

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

WINTER 2017

WAIL HASSAN (COMPARATIVE AND WORLD LITERATURE) NAMED UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR

Wail Hassan, Professor of Comparative Literature and English, is one of six U of I professors who in September were named University Scholars.

The program recognizes excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. The faculty members were honored at a campus reception on Sept. 26.

Begun in 1985, the scholars program recognizes faculty excellence on the three U of I campuses and provides funds to each scholar for each of three years to enhance his or her academic career. The money may be used for travel, equipment, research assistants, books or other purposes.

"People all over the world associate the University of Illinois with the quality of our outstanding faculty," said Barbara Wilson, executive vice president for academic affairs. "The University Scholars program honors a select group of faculty for their wide-ranging achievements as researchers, instructors, mentors and leaders of broader academic communities."

Professor Hassan is a major figure in Arabic and postcolonial studies known both as a critic and a translator. His groundbreaking research over the past decade has significantly expanded the scope of modern Arabic literary studies beyond its traditional parameters, and his broad range of interests converge

around modern Arabic literature, Arab intellectual history, and Arab diaspora literatures and cultures.

Hassan is the author of *Immigrant Narratives: Orientalism and Cultural Translation in Arab-American and Arab-British Literature*, Oxford University Press, 2011, and *Tayeb Salih: Ideology and the Craft of Fiction*, Syracuse University Press, 2003. He also co-edited with Susan Muaddi-Darraj, *Approaches to Teaching*



the Works of Naguib Mahfouz (Approaches to Teaching World Literature Series), MLA publications, 2012. He has co-edited four special issues of academic journals and translated Abdelfattah Kilito's *Thou Shalt Not Speak My Language* from Arabic into English (Syracuse University Press, 2008)

and Alberto Mussa's *Lughz al-qaf* from Portuguese into Arabic (Egypt's National Center for Translation, 2015).

He is in progress on writing a book entitled *Arab Brazil: Orientalism in the Racial Democracy*, for which he won a 2016 fellowship from the American Council for Learned Societies. He also is editing *The Oxford Handbook of Arab Novelistic Traditions* (Oxford University Press) and co-editing a special issue of the journal *American Literary History* on the topic of "Re-Imagining Arab and Muslim Identities in the U.S."

Hassan's areas of research interest include Modern Arabic; Anglophone, Francophone, and Lusophone literatures; literary and cultural theory; narrative theory; gender, postcolonial, translation, and transnational studies.

During the 2015-16 academic year he served as director of the School's Center for Translation Studies. He also is an affiliated member of the School's departments of French and Italian, and Spanish and Portuguese.

In addition to Professor Hassan, the other five University Scholars for 2016 are Nicole Allen, psychology; Scott Carney, electrical and computer engineering; Ioannis Chasiotis, aerospace engineering; Chad Rienstra, chemistry; and Rebecca Stumpf, anthropology. ❧

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/ae: 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/ae 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

Look on our School webpage, which includes a Calendar of Events, Announcements, a Feature News section, and our own Facebook page.

The SLCL Brochure, offers a snapshot of what 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.

WINTER 2017

School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
College of Liberal Arts & 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 & Sciences Office of Communications and Marketing. Suggestions and correspondence may be sent to the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics:

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The international mission of the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics was supported this past fall through several important initiatives.

The School currently houses four residential programs, located in Barcelona, Kobe, Paris and Vienna. These programs immerse Illinois students in the languages and cultures of Spain, Japan, France and Austria, providing them with excellent career opportunities in an ever-expanding global environment. The creation of an additional site in Italy has been discussed for some time already.


The programs are directly administered by School departments (East Asian Languages and Cultures, French and Italian, Germanic Languages and Literatures, and Spanish and Portuguese) and have maintained a high level of academic rigor and quality over the years. The designation of these programs as "residential" means that advanced hour credits taken while studying abroad may be applied toward a minor, major or double major in the corresponding departments, in addition to counting as supporting coursework in other fields.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has recently appointed a new staff member in the Student Academic Affairs Office, with duties devoted in large part to the School's study abroad mission and an office in our building, bringing the administrative support closer to department leadership and student advisors.

