

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

DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

AND DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH, ITALIAN, AND PORTUGUESE

FALL 2012

CLASSICS PROFESSOR TRANSLATING MASSIVE MYTHOLOGY TREATISE INTO ENGLISH

By Dusty Rhodes, Arts and Humanities Editor, U. of I. News Bureau

The lineage of every Greek god and every Roman god, along with the complex connections among them, was first spelled out in a set of 15 books written more than 600 years ago. Called *Genealogia deorum gentium*, the massive compendium of more than 700 deities was assembled at the request of King Hugh IV of Cyprus by the Italian poet and scholar Giovanni Boccaccio.

To a classicist like Jon Solomon – the Robert D. Novak professor of Western civilization and culture in the University of Illinois department of the classics — this rich resource seemed ripe for researchers. One hitch: It was in Latin. “It was such an interesting and influential text, I couldn’t believe that it had not been translated,” Solomon said.

He undertook the task himself, and the first of Solomon’s three-volume series, “Genealogy of the Pagan Gods,” was published by Harvard University Press. A review in *Open Letters Monthly* described Solomon’s translation as “a mighty achievement” and a “long overdue monument to its beloved author.”

Solomon said the job suits his professional niche. He has taught courses in mythology for more than 30 years, and has focused on the precise slice of literary history that Boccaccio’s magnum opus inhabits.

“Renaissance scholars are more interested in the Italian language products of Boccaccio’s output, while classicists are more interested in his scholarly writings in Latin. My specialty is really in classical reception – what happens to the classics after antiquity – so this is right up my alley,” he said.

Boccaccio was best known for his famously bawdy allegory “The Decameron.” His *Genealogia* comprised 723 chapters in 15 volumes, but the only portion commonly studied was the section in which Boccaccio outlined a defense for Christians who wanted to study the poetry of ancient pagans.

Solomon’s edition is published by Harvard’s I Tatti Renaissance Library—an imprint that provides the Latin text on the left and the English translation on the facing page. For more about the edition, visit: <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674057104>



Jon Solomon, Robert D. Novak professor of Western Civilization and Culture in the University of Illinois Department of the Classics.

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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; 3) **the Frances E. Smith Scheidel Scholarships** for undergraduate students in Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics; or 4) **SLCL departments or programs**. Your gift is most appreciated! Visit our website, www.slcl.illinois.edu and click "Give to SLCL" in the upper right-hand corner.

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 www.slcl.illinois.edu to find out what's happening in SLCL!

Fall 2012
School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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College of
Liberal Arts & Sciences
AT ILLINOIS



The School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics (SLCL) serves a large number of undergraduate and graduate students from across campus. These students avail themselves of the large and diverse offerings in the major languages of Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin and South America, world cultures and literatures, experimental and theoretical linguistics, major religious traditions, classical civilizations, translation, and much more. Student learning is not confined to the traditional classroom. Our students

are given the opportunity to study abroad and participate in well-established programs led by SLCL departments in Austria, France, Japan, and Spain. In addition, our faculty lead courses in China, India, Italy, Brazil, Japan, and Turkey. These programs offer students valuable opportunities to strengthen their foreign language and communication skills and gain the international experience that has become an essential part of their education.

We often hear from students that studying abroad has been a transformative experience that has deepened their knowledge, expanded their horizons, and opened new possible career paths. The goal of SLCL is to develop more programs abroad and make the experience more enriching and affordable. We plan to reach out to our alumni and friends to help establish study abroad scholarships for our undergraduate students so that more students can have the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of other countries and regions, as well as their languages and cultures.

