

SCHOOL OF LITERATURES CULTURES AND LINGUISTICS

A NEWSLETTER COVERING THE

DEPARTMENT OF THE CLASSICS

PROGRAM IN COMPARATIVE AND WORLD LITERATURE

DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

DIVISION OF ENGLISH AS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH, ITALIAN, AND PORTUGUESE

AND CENTER FOR TRANSLATION STUDIES

SUMMER 2009

Translation Studies Center Programming in High Gear

By Rick Partin

In a whirlwind nine months since starting her duties as director of the new Translation Studies Center last August, Elizabeth Lowe says she is “right on track” in developing its program.

This includes course development, a Summer Course Abroad in Vienna, eventual faculty hires, and ultimately, developing a master’s degree program in translation studies.

The Summer Course Abroad course, “Translation in the European Union,” took place at the Vienna Center for Translation Studies in May and June. The four-week intensive course was open to undergraduate and graduate students in any major who are interested in a certificate or concentration in translation studies.

Course development is another current preoccupation for Lowe, who this past spring taught 22 students in “Theory and Practice of Literary Translation.”

Thirty students are enrolled for the linguistics fall course, “Terminology and Translation Technologies,” a foundation course for the new Certificate in Translation Studies.

She also is developing, with Joyce Tolliver, associate professor of Spanish and gender and women’s studies, a course in theory and practice of Spanish translation (for Fall 2010).

The center has interviewed more than 200 students, checking on language background, interests, and curricula. The program is for students

who “have an interest in using language as part of their career plan,” says Lowe. Students represent practically all major areas of study on campus.

In addition, Lowe is pursuing a joint hire for a faculty position in creative writing and translation, for a lecturer in German and translation studies, and a future hire in law and translation.

One major goal is to create a master’s degree program in translation studies, tentatively, by Fall 2011. Another goal is to offer a certificate in applied literary translation, an objective toward which Lowe is working with Dalkey Archive, the leading independent publisher specializing in literary translations of contemporary international titles. Dalkey, which located in Urbana in 1992, moved to the U of I campus in 2006.

The Center and Dalkey plan to create a one-year residency for promising young translators from all over the world. It will be a single year-long course, taught by John O’Brien, director of Dalkey, and will feature visits by and interaction with publishers, magazine editors, media people, and literary agents from the field. “Students will be able to network and talk shop with them,” Lowe says.

Lowe also is overseeing the creation of a translation lab on the ground floor of the Foreign Languages Building. This new lab is intended to provide an analytical tool with which to search for information for translation projects and will be available to students in technical courses.



Elizabeth Lowe, director of the U of I Translation Studies Center

Another major goal of Lowe’s is to have an “active presence” in the field, including outreach to professional organizations, including the American Translators Association, the American Literary Translators Association, and Modern Languages Association (MLA).

This year’s MLA Conference, “Translation and the Humanities,” will take place in Philadelphia in December. Lowe has planned a Dalkey panel and a second panel that she will chair, as well as a reception hosted by the Translation Studies Center.

Regarding her major goals, Lowe comments, “When the MA program is in place I think we’ll have put ourselves on the map.”

With Elizabeth Lowe directing the Translation Studies Center program, that map is quickly taking shape.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In Praise of Staff

The School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics has been in operation for four years, though officially only for two. During this time great strides have been made towards realizing the potential of cooperation and collaboration among our units. The Center for Translation Studies draws on the faculty and students of all units to create a program unique in the United States, even the world. During the course of the past year, we have hosted 14 conferences, almost all collaborative efforts reaching across departmental boundaries. Thirty-one guest speakers came to share their special expertise with our students and faculty. New laboratories for phonetics and for second language acquisition are inspiring students in a half-dozen departments, and supporting research programs funded by the National Science Foundation. The whole really is greater than the sum of all its parts, to the benefit of students and faculty alike.

