened. His family was unable to travel to the U.S. from China to be with him, but his friend Tanzehn Li, an engineering graduate student at the University of Illinois, devoted a year to help care for Xiaohui around the clock.



Xiaohui Zhang

SLCL Director Elena Delgado gave opening remarks, and then a succession of speakers shared their memories of Xiaohui. The following quotes come from various persons either submitted to Box or shared verbally at the Zoom celebration.

**Professor Chilin Shih:** “He was such a beloved teacher. Four years ago, he taught the business section of advanced Chinese and he set up a virtual company for his students to practice.

“His loving, caring, and dedicated teaching will be remembered by us all.”

**Professor Zong-Qi Cai,** Xiaohui’s academic advisor: “Xiaohui was a promising scholar and a wonderful human being.” Of Tanzehn Li, Professor Cai said that Li did “what a most filial son would do for his parents: ER visits, hospitalizations, you name it.”

**Tanzehn Li:** “If somebody asked me to take care of him again for another year, I would say ‘Yes’.

“He’s the most sweet, kind person I’ve ever met.”

**Dr. Ian Wang,** curator, Spurlock Museum. He met Xiaohui in December of 2019. “Xiaohui never gave up hope; he never complained.” Of Xiaohui and Tanzehn Li, he said, “We were deeply moved by these two model students of this university.”

**Professor Jerry Packard:** “Randy was one of the most remarkable students and persons I have ever known. Xiaohui was invariably kind, considerate and conscientious. My heart is filled with sadness at hearing this terrible news. The world will be a much, much poorer place without Randy in it. If there is a heaven above, Xiaohui is there.”

*(continued on page 3)*

# Waiting for another miracle of spring



**The 2020-21 academic year** has brought many challenges to our school, our communities and the world. The difficulties we have faced, personal and professional, have

been manageable only thanks to the commitment, dedication, resilience and kind-heartedness of our faculty, students and staff.

While working remotely, we have found ways to come together, as a community sharing laughter, good wishes and our common hope for better days. We did so in homage to our colleague **Xiaohui Zhang**. You can read more in this newsletter (pages 1 and 3) about how we honor his memory and example of engaged academic citizenship, through the creation of the Zhang awards.

Aside from fulfilling our daily commitments to our jobs via countless hours of Zoom, we have been quite busy. We have made significant improvements to our administrative operations in key areas (human resources, business and student

Services), so that we can better serve the needs of our 460+ employees, our students and the university. We are planning new curricular initiatives that will bring more recognition to our academic strengths, in particular in relation to intercultural knowledge and competence, a key area for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences' Strategic Plan (2021-25). We have started a "Professional Lectures and Workshops series." And we are planning our first SLCL symposium, in collaboration with the Humanities Research Institute: "How does culture move? Mobility and Stasis in Global Cultural History," which will take place at the end of October in what we hope will be a hybrid format (in person and zoom).

It is a time of new beginnings, but also a time for goodbyes. Among the colleagues who have decided to retire is the editor of this newsletter since 2007, Rick Partin. Rick was hired in late 2004 as our first coordinator for outreach and external relations. Since then he has written countless articles, organized and publicized dozens of conferences other public events, organized 11 May graduation ceremonies and highlighted all our achievements. He has done so with

unflappable good disposition and dedication. Rick has decided that it is time for him to finally focus on what he loves to do: his own writing. He plans to finish his book about the New Mexico National Guard at the Battle of the Philippines, 1941-42. I would like to thank Rick for his service of so many years.

This was a time when Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza had to be celebrated far away from

loved ones. A time when our toasts for the New Year were more focused on fervently wishing "good riddance" to 2020. There will be no official spring break this year.

And yet—and paraphrasing the Spanish poet Antonio Machado—our hearts wait, hoping, toward the light and toward life, for another miracle of spring.



