



# 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  
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

SPRING 2015

## MARCUS KELLER (FRENCH & ITALIAN) CO-COORDINATOR OF U OF I'S YEAR-LONG COMMEMORATION OF 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF START OF WORLD WAR I

**M**arcus Keller, professor of French and Italian, is serving as co-coordinator with Michael Rothberg, English, of the cross-campus commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I.

The commemoration, which is taking place throughout the 2014-15 academic year, includes theater productions, a film series, concerts, lectures, symposiums, an art exhibition and a general education course.

Entitled "The Great War: Experiences, Representations, Effects," the commemoration is designed for Illinois students and the local community to gain a new understanding about the first industrialized conflict carried out on a global scale.

Professor Keller said that France, in particular, still regards World War I as the greatest trauma of the 20th century because of the loss of nearly two million French soldiers, with another five million wounded. "Contrary to World War II, the war of 1914-18 affected just about every family in France through the loss of a loved one," he noted.

He said The Great War initiative broadened his understanding of the war's global impact—the colonial powers'




*Michael Rothberg, English, and Marcus Keller, French and Italian, co-coordinators of the U of I's commemoration of WWI: "The Great War: Experiences, Representations, Effects."*

recruitment of soldiers from Africa and India, the Australians compelled to fight the Ottoman Empire, and the "social reshuffling" caused by the feminization of the workforce. "World War I really thrust the world into the 20th century, and a wholly new era, within the matter of four years," Keller said.

Fall highlights included a symposium titled "World War I and the Making of Modern American Culture"; a Center for Advanced Study/Millercomm lecture by Professor Timothy Snyder of Yale University; and a performance entitled,

"All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914" by the a capella group Cantus plus a trio of actors from the Minneapolis-based Theater Latté Da.

During the spring semester highlights include a theater production of Joan Littlewood's musical production of "Oh What a Lovely War," the Kronos Quartet's performance of "Beyond Zero: 1914-1918," and a symposium titled "1915: Music, Memory and the Great War," organized by the U of I School of Music.

For more about "The Great War" visit: [www.thegreatwar.illinois.edu](http://www.thegreatwar.illinois.edu). 

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Give to the School

Please consider investing in the future of the School through a gift designated for either: 1) **the SLCL Annual Fund**, which helps to promote overall excellence in the school; 2) **the Douglas A. Kibbee Prize**, awarded annually to the most outstanding dissertation proposal; or 3) **SLCL departments or programs**. Your gift is most appreciated! Visit our website, [slcl.illinois.edu](http://slcl.illinois.edu) and click "Give to SLCL" in the upper right-hand corner.

### Attention, Alumni: We Want to Hear Your Stories

We want to hear from you: what do you do (job title, duties), where do you work, and how has your U of I education prepared you for your success? Please send us your story, 200 words maximum, subject heading "My alumni story" to: Rick Partin, [partin@illinois.edu](mailto:partin@illinois.edu). You may include a photo of yourself in electronic format (.jpg or .png preferred). We'll publish select ones on our School website: [slcl.illinois.edu](http://slcl.illinois.edu).

### Check out Our Website

We also have a new look on our School webpage, which now includes a Calendar of Events, Announcements, a Feature News section, and our own Facebook page. Please visit us online at [slcl.illinois.edu](http://slcl.illinois.edu) to find out what's happening in SLCL!

### SPRING 2015

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

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Director: Jean-Philippe Mathy  
Editor: Rick Partin



The fall semester has seen major developments in the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics in a number of areas, ranging from faculty hiring and curricular innovation, to major awards for research and scholarship.

Four departments have been conducting searches for additional faculty this year: the Classics (Greek Prose), French and Italian (Second Language Acquisition in French), Linguistics (Language Testing and Assessment), and Religion (Islamic Studies). Earlier in the fall, these four searches were selected (together with History and the department of Curriculum and Instruction in the School of Education) as part of a priority cluster hiring program centered on the theme of "Social Equality and Cultural Understanding." This highlights the centrality of SLCL's research and teaching on the subjects of transnational mobility and global communication, as well as the ability of our departments to collaborate with humanities and social science units across campus.