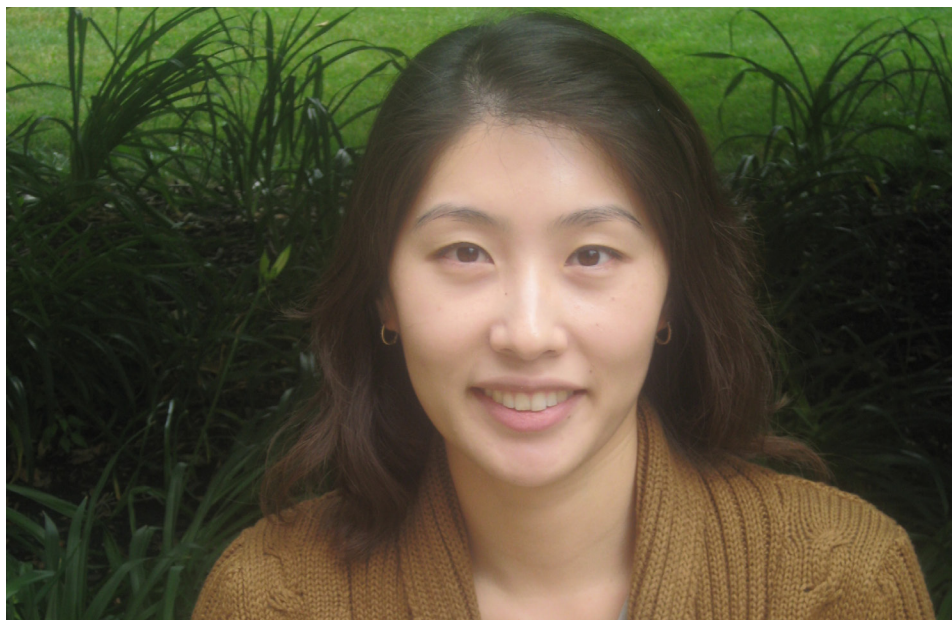
As part of our vision to provide more experiential learning opportunities for our undergraduate students, during academic year 2012-2013, SLCL will launch two undergraduate humanities research initiatives to encourage and enable undergraduate students in our humanities programs to undertake research projects and develop skills to plan projects, carry them out, and disseminate their results using various methods. Thanks to funding from the Provost Office and matching funds from SLCL, we will be able to financially support up to 20 undergraduate research projects on a pilot basis. At the end of the year, we will evaluate the program and assess how it can be financially sustained in the long term. Here, too, the help of our alumni and friends will be welcome.

The traditional classroom where students and faculty engage each other will certainly remain a key component of the college experience. That experience, however, becomes richer when combined with hands-on learning in the form of membership in a research team that focuses on a specific research topic or problem, study abroad program, or internships. As part of the humanities programs at the University of Illinois, SLCL will continue to strive to make those opportunities part of the educational experience of our students.

Abbas Benmamoun

PHD STUDENT COMBINES WORK WITH RESEARCH AS SHE GIVES BACK TO LINGUISTICS DEPARTMENT

By Rick Partin, Editor



Sun Joo Chung.

To say that Sun Joo Chung is busy would be as vast an understatement as the distance from Champaign to her home in Seoul, Korea.

A graduate of the U of I Department of Linguistics, with a master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language (MATESL) from the same department, she is currently a research assistant for the University's English Placement Test (EPT) as she pursues a PhD in educational psychology.

The U of I developed its own EPT for international students, who must take this written exam if their Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores are not above a certain standard. TOEFL is a standardized English test that is recognized by more than 8,500 colleges, universities, and agencies in more than 130 countries.

Chung is responsible for conducting three testing periods during the academic year — fall, spring, and summer. In all, some 1,100 graduate students are tested. (In 2011 the U of I enrolled 8,057 international students from 115 countries, ranking the University second in the number of international students in a listing of the nation's "Top 20 Research Institutions.")

Beginning this past spring semester, the department added an online version of the EPT, which began in May and extends through July. Depending on how students' essays are rated by the trained personnel within the department, they either can be exempted from taking ESL courses or are required to take academic courses, which are organized for various levels of proficiency at the undergraduate or graduate levels.

Chung was born and grew up in Seoul, and she came to the U of I in the fall of 2006 to begin her studies in the MATESL program. She had graduated from college in Korea in February of 2006, with a BA in English education.

However, she did live in the U.S. for about three years, attending elementary school in Dallas from the third through fifth grades, before her family returned to Korea partway through her sixth-grade year. At the time her father, Bong Jin, was offered a scholarship from the company he was working for to study in the U.S. He chose to attend Southern Methodist University in Dallas, so the family — including Chung's mother, Kyung Ok Park, her older sister, Young Joo, and Sun Joo — moved with him.

Chung had not received any English instruction prior to coming to Dallas, except for "memorizing the English alphabet and the word 'restroom,'" she recalls, the latter word being what her mom considered the most important word for Sun Joo to know.

Today, the rest of her family lives in Korea. Her father is a professor of law, her mother a housewife, and her sister a doctor of radiology.

Chung found out about the Division of English as an International Language (DEIL) program at the U of I through an Internet search. In addition, faculty in her undergraduate program recommended U of I for its outstanding ESL programs.