**Luisa Elena Delgado**

Professor of Spanish, Director SLCL

## Letter from the Editor



This, my 26th issue of the SLCL Newsletter, will be my last, as I plan to retire from UIUC on June 30. I am proud to say that I started this newsletter in the fall of 2007, the year we became a school at Illinois, and have always considered the planning, writing and editing of this publication as the most enjoyable part of my many duties on behalf of the SLCL. Along the way, I have been privileged to know so many wonderful UIUC faculty, students and graduates. Thanks to everyone!

**Rick Partin**

Editor, Coordinator for Outreach and External Relations, SLCL

# Xiaohui ‘Randy’ Zhang remembered

(continued from page 1)

**Jing Chen**, assistant professor of EALC. She first met Xiaohui in 2012. “He was a young man who was very curious about life in the U.S.” Describing him as tall and “a little shy,” she commented that Xiaohui was “the most reliable colleague and friend I could ever have. Xiaohui was always the one who helped out when I was busy.”

Following Jing’s comments, Xiaohui’s father, Haibang Zhang, spoke to everyone attending the Zoom event. He thanked everyone for their help and their love for his son. “During his brief life he received love and the care of so many friends,” he said. Lastly, Haibang advised everyone to put their health ahead of everything else.

**Yun Yao**. She was an office mate with Xiaohui in 2012, and a close friend. “He was always ready to help others.” She and Xiaohui would “chat about life and work, among other things.” They also were neighbors. “He was always very kind and helpful.” When Yun traveled away from Champaign-Urbana, Xiaohui would care for her plants. “He loved animals and plants, and everything. He really had a heart of gold. He wants to leave behind happy memories.”

**Yuan Zhang**, EALC graduate student. “I want to carry on the good memories with Xiaohui.” They met two years ago. When she arrived on campus, she had many questions about life in the U.S. and on campus. “He kindly offered to explain a lot of things.” She noted that Xiaohui organized and hosted a party for all the advisees. “He lives forever in our hearts.”

**Yuefan Wang**, EALC graduate student. She was part of a group who cooked for Xiaohui. “He is not only a friend and colleague, but a close family member. He is the one who made me feel like one of his family members.” She concluded, “I hope one day I can be a person like him.”

**Shunting Chen**. “He still survives in his words and deeds.”

**Shuo Zhang**, EALC graduate student. He taught Chinese 305 (advanced Chinese), and said he received many teaching tips from Xiaohui. “He taught me about the language of love.”

**You Li**, EALC graduate teaching assistant. She met Xiaohui in 2013 when she arrived at Illinois. She lived next door to him for seven years. She noted that he was “reluctant to bother others.” She had a car and offered him rides, “but he always said he was okay.”

**Jiani Lin**, EALC graduate student. “I miss his voice and his smile. He was such a wonderful person, in every respect.”

**Yilan Liu**. She met Xiaohui in 2013 when she arrived at the Department of Linguistics, Room 2046, where she said everyone there was “a big, happy family. You could feel the very gentle side of Xiaohui—his gentle spirit. He always encouraged me, always inspired me. He was so kind all the time, just like a big brother. He is like the warmest sunshine in the cold, harsh winter of Illinois.”

**Kailu Guan**, EALC graduate teaching assistant. She met Xiaohui in 2013 when she arrived on campus. “I didn’t know if I could do the (TA) job, so I reached out to him.” She said that Xiaohui had a one-on-one meeting with her. “He had a super long and detailed notebook” and told her what to do. “It was because of him that I knew how to do my job. He was such a warm and helpful person. He was brave. He was tough. I will always cherish my memories of him.”

**Yuije Pu**, EALC graduate teaching and research assistant. She, too, was a neighbor of Xiaohui. “He always liked to offer help. I think ‘sweet’ is an accurate term to describe him. And he was always so helpful.”

**Fan Wu**, EALC graduate student. Fan was a fellow advisee who met Xiaohui the previous year. Xiaohui invited him to his home, “to hang out.” Fan recalled Xiaohui’s array of teas, and his “immaculate place.” “He turned on piano music for us to enjoy. I felt a very strong sense of belonging because of Xiaohui.”