The University of Illinois was the recipient of five extremely selective fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the highest number awarded to a single campus this year. The funding ratio for the awards is 7 percent. Two of the fellowships went to SLCL units, a confirmation of the excellence of our literature faculty. Professor François Proulx (French and Italian) was recognized for a project entitled "Reading and French Masculinity at the Fin de Siècle;" Professor Valeria Sobol (Slavic Languages and Literatures) received the award for her proposed study of "Visions of Empire in Russian Gothic Literature, 1790-1850."

SLCL is home to four linguistics labs devoted to research in Discourse, Social Interaction & Translation, Electrophysiology & Language Processing, Phonetics & Phonology, and Second Language Acquisition & Bilingualism. The labs continue to receive recognition and support from external funding agencies, the latest one being a grant from the National Science Foundation for almost \$400,000, to professors Darren Tanner (Linguistics) and Silvina Montrul (Spanish & Portuguese, and Linguistics).

For more information on these and other accomplishments, in addition to the current newsletter, please consult our website and visit our Facebook page.

It has been a pleasure to serve our School as its new director since last August, and I look forward to sharing many more achievements from our faculty, staff and students in the next newsletter. *✍*

Jean-Philippe Mathy

# VIRTUAL SUCCESS: A GROWING HINDI PROGRAM EXPANDS IN CYBERSPACE

By Dave Evensen



**Mithilesh Mishra,**  
Director and Language  
Coordinator of Hindi and  
Urdu. Advisor for the Minor  
in Hindi Studies, and Senior  
Lecturer of Hindi.

Step by step, the U of I has been building one of the best academic programs in Hindi in the nation. In its latest improvement, however, students and the instructor don't even have to leave their seats.

This past fall, Mithilesh Mishra, senior lecturer in the

Department of Linguistics and director of programming in Hindi and Urdu, taught the first-ever virtual "Advanced Hindi" course in the country. The "classroom" for the 13 students who enrolled was nothing more than their laptop computers, connected by camera and audio to Mishra as he taught from his office.

For the most part, the cutting-edge virtual class was a success, aside from a few technical hiccups—including the humorous irony of Mishra being forced to revert to the pre-Internet era and accept handwritten assignments, because most students in the U.S. are not accustomed to typing in Hindi. In general, however, Mishra says the virtual format allowed for more flexibility, creativity, and discussion than ever before.

As if attending class from their dorm rooms or wherever they could find an Internet signal wasn't convenient enough, class was held on Tuesday and Saturday evenings, leaving daylight hours free. And why not? Without having to worry about reserving a classroom, Mishra merely put it to a vote, and those were the times students felt were most convenient.

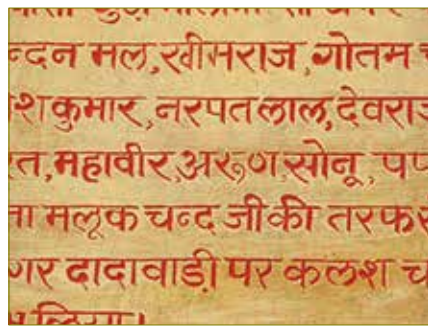
But even if they couldn't log on at that time, all the classes were recorded, with other materials posted online, so that the students could download later. In the virtual format, students could absorb their lessons in Hindi at 2 a.m., or on the treadmill through headphones, or in the coffee shop, if that's what they wanted.

There was no lessening of Mishra's expectations or standards. Actually, students

in the virtual class were expected to devote more of their own time to the course than normal, as they viewed videos and other course materials at their own convenience instead of spending class time to watch them. Mishra calls it the virtual course's greatest advantage.

"We're able to compress a 15-week course into eight weeks," he says. "I assign films, excerpts from television programs, CDs, and other material to do on their own. It's a standing requirement. You watch when you get a chance, and it doesn't take class time. Students like it."

