

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

SUMMER 2015

MOLLY MELCHING (FRENCH, '79) RECEIVES 2015 U OF I HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Molly Melching, (AB '71, general curriculum; MA '79, French) received the 2015 University of Illinois Humanitarian Award, which was presented to her during Commencement Weekend on the U of I campus.

This prestigious award is presented to graduates whose outstanding leadership and service have significantly enriched the lives of others and the welfare of humanity. Melching was chosen for the honor by her fellow alumni/ae.

The Alumni Humanitarian Award was presented by the Alumni Association at the Alice Campbell Center on May 15. Melching was also among awardees that were honored as part of the platform party during the campus-wide Commencement ceremony on May 16.

In addition to receiving the prestigious award, Melching gave a lecture entitled, "Development from the Inside Out," in the Foreign Languages Building on May 14. Her presentation was followed by a reception in her honor.

In her talk, Melching explained TOSTAN, one of the most successful literacy programs in Africa, and the reasons behind its success. In 1991 Melching created TOSTAN, a nonprofit organization that teaches an 18-month-long basic education program—in the native

languages—that emphasizes problem solving and *is adapted* to the villagers' way of life.

Its name means breakthrough in Wolof—and what a breakthrough TOSTAN has been. Through TOSTAN thousands of Senegalese woman and children have learned to read and perform basic math. Armed with these skills, they have, for example, started local cooperatives, built wood stoves, and inaugurated health programs.



Molly Melching, (pictured in center)

A startling outcome of TOSTAN was that its lessons on hygiene prompted villagers to question and later challenge the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). This traditional right-of-passage into adulthood maims or kills millions of women across 28 African countries. It is performed without anesthesia or medical

supervision, often resulting in debilitating infections, lifelong suffering, or death through hemorrhaging.

Tostan currently partners with communities to implement its Community Empowerment Program in eight African countries (Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Somalia and The Gambia).

Melching arrived in Senegal in 1974 as a graduate exchange student, intending to participate in an exchange program with the University of Dakar. Upon her arrival in this former French colony, she immersed herself in the Senegalese culture and mastered Wolof, the native language spoken by 70 percent of the country's 7.5 million residents. Her intent was to study African culture and literature. She stayed on to promote literacy and to improve living standards of rural village communities.

Her lecture was sponsored by the Department of French and Italian, and co-sponsored by the Center for African Studies (CAS), Women and Gender in Global Perspectives (WGGP), and the LAS Alumni Association. ✎

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 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. 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.

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.

New in July 2015 – the SLCL Brochure, which offers a snapshot of what the SLCL is all about. Click on "News and Events" on the main page. Even our graduates may be surprised to see the sheer scope of our School and why we called ourselves the "Gateway to a Global Learning Experience." Please visit us online at slcl.illinois.edu to find out what's happening in SLCL.

SUMMER 2015

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

This newsletter is published biannually by the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is produced by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Office of Communications and Marketing. Suggestions and correspondence may be sent to the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics:

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Undergraduate Research Week at Illinois, a celebration of student excellence, is an opportunity for undergraduate researchers to showcase their projects at events across campus through presentations, posters and performances. The School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics regularly provides faculty and undergraduate students with funds to engage in collaborative research. Last year, SLCL students and their sponsors took part in the main event of Research Week, the campus-wide symposium that brings together presenters from all academic disciplines. This year, our School was asked to organize its own independent event, given the growing interest for this type of activities across campus.

The first SLCL Undergraduate Research Symposium took place in April in the Atrium of the Foreign Language Building and was well attended. Several students presented the results of their work in three distinct projects, two in linguistics and one in Germanic Languages and Literatures. The linguistics presentations focused on "Comparing the Morphosyntactic Features of Languages Based on Descriptive Grammars" and "Transcribing and Interpreting Experimental Spanish: Recordings to Measure Age Effects." The students working on the Germanic Languages and Literatures project contributed to "Emblematica Online," an international venture led by Professor Mara Wade, to digitize two of the world's largest and most important Renaissance emblem book collections.

Participants included freshmen as well as seniors majoring in a variety of disciplines ranging from linguistics, psychology and mathematics to English and art history, evidence that our School offers learning and research opportunities to students from the entire campus.