International studies are now moving toward a greater diversification of the study abroad offer, with a growing number of programs answering the curricular needs of students majoring in fields such as engineering, political science, business, agricultural sciences and the arts. The development of multidisciplinary "signature" programs by the University of Illinois will provide our School faculty with an opportunity to contribute their linguistic expertise and knowledge of the cultural and historical context of the selected sites, thereby ensuring the success of these projects.

Last October, several members of our faculty met with a delegation from the School of Languages at Beihang University in Beijing, our counterpart in one of the leading institutions of higher learning in China. The discussion with our Chinese colleagues laid the groundwork for future collaboration, including the participation of Illinois students in an International Summer School and opportunities for faculty exchange.

Finally, I was informed in December by Stefanos Katsikas, Director of Modern Greek Studies, of the signing of a bilateral agreement between Illinois and the Panteion University of Athens as part of Erasmus Plus, the very successful student exchange program funded by the European Union.

These developments bode well for the future of study abroad in the School and for the increasing role our faculty and graduate students are called to play in the expansion of international education at Illinois. 


Jean-Philippe Mathy



PROFESSOR DOV WEISS LOOKS AT JEWISH THEOLOGY OF PROTEST IN NEW BOOK

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

If God is seen as infallible and morally perfect, how can that view be reconciled with the portrayals of a wrathful God in the Old Testament? The rabbis of ancient Judaism expressed their uncertainty by arguing with God.

A new book, *Pious Irreverence: Confronting God in Rabbinic Judaism*, by U of I religion professor Dov Weiss, is the first comprehensive academic look at the Jewish tradition of protest and of expressing doubt about and frustration with God. Weiss writes about rabbinic texts of the 6th and 7th centuries in which rabbis protested and debated against God.

In his youth, Weiss himself struggled with what he read about the actions of God that seemed unfair, and with “how to maintain a commitment to one’s own sense of morality, but at the same time wanting to be part of a religious tradition.” For example, Weiss points out the Bible passage indicating that God can punish children for the sins of their parents.

“That’s obviously very problematic for American ideals of individual responsibility,” he said.

He opens his book with a scene from the TV show “The West Wing,” in which the fictional President Bartlet, a devout Catholic, is alone in a church, castigating God for taking the life of a staff member. Most religious traditions don’t leave room for such anger at and questioning of God.

But the Jewish rabbis also struggled with questions about God, and they protested, Weiss said. They weren’t free to question God themselves, so they did so in their writings by putting the words of protest into the mouths of biblical characters in their retelling of biblical stories. They went so far as to search the Bible for any word they could construe to support their version of how Moses, Jeremiah or Abraham challenged God.

“They were using that as shelter for their radical ideas,” said Weiss, who calls the strategy “protest ventriloquism.”

The book shares passages in the rabbis’ writings in which they show biblical characters challenging God, and even some instances in which they write that God acknowledges that those challenging him are right and that he has erred.

“Many of them saw (protesting) as a sinful act, but many saw it as an act of love. They felt it was morally compelled. If you love somebody and trust somebody, you can engage in critique,” Weiss said.



Photos by L. Brian Stauffer

There were other ways the rabbis challenged God in a permissible way, Weiss said. Challenges by those with a very close relationship with God were accepted, while those with a more distant relationship were not, for example. A protest made in the interests of others rather than in self-interest was acceptable, as was a challenge made in a questioning, rather than critical, tone.

Sometimes protests against God were set in the context of a divine courtroom where God is judge, but in which he is actually on trial. Challenges also came in the forms of prayers or parables.

Weiss discusses why the tradition of protest is particular to the Jewish faith and did not

arise in Christianity or Islam.

“In Christianity, from the beginning there is a very strong penetration of philosophy, Greco-Roman thought, that the highest being is perfect,” Weiss said. “There was really no room for protest in the early (Christian) church.”

In order to reconcile the notion that God is morally perfect with biblical stories that indicate otherwise, early Christians would reinterpret the stories as allegories that reveal that God is fully good.

But many rabbis rejected the notion of God being perfect and unchanging, Weiss said. Ancient Judaism had a more mythic conception of God, and the rabbis humanized God far more than other religions.

At the time of the rabbinic protests, a parallel concept had arisen in Greek culture—that of “parrhesia,” or the virtue of speaking frankly and openly to power.

Weiss believes factors that contributed to the

Jewish protest theology include the victimization of Jews and their lack of power, and their desire to believe that God was loving and would not abandon them, leading to a view of a more humanized God.