In our excitement about these developments, it's easy to forget the origins of the School idea, and the reason we are now able to support these dynamic programs. The impetus for the School came from a plan to consolidate staff positions by combining similar functions being performed in each department. The first stage was accomplished by a faculty-staff committee in 1998-1999, and the second in the summer of 2003, in response to a state budget crisis. The savings realized have been transferred to academic programs. Thus our ability to support students and faculty in the creation of new and exciting intellectual opportunities has been directly dependent on the intelligence and ingenuity of our staff, as they have figured out how to streamline many processes and provide improved service for the School, while their ranks were reduced from 31 to 17.

A central business office takes care of all the budget issues and faculty and student appointments, including the byzantine visa regulations for the international members of our community. The business office also simplifies applications for external grants, sparing faculty the tedium and complexity of budgetary details. As a result, our faculty have submitted more than 20 grants to 11 external agencies in the past year. Our graduate services office processed 466 applications this year. Grad services works with the departments to award fellowships that allow us to recruit the very best students in the country, and to nurture them to the completion of their degrees. Undergraduate services organizes proficiency and placement examinations for incoming first-year and transfer students. Book orders, facilities management, and inventory are also handled centrally. Another cadre of talented and devoted professionals provides support to our department heads.

The creative solutions of our staff thus directly support the intellectual achievements of our students and faculty. In a few weeks, we will have our first staff retreat, to find yet more ways to better serve the mission of the School.



Doug Kibbee

Summer 2009

School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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LIFELONG SCHOLAR

A childhood in India inspired this professor's love for teaching

By Dave Evensen, from LAS News Online, December 2008

In Fall 2008, Rajeshwari Pandharipande was named a Distinguished Teacher/Scholar, a title she will retain for the remainder of her career.

What defines her as a professor is something else she learned at a young age, which she lives by—and is being honored for—even decades later and half a world away in Illinois: The importance of educating others.

That requires sacrifice, too, and nowhere was it on display more meaningfully than at home.

As a girl in post-colonial India, Rajeshwari Pand-

haripande learned the sacrifice required for an education. She grew up in a household of 15 children; most were cousins her parents raised to give them access to schools that would have excluded them had they remained on farms outside of town.

"Everybody wanted to get an education," she says. "We all felt like we learned so much from each other. One thing is language. My father spoke a different language; my mother spoke a different language. My father's parents lived with us. They spoke a third language. All of us spoke three languages naturally."

Her father was a lawyer, her mother a professor and government education officer who helped open 36 schools for women. Both were independence activists who worked with Mahatma Gandhi to free India of British rule, and

Pandharipande absorbed from them a desire to learn the ancient cultures of her country that had been muted for so long. "As a child I thought there was a very big missing link in the history of India."

This upbringing has been fundamental to her

becoming one of the most distinguished professors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Pandharipande earned her first doctoral degree, in Sanskrit literature, in India, and her second, in linguistics, from the University of Illinois. In 1983 she joined the

U of I as a professor of religion and linguistics. Since then she's become a well-known expert in sociolinguistics, Sanskrit, Marathi, and Hinduism—authoring three books and establishing the Hinduism program within the Department of Religion.

She's been named a University Scholar, and she has received associate positions at the Center for Advanced Study, as well as research grants from the American Institute of Indian Studies. She also has received the Harriet and Charles Luckman all-campus Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award, and the College of Liberal Arts and Science's William Prokasy Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Along with research, meetings, and other faculty commitments, Pandharipande spends

up to 20 hours a week preparing for her classes, including introductory courses that she's taught for years. Robert McKim, head of the Department of Religion, says she is a careful and organized teacher and skillful at engaging and invigorating even large groups of students.

She believes that learning is an interactive event, and students may remember her for patrolling classes with a microphone seeking to add their insights to the discussion.