The University of Illinois has been a leader in Hindi. It was the first university to offer a minor in Hindi, Mishra says, and he created the first "Business Hindi" course in the country. He adds that this latest endeavor was a hit from the start.



Mishra first considered it while he was teaching Hindi at the South Asia Summer Language Institute (SASLI) in Madison, Wis., where there was such demand for "Advanced Hindi" that students asked if he could teach the course online. The idea never materialized at SASLI, where he teaches during the summer, but "I felt bad turning them down all the time," Mishra bemoans. So he brought the idea before his department chair, administrators in the College of LAS, and campus computer support, and received enthusiastic support.

When registration opened for the first virtual "Advanced Hindi" course in the fall 2014 semester, Mishra expected five students to sign on. Then he learned how appealing the idea of

a virtual course could be.

"Once the news kind of spread that there was this online course, suddenly there were 11 students almost overnight," he recalls. In the end, there were 13 students for the virtual "Advanced Hindi" course, including one from Cal-State Northridge, in addition to his traditional class. In all, 22 students were enrolled in "Advanced Hindi," making it the largest "Advanced Hindi" program in the United States.

It also became a bit unwieldy. By the end of the semester, Mishra and the department had decided that from now on, all "Advanced Hindi" courses would be taught virtually.

He's expanding the concept to other Hindi courses as well. He wants his "Business Hindi" course to be virtual by the fall 2015 semester. His first- and second-year Hindi classes will remain under the traditional classroom format for now, as he believes beginning students benefit best by being in the same space as the instructor, but he won a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program to blend a virtual aspect into the beginning courses as well.

He's even thinking about creating an "asynchronous" virtual course, where students would not need to be logged on at the same time as the instructor, instead downloading materials and recordings on their own time as they progressed. This would allow students from everywhere in the world to enroll, Mishra points out.

But that's getting ahead of himself. Last fall, he learned that for all his students' technical prowess, they wanted to move slowly into the virtual classroom, too. Mishra recalls how one day he asked if he could turn off the camera, so that students could only hear his voice.

"The students say no, they want to see me," Mishra says, with a laugh. "I think that they are transitioning from the in-class mode, too. They feel somewhat disconcerted if they don't see the instructor's face. So they said, 'No, please keep the camera on.'" ❧

## PROFESSOR L. ELENA DELGADO'S DEBATE-PROVOKING NEW BOOK

By Rick Partin



L. Elena Delgado

L. Elena Delgado, associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese, has published a new book, entitled, *La nación singular: Fantasías de la normalidad democrática española (1996-2011)* [*The Singular Nation: Fantasies of Normalcy in Democratic Spain (1996-2011)*], by Siglo XXI Editores.

The book, which addresses Spanish cultural and political identity in the democratic period, is now available

worldwide in physical and virtual bookstores.

*The Singular Nation's* point of departure is the obsessive reference to normalcy in Spanish political and cultural discourses of the democratic period, until around 2007, when the economic crisis put the country on a state of alert.

Framed by Jacques Rancière's work on democratic consensus and dissent, as well as by Roberto Esposito's exploration of the concept of community and the common, Delgado argues that democratic Spanish culture is sustained by a fantasy of consensual normalcy, projected onto the political ideal of a State that is cohesive and homogeneous, both in its political objectives and its cultural manifestations.

She also follows S. Žižek and J. Rose in considering fantasy not as in opposition to social reality, but as its pre-existing condition—what she calls its “psychic glue”. Correspondingly, she states, “The identifications and rejections that characterize Spanish national identity are perceived as what upholds or threatens the stability of the ‘State of normalcy.’”

As she points out, “Any type of substantial dissent from official policies is understood as a dangerous fracture that has to be melded to save the foundations of democratic Spain from collapse.”

In this respect, Delgado studies areas of dissent considered “excessive” by the State, whether they derive from peripheral nationalisms (Basque and Catalan in particular) or from the numerous citizens' movements that have taken to the streets in unprecedented numbers to denounce the country's catastrophic economic situation and loss of social rights.