He said protest theology emerged again in Hasidic literature and then after the Holocaust, with Elie Wiesel and other modern Jewish theologians continuing the tradition of protest.

“[This is] a radical book,” Weiss said of his new work, explaining that some branches of Judaism see protest against God as heresy. “This book is going to raise some eyebrows in the Jewish world.”

LEARNING LANGUAGE INTENSIVELY – SUMMER PROGRAM LAYS FOUNDATION FOR CRITICAL LANGUAGES

By Rick Partin

Students attending the U of I's 2016 Summer Institute for Languages of the Muslim World's introductory course in Arabic said that it was full of pleasant surprises, not the least of which was how fatigued they were at the end of an intensive day.

These high school students, who had limited or no prior knowledge of Arabic, were enrolled in June to study Modern Standard Arabic. Upon completion they earned two college credits.

This year's attendees, who came from as far away as Maine, said they found out about the course in various ways, including from Google searches, friends currently enrolled at U of I, or their high school teachers.

During the two-week program they learn foundational reading, writing, and speaking skills in the Arabic language through four hours of daily classroom instruction. Classroom work was followed by co-curricular activities, including conversation tables, cultural presentations, films, cooking classes, calligraphy, field trips, and more.

Yosra Abdulwahid, a student from Oak Forest (Illinois) High School, said that the full day's schedule was extremely challenging to handle. "We're so tired!" she exclaimed. Others in the group agreed, saying that even by 10 p.m. they were fatigued from an entire day of language and cultural activities.

Virginia Hugo-Vidal, a student from The Maine School of Science and Mathematics, in Buxton, Maine, said that she really liked the cultural component, including a visit to a local mosque and the campus' outstanding cultural museum (Spurlock Museum). Sarah Daoudi, of the Waynflete School in Portland, Maine, added that she especially enjoyed the Egyptian cooking class.

During the program, participants met with college students and local Arabic community members, and lived in a campus residence hall that included Arabic-speaking support staff. All of these aspects of the program increased their knowledge of Arabic and helped them to become more familiar with the cultural aspects of the language. And, significantly for the students' experience, all this was taking place during the holy month of Ramadan.

Leigh Meyer, who is now a junior at New Trier High School in Wilmette, Ill., said she really liked being mixed with college students, not only to make new friends but because she found it "motivating." Abdulwahid agreed, stating that she didn't expect to be mixed with college students, but liked it because they could ask older students questions about topics such as majors and minors, scholarships, and advising.

The high school component of the Summer Institute for the Languages of the Muslim world (SILMW) was new in 2016. The Institute is offered annually by the Less Commonly Taught Languages Program at the U of I. The Institute focuses specifically on teaching critical languages spoken in the Muslim World. SILMW offers intensive courses in such languages as Arabic, Persian, Swahili, Turkish, and Wolof, and more.

Summer 2016 marked the eighth year of the Institute, an increasingly



Back row, L-R: Brandon Lange, Brother Rice High School, Chicago; Virginia Hugo-Vidal, The Maine School of Science and Mathematics, Buxton, Me.; Matthew Lehmann, Lake Barrington (Ill.) High School. Front row, L-R: Yosra Abdulwahid, Oak Forest (Ill.) High School; Leigh Meyer, New Trier High School, Wilmette, Ill.; Sarah Daoudi, Waynflete School, Portland, Me.

popular educational option that continues to expand its language and cultural offerings as part of a holistic educational experience. The following courses were offered: Arabic, Persian, Swahili, Turkish, and Wolof.

U of I students can also enroll in these language classes during fall and spring semesters.

SILMW is open to U of I students and students from other universities and/or high schools. Its goal is to provide students with the opportunity to learn the diverse languages of the Muslim World to set them apart in the international work force. The program recognizes the strategic and ethical importance of learning less commonly taught languages in an increasingly globalized world. Many of the languages taught at SILMW have been designated as Critical Languages by the U.S. Government.



The program is directed by **Eman Saadah**, senior lecturer in linguistics. Dr. Saadah is also director and coordinator of Arabic, and senior lecturer of linguistics at the U of I. Dr. Saadah earned a PhD in linguistics from the U of I in 2011. She has extensive experience in teaching Arabic and her name has appeared on the U of I "List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students" throughout her teaching career at Illinois. Her research interests are in the field of Arabic, applied linguistics, phonetics and phonology. Specifically, her work focuses on investigating and comparing language acquisition of heritage speakers of Arabic and second language learners.

