



SCHOOL OF LITERATURES CULTURES AND LINGUISTICS

A NEWSLETTER COVERING THE
UNIT FOR CINEMA STUDIES
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
AND DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH, ITALIAN, AND PORTUGUESE

WINTER 2009-2010

FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL SYMPOSIUM ON CAMPUS

Personal accounts by people living in Germany before, during and after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 highlighted a symposium held on the University of Illinois campus November 11-13.

“Choosing Change: A Symposium on the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall,” was hosted by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, with support from other campus units including the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics and the Departments of Comparative and World Literature; Slavic Languages and Literatures; and Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.

“Twenty years after the division of Germany and Europe ended, this symposium aimed to re-examine the causes, historical significance and aftermath of the collapse of socialism,” said organizer Anke Pinkert, a professor of Germanic languages and literatures.

“Rather than simply viewing the historical shift in 1989 as a victory of capitalism, the symposium re-evaluated the historical lessons that can be learned from the failure

of socialism, such as the need for social visions and civil rights.”



Anke Pinkert, professor of Germanic languages and literatures and organizer of “A Symposium on the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall.”

The symposium opened with a screening of the 2006 film, *Lives of Others*, directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck.

Events continued the following day with a faculty panel, moderated by Germanic languages and literatures professor Anna Stenport. The panel focused on the presentation of personal narratives. Contributors included Pinkert; Germanic languages and literatures professor Yasemin Yildiz; graduate student Regine Kroh; French professor Marcus Keller; and Champaign-Urbana community member

Eva Grünstein-Neuman.

A keynote address by Gabriele Gysi followed the panel discussion. Gysi, an actress, producer and scholar who has contributed to films on the Holocaust and the fall of the wall, was born into an influential German-Jewish intellectual family. Her talk derived from her experience growing up in the former East Germany and working in the performing arts and in the cultural institutions of East, West and unified Germany.

During her visit to the Illinois campus, Gysi also presented a two-day workshop for theater students.

The symposium ended with a panel discussion, “Post-1989 Literature and Culture: New Approaches,” presented by U of I graduate students. Germanic languages and literatures professor Stephanie Hilger served as moderator. Graduate student presenters who discussed their current research included Kroh, Molly Markin and Soeren Priebe from Germanic languages and literatures; and Jessica Wienhold and Daria Kabanova, comparative and world literature.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The economic situation affects us all as our students struggle to find jobs that match their skills, and pay cuts, furloughs and layoffs are spreading throughout our society. For all the illusion of an "ivory tower" divorced from the realities of the world, the University and of course, the School within it, are affected in serious ways. We are called upon to be ever more creative in meeting our educational and research goals with fewer and fewer resources.

Thus far we have avoided any layoffs, but hiring has been extremely curtailed and many vacant or vacated positions have been left unfilled. Every department is examining closely how it is meeting its instructional needs, now armed with masses of data from the College of LAS.

The most encouraging aspect of this difficult process is the creative thinking of our faculty and staff in meeting these challenges. The departments have been looking at ways to help each other, both in graduate and undergraduate instruction. Graduate level courses on theoretical approaches to literature and cultural studies might be combined across departments with revolving or modular teaching assignments. At the undergraduate level, courses developed in one department for general education requirements might be shared across several departments, in order to reach a broader audience and to extend the teaching capacity.

Another hope is to reach beyond our campus to see how we can cooperate and collaborate with our sister institutions (UI-Chicago and UI-Springfield) to fill each other's needs, plugging intellectual gaps left by retirements and other departures. For sound pedagogical reasons, language courses have to be taught in relatively small classes, but cooperation between departments and campuses should help us maximize our teaching.

The staff, too, has taken up this challenge. In the last newsletter I spoke of our staff retreat. A follow-up meeting has kept the momentum going for finding new ways to do more with less. A newly formed Staff Administrative Committee is identifying and prioritizing tasks that can be simplified, streamlined or otherwise improved. The college's administrative computing services are helping to adapt or create software that will allow the staff to support our research and educational goals in spite of the difficult economic issues that face us.

