



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 LITERATURE
AND DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH, ITALIAN AND PORTUGUESE

SUMMER 2008

THE BIG READ: A CLASSIC TAKES OVER THE COMMUNITY

"Ivan Ilyich is dead, but you're not" was the catchy slogan for a community-wide series of "Big Read" events honoring Russian author Leo Tolstoy and held throughout the Champaign-Urbana area from March 30 through April 27.

"Ivan Ilyich is the title character in the book our community was encouraged to read: *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* [1887], a short novel by the great Russian author Leo Tolstoy," said Lynda Park, associate director of the U of I's Russian, East European and Eurasian Center.

The center, along with the University's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics; and Center for Translation Studies, took the lead on organizing local Big Read activities.

Park and Harriet Murav, head of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, coordinated the effort with assistance from other community partners, which included the Champaign Public Library and Urbana Free Library; area high schools; Illini Union Bookstore; Borders bookstore; Pages for All Ages bookstore; the Dalkey Archive Press; Champaign-Urbana's *The News-Gazette* newspaper; and WILL-AM radio.

The purpose of the community-wide initiative was to encourage people to discover the joy of reading classic literature—and to share the experience with others.

The effort was part of the National Endowment for the Arts' nationwide Big Read campaign. The program began in 2007 in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums, in cooperation with Arts Midwest to create a nation of readers.

The U of I led the local effort, which included a kickoff event held at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center on March 30 and featured Chancellor Richard Herman; Vladimir Tolstoy, the great-great-grandson of Leo Tolstoy; and Galina Alekseeva, from the Estate-Museum of Leo Tolstoy, "Yasnaya Polyana," in Russia. Their visit was sponsored by the Open World Cultural Leaders Program, which aims to forge better understanding between the U.S. and Russia by enabling emerging Russian leaders in the arts to experience America's cultural and community life, and to work with their American counterparts.

The U of I is one of 127 communities nationwide to receive a Big Read grant from the NEA during the first half of 2008, and one of only four U.S. communities to take part in the inaugural U.S. component called "Big Read Russia." That program began last year in Russia, in the Ivanovo and Saratov regions, where residents read Harper Lee's classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Additional highlights of the Champaign-Urbana Big Read included talks, panels, and performances on the U of I campus and throughout the community; WILL-AM radio and book club discussions; and a Krannert Art Museum tour. The book was incorporated into the curriculum in some area schools and at the U of I, where Murav taught an eight-week undergraduate course on the novel.



Vladimir Tolstoy greets Rajmohan Gandhi while guest speaker Galina Alekseeva looks on. Gandhi, a professor in International Programs and Studies, is the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian political and spiritual leader whose policies were influenced by Tolstoy's writings. (Photo by L. Brian Stauffer)

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The first official year of the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics is drawing to a close. It's been an exciting time for us intellectually with a dozen conferences in the past eight months, and equally exciting because of new curricular developments focusing on undergraduate general education.

The primary goal of the School is to encourage people with different backgrounds and different interests to talk to each other. Administratively, this has meant learning from each other about the best practices for efficient and effective support for our academic missions. On the intellectual side, the Literatures of our School title have been explored through a trio of conferences on the Middle Ages and another on one of the great literary critics of the 20th century. The month of April was devoted to a community-reading program focused on Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*. In addition to the "high" culture examined in those events, popular culture was the focus of two other gatherings, one on transnational culture industries, and another on the language of hip-hop music. Three other conferences focused on theoretical and applied linguistics. From Plato to hip-hop, the great variety of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics has been explored over the past year.

Among the interdisciplinary initiatives underway in the School are many reading groups sponsored by the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities. In these groups, faculty and students meet, usually on a weekly basis, to discuss cutting-edge research in fields such as politeness in language and literature and culture of the Early Modern period.

Of course, faculty and students meet more formally in the classroom, too. The School supports the creation of new courses, funding projects on Russian popular culture, comparative East Asian literatures, and an exploration of faith and self across many religious traditions.

The School also supports students directly, offering recruiting fellowships to bring the best graduate students here to begin their professional training. At the other end of their graduate careers, we provide dissertation completion fellowships to help students finish their degrees in a timely manner. These fellowships help to ensure that we attract the very best students, who will, for several years of their time at the University, serve as teaching assistants for our undergraduates. Strong graduate recruiting is essential to providing the very best undergraduate education. Donations from alumni and other friends of the University are the source of most of our fellowships.