She said that the Institute plans to again have high school students enroll for 2017. Based on the experience of this year's inaugural class, both parties have much to look forward to next summer.

To learn more about the Institute and the many languages that it offers, visit silmw.linguistics.illinois.edu. ☞

PAYING HOMAGE TO LINGUIST BRAJ KACHRU (1932-2016)

By S.N. Sridhar, Professor of Linguistics and India Studies, Stony Brook University

World-famous linguistics professor **Braj Kachru** passed away on July 29, at the age of 84. People from around the world have paid tribute to his prodigious accomplishments and contributions to the U of I Department of Linguistics, and to the fields of linguistics, English, and India studies, as well as his qualities as a scholar, teacher, mentor, and builder of institutions.

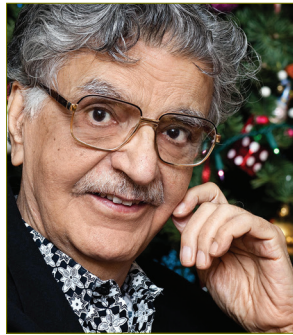
The Department of Linguistics, in cooperation with the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and the Center for Advanced Study at the U of I, organized a memorial service and symposium in honor of Prof. Kachru, held in the Illini Union on Nov.17-18.

The symposium focused on the contributions and impact of Prof. Kachru. One of the many speakers at the symposium, S.N. Sridhar, the SUNY Distinguished Service Professor at Stony Brook University, wrote the following biography of Braj Kachru:

Professor Braj Bihari Kachru was born in Srinagar on May 15, 1932 in a Kashmiri Pandit family. He studied English language and literature at the University of Allahabad, India, and linguistics at Deccan College, Pune. He went to the United Kingdom on a British Council scholarship and completed his PhD at the University of Edinburgh, completing a dissertation on Indian English. He joined the U of I in 1963 where he served as professor and head of the Department of Linguistics, Jubilee Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Center for Advanced Study Professor.

Kachru successfully challenged the orthodoxies of the English Studies establishment on both sides of the Atlantic, which looked upon Indian English and other non-native varieties as erroneous approximations of standard or native speaker English. Through half a century of scholarship and advocacy, he demonstrated their systematic structure, natural evolution and functional vigor, earning them respect as vibrant expressions of distinct cultural identities. Today, "World Englishes," the field of study he pioneered and dominated, is a burgeoning discipline with a global following. Kachru was also a respected and influential scholar on the languages of India, especially in sociolinguistics and multilingualism. He also wrote a grammar of Kashmiri, a history Kashmiri literature, and a monograph on an influential modern Kashmiri poet, Deenanath Nadim. He worked closely with many Indian writers, critics, and intellectuals, such as Raja Rao and C.D. Narasimhaiah.

Kachru authored and edited more than 25 books and numerous research papers. He was author of *The Indianisation of English*, *The Alchemy of English*, *Asian Englishes: Beyond the Canon*, *A Reference Grammar of Spoken Kashmiri*, *A History of Kashmiri Literature*. He edited *The Other Tongue*, and co-edited *The Handbook of World Englishes*, *World Englishes: Critical Concepts*, *Asian Englishes*, *Language in South Asia*, *Current Trends*



Braj Kachru (1932-2016)

in Stylistics, among other titles, which have become standard reference works. He was associate editor of *The Oxford Companion to the English Language* and contributor to the *Cambridge History of the English Language* and many reference works. The *Collected Works of Braj B. Kachru* have been published by Bloomsbury, London, in three volumes so far.

Kachru was a gifted administrator. In a 50-year career at the U of I, he served as head of three academic units. Under his leadership (1968-79), the Department of Linguistics came to be ranked as the third leading department in the U.S. His pluralistic vision ensured that its faculty comprised cutting edge Chomskyan theorists, classical scholars, experts on non-Western languages and applied linguists. He insisted that linguists should address not only the structural and theoretical aspects of language but also their social and cultural dimensions. He encouraged the study of linguistic theory with its applications to areas such as, second language teaching, discourse structure, and analysis of literature. He championed the teaching and scientific study of Asian and African languages, and the dynamics of multilingualism. As Director of the Division of English as an International Language (1985-91), he transformed it into a research entity. Finally, as director of the university's prestigious Center for Advanced Study, he redefined its mission and gave it expanded visibility and influence (1996-2000).