**Professor Misumi Sadler**. “Words cannot express the sorrow. I’d known Xiaohui ever since he started his graduate study here and had him in my pedagogy class. I miss his smile every time I am in FLB (Foreign Languages Building). The nicest and kindest person I’ve ever met... I miss him a lot.”

**Professor Kai-wing Chow**. “Xiaohui was such an outstanding student and wonderful person. It is a great loss to his family, friends, and those who know him.”

In sum, Professor Shih thanked everyone for their year-long support of Xiaohui, and added, “He gave us a wonderful time together.”

# SLCL ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT



## A passion for learning and social justice: Pamela Capps-Toro (PhD 2013) continues her lifelong commitment to helping others

By Rick Partin

Growing up in a rural Puerto Rican barrio named Guaniquilla, **Pamela Capps-Toro** attended a public elementary school best known for the bats inhabiting her sixth grade classroom and the frequently overflowing sewage system.

However, looking back today, Capps-Toro, who earned a PhD in 2013 from the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, added that she also was fortunate to have schoolteachers and community volunteers who organized educational and recreational activities that kept students motivated and engaged.

“My passion for learning was fostered by the many other exceptional teachers I encountered through the public middle and high school system, while my access to higher education was made possible by volunteer coaches and a group of volunteer mothers who helped develop my track and field skills in a community setting.”

Capps-Toro attended the Universidad de Puerto Rico as a first-generation college student on a full athletic scholarship in large part due to the dedication of her teachers, coaches and volunteers. “My commitment to education derives from a desire to pass along the transformative power of education that was given to me by my community.”

While a PhD student at Illinois, she became involved with the Education Justice Project (EJP), a college-in-prison program bringing higher education to incarcerated people, directed by Dr. Rebecca Ginsburg. Capps-Toro was a tutor for the undergraduate upper-level division courses. “I worked with students on their research papers and brainstormed ideas about ways to improve their work.”

Other influences at UIUC included the Graduate Employee Organization (GEO) and her graduate class cohort in the (then) Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. “The GEO and its student leadership team taught me many lessons about the importance of collective organizing to advance educational rights. And, my cohort taught me about the importance of building a learning community that values scholarship, teaching, and service to others.”

Among her other influences, she names professors Ann Abbott and Mariselle Meléndez. Through Abbott, Capps-Toro taught “Spanish in the Communities,” in which undergraduate students assist Latinx immigrant families through various nonprofit organizations. Capps-Toro said that Meléndez recognized the importance of the work of the EJP.

After completing her PhD in Latin American and Caribbean literatures and cultures in 2013, Capps-Toro joined the faculty at Stetson University in DeLand, Fla. At Stetson, she teaches Spanish language, Latin American and Caribbean literatures and cultures, and Latinx studies.

In 2015 she co-founded the Community Education Project, a college in prison program at Stetson University, committed to offering quality liberal arts education and learning opportunities in Florida prisons.

“Access to a liberal arts education offers incarcerated individuals meaningful opportunities for personal growth and intellectual engagement, which benefits our community as a whole.”

In 2016, she became a member of the steering committee to launch the National Alliance for Higher Education in Prison. A year later, she was selected as a national finalist for the Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty, sponsored by the Center for Public Service at Brown University.

Capps-Toro is the co-founder and director of Stetson’s La Casa Cultural Latina, a program designed to create bridges between the university’s classrooms and its Latinx communities.

She says that the center and the Community Education Project “both offer learning opportunities to marginalized communities. One focuses on incarcerated persons, the other Spanish speaking migrants—both groups historically excluded from benefitting from colleges and universities.”