What is most heartening in the process is the ability and willingness of our entire School community to pull together to see us through. The School and its units will not just survive; what we learn from opening our eyes to each other's potential will make us better.

Best wishes,



Doug Kibbee

Winter 2009-2010
School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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HIGHER LEARNING FOR HER ROYAL HIGHNESS: GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHES ROYALTY SECOND LANGUAGE

By Dave Evensen, from LAS News Online, September 2009

Michael Foster's task this past summer was closer than most graduate students get to living a fairytale. He taught a princess how to speak French.

That word "princess" gets tossed around a lot but this is the real deal. His student's full name is Her Royal Highness (or HRH, in Internet speak) The Princess Reema bint Fahd bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, grand-niece of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, though the 15-year-old prefers to be called simply Reema Salman.

The Saudi royal family made a special arrangement with the Department of French for the girl, who lives in Saudi Arabia, to take an online version of French 101 during the summer of 2009. Foster, a doctoral student with an interest in online education, was assigned the task and he found the princess to be careful and smart, yet far from the typical student.

For most matters Foster dealt not with her but her academic advisor, who resides in Italy, or, her personal secretary. Most of all the advisor or personal secretary requested understanding, as the princess's extensive

travels in Europe or boating across the Indian Ocean delayed a few homework assignments.

Foster said that she had done well, however. The course concluded with an oral exam scheduled after Foster tested her French via an Internet video connection.

"She was a typical student from the interactions I had with her," Foster says. "She submitted her work on time and seemed like a very conscientious student from what I've gathered from her emails from her advisor and her secretary. She wanted to be sure she did the work correctly."

This obviously wasn't a typical course. Foster and a computer technician designed a website where the princess could log on for reading, workbook assignments, tests, and sound files of Foster speaking French. Foster said he hopes this design becomes a model for future use.

Foster laughs that a self-described "normal, regular

guy" such as himself would have the opportunity to teach a princess, though he tried to treat her as

he would any other student. For example, he never bothered her with questions about herself—he didn't even ask why she chose the University of Illinois for her French lessons when she could have easily just traveled to France (the princess was unavailable to answer that question for this story). Foster said he assumed it's because of the University's outstanding reputation for its second language programs.

Regardless of the reasons, he has taken a memorable experience and turned it into a meaningful one.

"It's been really interesting to take from it that I can create an online class," Foster said. "Hopefully I can use this as an experiment for future programs like this with teaching."



Michael Foster, graduate student in the Department of French.

SPURLOCK MUSEUM RECEIVES PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

During the summer of 2009, the Spurlock Museum received accreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM), joining the Krannert Art Museum as the second accredited museum on campus.

Wayne Pitard, director of Spurlock Museum and professor of religion, said accreditation will allow the museum to display more high-quality exhibits in the near future.

"The fact that the museum opened in 2002 and we are accredited in 2009 is a real

indication of the professionalism of the staff," he said.

The AAM is the United States' premier professional organization for museums, Pitard said, adding that the accreditation process takes a few years and requires documenting the museum's collection and procedures, and outlining its mission.

The director said he partially credits the accomplishment to financial support from the University of Illinois, which allowed the museum to expand the number of staff members it employed.

"We now have 16 people full-time on staff, plus

additional security people, and about 35 students working with us—and we have volunteers as well," he noted.

Spurlock Museum, located at 600 S. Gregory St.

in Urbana, has a small acquisitions budget, and expands its collection primarily through donations.

Before the construction of a new building, the museum was located on the fourth floor of Lincoln Hall, on the main Quad.

"We have people who are taking us seriously because of the quality and size of the staff and the build-

ing," Pitard said. "These people would have never considered donating to us when we were in Lincoln Hall and had no facilities to store these things."

Pitard said the museum is "loaded with treasures"—with nearly 45,000 artifacts. The permanent galleries display objects from ancient Greece, Rome, Mesopotamia and Egypt, as well as artifacts from North and South America, Africa, Asia and Oceania and Europe. "We have everything from ancient inscribed tablets to the prototype of the transistor radio," he said.