With Larry E. Smith of the East-West Center, Honolulu, he co-founded and edited the journal *World Englishes* (now in its 36th year) and co-founded the professional organization, International Association of World Englishes (IAWE), serving as its President from 1997-1999. He also served as President of the American Association of Applied Linguistics. He organized many conferences, directed many dissertations, founded and served on the editorial board of many journals.

Professor Kachru was a larger than life figure who left an indelible impression on everyone who met him, from students to luminaries. He was a voracious and meticulous scholar, a passionate and inspiring teacher and public speaker, a charismatic leader respected for his integrity, an articulate and powerful champion of people and causes, a witty raconteur with an outrageous sense of humor, a kind and caring mentor and colleague, a critical but respectful admirer of traditions, an open-minded integrator of scholarship from every culture, Asian, African, European, and American, an imaginative institution builder, and a confident, fearless, visionary intellectual.

In all his research, publication, advocacy, and institution-building enterprises, he worked closely with his beloved wife and colleague, Professor Yamuna Kachru, herself an authority on Hindi grammar and English discourse, honored by the President of India. She passed away in 2015.

At Urbana, he and Yamunaji were an institution. They trained generations of well-rounded linguists. They are missed by his extended family of scholars and students around the world. They have a daughter, Amita, a physician in Santa Rosa, California, and a son, Shamit, a professor of Physics at Stanford, and two granddaughters, Sasha and Ila. ❧

NEWS BRIEFS

U OF I ALUMNA WINS CHRONICLE'S 2016 MILLER AWARD FOR YOUNG JOURNALISTS



Corinne Ruff, a 2015 graduate in journalism and French, received the 2016 David W. Miller Award for Young Journalists, from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The Chronicle, which is based in Washington, D.C. and provides news, information, and jobs for college and university faculty members and administrators, bestows the award on one of its interns from the previous year.

The award includes a \$3,000 prize and is based on three articles submitted by each intern. A committee of the publication's editors and reporters judges the submitted articles. Members of the Miller Award Committee agreed that this year's decision was especially difficult given the number of compelling portfolios that were put forward.

But the members said Ruff stood out for her ability to "frame issues strongly" in stories that had "really good characters." She was also praised for the range of articles she wrote, as one member commented that her stories included "interesting and not obvious topics."

For example, one of Ruff's articles described the dilemma of college librarians who are caught between harmful journal pirates and the publishers of journals that are seeking to counter the effects of such piracy. Although many librarians are advocates of open access and therefore seek to expand access to information, their journal contracts nevertheless compel them to help the publishers.

Another article addressed the mental and academic costs experienced by student protesters, who must balance the time devoted to activism with their own coursework. Panel members found this story particularly relevant during a time of widespread student protest in the U.S.

A third article in Ruff's portfolio focused on how historians studying slavery are turning toward their own campuses to find fresh ground for research. Ruff said that one of her sources put her in touch with other sources for this feature, which she found particularly compelling to tell.

While a student at U of I, Ruff wrote for *The Daily Illini* and served as its news editor and managing editor. Of her time in the Department of French, she says, "I was able to build great relationships with my French professors, who encouraged me to study abroad to immerse myself in French culture and helped me blend my passions for French language and journalism."

She now works as associate editor of Retail Dive, based in Washington, D.C. Retail Dive is one of a dozen online services that are part of a start-up company called Industry Dive: each service covers a different industry, and has email and webinar components. ☞

DARREN TANNER, LINGUISTICS, NAMED LINCOLN EXCELLENCE FOR ASSISTANT PROFESSORS SCHOLAR



Darren Tanner, Linguistics, is one of six assistant professors in the College of LAS who have been recognized as Lincoln Excellence for Assistant Professors (LEAP) Scholars.

Selected faculty will retain the Lincoln Excellence for Assistant Professors Award for two years, receiving \$5,000 in discretionary research funding each of those years. Five additional assistant professors—tenure track

faculty who have not yet been reviewed for tenure appointments—will be selected for the spring semester.

In his fourth year as an assistant professor, Tanner has emerged as one of the most prominent faculty members in his department. His field of research concerns language processing and representation in the brain, with particular

focus on bilinguals. Published in several major journals, he is much sought after by other researchers on campus with similar research interests. He's also popular with students, showing up almost every semester on the list of teachers ranked as excellent.