"Also, I received an ESL teaching assistantship, which sealed the deal. My family was very supportive about me coming to the U.S. to study."

Her assigned advisor in DEIL was Professor Irene Koshik. Chung eventually chose to write a thesis, and Professor Fred Davidson became her thesis advisor. "The DEIL Program was very family-like and I got a lot of support from everyone."

In January of 2009 Chung was approached about taking the EPT research assistant job. "I had done many EPT-related duties as a TA and I felt that it would be a good opportunity to gain experience as an administrator, because not many people get a chance to during grad school."

"Now that I'm actually working to develop a new test, I'm also learning new things every day."

Chung would like to finish her PhD by May 2014 or sooner, and after that would like to gain experience at a testing company in the U.S. or return to Korea to find an academic position.

Asked if she feels she's become a "hybrid" person between two cultures, she says yes. "I've had the opportunity to live in two very different environments, and I hope that I've become more open and accepting of differences. I like the fast-paced life of Seoul and the small town lifestyle of Urbana-Champaign."

And, she adds, with her characteristic smile and positive attitude, "I think I can live practically anywhere now."



Zong-qi Cai, professor of East Asian languages and cultures.

COLLABORATIVE JOURNAL TO BE FIRST FOCUSED ON PRE-MODERN CHINESE CULTURE

By Dusty Rhodes, Arts and Humanities Editor, UI News Bureau

Zong-qi Cai, a professor of East Asian languages and cultures at the University of Illinois, has created a unique scholarly journal in partnership with Peking University in Beijing and Duke University Press. Titled the *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture*, this biannual publication will be funded by Peking University during its first five years. It's the only journal wholly dedicated to the study of pre-modern Chinese culture, and the first instance of a Chinese university becoming directly involved with English-language scholarship outside of China, Cai said.

He sees the journal as a way both to reinforce the U. of I.'s already strong bond with China in humanities and give the Western world access to 3,000 years of Chinese literature, still relevant today.

"In modern Chinese culture, all the idioms and all the beauty of the language are entwined with pre-modern tradition more than in any other culture in the world," he said. "You really cannot understand Chinese culture without knowing its past."

The pre-modern era encompasses everything from "time immemorial to the downfall of dynastic China" in 1911, Cai said. In China, this immense quantity of literature is studied and analyzed just as thoroughly as English and American literature are studied in the United States, but only a fraction of the Chinese research has been presented in English-language journals. Cai said he is creating this journal to meet that need.

"Think about how big our English department is," he said. "The study of Chinese literature in China is the equivalent of the study of English literature in America. It does not make sense for us not to introduce the finest scholarship of hundreds and thousands of Chinese scholars."

When he first thought of creating the journal, the notion of collecting all the necessary resources seemed daunting. "This started when I got a crazy idea," Cai said. But finding partners and funding turned out to be easier than he imagined. In December 2011, he traveled to China and presented his proposal to two top schools, both of which were eager to co-sponsor the journal. He chose Peking University ("the Harvard of China," Cai said), and is now finishing details such as the appearance of the journal logo with Duke University Press. He has even found a way to manage the most formidable challenge—translating scholarly papers into English—by having young scholars receiving one- to three-month residencies at Peking University translate and revise the papers for co-authorship credit.

"That will really help young people along in their careers," he said.

As co-founder and co-editor-in-chief, Cai said the journal will present a balanced blend of research across all literary genres, with about half the articles originating from scholars in East Asia and half from scholars in the Western world. In addition to research articles written by and

for academic professionals, Cai plans to include feature essays geared toward a broader audience—perhaps upper-level undergraduate students—interested in Chinese literature and culture.

To further encourage research, the journal will host symposiums organized around specific themes to solicit papers for designated "special issues," and Duke University Press will publish the special issues in book form. "In this way, we can introduce the topic of research we deem most important to the advancement of the field," Cai said.

Cai has been a professor at Illinois since 1993. He is the author, a co-author or editor of seven books, most recently "How to Read Chinese Poetry: A Guided Anthology" and its accompanying workbook, both published by Columbia University Press. He earned his doctorate in Chinese literature at Princeton University in 1991.

The inaugural issue of the *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* will be published in spring 2014.

"There's one mission—to establish a venue for really in-depth international collaboration," he said. "I really wanted to introduce the finest scholarship into this country. My idea is what they call the scholarship all over the world is one family. One world, one family—that's the concept."