This year Pandharipande is leading a group of faculty to develop guidelines to more effectively teach research methods to large classes of undergraduates. She envisions small groups of students interacting with each other, thus countering time restrictions that often prevent individual attention in classes of sometimes hundreds of students—a shortcoming that Pandharipande says has grated on her for years. Much potential lies in large classes' diversity of students and ideas, she says.

"I would like to place U of I on the map as a leader in large class teaching."

Students take note of her dedication. They remain in contact with her for years and she's even attended their weddings. To her it's a sign of success, for she feels that even in the university world of big research, good teaching is crucial. Research is vital, she says, but it must also be passed on to young minds.

"How can you be a professor without teaching? You cannot be," she says. "For me, teaching is a passion. I feel that I am so privileged that I do exactly as I like, and I get paid for it."



Rajeshwari Pandharipande

THE UNBROKEN CHAIN

By Paul Wood, from LAS News, Spring 2009

Americans know Tolstoy as a novelist who wrote “by the pound.” But scholars from the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics know him as a spiritual pioneer whose thoughts on nonviolence are part of an unbroken chain.

Jonathan Ebel, assistant professor of religion comments, “[Martin Luther] King knew of and quoted Tolstoy and was strongly influenced by many who were directly influenced by Tolstoy, most importantly [Mahatma] Gandhi.”

Last year thousands at the University of Illinois and in the Champaign-Urbana area read and celebrated one of Tolstoy’s shortest works, *The Death of Ivan Ilych*, as part of a nationwide campaign, “The Big Read.”

Harriet Murav, who heads the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, calls the book about an ordinary man’s dying epiphanies a good example of Tolstoy’s later, mature spiritualism. “What is generally referred to as his spiritual crisis took place before the writing of *The Death of Ivan Ilych*,” she says. “Tolstoy describes his search for God in his work titled *A Confession*. I would not say that [*The Death of Ivan Ilych*] is a milestone on his path to spiritualism, because no word that ends in ‘ism’ can adequately characterize Tolstoy, who rejected all established doctrines and creeds.”

It’s easier to see the process of Tolstoy’s spiritual growth in his earlier books, *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*, she says.

Murav notes that even as a young man, the author chafed at authority. He tried to treat his serfs as equals, and early in life risked his life by challenging the czar in writing.

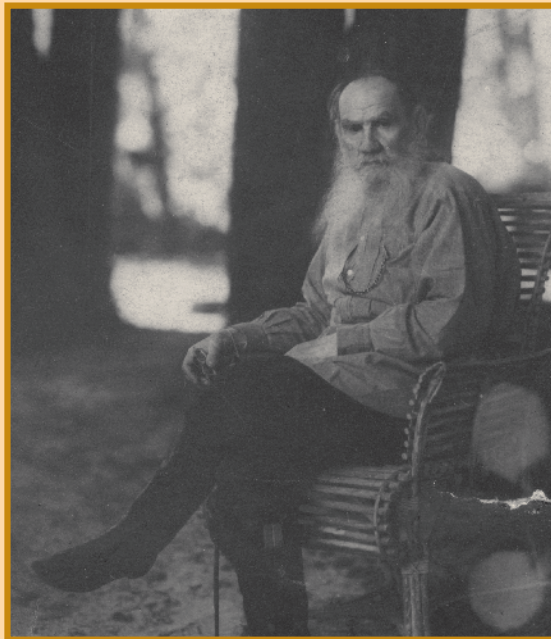
Tolstoy, a great landowner, railed against wealth, Murav says. In his short story “How Much Land Does a Man Need?” Tolstoy’s answer is: “six feet” (enough to be buried in). Yet he maintained his beloved 4,000-

acre estate Yasnaya Polyana until the end.

In this and other ways Tolstoy was a man of contradictions, and he was his own favorite subject, Murav comments. He kept copious diaries and tended to write autobiographical novels.

“You and I might have a doubt,” Murav says. “If he had a doubt, it was a major event. He had the leisure to study, the leisure to think, and a massive ego: ‘If I have a problem, it must be a major problem.’”