Other faculty members selected for this fall's awards are Ikuko Asaka, history; Stephen Chaudoin, political science; Alison Fout, chemistry; Daniel Hyde, psychology; and Lijun Liu, geology.

Feng Sheng Hu, Harry E. Preble Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, said recipients were determined by a committee of six distinguished senior faculty, who selected LEAP Scholars based on scholarly productivity and contributions to the educational mission of their departments and the college. Nominations for the award came from college department heads, in response to an open call.

"In particular, we sought nominations for faculty who have demonstrated exceptional promise of becoming a leading scholar and teacher," Hu said.

Chair of committee was Kelly Ritter, professor of English and provost fellow for undergraduate education. She said this semester's recipients were selected from a field of 29 nominees. ☞

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE HOSTS "PERFORMING SPAIN" CONFERENCE

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese hosted a conference titled "Performing Spain: Theaters of Memory in Iberian Cultures" Sept. 23-24.

The two-day event combined academic panel discussions with a performance piece entitled "Haciendo memoria" ("Making memory") and starring Isabel Rodes, David Boceta, and Juan Hernando-Vázquez. The keynote speaker for the conference was Enrique García Santo-Tomás of the University of Michigan.

The organizers included María del Pilar Chouza-Calo (Central Michigan University), Esther Fernández (Rice University), Juan Hernando Vázquez (University of California, Davis), Javier Irigoyen-García (U of I), and David Rodríguez-Solás (University of Massachusetts, Amherst).

Sponsors included the U of I Department of Spanish and Portuguese; the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics; Spain's Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport (Hispanex Program); the Center for Advanced Study; the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies; the U of I Library; the Program in Comparative and World Literature; the Department of Theater; the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at University of California at Davis; and the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. ☞

ANN ABBOTT, SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE, NAMED RECIPIENT OF LAS ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL AWARD



Ann Abbott, Director of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, was one of three U of I employees who received a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) Academic Professional Award for 2016-17.

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

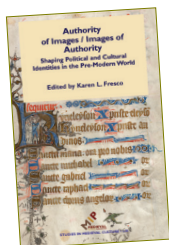
Abbott previously received a 2016 Campus Award for Excellence in Public Engagements, the University Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award and the Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) Award. Her work focuses on student learning outcomes and critical analysis of the following: foreign language community service learning, social entrepreneurship,

social media and languages for specific purposes.

The LAS Academic Professional Awards program is sponsored by alumni and friends of the college. Up to three awards may be made annually. The LAS Awards Committee, assisted by previous winners of this award, reviews and ranks the nominations received. Final recipient recommendations are approved by the dean of the college.

The other two recipients this year were Anna Ivy of the Department of English, and Melissa Reedy of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. ☞

KAREN L. FRESCO EDITS NEW BOOK ON MEDIEVAL CULTURE

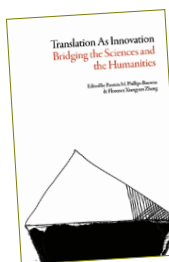


Karen L. Fresco, Associate Professor of French and Italian, and Medieval Studies, has edited a new book titled *Authority of Images / Images of Authority: Shaping Political and Cultural Identities in the Pre-Modern World* (Medieval Institute Publications, 2016).

Focusing on language's political power, these essays discuss how representation—through language norms, plays and spectacles, manipulations and adaptations of texts and images—constitutes and reflects a cultural milieu.

Fresco's current research addresses the ways in which late medieval manuscript anthologies organize, communicate, and circulate knowledge. She said she "is particularly interested in the place of Christine de Pizan's works in these manuscripts and is drawn to the interdisciplinary collaboration that enhances this research." Fresco also is interested in the cultural construction of gender and female voices in manuscripts, and especially in romance and lyric. ☞

PATRICIA PHILLIPS-BATOMA CO-EDITS NEW BOOK ON TRANSLATION



Patricia Phillips-Batoma, Lecturer in Translation Studies, co-edited (with Florence Xiangyun Zhang) a new book entitled, *Translation as Innovation: Bridging the Sciences and the Humanities* (Dalkey Archive Press, 2016).