MULTILINGUAL 'DIVINE COMEDY' MARATHON CAPTURES THE IMAGINATION OF ALL INVOLVED

England, Greece, heaven, hell, Portugal, Poland, purgatory and Russia – all these locales were on the itinerary on October 23 when the Italian studies program at the University of Illinois hosted a Dante marathon.

Beginning at 9 a.m., Dante's "Divine Comedy" was read aloud, in its entirety, following a tradition that dates back to the first circulation of the 14th-century text in Florence, Italy. In a gesture meant to engage the broader campus community, the reading involved speakers of more than a dozen languages, ranging from the text's original Italian to Arabic, Catalan, Czech, English, French, Galician, German, Modern Greek, Hungarian, Mandarin, Portuguese, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish.

Eleonora Stoppino, a professor of medieval and Renaissance literature and the organizer of the event, said she received commitments from many literature lovers wanting to participate in the reading.

"It's a universal work that can be read and appreciated by people who don't necessarily study literature or plan to study literature," she said. "Many people love the 'Divine Comedy' and they come with their own translations, their own books. I almost have to do nothing for it to happen.

"I recruited readers through conversations and email messages, but the most powerful recruitment tool is word of mouth. It is amazing how many inquiries I receive about this, even from other states!"

Stoppino said that Dante has two guides in his journey: Virgil, the Classical poet of the Roman

past, and Beatrice, the inspiration for Dante's own lyrical poetry. "They guide us through our journey from Hell to Paradise through the mountain of Purgatory."

She added that the tradition of reciting the

'Comedy' aloud dates back to the fourteenth century, and it is still alive in Florence today. "Italian Studies at Illinois has added the dimension of the many languages," she noted. "In a community like ours and within our School, there are so many people who enjoy reading and listening to the 'Comedy' in an incredible variety of languages and this adds incredible richness to this tradition and to our understanding of the 'Comedy.'"

Throughout the readings, the text was projected in both Italian and English, she said, so that everyone could follow along, no matter what language was being read aloud. The library provided translation texts. Except for a one-hour lunch

break the reading continued until all 100 cantos were read, ending about 6 p.m. The event was open to the public, which was invited to drop in and listen for a few minutes or a few hours.

Stoppino hosted a similar event in 2008, and hopes to make the marathon an annual occurrence, encompassing every language spoken and studied at the U. of I.

As for this year's event, "It was a great success. We had fifteen languages and fifty readers lined up (and a student had even baked 'Inferno' cookies that represented the various zones of hell), and we probably broke a record. More impor-

tantly, it was moving, intense and life-changing, like the 'Commedia' is."

Stoppino plans to continue organizing the Dante Marathon and is considering including readers from other parts of the country via teleconference, to meet the enthusiastic requests she has received.

READERS FOR THE 2012 DANTE MARATHON

(those without an affiliation were from the Champaign-Urbana community)

Nora Stoppino (Italian)
Omar Qaqish (graduate student, Comparative Literature)
Anna Maria Escobar (Spanish Linguistics)
Brett Kaplan (English, Comparative Literature)
Rosemary Trippe (Rare Book and Manuscript Library)
Walter Matherly
Kasia Balutowski
Rob Rushing (Italian)
Matthew Maddox (Grad student, Linguistics)
Zsuzsa Gille (Sociology)
Emanuel Rota (Italian)
Jean-Philippe Mathy (French/Comparative Literature)
Heather Minor (School of Architecture)
Vernon Minor (Art History)
Emily DiFilippo (Grad student: Spanish, Italian & Portuguese)
Renée Trilling (English)
Charlie Wright (English/Medieval Studies)
Martin Camargo (English)
Mariselle Meléndez (Spanish)
Eda Derhemi (Italian)
Rachel Lavenda (Rare Book and Manuscript Library)
Elysse Longiotti (Grad student, Italian)
Angeliki Tzanetou (Greek)
Areli Marina (Art History)
Caitlin Archer-Helke (Grad Student, Spanish)
Bob LaFrance (Curator, Krannert Art Museum)
Juan Suarez Ontaneda (Grad Student, Spanish)
Jose Ignacio Hualde, (Spanish and Linguistics)
Jessica Sciubba (Grad student, Italian)
Anya Hamrick-Nevinglovskaya (Grad student, Comparative Literature)
Sarah Sutor (Grad student, English)
John Randolph (History)
Gabriele LaNave (Mathematics)
Rick Esbenschade (History)
Laura Hill (Italian)
Karen Fresco (French)
Valeria Sobol (Slavic)
David Coope (Slavic)
Romá Rofes Herrera (Grad student, Spanish)
Verity Winship (Law School)
Lori Newcomb (English)
Nadja Berkovic (grad student, Slavic)
Ericka Beckman (Spanish)
Corey Flack (grad student, Italian)
Marcus Keller (French)
Javier Irigoyen-García (Spanish)
Ashley DiGregorio (grad student, Comparative Literature)
Luján Stasevicius (Grad student, Spanish)
Peter Dejongh (undergrad)
Jennifer Wojtas (undergrad)
Brittany Brown (undergrad)
Sofie Guerriero (undergrad)