Some of those movements have formed new political parties, one of which (Podemos, “Yes we can”) has won a significant number of representatives in the most recent European elections and now constitutes a serious challenge to traditional bipartidism. Not surprisingly, Delgado notes, Podemos (and similar European political options, such as Greece's Syriza's) is already being denounced by the major parties and conservative segments of the media as a threat to democratic normalcy.

The monograph ends with a reflection on what constitutes a democratic community—one that must include singular ways of belonging to it.



The broader questions posed by the book have relevance beyond Spain, since as numerous critics have stated, Western democracies today share a similar consensual, non-litigious vision of the social order and of politics. Among those questions: How are the limits to democratic dissent and protest established and negotiated? How do literature and art reveal (or conceal) the ambivalences and complications of “national belonging”? What is the role of the arts and the humanities in challenging commonsense definitions of what constitutes proper or improper discourses in the public sphere? How are democratic cultural practices being re-conceptualized at a time of profound economic and social crisis?


The publisher, Siglo XXI, releases the works of major European philosophers and theorists in translation, as well as leading contemporary historians and political and cultural analysts. *The Singular Nation* has been reviewed and discussed widely in the Spanish press, including major newspapers such as “La Vanguardia” (Barcelona), “El País” (Madrid), “ABC” (Madrid), “El Confidencial” (Madrid): it has been said to mark a before and after in studies of Spanish nationalism and to provide a useful theoretical framework for current public debates on what constitutes the core of a vibrant democratic community. It was selected as one of the essential book of 2014 by “El Confidencial” and the influential literary blog “El Boomerang.”

Professor Delgado was born in Caracas, Venezuela, the granddaughter of exiles and daughter of immigrants. She was raised in Spain from the age of six onward. She moved to California at the age of 22 to pursue her PhD at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

She first joined the faculty in the U of I Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. In addition to her professorship in the present Department of Spanish and Portuguese, she now holds appointments also in the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, Gender and Women's Studies, Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies, Global Studies and the European Union Center.

Her specializations and research interests include: modern and contemporary Spanish literature and cultural studies, cultural construction of identities, cultural theory, ideology and culture, and emotions and affect in transcultural national contexts.

Since 2013 Professor Delgado has lived in Barcelona, directing the University of Illinois-University of California Study Center, a directorship she will continue through 2015.

To learn more about her new book, visit: <http://www.sigloxxieditores.com/libros/La-naciOn-singular/9788432316715>. 



## MARK LEWIS (PHD, GERMAN, 1992) NEW DIRECTOR OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY'S GEDDES LANGUAGE CENTER



*Mark Lewis (PhD, German 1992), Director of the Geddes Language Center in Boston.*

Mark Lewis (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 1992) has moved from the University of Massachusetts Boston, to Boston University to become the next Director of the Geddes Language Center.

Founded in 1960, the Center is dedicated to providing an extensive humanities resource for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and the entire Boston University community.

The Geddes Center serves the media production and technology needs for learners in 25 foreign languages, as well as English Writing and other disciplines.

"It is very exciting for me to be returning to the languages and the humanities, after many years serving all the disciplines as well as professional fields of study," says Lewis. "I hope to find opportunities to bring people together, and support and promote their pedagogical practice in the most meaningful ways possible."

Lewis is not new to instructional technology. He has served as director of Academic Technologies at Regis College, and most recently as manager of eLearning and Instructional Design Services at the University of

Massachusetts Boston, where the focus was on supporting online learning.

While completing his doctoral dissertation on 18th Century German and Russian literature at the U of I, he held a position as a Computing Consultant in the Humanities on Project Hermes, housed in the Office for Computing and Communications for the Social Sciences (OCCSS).

In addition to Lewis, OCCSS gave at least one other PhD student at the time, Jolee West (Anthropology), a clear pathway to a leadership role in educational technologies. West is now Director of Academic Computing at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. She and Lewis have kept in touch through professional channels over the years.