"Translation as Innovation: Bridging the Sciences and the Humanities" was the theme of the second biennial conference coordinated through a partnership between the Center for Translation Studies at the U of I and the Centre d'Études sur la Traduction at the University of Paris Denis-Diderot, where co-

editor Zhang teaches Chinese and French-to-Chinese translation)

The proceedings of that conference, collected here, examine the role of translation in the transmission of knowledge, particularly in the sciences, recognizing translation as a non-neutral activity and instead as an act that may enhance topic awareness or even generate debate.

Phillips-Batoma received her PhD in French from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She teaches courses for the professional track of the MA in Translation and Interpreting. Her research interests include translation studies, the pedagogy of translation and languages for specific purposes.

For more about the book: www.dalkeyarchive.com/product/translation-as-innovation. ☞

PROFESSOR ANTONY AUGOUSTAKIS CO-EDITS NEW BOOK ON TV SERIES ABOUT SPARTACUS



Antony Augoustakis, Professor and Head of Classics, has co-edited (with Monica S. Cyrino of the University of New Mexico) a new book entitled *STARZ Spartacus: Reimagining an Icon on Screen* (Edinburgh University Press).

The figure of Spartacus often serves as an icon of resistance against oppression in modern political movements, while his legend has inspired numerous receptions over the centuries in many different popular media. This new essay collection

by Professors Augoustakis and Cyrino brings together a wide range of scholarly perspectives on the four seasons of the acclaimed and highly successful premium cable television series *STARZ Spartacus* (2010-13), with contributions from experts in the fields of classics, history, gender, film and media studies, and classical reception.

STARZ Spartacus uncovers a fascinating range of topics and themes within the series such as slavery, society, politics, spectacle, material culture, sexuality, aesthetics, and fan reception. As the first volume of essays published on the entirety of the *STARZ Spartacus* series, this book is a valuable resource for both students and scholars eager to confront a new Spartacus, as the hero of the slave revolt is recast for a 21st-century audience. ☞

PROFESSOR ROBERT MCKIM, RELIGION EDITS NEW BOOK ABOUT RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY



Robert McKim, Professor of Religion, has edited a new book titled *Religious Perspectives on Religious Diversity*, which addresses fundamental and controversial questions raised by religious diversity.

For example, the authors ask: What are members of religious traditions to say about outsiders and their views? And what are they to say about the religions of outsiders—about, say, whether those religions are inspired or effective or worthwhile or legitimate with regard to salvation?

Discussion of some Muslim, Christian, and Jewish perspectives is combined with more methodological work. The authors of these ground-breaking, original essays include established scholars and younger scholars with burgeoning reputations.

Contributors are: Imran Aijaz, David Basinger, Paul Rhodes Eddy, Jerome Gellman, Mohammad Hassan Khalil (formerly of the U of I Department of Religion, now at Michigan State University), Eugene Korn, Daniel A. Madigan, McKim, John Sanders, and Diego R. Sarrió Cucarella.

Professor Gavin D'Costa of the University of Bristol has written of the book: "A rare treat—an edited collection that's of uniformly high quality, throwing immense light on the subject. It will help specialists and undergraduate students approaching the subject of religious pluralism."

McKim commented that the topic "is currently of great interest: how religious insiders see religious outsiders."

For more about the book, visit the publisher's website: www.brill.com/products/book/religious-perspectives-religious-diversity. ☞

PANEL EXHIBITION “DRAWLY FREELY” FEATURES INTERNATIONAL CARTOONISTS DEFENDING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

An **exhibition of works** by some 50 international press cartoonists, titled “Drawing Freely: Freedom of Speech, Caricatures and Satire” was on display through the end of December, in the Atrium of the Foreign Languages Building.

“Drawing Freely” (Dessins en Liberté) is an exhibition composed of 12 panels of cartoons, with accompanying text. Each panel addresses a specific topic linked to freedom of expression: freedom of the press, dangers of the Internet, corruption, women’s rights, resistance movements, saving the Earth, border crises, vice in sport, and more. All of the drawings, made by cartoonists of 45 different nationalities, were published in local papers. Each panel measures approximately three feet wide by five feet high.

While echoing the attacks on Charlie Hebdo in January 2015, this exhibition intends to illustrate how freedom of expression is exercised on all continents.

The exhibition is in English and French. It was co-organized by the Department of French and Italian, and the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States. 