The path to enlightenment was not as direct as it might seem in hindsight, says associate professor of religion Bruce Rosenstock.



Leo Tolstoy

“Tolstoy had a great struggle with his own Christian faith and grew to faith from a skeptical start, as did many philosophers and thinkers and writers in that century,” Rosenstock says. “He returned fully to his Christian faith by discovering in Jesus a complete love for one’s fellow human beings. That meant for him never committing an act of violence against a fellow human.”

In his book *The Kingdom of God Is within You*, Tolstoy acknowledged his forerunners, including the Quakers. But Jesus was always his prime source.

Shortly before his death Tolstoy would write a 413-page “Letter to a Hindu,” as well as personal letters to Gandhi that the Indian philosopher termed essential. Gandhi initiated the exchange, writing to Tolstoy about his activism in South Africa.

Rosenstock says Gandhi used Tolstoy’s ideas but adapted them. “Gandhi employed nonviolent civil disobedience, or ‘satyagraha,’ as a strategy to challenge political authority. Tolstoy had thought you needed to simply withdraw completely from society. But conditions were quite different for Gandhi, who was trying to free his native land from a foreign occupier,” he says. “I don’t think Tolstoy imagined a nonviolent rebellion.”

In South Africa, Gandhi led a movement of Indian miners to resist inequalities by conducting strikes and then accepting resultant floggings and imprisonment. From there Gandhi moved to his greatest work, India’s independence from British rule.

Tolstoy and Gandhi also diverged on resistance. Rosenstock makes this distinction: Tolstoy didn’t believe there was any legitimate use of force and advocated nonresistance to evil, while Gandhi favored accepting violence against one’s self to enact change.

“There was a powerful Orthodox Church in Russia whose head was the czar, making a very powerful state-church combination,” says Rosenstock, who asserts that Tolstoy was in favor of dissolving the state-church. One way Tolstoy thought this could be accomplished would be “to make every Christian a pacifist, unwilling to serve in the czar’s army and thus unwilling to serve the state-church.”

In this, Rosenstock continues, “He concurred with the anarchists of his time. He wasn’t against the Russian state; he wasn’t in favor of any sort of state. Tolstoy was so skeptical of any society that he thought it was worthless to change one for another.”

Murav says Tolstoy had difficulty living the spiritual life he prescribed, spending the last decades of his life trying to live like a Russian serf. “At the end, Tolstoy ran away from his own life,” she adds, pointing out that he abandoned his estate and wife for a pilgrimage, only to die alone in a train station.

RESEARCH TO AID SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Professor hopes to develop system to help people speak

By Megan Graham, from The Daily Illini, Feb. 26, 2009



Chilin Shih

With a \$100,000 electromagnetic articulograph and years of experience as a second-language learner, Chilin Shih (assistant professor of East Asian languages and cultures,

linguistics, and the Beckman Institute) is trying to change the way people learn how to speak.

In 2007 the University of Illinois purchased the eighth electromagnetic articulograph system in the world. The machine includes 12 sensors that are placed on various locations inside and outside a person's mouth and on the upper face to sense levels of emotion and expression, Shih said. The sensors track the movement of the face as the subject speaks. She hopes the research she is performing will someday be translated into language software that will be used to help people speak.

"We are discovering a lot of speech patterns that can help the second language learner, and that is a combination of many small things," Shih, a cognitive science professor, said. "Each combination of speech sounds is a control of patterns. Putting it all together, we can have interesting and exciting new feedback. We hope this will make second language learning a little easier for everybody."

Shih likens her collection of data in speaking, to athletes videotaping their own performance to perfect their physical technique.

"When we think of movement analysis for sports, like ice skating or running, there is videotape for the athletes and they do movement traction," she said. "Which way to move is the most efficient way? Can the athlete move in a different way so they can jump higher?"