The objective of this newsletter is not only to provide information on the accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students. It is also intended to provide an opportunity for readers to reconnect with friends and colleagues they have lost contact with over the years. This is why I was particularly gratified to hear that a recent story on one of our graduates led to his being contacted by a fellow alumnus he had not seen since their doctoral student days twenty-five years ago, with a plan to meet soon for coffee! This is exactly the kind of communication we would like to promote and facilitate. A quick survey of the most popular postings on our Facebook page shows that stories with a personal content are most likely to attract readers. I hope that you will find several of those to your liking on our website and in this issue of the newsletter. *JP*

Jean-Philippe Mathy

Patricia Fleming, a junior in English, presents her work on "The Emblematic Project" as part of the SLCL Undergraduate Research Symposium, held in the Foreign Languages Building Atrium on April 21.



ROBERT TIERNEY'S NEW BOOK ON ANTI-IMPERIALISM IN JAPAN INCLUDES FIRST ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF WORK BY JAPANESE ACTIVIST

By Jodi Heckel, Arts and Humanities Editor, U of I News Bureau

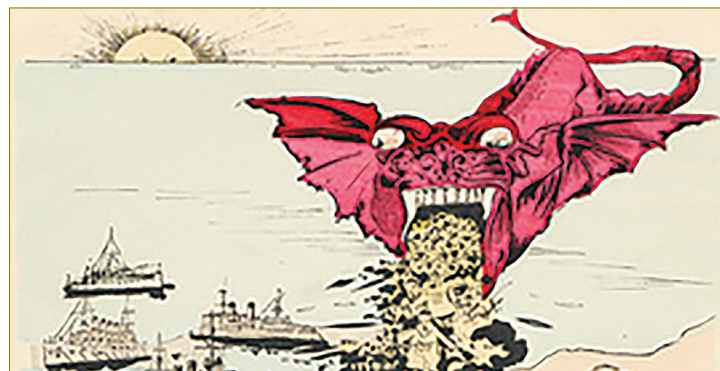
Japan entered a period of colonial expansion in the late 19th century, starting with its annexation of Taiwan in 1895. Within just a few years of this colonial conquest, an anti-imperialism movement began in Japan. One of the key figures in the movement was Kōtoku Shūsui, a journalist and anarchist who wrote a book opposing imperialism, and who was executed by the Japanese government in 1911.

Robert Tierney, Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures, has written a new book about Shūsui and the early anti-imperialism movement in Japan that he led. His book, "Monster of the Twentieth Century: Kōtoku Shūsui and Japan's First Anti-Imperialist Movement," includes the first English translation of Shūsui's seminal work. The book was recently published by University of California Press.

"I think this book will be a valuable resource for people who want to study not only the history of modern empires, but also of the long-standing critique of imperialism and of the movements that opposed it," Tierney said.

Shūsui contended that imperialism is not the result of economics – the growth of capitalism and export of money to foreign markets, as some early 20th-century theories suggest – but rather derives from political and psychological motivations. Tierney said Shūsui's theory is that imperialism offers governments a way to divert public attention from domestic inequalities and conflicts and instead focus the energy of citizens on an external enemy, "a manipulated hatred of other nations."

Shūsui helped establish the first Japanese socialist party in 1901, and he started an



"Monster of the Twentieth Century: Kōtoku Shūsui and Japan's First Anti-Imperialist Movement," by Robert Tierney, Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures. (Courtesy of University of California Press)

anti-war and pacifist newspaper during the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05) that was eventually driven out of business by the government. He was subsequently jailed for six months, went to the United States in 1906, and later started the Asia Solidarity Association, forming alliances with Chinese and other Asians studying in Japan. In 1910, he was accused of being the ringleader in an alleged conspiracy to kill the Japanese emperor and executed, an important case known as the High Treason Incident. As a result of postwar research of the trial records, most Japanese historians believe that Shūsui was framed by the authorities in order to destroy the early socialist movement; Tierney said Shūsui is widely considered to be a martyr today.