Lewis says that as an educator, the major challenge that he faces in representing the arts and sciences disciplines in higher education is to decide which new educational technologies actually solve problems.

"Having chosen this field has led to grant opportunities, collaborations, constant learning, and a degree of job satisfaction that make for an excellent alternative to work as a full-time faculty member," says Lewis. "People should know what their options are, and increasingly today many more recent PhDs are following career paths that combine subject matter expertise with something else." ☞

## TWO SLCL SCHOLARS AMONG FIVE AT U OF I AWARDED NEH FELLOWSHIPS FOR 2015



*Valeria Sobol, associate professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.*

Valeria Sobol and François Proulx of the SLCL are among five University of Illinois scholars that have received National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships for 2015. The U of I is the only institution to be awarded more than three of the fellowships for the coming year.

Sobol is an associate professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Proulx is an assistant professor in the Department of French and Italian.

Sobol's project is titled "Visions of Empire in Russian Gothic Literature, 1790-1850." She investigates the connection between the Gothic elements of many Russian literary works and their imperial context. Sobol argues that the persistent presence of Gothic tropes is not just a tribute to a fashionable Western literary trend, but exposes the Russian empire's anxieties about its borders, identity and colonial power.



*François Proulx, assistant professor in the Department of French and Italian.*

Proulx's project is entitled "Reading and French Masculinity at the Fin de Siècle." Proulx investigates young men's reading habits as a subject of grave social concern in fin-de-siècle France. He considers how excessive reading was blamed for the declining virility of French youth in the late 19th century, and details what was at stake in representations of the young male reader by novelists of the era, from Jules Vallès to Marcel Proust.

The other grant recipients from the U of I are Antoinette Burton, a professor of history, Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies, a professor of gender and women's studies and interim head of the department of sociology; Robert Morrissey, a professor of history; and Timothy Pauketat, a professor of anthropology and of medieval studies.

U of I Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise said of the awards, "These grants are among the most prestigious and competitive scholarly funding opportunities in the nation—in any discipline or field. These scholars stand out both on our campus and across the country for their academic achievements, and it is gratifying to see them recognized for their excellence." ☞

## NEWS BRIEFS

### ELIZABETH LOWE TRANSLATES BOOK NOMINATED FOR MAJOR LITERARY AWARD



*Elizabeth Lowe, professor and director of the U of I Center for Translation Studies, and nominee for the IMPAC DUBLIN Literary Award.*

A book translated from Portuguese by **Elizabeth Lowe**, professor and director of the U of I Center for Translation Studies, is one of five nominated by libraries worldwide for the €100,000 International IMPAC DUBLIN Literary Award.

Lowe translated "The Only Happy Ending for a Love Story is an Accident," by J.P. Cuenca, a Brazilian author whose work has also been published in German, Portuguese and Spanish.

The International IMPAC DUBLIN Literary Award is presented annually for a novel written in English or translated into English. It's the world's most valuable annual literary prize for a single work of fiction published in English. The award aims to promote excellence in world literature, and nominations are

submitted by library systems in major cities throughout the world.

Lowe specializes in literary translation, translation pedagogy, translation theory and terminology. She received a PhD in Comparative Literature with a concentration in Translation from the City University of New York. She has been the director of the U of I Center for Translation Studies since 2008. ☞

### SCHOOL OF LITERATURES, CULTURES AND LINGUISTICS ANNOUNCES MERGER OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN INTO ONE DEPARTMENT WITHIN SLCL SPANISH, ITALIAN & PORTUGUESE BECOMES SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE

The School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics (SLCL) has announced the merger of French and Italian into their own department within the School. Italian was formerly part of the Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese, which now becomes the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, also part of the SLCL.