Our cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary conversations will only grow in the coming year. We welcome Dr. Elizabeth Lowe, who comes to direct the new Center for Translation Studies. At a blockbuster conference in October former U.S. poet laureate Robert Pinsky and Pulitzer Prize winning author W. S. Merwin will be talking about translating Dante, the first major event of that Center. The School, with its worldwide focus, will be an active participant in a campus-wide initiative on migration and immigration, leading the investigation into the consequences of the present era's unparalleled movement of peoples on literatures, cultures, and the languages we speak.

I am already looking forward to these enriching encounters, and hope you can join us.

With all best wishes,

Doug Kibbee

Summer 2008

School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

This newsletter is published bi-annually 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 (07.082). Suggestions and correspondence may be sent to the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics:

4072 Foreign Languages Building
707 S. Mathews Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 244-3252
Fax: (217) 244-8430
<http://services.lang.uiuc.edu>

Director: Douglas A. Kibbee
Editor: Rick Partin

U OF I RELIGION PROFESSOR PUBLISHES HISTORY OF INDIAN ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE

By Rick Partin

Vine Deloria Jr., author of *Custer Died for Your Sins*, has called James Treat's book, *Around the Sacred Fire: National Native Religious Activism in the Red Power Era*, "...an exciting history of efforts by traditional people to offer their own solution to modern social problems."

The work, a narrative history of the Indian Ecumenical Conference, was published in paperback in 2008 by the U of I Press. Treat, Associate Professor of religious studies at U of I, originally wrote about the Indian Ecumenical Conference in his 1992 dissertation. In the spring of 1998, he returned to the project, aiming to re-write the work as a narrative history. Finished in 2002, it was published in a cloth edition in 2003. Later, the U of I Press bought the paperback rights.

The first organizing meeting for the Indian Ecumenical Conference was held in the fall of 1969; the first conference took place in the summer of 1970. The conference

was held annually through 1983 and was held sporadically thereafter, with one final meeting in 1992.

After the initial meeting was held on the Crow Reservation in southeastern Montana, Stoney Indian Park in western Alberta, Canada, became the home of the conference for more than two decades.

Conference organizers believed the survival of native communities would hinge on transcending the antagonisms between tribal and Christian traditions, Treat says. They hoped to cultivate religious self-determination among native people by facilitating communication between diverse

tribal nations and persons of varied spiritual backgrounds and beliefs.

Treat says he made a conscious decision not to rely primarily on oral history, which was beyond the scope of an already ambitious project, opting instead to rely on archival sources—primarily from the Anglican and United churches of Canada, and governmental sources. He notes that most of these archival materials were produced by the movement itself and survived in church

and governmental archives.

Although the book is categorized as native studies and religion, Treat points out that he also wrote it for general readers from a religious audience as well. "I saw this as a kind of unique paradigm of inter-religious dialogue that is relevant outside of Indian country."

The movement grew markedly in the '70s, with thousands of people crowding into Stoney Indian Park for weeklong meetings. "The conference

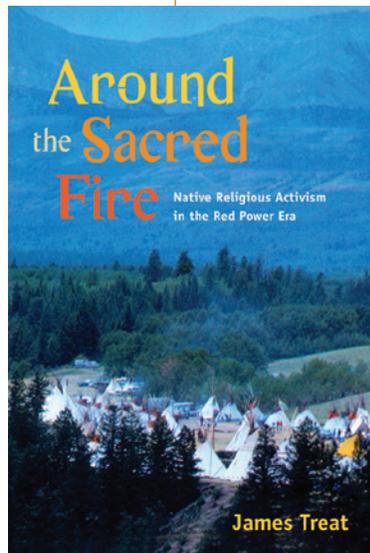
played a pivotal role in stimulating spiritual revitalization among native peoples on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border, yet is rarely mentioned in written accounts of the period.

Treat, the son of an American Baptist minister, was born in Oklahoma and grew up in Kansas and South Dakota. His tribal enrollment is with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma.

"I think of myself as centrally located in native studies," said Treat, also the editor of *Writing the Cross Culture: Native Fiction on the White Man's Religion*.