At the same time Shūsui was opposing Japanese imperialism, similar movements were happening in the U.S., with the formation of the Anti-Imperialist League, and in Britain, with opposition to the Boer War in South Africa. In addition, Shūsui is an important forerunner to the Japanese peace movements that developed after World War II.

Tierney believes the audience for the book will include those interested in the history of empire, as well as those interested in Japanese history.

"Although this book is about a specific period and discusses events that people may not be familiar with, the bigger issues raised by Kōtoku Shūsui and that he faced during his life are still relevant to us today," Tierney said.

For example, Tierney is interested in whether a different form of imperialism exists today, in the concentration of the world's wealth and imbalance of power, and problems of inequality and terrorism.

"We can use (Shūsui's work) as a lens to understand the problems in the world today," Tierney suggested. ☞

YUN YAO, EALC, COMPLETES PHD, ACCEPTS FACULTY POSITION AT UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

By Rick Partin Editor

Yun Yao completed an eventful spring semester in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures by completing her PhD and accepting a tenure-track faculty position at the University of Arkansas' main campus in Fayetteville.

Yun is a new Assistant Professor of Chinese in the Department of World Languages, Literatures & Cultures. The department's goal is to "help students become proficient communicators and to help them understand the cultures and literatures of other countries around the world."

During fall 2015, Yun will be teaching "Intermediate Chinese" and "Chinese Culture and Film." The department currently offers a minor in Chinese.

She describes the department, which has more than 40 faculty members, as a "mini version of SLCL."

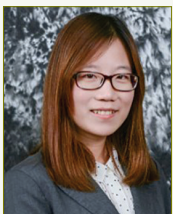
As a TA in EALC, Yun taught Chinese while immersing herself in the study of psycholinguistics, under the guidance of Professor Jerome Packard. She found psycholinguistics "very exciting and exactly what I wanted to do."

On May 16 Yun was hooded as a doctoral recipient during the SLCL Convocation ceremony. It was her second such graduation ceremony, as in 2011 she received her MA in East Asian Languages and Cultures from the U of I. An undergraduate student in China (Yun is from Hangzhou), she came to the U of I campus in 2009 to pursue her master's studies. Her MA concentration was in Chinese linguistics and second language acquisition.

She learned of the position at Arkansas from the Chinese Language Teachers Association website, applied in December, took part in a Skype interview in January, visited campus in February, and was offered the tenure-track position in March. Yun will remain in Champaign-Urbana until mid-July, when she and her husband—Ben Ulmen, who completed his PhD in nuclear engineering at U of I—will move to Fayetteville, home of the University of Arkansas, the flagship of the University of Arkansas System, which enrolls some 25,000 students.

When asked what comes to mind of her years in Champaign-Urbana, Yun recalls her earliest days here, sans automobile, when she and her friend, traveling by MTD, took suitcases with them to the grocery store. She also remembers driving through the snow one frigid February to get comments from Professor Packard for a journal article she was working on, in addition to the kindness of U of I students she has taught.

Last summer her parents visited C-U, and this summer her in-laws planned to visit China for 15 days. Until she leaves for Fayetteville, Yun is working on a journal article while preparing for the classes she'll be teaching this fall. ☞



Yun Yao, PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures, 2015, is the new Assistant Professor of Chinese in the Department of World Languages, Literatures & Cultures at the University of Arkansas. Yao, whose PhD dissertation is titled, "Chinese character recognition in native and second language readers," was hooded during the May 16 ceremony by EALC Professor Jerome Packard. She starts her new duties this fall in Fayetteville, Ark.

FACULTY-STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

DARREN TANNER AND SILVINA MONTRUL AWARDED THREE-YEAR NSF GRANT FOR LINGUISTICS RESEARCH

Professors **Darren Tanner** and **Silvina Montrul** have received a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation for their project, "Cognitive and neurocognitive individual differences in native and nonnative language processing." Tanner is the Principal Investigator and Montrul the Co-Principal Investigator for the project, which is now funded into 2017.

They are using a multidimensional approach to investigate individual differences in language comprehension and language learning across several populations: monolinguals, classroom-instructed L2 learners of Spanish, and Spanish-English bilinguals in the United States.