The proposals from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to transfer all aspects of the Italian program were approved by the U of I Senate and the Board of Trustees, and reported to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

The transfer includes moving the administrative homes of the faculty and associated non-tenure-track academic lines and moving degree programs, including: the bachelor of arts in liberal arts and science in Italian, the undergraduate minor in Italian, the master of arts in Italian, and the doctor of philosophy in Italian. ☞

### PROFESSOR CRAIG WILLIAMS (THE CLASSICS) GIVES PRESTIGIOUS FIFTH ANNUAL IPRH LECTURE



*Professor Craig Williams, IPRH Distinguished Lecturer, Fall 2014.*

**Craig Williams**, professor of the classics, gave the Fifth Annual IPRH (Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities) Lecture in October on the topic, "Just Friends? Love and Friendship in Ancient Rome and Today."

Williams was introduced by Ariana Traill, associate professor and head of the classics, who also served as moderator for the event.

In his abstract describing the talk, Williams commented "The common assertion that two people are 'just friends' (as opposed to something else, something more) would probably have made little sense to ancient Romans, whose literature suggests that friendship was commonly idealized

as the single most valued of chosen human relationships. I offer a brief overview of what friendship looks like in Latin literature and in the hundreds of Latin epitaphs commissioned by men and women in honor of their friends.

"What does it mean to say 'You are my friend'? What does it mean to ask what friendship 'means'? How can the relationship between friendship and love be represented in language?"

A video of Williams' lecture is now available at: <http://www.iprh.illinois.edu/resources/videos.html#zjY572lvXkSbNhtZPUoJQ> ☞

### U OF I CO-HOSTS MAJOR SOCIOLINGUISTICS CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO



A major annual sociolinguistics conference, hosted jointly by UIUC and the U of I-Chicago took place in downtown Chicago from October 23-26.

The 43rd New Ways of Analyzing conference (NWA 43) was held in the Hilton Chicago Magnificent Mile Suites hotel. Co-organizers from UIUC included Professor **Zsuzsanna Fagyal** (French and Italian); Professor **Anna**

**Maria Escobar** (Spanish and Portuguese); and **Joseph Roy**, visiting research engineer, School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics.

Graduate students **Kate Lyons** (Linguistics) and **Itxaso Rodríguez-Ordóñez** (Spanish and Portuguese) collaborated in winning one of two Best Student Paper awards.

**Justin Davidson**, a graduate student in Spanish and Portuguese, won an honorable mention award for Best Student Poster.

This year's scientific program, offered to 380 registered participants, featured three keynote addresses; a poster session; six workshops, eight blocks of oral paper sessions (including concurrent panels), with four parallel sessions and four papers in each block. In addition to the main program, it featured a documentary on Cherokee revitalization, entitled, "First Language: The Race the Save Cherokee," and celebrated the life-long accomplishments of two major figures of sociolinguists: Professor Emeritus William Labov (University of Pennsylvania) and Professor Walt Wolfram (North Carolina State University). ☞

### CONFERENCE VIEWS DEVELOPMENT OF JUDEO-SPANISH IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

A conference titled "Sepharad as Imagined Community: Language, Culture and Religion from the Early Modern Period to the 21st Century," was held at Illini Union in September.

Sponsored by the departments of Spanish and Portuguese, Linguistics, and Anthropology, participants met to examine the formation and development of Judeo-Spanish in the Eastern Mediterranean lands of the Ottoman Empire and the varied cultural and identity-related roles that several oral and written manifestations of this language played for centuries and continue to play in the present for its speakers.

The conference focused on its topic, Judeo-Spanish, but was broad in the spectrum of disciplinary perspectives on the themes that scholars sought bring together, including perspectives from diverse fields such as linguistics, history, anthropology, sociology, literary and cultural studies, and religious studies.

The organizer for the conference was Professor **José Hualde** of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. ☞

### SJAVIER IRIGOYEN-GARCÍA RECEIVES RARE HONORABLE MENTION AWARD FROM MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

**Javier Irigoyen-García**, associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese, received an honorable mention in the competition for the 2014 Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize for his book *The Spanish Arcadia: Sheep Herding, Pastoral Discourse, and Ethnicity in Early Modern Spain*.