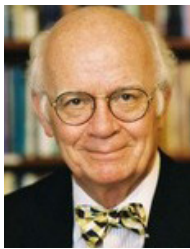


YOU, TOO, MAY BE A READER FOR THE DANTE MARATHON

If you might be interested in participating in a future Dante Marathon, Professor Eleonora Stoppino would love to hear from you! Please contact her at: stoppino@illinois.edu.

NEWS BRIEFS

2012 THULIN LECTURE IN RELIGION DISCUSSES THE COMMON GOOD



Professor Martin E. Marty of the University of the Chicago Divinity School gave the annual Marjorie Hall Thulin Lecture in Religion in April. The lecture was titled "Because I Am a Citizen: Religion and the Common Good in Today's America."

Marty is the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus at the

University of Chicago Divinity School, where he taught for 35 years (1963-1998) and where the Martin Marty Center has since been founded to promote "public religion" endeavors.

The author of more than 50 books, Marty has written the three-volume *Modern American Religion* (University of Chicago Press). Other books include *The One and the Many: America's Search for the Common Good*; *Education, Religion and the Common Good*; and *Politics, Religion and the Common Good*, and *Righteous Empire*, which won the National Book Award.

Marjorie Hall Thulin (1910-2009), for whom the annual lecture is named, was a

1931 graduate of the University of Illinois. She enjoyed a successful career in advertising and published poetry and children's literature in addition to editing a book on the history of Glencoe, Ill.

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

EALC HOSTS COLLOQUIUM ON U.S. PERCEPTIONS OF JAPANESE AND CHINESE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures held an interdisciplinary colloquium in April about relationships among the U.S., Japan, and China since the 1940s. Thomas Easton, the Asia business editor of *The Economist*, was the keynote speaker.

The colloquium centered on the discussion of a set of readings and videos that represent and explore the important historical, cultural, economic and political experiences of the era under discussion, according to Shao Dan, associate professor of East Asian languages and cultures and Matthew Brown, president of the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government, co-organizers of

the event.

Discussions covered the ascendancy of Japan in the 1980s and the more recent upsurge of the Chinese economy and American reactions to both. "The perceived potential dominance, of both the Japanese economy in the 1980s and the Chinese economy in the first decades of the 21st century led to a broad cultural, economic and political uneasiness and fear that was an important factor in American culture and discourse of both eras," said Shao.

Easton covers business and finance throughout Asia with an emphasis on China. He has done regular television and radio spots with most of the world's major networks.

This event was co-sponsored by the Center for Advanced Study; the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government; the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics; the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies; and the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.

MIDWEST SYMPOSIUM IN GERMAN STUDIES

In mid-April the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and other units at Illinois hosted a two-day symposium whose speakers focused on current research in German studies.

Entitled the Midwest Symposium in German Studies, the event included work on literature, history, and visual culture. It was the second consecutive year the department has hosted the event; next year, the event will rotate to a partner institution.

The symposium featured talks by the U of I's Craig Koslofsky (history) and Stephanie Hilger (Germanic/comparative literature), as well as speakers or discussants from several Midwestern universities.

Laurie Johnson, associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures and conference organizer,



Laurie Johnson.

commented that through the symposium's sessions, scholars received "constructive feedback on our ongoing research, became better acquainted with one another, and developed ideas for collaborative initiatives of benefit to all of our institutions."

The symposium was sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures; the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics; the Center for Advanced Study; the Department of History; the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory; and the European Union Center.