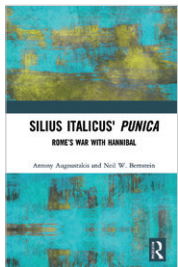
Stetson’s Community Education Project is expanding its humanities course offerings at the Tomoka Correctional Institution (TCI) in Daytona Beach, Fla., thanks to a recently awarded \$359,000, two-year grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation: “Seeding Justice: Collaborative Learning Landscapes in Carceral Spaces.”

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has limited the type of instruction Capps-Toro and her colleagues have been able to provide to students, the grant has allowed them to create an outdoor classroom where they are now meeting students weekly.

This fall, Capps-Toro plans to teach a new course, “Food, Race, and Nationhood in the Americas.” For someone who early in her life realized the transformative power of education, Dr. Capps-Toro continues to give back to her respective communities.

# New Books by SLCL Faculty

## Professor Antony Augoustakis co-authors new work on Silius Italicus' "Punica"



**Antony Augoustakis**, professor of classics, is the co-author (with Neil W. Bernstein of Ohio University) of a new work that offers, in one volume, a modern English translation of all 17 books of Silius Italicus' epic *Punica*.

Titled *Silius Italicus' Punica: Rome's War with Hannibal*, the book became available for shipping in March.

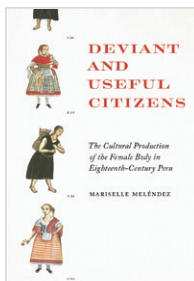
Composed in the first century CE, *Punica* tells the story of the Second Punic War between Rome and Hannibal's Carthage (218-202 BCE). It is not only a crucial text for students of Flavian literature, but also an important source for anyone studying early Imperial perspectives on the Roman Republic.

The translation is clear and comprehensible, while also offering an accurate representation of the Latin text.

Augoustakis is the author of *Staius, Thebaid 8* (2016), *Motherhood and the Other: Fashioning Female Power in Flavian Epic* (2010), as well as several edited volumes. He is the editor of *The Classical Journal*.

For more about this new work: [routledge.com/Silius-Italicus-Punica-Romes-War-with-Hannibal/Augoustakis-Bernstein/p/book/9781138291454](http://routledge.com/Silius-Italicus-Punica-Romes-War-with-Hannibal/Augoustakis-Bernstein/p/book/9781138291454).

## Now in paperback: Professor Mariselle Meléndez's "Deviant and Useful Citizens" explores the construction and control of women in colonial South America



Vanderbilt University Press has published a new paperback version of Professor **Mariselle Meléndez's** work, *Deviant and Useful Citizens: The Cultural Production of the Female Body in Eighteenth-Century Peru*.

The book explores the conditions of women and perceptions of the female body in the eighteenth century

throughout the Viceroyalty of Peru, which until 1776 comprised modern-day Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

Professor Meléndez introduces the reader to a female rebel, Micaela Bastidas, whose punishment became a harsh example of state response to women who challenged the system. Meléndez explores the cultural representation of women depicted as economically productive and vital to the health of the culture at large, and the role of women in religious orders.

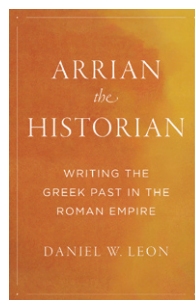
She focuses on ways male authorities and female subjects conceived the female body as deeply connected to notions of what constituted a useful or deviant citizen within the Viceroyalty. Meléndez uses eighteenth-century

legal documents, illustrated chronicles, religious texts, and newspapers to explore ways the female body was represented.

*Deviant and Useful Citizens* presents a complex society that relied on representations of utility and productivity to understand the female body, revealing the large stake that colonial authorities had in defining the status of women.

For more about *Deviant and Useful Citizens*: [vanderbilt.edu/university-press/book/9780826501394](http://vanderbilt.edu/university-press/book/9780826501394)

## A serious historian: new work by Professor Daniel W. Leon views contributions of ancient historian Arrian of Nicomedia



**Daniel W. Leon**, assistant professor of classics, has published a book that sheds new light on intellectual culture in the Roman Empire in the person of the ancient historian, Arrian of Nicomedia.