"What we're also learning is that there is a lot of variability in how different people comprehend their native language," says Tanner. "But what's not so clear is what factors are related to these individual differences, or whether the same factors are at work in second language learning and comprehension and native language comprehension."

Montrul adds, "This is the primary goal of the NSF project: to better understand how and why people differ in how they comprehend and process both their native language and second language, and what the practical consequences of these differences are."

Another unique aspect of the project is its interdisciplinarity. "Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the project, we think the outcomes will have broad impacts in numerous fields," says Tanner.

The eventual goal is to improve language teaching and learning outcomes for students learning foreign languages. ☞

ERIC CALDERWOOD ONE OF SEVEN IPRH FACULTY FELLOWS FOR 2015-16

Eric Calderwood, Assistant Professor of Comparative and World Literature, is one of seven faculty members and seven graduate students who are recipients of Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities fellowships for the 2015-16 academic year. The fellowships support research and writing on topics chosen by the fellowship recipients.

Calderwood, who received a PhD from Harvard University in 2011, was chosen for his project, "'The Daughter of Granada and Fez': Al-Andalus in Spanish Colonial Morocco (1859-1956)."

Faculty fellows are released from one semester of teaching and receive a research allocation. The theme for the seminar and other events during the year is "Intersections" – looking at literal and figurative spaces of coming together and departing, and how ideas, cultures and identities overlap and collide. ☞

PROFESSOR ANTONIOS AUGOUSTAKIS NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE WEST AND SOUTH FOR 2015-2016



Professor **Antonios Augoustakis**, Department of the Classics, was installed as President of the Classical Association of Middle West and South for 2015-2016 at the annual convention of the organization recently held in Boulder, Colo.

The Classical Association of the Middle West and South is the second largest organization for Classics (Latin and Greek) in the US, with more than 1500 members, including college professors, teachers, graduate and undergraduate students. It was founded in 1905, and the CAMWS region covers 32 Midwestern, Western, and Southern states, as well as three Canadian provinces.

The U of I has had a strong presence in recent meetings, with several of the graduate students presenting papers every year (11 in 2015).

Additionally, Professor Augoustakis delivered the President Elect's address to Provost Moore of the University of Colorado at Boulder, and he will deliver his presidential address next year at the 112th meeting at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. ☞

HARRIET MURAV CAS FELLOW FOR 2015



Harriet Murav, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Comparative and World Literature, is a Center for Advanced Study Future Associate for 2015-16.

Murav was awarded the fellowship for her book project, "A Strange New World: Untimeliness, Futurity, and David Bergelson," which focuses on the experience of anachronism and distorted temporality as an emotional, sensory, and existential condition in both the world and the work of the Yiddish author David Bergelson (1884-1952). She commented that the book "adds to the growing discussion about the texture of time, its evocation in art, and its potentiality from the perspective of the early 20th century.

"My emphasis on futurity also helps balance the humanities today, dominated by a sense of futility," Murav said.

Each year, the tenured and untenured U of I faculty 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. ☞

KATHY SCHILSON RECIPIENT OF 2015 CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED STAFF AWARD



Kathryn Schilson, an office administrator for the department of Spanish and Portuguese, was one of eight civil service staff employees honored with a Chancellor's Distinguished Staff Award for 2015. The award recognizes exceptional performance.

Permanent staff employees with at least two years of service or retired employees in status appointments during the calendar year may be nominated for the award. A committee recommends finalists, who are approved by the chancellor.

Schilson is the sole executive officer support person for the head of the department and for the director of Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education. She also has administrative responsibilities for the University Language Academy for Children, which provides Spanish-language instruction to children at University Primary School. She works on appointment paperwork for faculty members and graduate students, arranges course schedules, and makes travel and purchasing arrangements for the department.

Melissa A. Bowles, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese and the director of graduate studies, remarked of Schilson, "Kathy has graciously and humbly been providing excellent service to the University for more than 20 years." ☞

NEWS BRIEFS

WAIL S. HASSAN NAMED NEXT DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR TRANSLATION STUDIES



Wail S. Hassan

Wail S. Hassan will be the next director of the Center for Translation Studies (CTS), effective Aug. 16.