In his narrative Treat identifies the following persons as the key players in the Ecumenical Conference:

- Bob Thomas: He organized the ideas and the model for the Ecumenical Conference, centering on elders and medicine men.
- Ian MacKenzie: "A gregarious networker that everyone loved," he was an Anglican priest who understood how churches work and how to translate Thomas's vision into something the churches would follow.
- Wilf Pelletier: A charismatic figure who was important early on with the conference, and a native leader influential among white liberals.
- Ernie Willie: A key young native person who was with the movement from the beginning and who was firmly rooted in the church world. "He saw how the ideas of Thomas, Mackenzie, and Pelletier were going to bring in the younger generation."
- John Snow: Chief of the Stoneys—after the first conference, he became the host and unofficial chair. "By the mid to late '70s, it's his movement."



The conference received key support from the Anglican Church of Canada (during the 1970s it moved left politically before swinging to the center in the 1980s) and the United Church of Canada.

Treat dates the decline of the movement from the mid-1970s when National Geographic decided to film a documentary of the conference. He asserted that many of the scenes in the documentary were staged, without proper acknowledgment.

However, there were many other factors in the co-option of the movement, including public visibility that began to attract groups as varied as cinematographers, hippies, New Age persons, and Alcoholics Anonymous. Also, the elders' refusal to include native women was a decision that, in Treat's view, may have hastened the decline of the conference.

Today Treat sees the conference serving as the primary model for elder and youth gatherings in Indian country. "So far as I know, they all trace back to the Ecumenical Conference," he says.

As for his book's legacy, Treat comments, "I don't want people to just read this book and file it away." He adds that he hopes his book provides an avenue "for getting people to understand the contemporary native situation better" and to "remind people of the value of sustained and healthy human relationships."

SLCL GRADUATES WORK TOGETHER TO HELP DEVELOP TESTS

Several graduates of the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics units, most of whom are continuing coursework toward advanced degrees, are currently working on three major projects, helping to develop various language tests that will affect the lives of thousands of people.

The three tests are for: Berlitz, a language instruction company with more than 450 centers in over 60 countries; World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA), a consortium of states dedicated to the design and implementation of high standards and equitable educational opportunities for English language learners; and the Chinese Fluency Project (CFP), which tests language proficiency of Chinese second-language speakers.

Berlitz, according to Professor Fred Davidson, project coordinator for the three ventures, is a “test development shop.” The U of I students’ role, he said, is to write test specifications.

The U of I group has written specifications for three Berlitz tests and is working on an extension of one for the 2008 calendar year. In addition to developing language tests, the group conducts validation reports—to show that the tests reflect the test-takers’ true ability, according to Huei-Lien “Tammy” Hsu, a doctoral student in educational psychology at U of I.

Jiyoung Kim (also a PhD student in educational psychology) coordinates the item writing process for the team. “The most rewarding part of the projects,” she notes, “is that we actually crafted the test. While doing this project I could see a whole life in our test, from a rough draft to actual items which are ready for operation in the near future.”

The group, which goes by the acronym FLAG (Foreign Language Assessment Group), holds regular meetings to exchange ideas or give feedback to one another. “I’ve really enjoyed the

intellectual challenge of working as part of an experienced team,” said Jinshu Li (MATESL ’06 and now living in the United Kingdom, where she works for a testing company). “Every day there is so much to learn and absorb.”

Kadeessa Abdul-Kadir, a PhD student in educational psychology at U of I, works mainly on the Berlitz project, from research to test development. She came on board in the fall of 2006, and says that although she has years of experience in test development, she continues to learn much from her fellow team members. “I just hope that as a member I have had a positive impact on the group.”

The WIDA project is headquartered at the University of Wisconsin’s Center for Educational Research, which handles tests for kindergarten

Title III of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), noted Davidson. The alignment work is labor-intensive, and one complete cycle with a member state can take more than six months to complete. WIDA has 17 member states, reaching some half a million English language learners, said Davidson. “It’s a lot of logistics.”

Chih-Kai “Cary” Lin (who is receiving an MATESL this year and plans to enroll in doctoral studies at Georgetown University in the fall) enters member states’ educational standards, together with the WIDA core standards onto the Web-based Assisting Tool system. With Youngshin Chi (MATESL ’06 and currently a doctoral student in educational psychology) he also attends alignment workshops to assist on behalf of WIDA.

Following these workshops, Lin and Chi enter the alignment data and prepare reports for the WIDA office. Chi said that she particularly likes to do the data analysis. “I think that’s my strength as a FLAG member.”