Titled *Arrian the Historian: Writing the Greek Past in the Roman Empire*, the book is scheduled to be published on April 20 by University of Texas Press.

Arrian of Nicomedia wrote the most important account of Alexander the Great to survive from antiquity. A culturally Greek intellectual who also rose to a prominent position in the Roman government, he helped to remove a false scholarly distinction between Greek culture and Roman politics that still sometimes obscures the reality of Roman society in this period.

Leon portrays Arrian as a prolific author and prominent intellectual who held idiosyncratic views of the prevailing trends of his age. Therefore, Arrian offers a commentary on Roman ways of knowing the past that has not figured prominently in previous scholarship on the period.

The author notes that Arrian saw himself as a serious historian unjustly forced into competition with amateurs who were more interested in seeming knowledgeable than actually *being* knowledgeable. Consequently, Arrian went of his way to describe the specific methods he used to acquire superior, specialist knowledge of a subject everybody regarded as important. In this way, Arrian offers a clear explanation of a historian's work that has not yet been fully integrated into modern accounts of ancient historiography.

Leon's work links Arrian to intellectual trends in his own time and in the longer story of the development of Greek historiography and describes how he and numerous other literary figures fought back against what they saw as a pernicious trend of intellectual laziness that could only be checked by the efforts of real experts.

For more about the book, visit: [utpress.utexas.edu/books/leon-arrian-the-historian](http://utpress.utexas.edu/books/leon-arrian-the-historian).

# SLCL Faculty Achievement

## Professor Eduardo Ledesma awarded prestigious NEH Fellowship



Eduardo Ledesma

**Eduardo Ledesma**, associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese, has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship.

He was named along with Bobby Smith II, professor of African American studies.

Ledesma's project "Visually Impaired Filmmakers and Technologies of Sight" has two key aims. First, to raise critical awareness about the work of blind filmmakers, and second, to establish the contours of a blind cinematic style through theories of the gaze and haptic film. The "gaze" is a term that describes how viewers engage with visual media. Haptic visuality functions like the sense of touch by triggering physical memories of smell, touch, and taste.

It is the first book to study how visually impaired filmmakers use digital media both to make visible the experience of disability and to destabilize stereotypes about the blind. Ledesma's analysis of films by blind and visually impaired directors, as well as of collaborations between blind and sighted filmmakers, shows how the aesthetics and content of these works represent the experience of blindness.

## SLCL again excels with teaching awards

SLCL teachers winning awards for excellence in instruction is an annual occurrence, and this year is no exception.

**Tania Ionin**, professor of linguistics, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Instruction in the faculty category for graduate and professional teaching.

**Ryan Shosted**,



Tania Ionin



Ryan Shosted

professor of linguistics, received the LAS Dean's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, as well as the Campus Award for Excellence in Instruction in the undergraduate category.

**Pilar Martínez-Quiroga**, teaching assistant professor of Spanish and Portuguese, received the LAS Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for Instructional Staff.

The LAS Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for Graduate Teaching Assistants went to **Ander Beristain Murillo** and **Jone Vicente Urrutia** of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Each of them also received the Campus Awards for Excellence in Instruction in the teaching assistant classification.

## Professor Valeria Sobol named LAS Dean's Distinguished Scholar

**Valeria Sobol**, professor of Slavic languages and literatures, has been selected as LAS Dean's Distinguished Professorial Scholar for the academic year of 2021-2022.



Valeria Sobol

Each year the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences awards those faculty that have shown exemplary scholarship and teaching amongst those being promoted to professor.

Sobol has also received the Prize for the Best Article in the field of Ukrainian history, politics, language, literature and culture (2018-19) from the American Association for Ukrainian Studies, as well as a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship, 2015-16.

## Professor Mariselle Meléndez named first LAS Dean's Fellow for Faculty Development

**Mariselle Meléndez**, professor and head of the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, has been named the first LAS Dean's Fellow for Faculty Development.