Hassan will replace Elizabeth Lowe, who came to the U of I from the University of Florida in 2008 to start what was then a new academic unit on campus. In May the first graduates from the program's MA in Translation and Interpreting participated in the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics' convocation ceremony.

In a statement announcing Professor Lowe's retirement, School Director Jean-Philippe Mathy wrote that "Elizabeth has been the first and only Director of the Center since its inception in 2008. Under her able leadership, CTS has grown to be a nationally and internationally recognized player in translation studies, now offering a master's degree in translation and interpreting, both on-campus and online, and two certificates, in translation studies and applied literary translation. We are grateful for all that she has accomplished as director."

Hassan is a professor of comparative & world literature and English at the U of I, where he is also affiliated with the department of French and Italian; the centers for African, Global, Latin American & Caribbean, and South Asian & Middle Eastern studies; the Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies; and the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory.

A specialist in modern Arabic literature, culture, and intellectual history, he is the author of *Tayeb Salih: Ideology and the Craft of Fiction* (Syracuse, 2003), co-editor of *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Naguib Mahfouz* (MLA 2012), and editor of *The Oxford Handbook of the Arabic Novel* (in preparation).

Translation theory is central to his book *Immigrant Narratives: Orientalism and Cultural Translation in Arab American and Arab British Literature* (Oxford, 2011), and to much of his current research. He is the translator, from Arabic into English, of Abdelfattah Kilto's *Thou Shalt Not Speak My Language* (Syracuse, 2008), which is a scholarly monograph focusing on attitudes to bilingualism and translation in Arabic thought from the ninth to the twentieth century.

From Portuguese into Arabic, he has also translated Alberto Mussa's *O enigma de Qaf*, published in Cairo, Egypt, as Lughz al-qāf (2015), which is a novel related to Hassan's current book project on Arab-Brazilian literary and cultural relations.

Mathy expressed his satisfaction at seeing Hassan become the next director of CTS: "In addition to his scholarly accomplishments as a comparatist, Wail Hassan is an experienced and renowned literary translator. He has been involved in the Center since its inception, has participated in several of its international activities and has taught in the MA program. I look forward to working with Wail on the next phase of the development of the Center for Translation Studies." ✍

SLCL RECEIVES \$140,000 EQUIPMENT FUNDING FOR LINGUISTICS RESEARCH LABS INFRASTRUCTURE



Professor **Ryan Shosted** (left) and students use the facilities in one of the School's linguistics research labs.

linguistics researchers to obtain an ultrasound system, an additional electroencephalography (EEG) system, and additional eye-tracking systems.

The Office of the Provost and the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research (OVCR) are contributing nearly \$71,000 in matching funds toward the purchase of equipment for the School's Linguistics Research Labs.

The \$140,000 Equipment Funding Grant, entitled "Language Processing, Perception, and Production" (principle investigator: **Ryan Shosted**, associate professor of linguistics) will allow SLCL

According to Shosted, this equipment will provide the infrastructure to allow faculty in the SLCL-Linguistics Research Labs affiliated to pursue external funding on research projects and replace aging equipment that continues to support ongoing externally funded projects.

The ultrasound system, which images the contours of the vocal tract, will allow researchers to investigate movements of speech articulators, principally the tongue, during speech, says Shosted. The mobile EEG system, which measures brain activity, also will allow researchers to investigate the cognitive effects of language development and acquisition.

Further, the eye-tracking units, which record eye fixation and movement, will enable researchers to address questions of how language acquisition and linguistic structures interact with one another, Shosted said.

OVCR and the Office of the Provost provided half of the funds as cost-share. Shosted pointed out that it was necessary for members of the faculty to raise the other half, which was made possible with generous support from the following units: the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS); the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics; Linguistics; Spanish and Portuguese; East Asian Languages and Cultures; and French and Italian. Individual faculty members in SLCL also contributed from their own research funds, including: Darren Tanner (Linguistics), James Yoon (Linguistics), Silvina Montrul (Spanish and Portuguese, Linguistics), Shosted, and Zsuzsanna Fagyal, French and Italian). Shosted also highlighted the role of Joseph Roy, SLCL's visiting research engineer, who was instrumental in assisting faculty as they crafted the successful proposal. ✍

"NEW SPACES OF TRANSLATION": THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF TRANSLATION



A conference sponsored by the **Center for Translation Studies** and **The Université Diderot**, Paris, France, and titled "Third International Conference on Translation and Related Disciplines," was held on the U of I campus April 10-11.