The 25th annual Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize is an annual competition for books published the previous year. The award is given for an outstanding book published in English or Spanish in the field of Latin American and Spanish literatures and cultures.

From its inception in 1990 through 2012, there had been only nine previous honorable mention awards presented for this highly competitive prize.

MLA awards were bestowed at its convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, in January.

*The Spanish Arcadia* analyzes the figure of the shepherd in the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Spanish imaginary, exploring its centrality to the discourses on racial, cultural, and religious identity. Drawing on a wide range of documents, including theological polemics on blood purity, political treatises, manuals on animal husbandry, historiography, paintings, epic poems, and Spanish ballads, Javier Irigoyen-García argues that the figure of the shepherd takes on extraordinary importance in the reshaping of early modern Spanish identity.

The book was published by the University of Toronto Press (Scholarly Publishing Division) and is part of its Toronto Iberic series.

For more about *The Spanish Arcadia*: <http://www.amazon.com/The-Spanish-Arcadia-Discourse-Ethnicity/dp/1442647272>. ☞



## PROFESSOR RACHEL HARRIS (COMPARATIVE AND WORLD LITERATURE) PUBLISHES NEW BOOK ON ISRAELI LITERATURE

Rachel Harris, assistant professor of comparative and world literature, has published a book entitled, *Israel Authors Reimagine Zionism: Suicide in Israeli Literature*, by Northwestern University Press.

In her new work, Harris examines literary challenges to Israel's national narratives. The centrality of the army; the mythology of the "New Jew;" the vision of the first Israeli city, Tel Aviv; and the very process by which a nation's history is constructed are confronted in fiction by many prominent Israeli writers.

Harris asks why recent Israeli novelists use the narrative device of a central character's suicide to raise fundamental questions about the changing nature of Israeli society. In Israeli literature, suicide represents a society's compulsion to create impossible ideals that leave its populace disappointed and deluded. She shows, even at their harshest, that these writers also represent the idealism that helped build Israel as a modern nation-state.

For additional information about Harris's new book, visit: <http://www.nupress.northwestern.edu/titles/ideological-death>. ☞



## ANNUAL NIKELLY LECTURE IN MODERN GREEK FEATURES POLITICAL SCIENTIST FROM YALE

Stathis Kalyvas, the Arnold Wolfers Professor of Political Science at Yale University, gave the Dr. Arthur G. Nikelly annual lecture, sponsored by the Program in Modern Greek Studies.

Titled "Comparing the Greek Civil War to the Wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria," Professor Kalyvas' lecture drew parallels between the Greek Civil War and recent Middle-Eastern conflicts.

Professor Kalyvas has received numerous awards, including the Woodrow Wilson Award for best book on government, politics, or international affairs, and the Luebbert Award for best book in comparative politics.

The Nikelly Lecture was established in 2012 in honour of the memory of Dr. Arthur G. Nikelly, a clinical psychologist and associate professor of health sciences, who began his career at the U of I in 1959. Dr. Arthur Nikelly's life was a testimony to the importance of human rights, social justice, freedom of expression, and educational achievement. ☞

## THREE SLCL PROFESSORS CHOSEN IN MLA ELECTIONS

Three SLCL professors have been chosen in elections held under the auspices of the Modern Language Association (MLA).

Joyce Tolliver, associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese, was elected as a Special-Interest Delegate in the category, "Women in the Profession," for a three-year term in the Delegate Assembly, from January 2015 to January 2018.

Laurie Johnson, associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures, and Laurence Mall, associate professor of French and Italian, were also elected to seats on the executive committees of their respective disciplinary divisions: the committee on Early-Nineteenth-Century German Literature, and the committee on Eighteenth-Century French Literature.

Terms on the executive committees are typically five years (Jan. 12, 2015 through the close of the January 2020 convention).