However, only about 5 percent of Spurlock's collection is actually displayed at any given time. The remainder is in storage and is catalogued online.

Jennifer White, the museum's registrar, pointed out that the museum has multiple databases and two assistant registrars to keep track of all the artifacts in the museum. She noted that it is unusual to have more than 85 percent of a museum's collection photographed and searchable online.

Pitard said that the online database makes it easy for students, faculty and scholars who gain access to the collection. "We have graduate students working on things, and we have a scholar from Israel working on ancient clay tables," he said.

Last summer the museum established the Artifact Imaging Center, which holds two highly specialized cameras that allow users to provide extraordinary digital images of numerous types of small artifacts, including seals and seal impressions, coins, clay tablets, and carved wood and ivory objects, said Pitard.

"In addition to documenting our collections, we plan to make this center and its unique capabilities available to other museums around the country and the world," he added.

See www.spurlock.illinois.edu to learn more.



Spurlock Museum is the second museum on campus to receive accreditation.



Peyman Nojournian

POLITICS IN IRAN: AN INTERVIEW WITH PERSIAN LINGUISTICS AND CULTURE INSTRUCTOR PEYMAN NOJOURNIAN FROM *ON OUR WATCH*, JULY 2009

Peyman Nojournian is a visiting linguistics instructor who teaches Persian with an emphasis on culture, commerce, politics and Islam. Nojournian, who was born in Tehran and was there until hours after the results of the June 12, 2009, presidential election, discussed the political situation in Iran with U of I News Bureau editor Melissa Mitchell.

What is the basis for charges that results of the presidential elections were fraudulent?

Three main factors form the basis for these allegations. First, key members of the Guardians Council, consisting of six clerics directly appointed by the supreme leader and the supreme leader himself, clearly are biased in favor of Mahoud Ahmadinejad, contrary to the impartial role that the constitution dictates to them. The council is responsible to ensure and confirm the validity of the elections. Ayatollah Jannati, head of the Guardians Council, had supported Ahmadinejad just before the election. Ahmadinejad's government speaker, Mr. Elham, is a member of the Guardians Council. The supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, congratulated Ahmadinejad before the council confirmed the validity of the election.

Second, although there were only 45 million eligible voters, 15 million extra ballots were printed by the Interior Ministry. Nevertheless, many voting stations closed much sooner than the announced closing times because of lack of ballots. Iranian elections use one of the most inefficient voting systems and are prone to errors.

Finally, it was claimed that representatives of Ahmadinejad's rivals were denied access to the polling stations and votes were transferred to the Interior Ministry and counted in their absence.

Furthermore, election analysis by the London-based Chatham House confirmed that the official results in which Ahmadinejad was declared the winner could only have been achieved with massive vote rigging. The report was based on voting patterns from previous elections and a 2006 census. On June 22, the Guardians Council admitted minor election irregularities but asserted that even if votes would be recounted in more than 50 disputed stations, it would not change the results

dramatically. According to Rezai, the candidate closer to conservatives, in 170 stations the number of actual votes was more than the eligible voters.

Given Iran's complex leadership structure, in which the president's role is diminished in comparison to that typical in most democracies, does it really matter if Ahmadinejad, Mir Hossein Mousavi—or any of the other candidates—were legitimately elected to that office?

Although it is the supreme leader, or so-called Waliye Faqih, who wields absolute power in Iran, history has shown that reformists have been able to achieve some success, especially in foreign policy, economic and social development. It was during the (rule of) former reformist president Khatami that the regime's revolutionary guard—Sepah—was banned from doing economic activities. The media was also able to criticize the government freely. However, the regime's main policies have always been dictated by the hardliner conservatives headed by the supreme leader and Sepah commanders.

An elected reformist president like Mousavi, with wide support of the people, could have put more pressure on conservatives to soften the regime's hardline foreign policy and improved Iran's economy. The current government had been criticized for its inefficient economic policies even by conservatives.

Some observers say the current political unrest in Iran is being fueled by more than allegations of rigged elections—that there is a widespread perception that the theocracy has violated constitutional directives and is losing the confidence of the people. Do you believe this is an accurate representation of what's taking place?