Speakers and participants at the conference discussed the changing landscape of translation and interpreting through the concept of "New Spaces." Globalization has allowed new areas to emerge on the map of translation practices, shifting the cultural centers away from the Western world and towards other world regions, particularly in Asia and Latin America. Simultaneously, in

virtual space, the future of translation and interpreting is already being shaped by the interaction of human translators and interpreters with machines.

With those factors in mind, the conference examined the interactions between the physical and virtual spaces in which translation and interpreting take place in the 21st century.

Topics included new voices in translation and interpreting theory and practice; the instability of physical and virtual boundaries and the impact it may have on the concept of genre; the emergence of inter-modal translation and adaptation; the relevance of intra-lingual translation; the importance of re-translation for contemporary audiences; collaboration among translators and interpreters; and the evolving identity and function of the translator/interpreter in these new contexts.

The conference also included a book exhibit and readings by guest authors/translators. In addition the U of I Modern Languages and Literatures libraries plan to sponsor an exhibit of translation materials.

Conference proceedings are also scheduled to be published by the Dalkey Archive Press Scholarly Series.

David Bellos, French and Italian and Comparative Literature, Princeton University; **Douglas R. Hofstadter**, Cognitive Science and Comparative Literature, Indiana University, Bloomington, were the keynote speakers.

To watch videos of both lectures, visit: http://conferences.illinois.edu/translation/videos_photos.html

Co-sponsors included the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics; the departments of East Asian Languages and Cultures, French and Italian, Linguistics, and Spanish and Portuguese; and the Program in Comparative and World Literature. ✎

MACHINE TRANSLATION CONFERENCE DRAWS 100 PRACTITIONERS TO FIRST-EVER EVENT

The Department of Linguistics hosted the First MT (Machine Translation) Marathon in the Americas conference, held at the i-Hotel and Conference Center from May 10-15.

The week-long event was open to approximately 100 researchers, developers, students and users of machine translation. Presentations included MT lectures and labs, ranging from beginners tutorials to showcase talks by leading researchers; technical talks about open source tools for MT; and week-long open source MT hacking projects, led by experienced developers and researchers.

The conference was sponsored by Bloomberg, a company of more than 15,000 employees in 192 locations, working to deliver data, news and analytics through innovative technology to influential decision-makers to a dynamic network of information, people and ideas. The School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics also provide funding.

MT Marathon in the Americas was organized by **Lane Schwartz**, Assistant Professor of Linguistics. His academic work is at the intersection of human and machine translation, with research focusing on statistical machine translation, computer-aided translation, and cognitively-motivated language models. Schwartz is one of the original developers of Joshua, an open source toolkit for tree-based statistical machine translation, and is a frequent contributor to Moses, the de-facto standard for phrase-based statistical machine translation.

For more about the Center for Translation Studies, visit: <http://www.translation.illinois.edu/about.html>. ✎

GUEST SPEAKER ADDRESSES GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE



Mark Mazower, Ira D. Wallach Professor of History, Columbia University, visited the U of I campus in April for a MillerComm lecture entitled, "The Greek War of Independence in Global Perspective". The lecture was sponsored by the Program in Modern Greek Studies (Department of Linguistics).

The struggle of Greek independence in 1821 reverberated around the world and with effects continuing to be felt today—nearly 200 years later. Professor Mazower discussed what can be learned about attitudes to questions about state sovereignty, humanitarian intervention, and politics itself from those long-ago events and the way they were

understood at the time.