Members of FLAG (left to right): Kadeessa Abdul-Kadir, Chih-Kai “Cary” Lin, So-young Jang, Youngshin Chi, Huei-Lien “Tammy” Hsu

through 12th grade. The goal of the University of Illinois/WIDA research contract is to boost the educational quality of K-12 learners in member states by aligning the WIDA core standards to member states’ standards so that a baseline of comparison can be established. Alliance of these standards is also meant to be in compliance with

WIDA at the University of Wisconsin) spends about 50 percent of his time working on alignment for the WIDA project. He supervises the U of I team’s work for WIDA, interacts with clients, writes reports, and conducts research. He says that he most enjoys interacting with other people and “making a difference.”

Lin, the only current MA student on the team, says she feels honored to work with the other members because she learns so much. “Luckily, the team members are very patient with me and answer my questions in great detail.”

Carsten Wilmes (PhD, Germanic languages and literatures ’07, and employed by

The CFP test is being carried out through the U of I's Beckman Center and is funded by the National Science Foundation. Davidson is a collaborator in this project, for which the grant was written by Richard Sproat, a professor in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at U of I.

"WE NEED TO DEAL WITH OUR CLIENTS DIRECTLY. THESE ARE CLIENTS THAT DEPEND ON US TO MAKE BUSINESS PROFITS IN THE REAL WORLD."

The project's aim is to develop an automated computer program that tests the efficiency of Chinese second language speakers. The U of I team is developing a human-rated system to compare to the machine rating by writing a rubric (rating scale) with procedures and protocol. According to Davidson, "They're aiming for how the average person on the street would hear the language."

Tammy Hsu, a native Chinese speaker, attends bi-weekly meetings and develops rating scales to measure Chinese learners' fluency levels. "I enjoy the challenges this work brings," she said. "We need to deal with our clients directly. These are clients that depend on us to make business profits in the real world."

So-young Jang, a PhD student in educational psychology at U of I, is working on a new research design, as well as conducting data analysis of raters' performances. She says that as an international student, writing is the most challenging part of the work.

Jang seemed to sum up what other members of FLAG have learned about interpersonal dynamics when she remarked, "I have learned a lot from these consensus processes about my content area, as well as interpersonal skills in negotiation."

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA SCHOLAR TO LEAD U OF I TRANSLATION STUDIES CENTER

By Andrea Lynn

The new Center for Translation Studies at the University of Illinois has chosen its first director.

Elizabeth Lowe, associate director and associate scholar in the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida-Gainesville, has accepted Illinois' offer and will begin her duties in August, upon approval by the U of I Board of Trustees.

"We have landed our No. 1 candidate," said Douglas Kibbee, acting director of the Center for Translation Studies; director of the new School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics; and professor of French. "Everyone on the search committee is very enthusiastic."

According to Kibbee, Lowe has "the perfect mix of translation skills, administrative smarts and fundraising experience to turn our dream into a reality."

The search for the inaugural director began in September. Illinois' Center for Translation Studies was established in June 2007.

Lowe said that it is "an honor and an incredibly exciting opportunity to accept this offer to lead the new University of Illinois Center for Translation Studies at a time when there is a critical need for translator education and training in the United States."

"I look forward to working with the director and faculty of the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics to fulfill the vision for the Center and make it a world-class center of excellence in translation studies."

At Florida, Lowe also is a member of the graduate faculty and an affiliate faculty member of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

Lowe's major teaching areas are literary translation, translation theory and practice, and terminology and computer-assisted translation. Her special research interests include inter-



American literature, translation and reception theory and terminology. Lowe also has an interest in indigenous languages of the Americas and language policy.

Lowe is the author of the book, *The City in Brazilian Literature* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1982), and a co-author

of *Translation and the Rise of Inter-American Literature* (University of Florida Press, 2007). She has contributed to seven other books and written two-dozen journal articles and reviews.

A professional translator, Lowe is the founder and director of the Translation Studies Certificate at Florida. Her translation work has focused on contemporary Brazilian literature.

Another area of Lowe's strength within Florida's Center for Latin American Studies is distance learning and program development.

She is a member of the American Literary Translators Association, the American Translators Association, and the PEN American Center; she is the recipient of awards for excellence in international education.

Lowe has been at Florida since 1991. From 1991 to 1998 she served as executive associate director of the school's International Center. Prior to her work at Florida, Lowe was the director of international education and assistant professor of Portuguese and Spanish at Miami-Dade Community College in Miami. She was also a Fulbright Visiting Professor at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Colombia, from 1978 to 1984.