The current election campaigns gave courage and confidence to people to express their opinions freely. People were motivated more than any other time to go to the streets and show their support for reformists. The green bracelets and scarves were almost everywhere symbolizing the unity and solidarity among the Iranians.

In my opinion, people who had been repressed found themselves in unity before the election. The rigged election was just an excuse because through

all these years there was only one significant movement by the students, which was suppressed even before it could be born. People have long been waiting for the time to come to show their unity and courage in expressing their opposition to the oppressive regime.

It has been rumored that Ayatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Chairman of the Experts Assembly, traveled to Qom in an attempt to convince the Islamic republic's most powerful body of clerics, the Guardian Council, to meet to determine whether Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei should remain in power. Is this credible speculation?

Rafsanjani is a smart politician and has always been playing a key role to maintain the regime's integrity. He managed the war and saved Iran from the conspiracies plotted by Saddam when he invaded Kuwait. Rafsanjani has been able to secure his two key positions as the head of the Experts Assembly and the Expediency Council during the time that he has been under fierce attacks by hardliners like Ahmadinejad.

The fact that he encouraged Experts Assembly to elect Khamenei as the supreme leader in 1989 would eliminate the idea of ousting him now. He, however, knows how to show his disagreement to his opponents. The rumor of ousting the leader because of his ineligibility is merely a tactic to put more pressure on the leader to give up on his support of hardliners.

In the June 19 sermon, Khamenei defended Rafsanjani against the accusations made by Ahmadinejad during the controversial presidential debate. However, the supreme leader made it clear that he still would support the president-elect. How do you think current tensions in Iran ultimately may be resolved?

Eventually, a compromise between Khamenei and Rafsanjani may ease the tensions. Nevertheless, the recent unrest in Iran has had two different outcomes. First, it showed the world that the majority of Iranians do not support the Islamic extremism. Secondly, Iranians found their real courage and unity again and today they are closer to the doors of democracy than ever.

VALERIA SOBOL AND ‘LOVESICKNESS IN THE RUSSIAN LITERARY IMAGINATION’

By Melissa Mitchell

The idea that love—especially the unrequited variety—and the passion associated with it could render one physically ill goes way back on the cultural-historical timeline. According to Valeria Sobol, associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures, scholars have traced the concept of “lovesickness” all the way back to the Greeks.

Before exploring the topic in her recently published book *Febris Erotica: Lovesickness in the Russian Literary Imagination* (University of Washington Press)—“*Febris Erotica*” translates as “love fever”—Sobol said she was unaware that “there was this whole long, ancient history behind this concept of lovesickness, with elaborate theories of how you develop this disease, and the ‘scientific’ mechanisms behind that.”

As it turns out, the connection made between love and illness—in both literature and medicine—is not limited to Western thought and philosophy.

Russian literature—most notably, 19th-century novels—tends to be overpopulated with doctor characters, as well as distraught young women (and some men) consumed with so much passion that their bodies just couldn’t physically tolerate the heat.

“I became intrigued by the use of physiology and the use of medical metaphors in Russian literature because it was such a big deal in the 19th century,” Sobol said. The themes and language were so pervasive—in works ranging from Nikolai Karamzin’s *Letter of a Russian Traveler* and Aleksander Herzen’s *Who Is to Blame?* to Leo Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina*—that “we often take lovesickness for granted in those novels.

“In real life, today, we may talk about depression” being the outcome of stress and anguish attributed to matters of the heart,” she said. “But the fact that you could develop tuberculosis and die as a result of love is too much for contemporary readers.”

Not so, among readers of 19th-century Russian fiction, said Sobol, who noted that novels typically were published in thick journals, which also included a mix of scientific and philosophical articles, along with translated works.

“The interesting thing about tuberculosis,” she noted, “was that bacillus wasn’t discovered until 1881. So up until then, they really didn’t know what caused the disease, and often attributed it to the effects of lovesickness.”