Two other U of I professors were also elected to the executive committees of divisions: Richard T. Rodríguez (Chicana and Chicano literature) and Renée R. Trilling (Old English language and literature). ☞

## NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE AND LINGUISTICS JOINT MAJOR PROGRAM AT U OF I ENROLLS STUDENTS FOR FALL 2014

A new program in computer science and linguistics is bringing together students and faculty interested in different aspects of the computer.

The program, titled "CS + Linguistics," focuses on the natural language relationship—studying cognitive aspects of natural languages, endowing computers with human-like behavior and developing an understanding of spoken and written natural language, and designing user-friendly computer programs and interfaces by employing natural language communication.

Students in the program will be exposed to the tools of both disciplines—formal methods, philosophical analysis, computer programming, and empirical research—with the aim of acquiring the appropriate skills required by the respective fields.

According to C. Roxana Girju, associate professor of linguistics and director of the CS + Linguistics program, "Graduates will be successful in landing jobs in various areas, including natural language software design and applications, teaching and research, law, medicine, and public service." ☞

## ARABIC PROGRAM REACHES STUDY-ABROAD AGREEMENT WITH ARABIC INSTITUTE IN JORDAN

The Arabic program has finalized a study-abroad agreement with the Qasid Arabic Institute in Amman, Jordan.

The Qasid Institute is a world-renowned Institute for teaching Arabic, according to Eman Saadah, director and coordinator of Arabic in the Department of Linguistics.

"Our first student attended Qasid in the summer of 2014, and more are expected to join in this fall," Dr. Saadah said. "It is our preferred destination for students who seek to improve their language proficiency in Arabic."

For more about the Qasid Institute, visit its website: <http://www.qasid.com/>. ☞

## FLB NAMED 2014 ENERGY CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM AWARD WINNER



The Foreign Languages Building (FLB) has been named a 2014 Energy Conservation Incentive Program (ECIP) award winner.

The 2nd annual ECIP awards were presented in October in a ceremony held during the campus' Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) Forum.

Each year eight campus buildings receive ECIP awards in two separate categories: Energy Advancement and Occupant Action. The FLB was named in the latter category, which is for buildings that have not benefited from substantial energy conservation projects in the previous fiscal year. The FLB had the second-highest energy savings in its category, at 19.33%. ☞

## THREE SLCL FACULTY MEMBERS FEATURED IN NEW U OF I PRESS BOOK ON RESEARCH AND TEACHING AT ILLINOIS

Laurie Johnson and Anke Pinkert of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and Hugh Bishop of Linguistics are among U of I teachers whose views are included in a new book published by U of I Press.

The book is titled *An Illinois Sampler: Teaching and Research on the Prairie*. It features faculty members at the U of I and other contributors who present personal accounts about their research and how it enriches and energizes their teaching.

Johnson, an associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures, wrote a chapter titled “The Life of the Lecture at Illinois.” Pinkert, an associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures, and Bishop, a lecturer in linguistics, both contributed to a chapter titled “The Humanity of Teaching: Reflections from the Education Justice Project,” written by D. Fairchild Ruggles of the Department of Landscape Architecture. The Education Justice Project (EJP) organizes educational programming at the Danville, Ill., Correctional Center through the U of I. In addition, EJP members also produce critical scholarship about prison education, as well as creative works.

Contributors to *An Illinois Sampler* include faculty members from the arts, humanities, engineering, and social and natural sciences.

*An Illinois Sampler: Teaching and Research on the Prairie* (U of I Press, 2014) features contributions from the SLCL’s Laurie Johnson, Anke Pinkert, and Hugh Bishop.

Aimed at alumni/ae and prospective students interested in the university’s ongoing mission, as well as current faculty and students, *An Illinois Sampler* offers a glimpse into the impact of research on undergraduate education.

The book is co-edited by Antoinette Burton, a U of I professor of history, and Mary-Ann Winkelmes, a former campus coordinator for programs on teaching and learning at Illinois. Winkelmes is now at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

For more about *An Illinois Sampler*, visit its page at the U of I Press: <http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/87rsg6yq9780252038648.html>. ☞