Shih's interest in helping second-language learners came from her own difficulty in perfecting the English language. Shih, who is from Taiwan, originally spoke Mandarin. She said she finds it fascinating that humans can recognize speech patterns close enough to their own language, but can also recognize there is an accent.

"Every single person's speech production is different," Shih commented. "Each time you say a word it varies. One focus of this lab will be to investigate that kind of pattern."

As the research is still in the beginning stage, Shih and her graduate students are going through software development and testing phases before the system can be deployed. She believes a small component will be released in one to two years and a larger component will be released later.

Chen-huei Wu, a linguistics graduate student, has been working with Shih on the project. Wu believes the software will help second language learners with fluency and also aid in teaching second languages. "The results of this research will be indicative of non-native accents and will be helpful for designing corrective methods to reduce accents and improve fluency," she said.

PATENT GOES TO LINGUISTICS GRAD STUDENT AND PROFESSOR SHIH

An invention that provides language-independent testing of foreign languages and language disorder by John Jang (linguistics) and Chilin Shih (East Asian languages and cultures, linguistics, and the Beckman Institute) has been granted a provisional U.S. patent. The invention was initially selected after an internal review process by the U of I Office of Technology Management.

This invention measures speech fluency by tracking motions of the tongue during speech. The work is being conducted in the Speech Dynamics Lab at the Beckman Institute directed by Shih, using a new version of the EMA system (Electromagnetic Articulograph AG500) that can track 3D images of tongue movement.

This is the first patent application from the Department of Linguistics and the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. It is also the first from the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics. Especially noteworthy is that this invention was developed in a term paper by Jang, a second-year graduate student.

The invention uses articulatory movement patterns that are common to all languages, so it doesn't depend solely on language-specific acoustic data. Since it is not strongly limited to language-specific applications, it can work right "out of the box" to quantify a learner's fluency level for most languages in the world.

This device would bring potential economical impact in language fluency measurement for second language learning and speech disorder. The result is an exciting technology that can offer fresh perspectives on language learning as well as on language research. Although both share the same goal, this invention's starkly different approach towards assessing language fluency will offer insights to learners and researchers that the acoustics-based machines may not.

NEWS BRIEFS



Ann Abbott

ABBOTT AND PANDHARIPANDE NAMED DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS

Ann Abbott, a professor and director of the Spanish & Illinois program in the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, and Rajeshwari Pandharipande, a professor of linguistics, Sanskrit, and comparative literature, were named Distinguished Teacher/Scholars for the 2008-2009 academic year by the Teaching Advancement Board.



Rajeshwari Pandharipande

The program recognizes outstanding faculty members who actively enhance teaching and learning on campus and supports innovative projects that recipients develop as part of the selection process. Award recipients serve as consultants and mentors to other faculty members and departments seeking to explore new instructional methods and revitalize their teaching programs.



Joyce Tolliver

TOLLIVER ELECTED CHAIR OF FACULTY SENATE

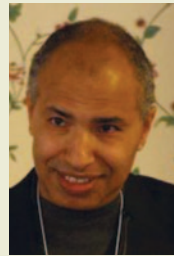
Joyce Tolliver, associate professor of Spanish and gender and women's studies, has been elected chair of the University's Faculty Senate. In this position, she is also chair of the Senate Executive Committee, which serves as the advisory committee representing the three campuses Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield to the president of the University of Illinois.

SLCL FACULTY APPOINTED CAS ASSOCIATES OR FELLOWS FOR 2009-2010

Four faculty members within the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics have been named Center for Advanced Study Associates or Fellows for the 2009-2010 academic year.

The faculty members are: Elabbas Benmamoun, linguistics (Associate, 2009-2010); David Price, religion (Associate, 2009-2010); Dan Shao, East Asian languages and cultures (Beckman Fellow, 2009-2010); and Jonathan Ebel, religion (Beckman Fellow, 2009-2010).