As she studied the cultural, philosophical and scientific theories in vogue in Russia during the 19th century, as well as the early modern period that preceded it, Sobol discovered that the metaphors and literary devices employed by Russian writers could be traced to changes occurring within Russian society.

“In Russia and, in general, in Western Europe, there was such a rapid development of empirical sciences, starting from the 1840s

on. It immediately pervaded literary works,” she said, adding that “Russian literary writers were always interested in other developments outside of literature.

“They always tried to be more than just artists; they wanted to be preachers or philosophers or moral leaders, like Tolstoy, famously.”

In her book, Sobol argues that “through the use of lovesickness—because it engages the issues of mind, body and human nature—writers were able to indirectly address some of the most pressing

issues of their time.”

Among the issues Sobol confronted in her research was the tension that appeared to exist between developments in the real world—where modern scientific and philosophical concepts were slowly beginning to gain acceptance—and the fictional realm, where love fever was still the rage.

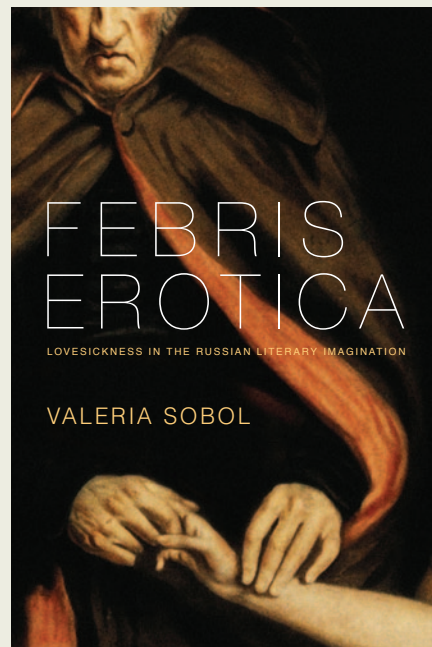
“What justification did they have to perpetuate that? There must have been some view of the

human being and the relationship between the physical and emotional realms to justify that connection, because emotion or passion from unfulfilled or rejected love, can kill you”—at least in the fictional accounts of the day,” Sobol said.

Some of the enduring conflict, she believes, was borne from the reality that 19th-century Russia was an Orthodox Christian monarchy; therefore, science—including the disciplines of anatomy and physiology—was still regarded as suspect, and fraught with politically

charged connotations.

In that swirl of competing, changing ideologies, the location of the human soul—to which the emotion of love was often thought to be anchored—remained a conundrum. And in many respects, Sobol noted, the mind-body connection continues to be a philosophical and cultural enigma, even today.



NEWS BRIEFS



Dan Shao

SHAO WINS INITIATIVE AWARD

Dan Shao, assistant professor of East Asian languages and cultures (EALC), is one of eight U of I faculty members

whose projects have received a 2009-2010 Focal Point Initiative award from the U of I Graduate College.

Shao's project, "Law and Society in China (1800s-present)," aims at transferring knowledge between the domains of law and East Asian studies through collaborative teaching, research and studying.

To promote active conversation and collaboration between law and East Asian studies programs on campus, this project is designed to create boundary-crossing opportunities for both faculty and doctoral students to leave their routine research areas, and to teach students how to trace historical roots of contemporary legal problems in and about China. It also aims to analyze Chinese history through legal documents, as well as to identify problems about cultural differences in people's conceptualization of the interrelationships between law and society.

Professor Andrew Morriss (law) is the faculty co-PI, and Dean Charlotte Ku is the consultant for the project. Ying Xue (JSD) and Jing Gong (EALC) are the student coordinators.

STENPORT COPUBLISHES ARTICLE IN 'SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES'

Anna Westerståhl Stenport, assistant professor of Germanic languages and literatures, has co-published (with Cecilia Ovesdotter Alm, Cornell University; University of Illinois linguistics PhD) an article in the journal, *Scandinavian Studies*, Spring 2009 (Volume 81, Number 2).

In the article, "Corporations, Crime, and Gender Construction in Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the*

Dragon Tattoo: Exploring Twenty-First Century Neoliberalism in Swedish Culture," the authors discuss the work of Swedish crime novelist Stieg Larsson.