Mazower also is the director of both the Heyman Center for the Humanities and the Center for International History at Columbia University and a member of the editorial board of the academic journal *Past and Present*. He specializes in the history of Modern Greece, 20th-century Europe, and international history and his current interests include the history of international norms and institutions, the history of Greek independence, and the historical evolution of the Greek islands. Mazower earned his BA in Classics and Philosophy from the University of Oxford in 1981 and his doctorate from the same university in 1998. ✎

FAMILY ESTABLISHES SLAVIC GRADUATE EDUCATION FUND IN MEMORY OF THEIR SON



Scott K. Maltby

A memorial fund has been established to support graduate education and graduate students in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

The Maltby family has established the fund to honor the memory of second-year graduate student **Scott K. Maltby**, who died suddenly of natural causes shortly before his 25th birthday in February.

The Scott K. Maltby Memorial Fund will provide support for graduate students in the department, where Scott was a student. This fund will provide opportunities

for graduate students including, but not limited to, support of graduate student travel for research, language study, or conference presentation; or an award for excellence in scholarship (term paper, publication, or conference presentation) by a graduate student.

Once the fund reaches \$25,000, it will become endowed, meaning the Scott K. Maltby Memorial Fund will provide support in perpetuity. Award programs and awardees will be announced every year, securing the legacy of Scott Maltby at the University of Illinois.

The department held a memorial gather for Scott in which his family participated, on May 3.

To learn more about the Scott K. Maltby Memorial Fund, visit: <http://www.slavic.illinois.edu/>. ✎

STUDENT-ORGANIZED CONFERENCE ADDRESSES ISSUES IN LANGUAGE



The 7th annual **Illinois Language and Linguistics Society (ILLS)** Conference took place on April 17-18 in the ACES (College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences) Library on campus.

This year its special session was titled "Language in Action," which highlights work that focuses on the use of linguistics and other language studies as a part of people's daily lives.

Invited speakers included Dr. Kathleen Bardovi-Harlig (second language studies, Indiana University), Gary Dell (professor of linguistics and psychology, U of I), and Dr. Bob McMurray (departments of psychology and linguistics, University of Iowa). There were also 18 student presenters and a special poster session.

The ILLS annual conference is organized by the U of I Linguistics Student Organization. ILLS is a general linguistics conference, primarily encouraging the submission of abstracts by graduate students.

This year's conference was co-organized by Brad Miller, Anita Greenfield, Suyeon Im, Ha Ram Kim, Stephanie Landblom, Sea Hee Choi, Sarah Johnson, and Amelia Kimball. ✎



Dr. Bob McMurray of the University of Iowa addresses participants during the 7th annual Illinois Language and Linguistics Society (ILLS) conference. McMurray was one of three invited speakers for the conference.

SLCL CONVOCATION CEREMONY: 'MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD'

One hundred and thirty four graduates took part in the SLCL Convocation ceremony held in the Tryon Festival Theatre in the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts on May 16.

Eighty bachelor's degree candidates, 48 master's degree candidates, and six doctoral candidates were honored during the ceremony, which featured an address by **Silvina Montrul**, Professor and Head of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Linguistics.

Just as 2014 saw the first of the School's first graduate from the new MA in Religious Studies program, 2015 witnessed the Center for Translation Studies' first MA graduates in Translation and Interpreting.

Professor Montrul received her PhD in Linguistics from McGill University in Canada, and joined the U of I faculty as an Assistant Professor in 1999. She is also Director of the University Language Academy for Children and Director of the Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism Lab.

In her address she told graduates to "be true to yourself and follow your passion. If you don't have a passion, focus on something you like and do well, and find meaning through what you do because what you do, can change and transform who you are."



Wanda Ocasio-Rivera (right), who received a PhD from the department of Spanish and Portuguese, poses with Professor Ericka Beckman of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Program in Comparative and World Literature, following the SLCL Convocation ceremony held in the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts on May 16. Beckman hooded Ocasio-Rivera, whose dissertation is titled, "Metáforas extremas del neoliberalismo en la literatura latinoamericana."

She also challenged students to "make a difference in the world. And I define 'world' locally, as in your immediate community or globally, as in beyond this country."

Professor Montrul called upon graduates to use their knowledge of literatures, languages, cultures and linguistics help advance society and gain ground in cultural understanding. "The world is ready for people like you, with your deep understanding of languages and the humanities, with transnational cultural competence and superb communication skills, and you are the best people to make a positive impact in the world today." 