Each year, the tenured and untenured University of Illinois faculty members are invited to submit scholarly or creative proposals for consideration by the center's permanent professors. Faculty members with winning proposals are appointed associates and fellows and awarded one semester of release time to pursue their projects in the coming academic year.



Elabbas Benmamoun



Jonathan H. Ebel



Valerie Hoffman

HOFFMAN NAMED 2009 CARNEGIE SCHOLAR

Valerie Hoffman, associate professor of religious studies, has been selected as a 2009 Carnegie Scholar.

Hoffman, an authority on Islam, was selected as one of 24 well-established and promising young thinkers, analysts, and writers who will receive two-year

grants of up to \$100,000 from the New York-based foundation.

Hoffman was selected for her commitment to enriching the quality of the public dialogue on Islam, the foundation said. Hoffman's project, "Islamic Sectarianism Reconsidered: Ibadi Islam in the Modern Age," explores the impact of globalization on Ibadism, a marginalized strand of Islam distinct from the two dominant branches, Sunni and Shiite.

Hoffman's scholarly exploration of Ibadism's response to globalization will "shed light on the potential for a rigid, closed sect to embrace the diversity of the global age," the foundation said.



Professor Eyamba Bokamba addresses the African Linguistics Conference audience.

ANNUAL AFRICAN LINGUISTICS CONFERENCE RETURNS TO U OF I FOR 40TH MEETING

In April the U of I hosted the 40th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL): "African Languages and Linguistics Today: 40th Anniversary Celebration."

The keynote address was given by Ayo Bamgbose, professor emeritus, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Featured speakers included: Professor Charles W. Kisseberth, Tel Aviv University; Professor Brent Henderson, department of linguistics, University of Florida; Professor Fallou Ngom, associate professor, department of anthropology and director of the African Language Program in the African Studies Center, U of I; and Professor Lioba Moshi, professor of comparative literature, University of Georgia.

The 40th ACAL saw the presentation of 97 papers in almost all areas of linguistics, five plenary addresses, and an overall attendance estimated

at 160-175 participants.

Dr. Eyamba Bokamba, African language coordinator for the Department of Linguistics, reported that the conference "was a great success in every important respect."

The conference, which was inaugurated on the U of I campus in 1970, returns to Illinois every 10 years.



Marina Terkourafi

PROFESSORS DEVELOP MODERN GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COURSES

Professor Marina Terkourafi stands in front of a flyer on her office door that

promotes a new course in Modern Greek being offered for Fall 2009.

U of I linguistics professor Marina Terkourafi and classics professor Angeliki Tzanetou are coordinating an ongoing initiative to cultivate a greater awareness and knowledge of contemporary Greek language and culture on the U of I campus.

With support from the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics and the Committee for Modern Greek Studies, they have been leading efforts to offer a language option that satisfies the campus general education requirements.

Terkourafi said the Committee for Modern Greek Studies has been doing outreach work locally and with Chicago's large Greek community for the past year to promote efforts to offer language and culture courses at Illinois. She added that the Hellenic Students' Association has played a vital role in those efforts, especially in terms of connecting the committee with Greek and Greek-heritage faculty members.

A debut campus course in elementary modern Greek was offered this summer through the Intensive Foreign Language Instruction program. A five-credit course, "Elementary Modern Greek," will be offered for Fall 2009, with a continuing second-level course available in Spring 2010.

Terkourafi added that the committee is

working toward establishing a comprehensive program with courses in modern Greek history, politics, and culture.

For more information visit www.moderngreek.illinois.edu.

LOWE'S BOOK RECOGNIZED BY 'CHOICE' AS OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC TITLE

Elizabeth Lowe, director of the Center for Translation Studies at the University of Illinois, was recognized in *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* among the publication's "Outstanding Academic Titles" for 2008.