Published in English in the UK and the U.S. in 2008 as *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, the book was the best-selling novel in Europe that year. It has been translated into 35 languages, including Vietnamese, Mandarin, Korean and Hebrew, and was launched in the U.S. by Knopf. The work debuted at number four on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

Stenport and Alm argue that *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* must be viewed "as a paragon



Anna Westerståhl Stenport

for how 21st-century Swedish culture construes itself in a global paradigm." Stenport further describes how the novel

"shatters images of contemporary Sweden as gender equal and a human rights haven, by allowing corporations and financial interests to override concerns for the rights of women trafficked to Sweden for sexual abuse."

The novel is a both "traditional locked-room mystery about the seemingly inexplicable disappearance of Harriet Vanger as a teenage girl, and her uncle's search to find her, and a modern thriller about corporate crime and a series of female murders."

Scandinavian Studies is a scholarly journal published quarterly by the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study.

NEW BOOK BY SCHEHR EARNS GLOWING REVIEWS

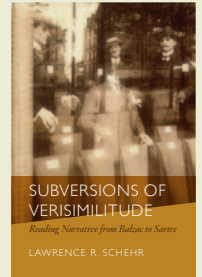
Lawrence Schehr, professor of French, has published a new book, *Subversions of Verisimilitude: Reading Narrative from Balzac to Sartre* (Fordham UP, 2009).

Subversions of Verisimilitude focuses on the ways in which a number of French literary narratives written in the realist tradition show a

dynamic balance between the desire of the author/narrator to present a verisimilar world and the need for aesthetic balance. While the works studied—narratives by Balzac, Flaubert, Zola, Colette, Proust and Sartre—range

over the course of a century, from 1835 to 1938, they share a perspective on the relations between and the need to engage questions of realist verisimilitude and narrative interest and aesthetics.

David Bell of Duke University has written of Schehr's new work: "Schehr situates the originality of his perspective within the richness of his critical tradition. He does this deftly and intelligently, creating a fascinating perspective on realism and its history."



OYLER AND BOKAMBA AWARDED FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR GRANTS

Two SLCL faculty members are among seven University of Illinois faculty who have been awarded 2009-2010 Fulbright Scholar grants: Elizabeth Oyler, professor of East Asian languages and cultures, and Eyamba Bokamba, professor of linguistics.

Recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as



Elizabeth Oyler

demonstrated leadership potential in their fields, according to the Fulbright Scholar Program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

The U of I recipients join about 800 other Americans who have received the grants to lecture or conduct research abroad.

Oyler will conduct research on her project,

"The Road to the East: Traveling the Tokaido

in Medieval Japanese Narrative and Drama," at the Japanese National Literature Institute in Tokyo, from January to May.

Since September, Bokamba has been researching a comprehensive reference grammar of Lingala—a Bantu language spoken in parts of central Africa—at the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, Belgium. He will continue his project until February.



Eyamba Bokamba



James Treat

TREAT NAMED LAS FELLOW

James Treat, professor of religion, has been selected as a University of Illinois LAS Fellow in a Second Discipline for the 2010-2011 academic

year. Treat will be studying environmental science and traditional ecological knowledge in cooperation with Professor Tony Endress and other faculty in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences.

In addition, one of Treat's current sabbatical projects involves writing "Mvskoke Country," a monthly column on environmental issues published in the *Muscogee Nation News*. In his December 2009 column, Treat describes hundreds of American Indian and Alaska Native leaders who gathered in November for the Native Peoples Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop. Meeting ahead of the United Nations climate summit in Copenhagen in December, they hoped to exchange insights, discuss strategies, and add their voices to the increasingly heated debate over global warming.

To learn more about Mvskoke Country, visit: <http://mvskokecountry.wordpress.com>.

CRANE EARNS LAS ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Cori Crane, assistant professor of Germanic languages and literatures and director of the Basic German Language Program, as well as the Basic Language Program, has earned the LAS Academic Professional Award for 2009-2010.