'MEDIEVAL GLOBE' CONFERENCE TAKES A GLOBAL VIEW OF THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

In mid-April the U of I hosted a multi-disciplinary conference entitled "The Medieval Globe:

Communication, Connectivity and Exchange."

The conference featured prominent scholars who spoke about ways that the present has been shaped by its complex relationship to the Middle Ages, according to Elizabeth Oyler, associate professor of East Asian languages and cultures and co-organizer of the conference.

Presenters included plenary speaker Linda Komaroff (Los Angeles County Museum of Art), Margot Fassler (Notre Dame), and Michael Puett (Harvard).

Sponsors included the Program in Medieval Studies; the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics; the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities; the Center for Advanced Study; the Center for Global Studies; the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies; the Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Center; the Departments of Art History, the Classics, East Asian Languages and Literatures, French, History, Religion, Slavic Languages and Literatures; and the Program in Comparative and World Literature.

2012 SLCL CONVOCATION

Approximately 130 graduates participated in the convocation ceremony for the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, held in Foellinger Auditorium on May 12.

The convocation speaker was Rajeshwari V. Pandharipande, who retired after the spring semester, completing a long and distinguished career at the University of Illinois.

Pandharipande is a professor of religion, linguistics, Sanskrit, and comparative literature, and a member of the faculty of the Campus Honors Program and Asian American Studies Program at the U of I.

Her research and teaching primarily focus on sociolinguistics, South Asian languages and linguistics, language of religion, Asian mythology, Hinduism, and religion in diaspora.

She has published five major books

and is the recipient of the title "University Scholar" by the Chancellor for her outstanding research at the U of I. She also is the recipient of the Harriet and Charles Luckman All Campus Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award, and the William Prokasy Award for the outstanding excellence in undergraduate teaching at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as well as the 2008-09 "University Distinguished Teacher Scholar" award for her outstanding record of teaching and research.



SLCL Convocation at Foellinger Auditorium, May 12, 2012.

FILM FESTIVAL SHOWCASES NEW WAVE OF GREEK MOVIES

Despite an economic crisis that has made Greece a regular staple of the news, the film industry in that nation is experiencing a surprising revitalization. The Modern Greek Studies program showcased a selection of these new movies in a Greek Film Festival held in March at Champaign's Art Theater.

Marina Terkourafi, the program director and associate professor of linguistics, called said that the Greek film industry is revitalized "because people feel the need to express themselves when they're not heard by the politicians."

These movies feature universal themes – intergenerational relationships, what it's like to be young, leaving home, life in the big city, exploring sexual identity. With the help of a Chicago-based group called The FilmHellenes, Terkourafi chose the seven films that would appeal to general audiences.

The seven films included "The Guardian's Son" (2006), "Plato's Academy" (2009), "The Silent School" (2010), "The Guide" (2011), "Without Borders" (2010), "Gold Dust" (2009), and "Attenberg" (2010).

"We had been hoping to organize a Greek film festival for some years now," said Terkourafi, "and this time, the stars seem to have aligned."

To learn more about the program in Modern Greek Studies, visit www.moderngreek.illinois.edu.

SLCL CHIEF OF STAFF MARITA ROMINE RETIRES

Marita Romine, the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics first chief of staff, was honored in a reception held on campus in May to honor her for her service. More than 100 people gathered at the Illini Union for the event.

Romine began working on campus in 1978 in the Department of Economics. She also worked in the Department of Psychology and the Child Development Lab.

She moved to the Foreign Languages Building (FLB) in 1983. Three years later she began working for the department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese, where she remained until becoming chief of staff for Douglas A. Kibbee when he was named the first director of the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics.

She has continued in the same capacity for the School's current director, Professor Elabbas Benmamoun.

"I have loved my time at the University," she said. "The FLB has been my second home for almost 30 years, and I will take with me very fond memories of the faculty, staff, and students with whom I've worked over the years."

Her last official day was June 30, and everyone connected with the School wishes Marita and her family the very best in her retirement.



SLCL FACULTY AWARDS FOR SPRING SEMESTER

SLCL held an awards ceremony and book exhibit on April 23 to celebrate its faculty and staff's many successes during the current academic year. Awards included:

COMPARATIVE AND WORLD LITERATURE:

Stephanie Hilger (2011-2012 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Lynn M. Martin Award for Distinguished Women Teachers, and LAS Fellow in a Second Discipline), and Brett Kaplan (Conrad Humanities Scholarship for 2011-2016).

EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES:

Professor Jungwon Kim (Mellon Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study at Princeton, 2012-13), Elizabeth Oyler (INTERSECT Grant, 2012-14), Dan Shao (Conrad Scholarship, 2012-16; INTERSECT Grant, 2012-14; Andrew Mellon New Directions Fellowship, 2013-14; and an American Research in the Humanities in China program award), and Robert Tierney (William F. Sibley Memorial Translation Prize in Japanese Literature).

FRENCH:

Marcus Keller, Jean-Philippe Mathy and Laurence Mall: EUC Course Development Grant; Laurence Mall, Humanities Release Time, Spring 2013 for her project, "Poetics and Politics of the Everyday in Late Eighteenth-Century France: The Case of L. S. Mercier"; Zsuzsanna Fagyal. "Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum (FLAC) fellowship from EU Center.

GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES:

Anke Pinkert (2012-2013 Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Fellowship), Marianne Kalinke (honorary doctorate from the University of Iceland), Anna Stenport (awards from the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, the Swedish Institute, and the Magnus Bergvall Foundation).

LINGUISTICS:

Elabbas Benmamoun (Richard and Margaret Romano Professorial Scholar), Roxana Girju (15-month State Farm contract to devise and build a prototype system for intelligent analysis of car accidents from written reports), Tania Ionin (Helen Corley Petit Award), Marina Terkourafi (Hewlett International Conference Grant, a European Science Foundation EURO-XPRAAG award, and a Modern Greek Studies Association Innovative Initiatives Award).

RELIGION:

Jon Ebel (Helen Corley Petit Award), Bruce Rosenstock (INTERSECT Grant, 2012-14).

SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES:

Lilya Kaganovsky (International and Area Studies Fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council, and the National Endowment for Humanities), Harriet Murav (Visiting Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center, 2012-13).

SPANISH, ITALIAN & PORTUGUESE:

Melissa Bowles, (LAS Helen Corley Petit Fellow, 2011-12), Mariselle Melendez (Conrad Humanities Scholar), Eleonora Stoppino (fellowship from the Center for Advanced Study fellowship, 2011-12), Joyce Tolliver (Center for Advanced Study Associate award, fall 2012).

CENTER FOR TRANSLATION STUDIES:

Elizabeth Lowe (elected Vice President of the American Literary Translator's Association, a position that reverts to President in two years, and editorial board of the peer-reviewed journal Translation Review).

SPECIAL AWARDS:

Douglas A. Kibbee Prize: Amy Hye Oh, Department of the Classics; SLCL Distinguished Service Award: Mary Ellen Fryer; Frances E. Smith Scheidel Scholarships: Monet Colomb and Shelby Luzzi.



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STUDYING IN BARCELONA: PARTICIPANTS REUNITE AFTER 40 YEARS



More than 100 people traveled to the U of I campus to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Year Abroad in Barcelona Program, sponsored by the Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese (SIP) and held at the Levis Faculty Center on May 5.

It was, by all standards, remarkable proof of the long-term impact that the program has had on so many of the participants. Attendees included past directors and assistants to the directors, University guests and alumni. Together they represented participants spanning all four decades of the program, from the first year (1971-72) to the most recent returnees.

Jorge Prats, professor emeritus of modern languages at Knox College, Galesburg, Ill.; John Wilcox, professor emeritus from the U of I (pictured at left while addressing guests); and Pilar Ocaña Dolcet, former program manager from Barcelona, shared experiences and their memories of the program's trajectory.

Other guest speakers included writer (and native of Barcelona herself) Laura Freixas, George A. Miller Visiting Scholar; Jordi Olivar, a U of I alumnus and an assistant professor at Auburn University, as well as a former director of a summer abroad program; and Justin Davidson, a former participant (2006-07) and currently a PhD candidate at the U of I. Ann Abbott, a former participant and currently an associate professor in SIP, led a session in which guests shared experiences and reminisced about their year abroad.

Two videos shot in Barcelona, one produced by current participant Yesenia Roman and the other by Xavier de Blas, helped to put into context both the present and the history of this remarkable program, as well as the city where it is located. Graduate students provided mini hands-on lessons in Spanish and Catalán, and offered a tour of the U of I campus.

The event culminated in an evening reception with tapas, music by the group Del Sur, and a pledge to meet again in five years.