Lowe, and coauthor Earl E. Fitz, professor of Portuguese and Spanish and comparative literature at Vanderbilt University, were acknowledged for their work, "Translation and the rise of inter-American literature" (University Press of Florida, 2007), which was listed in the Romance section of books on Languages and Literatures.

Choice is the premier source for reviews of academic books, electronic media, and Internet resources of interest to those in higher education.

SHANZER INDUCTED FELLOW OF MEDIEVAL ACADEMY OF NORTH AMERICA

Professor Danuta Shanzer was inducted in March as a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America, North America's first organization of medievalists and the largest professional organization in the world devoted to medieval studies.

She is one of only two U of I faculty members, and the only current member of the faculty, to have been accorded this honor.

Shanzer works in Latin language and literature, and is primarily a philologist and textual critic and literary historian. Her main area of expertise is the Later Roman Empire and Early Middle Ages (2nd to 7th C. A.D.), but she also works on Medieval Latin in general.

She was recently appointed Latin editor for the *Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library* (a.k.a. "Medieval Loeb"). She also studies Late Antique and

Early Medieval Social History. Shanzer's interests include paleography, vulgar Latin, Biblical exegesis, church history, hagiography, heaven and hell, and the classical tradition.

PARCA AND TZANETOU RECEIVE LAURELS AT AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

The volume edited by Classics professors Maryline Parca and Angeliki Tzanetou, *Finding Persephone: Women's Rituals in the Ancient Mediterranean*, was twice recognized at the most recent meeting of the American Philological Association held in Philadelphia in January.

David Leitao's contribution to that volume, "Male Improvisation in the Cult of Eileithyia on Paros," was the recipient of the 2009 Paul Rehak Award from the Lambda Classical Caucus. In addition, the Women's Classical Caucus presented its award for the year's best article to Deborah Lyons for her piece, "The Scandal of Women's Ritual."



SLAVIC TALENT SHOW

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures held a highly successful talent show in the Illini Union on April 23, 2009.

Organized by Valeria Sobol, assistant professor and language coordinator for the department, the event drew an audience of more than 150 people and showcased the musical and dancing talents of the department's undergraduate and graduate students.



SCHOOL OF
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2009 THULIN LECTURE IN RELIGION: 'THE SURPRISE OF RELIGION IN MODERN AMERICA'

Jon Butler, Howard R. Lamar Professor of American Studies, History and Religious Studies at Yale University, delivered the annual Marjorie Hall Thulin Lecture in Religion, "The Surprise of Religion in Modern America," on campus in March.

Butler began his lecture by discussing the decidedly bleak future that religion appeared to have in late 19th-century America. Denominational leaders worried about seemingly opposite forces—religious pluralism and secularism. Intellectuals often saw religion as an artifact of a primitive past unlikely to survive modernity. Science seemed to deny traditional creation accounts of most religious scriptures. And the anonymity of urban life, industrialization, and a faceless technology all questioned the relevance of religion drawn from an earlier, homespun America.

Butler then asked why the forecasts and concerns about America's religious future turned out to be so wrong. He addressed the appeal of religion in a new century when it might have seemed irrelevant, the ways in which its American purveyors proved uncannily sophisticated in meeting the challenges of modernity,

and the transformations—not always to everyone's liking—that resulted from religion's remarkable and surprising success in 20th-century America.

The Thulin Lecture is sponsored by the U of I Department of Religion.

Marjorie Hall Thulin, for whom the annual lecture is named, is a 1931 graduate of the University of Illinois. She enjoyed a successful career in advertising. Mrs. Thulin also published poetry and children's literature and edited a book on the history of Glencoe, Ill.

Mrs. Thulin's desire for students to understand how religion grows and functions in a complex society, especially Christianity in American society, led her to endow a fund establishing the Marjorie Hall Thulin Scholar of Religion and Contemporary Culture. Through this endowment, each year an internationally known scholar of religion and contemporary culture is resident on the Champaign-Urbana campus for several days.