The position has been created to develop programs that enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion within the college, as well as ensure that all faculty members receive effective assessment and mentoring to benefit their career advancement and engagement with the university. The position will run for two and a half academic years beginning in January 2022.



Mariselle Meléndez

## Professors Clara Bosak-Schroeder and Aida Talić named CAS/Beckman Fellows

**Clara Bosak-Schroeder**, assistant professor of classics, and **Aida Talić**, assistant professor of linguistics, have been appointed CAS (Center for Advanced Study) Beckman Fellows for the 2021-2022 academic year.



Clara Bosak-Schroeder

CAS Beckman Fellows are untenured U of I faculty members whose proposals are selected in an annual competition. These appointments grant one semester of teaching release time to pursue an individual scholarly or creative project.

Professor Bosak-Schroeder's project is titled "Seven Wonders: Remaking the Past." The project counters white supremacist appropriations of Greece and Rome and imagines a new future for classical studies. Through the framework of reception studies, this book project examines how artists of color reinterpret the seven great monuments of the ancient Mediterranean. Their reinterpretations critique the modern construction of the ancient world as white and masculine, while simultaneously recuperating Greek and Roman identification with a multi-ethnic Mediterranean.

Professor Talić's project is titled "The syntax and tone of Dholuo."



Aida Talić

Dholuo is a language spoken by about 4.2 million Luo people of Kenya and Tanzania. She will explore several constructions in the language Dholuo—from the Nilo-Saharan family, where syntactic structure seems to interact with tone, which has been shown to be a useful diagnostic for the presence/absence of syntactic boundaries in many tonal languages.

**Professor Harriet Murav receives award for outstanding scholarly work in field of Yiddish**



Harriet Murav

**Harriet Murav**, professor of Slavic languages and literatures, and comparative and world literature, has received an honorable mention from the MLA (Modern Language Association) Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies.

Murav was honored for her book *David Bergelson's Strange New World: Untimeliness and Futurity*, published by Indiana University Press.

The prize is awarded each even-numbered year and is given alternately to an outstanding translation of a Yiddish literary work and to an outstanding scholarly work in English in the field of Yiddish.

Murav also is the Catherine and Bruce Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies at Illinois and in 2020 was named a Center for Advanced Study professor.

**Professor Zong-qi Cai receives Distinguished Editor Award**



Zong-qi Cai

**Zong-qi Cai**, professor emeritus of East Asian languages and cultures, is the recipient of the Distinguished Editor Award, the highest honor given by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals.

Cai received the award at the online Modern Language Association (MLA)

Convention held in January.

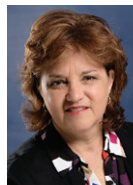
Cai has founded (or co-founded) two Duke University Press journals: *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* (JCLC) and *PRISM: Theory and Modern Chinese Literature*. He serves as editor-in-chief of both.

Additionally, in 2014 Cai resurrected a Chinese-language journal, the *Lingnan Journal of Chinese Studies*, which had been shuttered since 1952.

Cai also is the general editor of “How to Read Chinese Literature,” a 10-book series by Columbia University Press.

**Melanie Waters, Spanish and Portuguese, winner of LAS Academic Professional Award for 2020-21**

**Melanie Waters**, director of introductory Spanish language for the department of Spanish & Portuguese, was one of three persons selected by an awards committee this year to receive the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Academic Professional Award.



Melanie Waters

During Water’s time with the department, she has developed several new courses and has been instrumental in developing new curricula for hybrid and online language classes. A colleague wrote of her, “no one has been more central to our department’s ability to run this operation over the years than Melanie Waters.”

Melanie was one of seven staff and academic professionals recognized in a virtual ceremony that took place in March for outstanding contributions to the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences in 2020-21.