In 1993, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences established the LAS Academic Professional Awards to identify and honor selected academic professionals for their outstanding contributions to the college.

Her nomination included the following comments: "Our department's offerings, the content of what we teach, and the substance of what we do are all better due to Professor Crane. We have one of the most updated, cutting-edge curricula in the country due to her expertise and hard work. Dr. Crane is genuinely enthusiastic about all areas of our program. She also seems hardwired with an ideal combination of collegiality, professionalism, expertise, and intellectual curiosity. She makes us all better, and we cannot recommend her more highly for this much-deserved award."



Cori Crane

TEST SPECIFICATION BOOK BY LINGUISTICS PROFESSOR TRANSLATED INTO KOREAN

Testcraft: A Teacher's Guide to Writing and Using Language Test Specifications, by Fred Davidson, associate professor of linguistics, and Brian K. Lynch (applied linguistics, Portland State University), has been translated into Korean in a 2009 edition and published by Hankookmunhwasa Publishing Company in Seoul.

Testcraft, published in English by Yale University Press, is a how-to guide for creating tests that reliably measure exactly what they

are intended to measure. Its audience includes classroom teachers, language administrators and professors of language-testing courses.

Davidson and Lynch explain criterion-related language test development, a process that focuses on the early stages of test development when the criterion to be tested is defined, specifications are established and items and tasks are written.

So-Young Jang, a PhD student in educational psychology at the U of I, helped with the translation.

CENTER FOR TRANSLATION STUDIES NEWS AND PUBLICATION

Wail Hassan, comparative and world literature, presented "From Literature in Translation to Translational Literature: Ahdaf Soueif and the Politics of Writing in English" at the "Horizons of Translation Lecture Series" at New York University in October.

Anastasia Lakhtikova (Center for Translation Studies), trans. "Friedmann Space" by Victor Pelevin. Best European Fiction 2010. Champaign: Dalkey Archive Press, 2010. 259-272.

Elizabeth Lowe (Center for Translation Studies) chaired a panel on "Standards and Translation Pedagogy" at the American Translators Association Conference in New York in October. The panel was part of the ATA Standards Committee effort to inform members about issues relating to standards for translation practice. In August, Lowe chaired a panel, "Educating the Human Translator in the Technology Age," at the Machine Translation Summit in Ottawa, Canada. Panel participants included Patricia Phillips Batoma (U of I), Roxana Girju (U of I), and Patricia Minacori (University of Paris VII).



SCHOOL OF
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BRAZILIAN WRITERS AND THEIR TRANSLATORS

The Center for Translation Studies at the U of I hosted a culture talk and bilingual readings focusing on Brazilian literature in translation on campus on November 16 and 19.

Participating authors and their translators included Ambassador João Almino de Souza, with translator Elizabeth Jackson; Miriam Alves, with translator Rick Santos; and Ignacio de Loyola Brandão, with translator Nelson Vieira.

“The purpose of the program was to give a fresh, contemporary view of Brazilian literature to the English-speaking audience who may have limited knowledge of Brazilian literary culture,” said Elizabeth Lowe, the director of the Center for Translation Studies.

Lowe called the featured authors “canonical figures in Brazilian literature.” Some of them have been published by Dalkey Archive Press, which is associated with the U of I, or are under consideration by the Press.

“They represent diverse trends in contemporary Brazilian letters that defy stereotypes of Brazilian culture and place Brazilian literature in the vanguard of contemporary inter-American writing,” Lowe said.

The program featured two additional lectures organized in conjunction with the event, with Vieira addressing “The Cultural Politics of Diasporic Identities: Ways of Being Jewish in Brazil” and Alves speaking about women poets in Brazil.



Ambassador João Almino de Souza reads from one of his works during an event held at the “Author’s Corner” in the Illini Union Bookstore on November 16. Almino’s translator, Elizabeth Jackson, is seated to his right. Seated to the far left are translator Nelson Vieira and author Ignacio de Loyola Brandão. Seated at the far right is moderator Rhett McNeil, a fellow at Dalkey Archive Press. The event also included Brazilian poet Miriam Alves, with translator Rick Santos.