NEWS BRIEFS

TOURNÉES FILM FEST RECAP

The U of I, in cooperation with Parkland College and host Boardman's Art Theatre in Champaign, presented the third Tournées French Film Festival, held from September 28 through October 4.

Seven movies were screened, including Chris Marker's classic, *La Jetée* (1962). Other films included: *Indigènes (Days of Glory)* (2005); *Fauteuils d'orchestre (Avenue Montaigne)* (2006); *Le Temps qui reste (Time to Leave)* (2005); *Coeurs (Public Fears in Private Places)* (2006); *Chats Perchés (The Case of the Grinning Cat)* (2005), shown with *La Jetée* and *Paris, je t'aime* (2006).

"We're honored to have been selected again from applicants from all over the U.S. to receive a Tournées grant for culture," said festival organizer, Margaret Flinn, assistant professor of French and cinema studies at the U of I. "We were also thrilled to have repeated last year's success, with the fantastic collaboration of our many co-sponsors," she added.

The festival is being made possible with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture. The Tournées Festival is an annual grant program designed to support the screening of contemporary French cinema on American university and college campuses. Tournées is a program made available by the French American Cultural Exchange.

IFLIP CLASSES IMPROVE CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS

The School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics continues to offer a unique learning opportunity in the form of the Intensive Foreign Language Instruction Program (IFLIP) for Summer 2008.

IFLIP classes, which are non-credit, are offered twice a year and are open to U of I students, faculty, staff, retirees, and to the public.

Classes for Summer 2008 took place from May 12-30, meeting two hours a day in the morning. Beginning French and beginning Spanish also met two hours a day.

Classes are offered at beginning, intermediate, advanced, and conversational levels and are taught by advanced graduate students or faculty. Each class must have a minimum of 10 participants to be offered and is limited to a maximum of 20 participants to provide for an effective learning environment.

Classes with sufficient enrollment for Summer 2008 included: Introductory Chinese, Introductory French, Intermediate French, Introductory German, Introductory Italian, Intermediate Japanese, Introductory Portuguese, Introductory Spanish, and Intermediate Spanish.

IFLIP classes focus on conversational skills and the content is typically based on the needs of the students, such as travel preparation, survival language skills, and so on.

To learn more about IFLIP, visit its website at <http://services.lang.uiuc.edu/forms/IFLIP.htm>.

GLOBAL GANGSTERS CONFERENCE TAKES ON U OF I

The Unit for Cinema Studies sponsored a conference entitled, "Global Gangsters: Crime and International Cinema," held on campus October 19-20.

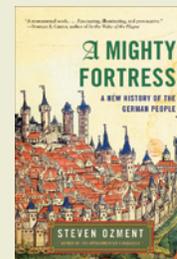
The focus of the conference was international cinema and the crime film. The conference was organized by David Desser, professor and director of cinema studies and Frances Gateward, assistant professor of cinema studies.

Barbara Klinger of Indiana University gave the keynote address, entitled "Contraband Cinema: Piracy, Titanic, and the Middle East."



Other speakers and topics included:

- Joelle Collier, College of Santa Fe: "From Rebels to Rascals: The Descending Arc of the Hong Kong Triad Genre."
- Corey Creekmur, "Gandhi and the Goonda: Nonviolence in the Bombay Gangster Film."
- Aaron Gerow, Yale University: "Transformations in a Politics of Sociality in Japanese Gangster Films."
- Ana Lopez, Tulane University: "Charros, Gangsters and Cabarets: The Underworld in 1930s Mexican Cinema."
- Paula Massood, Brooklyn College, SUNY: "Numbers Runners and New Negroes: Harlem Gangsters in the 1930s."
- Murray Pomerance, Ryerson University: "Le Gout de crime: Cinematic Gangster Style in New-Wave Paris."



FALL LECTURE IN RELIGION ADDRESSES ARTIST LUCAS CRANACH

Steven Ozment, McLean Professor of Ancient and Modern History at Harvard University, presented the

2007 Annual Fall Lecture in Religion at the U of I on Oct. 30.

The lecture, entitled, "Lucas Cranach, the Elder in Art, History, and Religion," was sponsored by the U of I Department of Religion.

Ozment has taught at the Eberhard-Karls-University in Tuebingen, Germany, and at Yale, Stanford, and Harvard.

He is the author of some 10 books. His seminal *Age of Reform, 1250-1550* (1980) received the Schaff History Prize (1981) and was nominated for the 1981 National Book Award. Five of his books have been selections of the History Book Club and several have been translated into European, Asian, and/or South American languages. His latest book is *A Mighty Fortress: A New History of the German People*.