**Professor John Barnard is a Helen Corley Petit Scholar for 2021-22**

**John Barnard**, assistant professor comparative and world literature, has been named a 2021-2022 Helen Corley Petit Scholar on the basis of his superb record achievement,

exemplary among those being promoted to Associate Professor.



John Barnard

Mrs. Helen Corley Petit, a deceased alumna of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, provided an endowment for the development of the scholarship and teaching of early career faculty members in the college.

Barnard’s research interests include American literature and culture, African American literature and culture, and environmental humanities.

**Dr. Michael J. Mulryan (PhD, French 2009) delivers FRIT Distinguished Alumni & SLCL Professional Lecture**

French alumnus **Michael J. Mulryan**, (PhD, 2009) returned to campus virtually to give the FRIT Distinguished Alumni & SLCL Professional Lecture on Feb. 9.



Michael J. Mulryan

Mulryan, associate professor of French at Christopher Newport University (CNU), Va., gave a lecture titled, “How to Publish Rather than Perish in the American Liberal Arts College.”

In his talk, he focused on what he calls the three C’s for junior faculty: connections, continuity and culture. Connect widely with colleagues in your field, continue your research year-round, and get to know the *culture* of your institution and your students. Then Mulryan went on to explain the application of each principle to research, teaching, and service during his quest for tenure and promotion at CNU.

He outlined how the three C-s helped his work on an 18th-century manuscript that he co-edited and co-translated with Geneviève Boucher of the University of Ottawa in 2020. (Visit [jstor.org/stable/j.ctv1595n35](https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv1595n35))



## SLCL TEACHING EXCELLENCE

### Foreign Language Teacher Education program garners highest ratings from State of Illinois Board

The **Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)** released its latest report card for teacher education programs, and the U of I's Foreign Language Teacher Education (FLTE) program received its two highest ratings in all categories.

The report card, the Illinois Educator Preparation Profile (EPP), can be viewed at: [apps.isbe.net/epp/public#/institutions/4966/programs/20](https://apps.isbe.net/epp/public#/institutions/4966/programs/20).

FLTE was rated "Exemplary" (highest classification) or "Commendable" in all ratings, including Knowledge and Skills for Teaching, Performance as Classroom Teachers, Contribution to State Needs, and Candidate Selection and Completion. The report data spans scores from 2014-2015 through 2019-2020.

**Dr. Pamela Greene**, FLTE director, listed several reasons why Illinois' program is so special, including:

- **It boasts 100% employment in U.S. school districts for those seeking teaching jobs.**
- **It is grounded in the ACTFL readiness standards, and prepares candidates to teach language communicatively.**
- **Its graduates enter the classroom knowing their primary responsibility is to educate students for democratic citizenship.**

In their first semester, candidates are placed in K-12 world language classrooms where they observe instruction and create and teach original lessons, guided by cooperating teachers.

FLTE also features a yearlong placement model that allows candidates to learn the curriculum, participate in Spanish

Department activities, develop relationships with students and staff, and become part of the school community.

The culminating student teaching experience lasts 18 weeks, managed by a clinical practice supervisor who works with student teachers as an assessor, instructor, and candidate advocate. During student teaching, candidates assume all of their cooperating teacher's assigned duties, including student advising, sponsoring extracurricular activities, and parent-teacher conferences.

Classroom preparation is a vital component of teacher preparation. Starting with admissions and continuing until the end of the program, Greene emphasizes to candidates the relationship among positive dispositions, student achievement, persistence, and aspiration.

Additionally, undergraduates earn their degree and teaching license in four years. FLTE teacher candidates at the graduate level complete licensure requirements in three semesters.

As Greene notes, "Prospective students should expect to complete our program ready to teach after preparation and practice in communicative language pedagogy, and integrated performance assessments, with abundant lesson planning practice and classroom teaching experience."

To learn more about FLTE visit: [flte.illinois.edu](https://flte.illinois.edu).



*Dr. Pamela Greene, Director of Illinois' highly rated Foreign Language Teacher Education program.*