Ozment is presently researching the German world of artist Lucas Cranach, the Elder.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS



Ann Abbott, assistant professor of Spanish, has been selected as a Distinguished Teacher/Scholar by the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. This

recognition comes from the campus Teaching Advancement Board, with support from the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Abbott's proposed project will foster dialogue between the University and the community through the establishment of a "Community Experts Committee" and a series of five interdisciplinary summits between community leaders and faculty to enhance teaching and learning at the University of Illinois.

This program honors and supports outstanding faculty members who will take an active role in enhancing teaching and learning at the U of I.



Carl Niekerk, professor of Germanic languages and literatures, recently received an Academic Advising Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Niekerk received an MA in German from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands in 1987 and a PhD from Washington University-St. Louis in 1994. After working at Westminster College (Fulton, Mo.) and the University of Akron (Ohio), he joined the faculty of the U of I in 1997.

His teaching and research interests include modern and contemporary literature, culture, and intellectual history. He is a specialist in 18th-century German literature and literary/cultural theory. His interests also include 20th-century Austrian literature and culture and comparative Dutch studies.



Raj Pandharipande, professor of linguistics, religious studies, and comparative and world literature, has been named a Distinguished Teacher-Scholar by the provost.

She has a PhD in Sanskrit (language, literature, and religion) from India and a PhD in linguistics from the University of Illinois.

Pandharipande's four major books include *The Eternal Self and the Cycle of Samsara: Introduction to Asian Mythology and Religion* (1990), *A Grammar of Marathi* (1997), *Sociolinguistic Dimensions of Marathi: Multilingualism in Central India* (2003), and the forthcoming *Language of Religion in South Central India*.

The principal purpose of the University Distinguished Teacher/Scholar Program is to promote excellence in teaching at the U of I.



Rob Rushing, associate professor of comparative and world literature, has been named the winner of the Humanities Teaching Excellence Award by the College

of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Rushing is also an affiliate faculty member in Italian, the Unit for Cinema Studies, and the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory.

Established in 1978, the Humanities Teaching Excellence Award Program is intended to emphasize the importance of superior teaching by publicly acknowledging outstanding teachers and by enhancing their instructional activities through a modest prize. Each year one faculty member and one graduate teaching assistant are selected for the award from nominations submitted by constituent units.



Gary Xu, associate professor of Chinese, comparative literature, and cinema studies, is a co-editor of the six-volume *Greenwood Encyclopedia of World Popular Culture*, which

received the Ray and Pat Browne Award for Best Reference/Primary Source Work at the 2008 National Popular Culture & American Culture Associations (PCA/ACA) Conference held in San Francisco.

Xu is the co-editor (with Vinay Dharwadker) of the *Greenwood Encyclopedia of World Popular Culture: Asia and Oceania* (2007), as well as *Sinascapes: Contemporary Chinese Cinema* (2007).

The Ray and Pat Browne Awards are the highest awards given by the PCA/ACA. The awards are named for the founders, architects, and builders of the associations.

HIP-HOP MEETS LINGUISTICS AT U OF I CONFERENCE

The interface between hip-hop culture and linguistic practices around the world was the subject of a one-day interdisciplinary workshop held on the U of I campus in November.

The conference, entitled “Language and Hip-Hop Culture in a Globalizing World,” drew eight specialists from universities across the U.S. and Canada, and nine U of I faculty and graduate students, who together explored different aspects of the relationship between language and hip-hop culture.

The workshop’s purpose was to “forge bridges between lay and academic perceptions of local and global cultural phenomena, bringing academics out of their ‘ivory towers’ and raising widely debated issues such as the potential and need for linguistic activism,” according to workshop organizer, Marina Terkourafi, assistant professor of linguistics at U of I.

Plenary speakers included Cecelia Cutler of City University of New York; Awad Ibrahim of the University of Ottawa; and Elaine Richardson of Ohio State University.

The workshop and accompanying events were sponsored by the U of I School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics; the Department of Linguistics; the Center for Advanced Study; the Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education program; the School of Music; the European Union Center; the Department of Educational Policy Studies; the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory; the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; the Center for Global Studies; the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies; the Center for African Studies; the Department of



Educational Psychology; Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center; the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies; the Department of French; the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures; and the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
4072 Foreign Languages Building
707 South Mathews Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #75
Champaign, IL