

SCHOOL OF LITERATURES, CULTURES, AND LINGUISTICS

THIS NEWSLETTER COVERS 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.

Three SLCL professors among six LAS Conrad Scholars for 2018

Six professors from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences have been named Conrad Humanities Scholars, three of whom teach in the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics.

The three professors are: Melissa Bowles, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese; Eric Calderwood, Associate Professor of Comparative and World Literature; and Anke Pinkert, Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures.



Bowles' interest in language began as a young child. Though her own parents only spoke English, her introduction to Spanish from Cuban American family friends sparked a lifelong pursuit of the language.

Currently, Bowles is finishing her book, *Instructed Heritage Language Acquisition*, (Oxford Press), which examines the effects of heritage language instruction. In it, Bowles explores how heritage languages, or the minority languages that are spoken at home rather than the dominant language outside the home, develop and change. She also examines the effects of receiving instruction on the heritage language whether one is an adult or a young child.



Calderwood defines his field as the study of people, and how people study cultural difference over time. With the help of the Scholarship, he'll be able to travel to help finish his current book project, which examines the cultural memory of al-Andalus (medieval Muslim Iberia).


"The book will be about how that past has been used to discuss politics in the present. Many political and cultural projects have appropriated that moment in history and used it to very different ends," Calderwood said. "This period of history has become a symbol of Palestine, Muslim and Arab feminism, and Christian and Muslim tolerance—projects and traditions that we don't usually associate with each other."



Pinkert saw the collapse of Eastern European socialism as a young adult living in East Berlin 30 years ago. Ever since, she has sought to understand how seemingly sudden historical changes occur.

Presently, Pinkert is working on a monograph that combines these interests in social transformation and public memory. In "Remembering 1989," Pinkert examines the massive unrest in the streets of East Germany, which led to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

"We think of memory as something that refers to the past," she said, noting that next year will mark 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. I hope to show how we can track unfulfilled impulses of past revolutionary events and mobilize them for the future."

The Conrad Humanities Scholar awards are funded by a gift from the late Arlys Conrad, whose estate gift shared by the College of LAS and the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences is intended to assist and retain promising mid-career faculty. 



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.

For a snapshot of SLCL in numbers, please see our brochure that describes the scope of our School and why we call ourselves the "Gateway to a Global Learning Experience." Go to www.slcl.illinois.edu/news/brochure and click on the image to see how the SLCL contributes to the academic mission of the University of Illinois.

SPRING 2019

School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics

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

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



A month ago, I returned to the Director's office after a semester-long leave of absence devoted to research. I wish to thank Professor Elena Delgado for serving as Acting Director and overseeing the many activities associated with the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics during my sabbatical.

The current issue highlights several of the major components of the School's educational mission, including continuing recognition of our faculty's excellence, contribution to emerging research areas (in this case the Digital Humanities), and international studies.

No less than ten faculty and academic staff have been distinguished this past semester by way of international, campus, and college awards recognizing their accomplishments in research, teaching, and advising. Several others, from postdocs to junior faculty to emeriti, are highlighted for their contribution to our common enterprise. Not surprisingly, in the few weeks since the spring semester began, a number of faculty (including Professors Bowles, Hilger, Kaganovsky, Ledesma, Mehta, Proulx, and Wade) received major awards not mentioned in this issue, but featured, for some of them, on our website, slcl.illinois.edu.

The story mentioning the high number of international students enrolled at the University of Illinois includes a quote from our Chancellor mentioning "the robust education abroad programming and cooperative research partnerships" with institutions throughout the world. As the figures listed after the Chancellor's remarks make clear, SLCL is a key player in the development of international studies on campus. International students take our courses as undergraduate and graduate students, and teach in our language programs. The School provides study abroad opportunities in several of the top host destinations mentioned in the article, including residential or sponsored programs in France, Italy, and Spain.

Interest in languages and cultures is not limited to university students, however. The demand remains strong among university faculty and staff as well as members of the community, who together make up more than half of the participants recently enrolled in the Intensive Foreign Language Instruction (or Intersession) Program (IFLIP). The program, established in 2001 and limited to the winter and summer intersessions, remains popular: in the summer of 2018, IFLIP offered fifteen courses at various levels of nine different languages (from Latin to Arabic and from Chinese to English as a Second language) to 250 students.

I look forward to sharing many more accomplishments from the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics in our summer newsletter. ✉


Jean-Philippe Mathy

Professor Ann Abbott featured speaker at New Student Convocation

By Rick Partin, Editor



When **Ann Abbott**, associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese, was asked to represent the entire U of I faculty by giving the New Student Convocation for Fall 2018, she had to consider what messages would appeal to today's entering first-year students who, increasingly, come from a plethora of backgrounds.

"I worked with the campus' wonderful speech writer, Eric Todd Wilson," she said. "He interviewed me, I told him some of my stories, I shared with him some of my columns (she writes a weekly column for her hometown newspaper in Southern Illinois), and then he shaped it."

She said that presenting the talk was a wonderful experience. "Being able to talk to thousands of people about what it means to me to learn about other people's perspectives and use what I learn to fight for social justice was very powerful."

Abbott started by telling students she is envious of them, in that they are starting on a journey of discovering what she called the "cutting edge" of research, creativity and democracy. And, "New friends. New experiences. New perspectives and new understanding."

She added, "You are here because you earned a place here and we believe in you."

"We didn't invite you here because we think you'll out-compete everyone else academically. We invited you because we saw the potential in you to make the most of the opportunities Illinois offers."

Abbott was a first-year Illini in 1986, coming to campus from Clay City, Ill., "one of those little southern Illinois towns where it seems that everyone knows everyone else." She went to a school with "more or less the same 36 kids from kindergarten to senior year of high school."

By the time she graduated from high school, however, she wanted to see more of the world. Fortunately for her, she was able to get a scholarship for children of service veterans. "And there was never any doubt where I would go to college. I wanted to go to the big city! Champaign!"

This comment evoked laughter from some members of the audience. But, she explained, "To me, Champaign-Urbana was an exotic place with museums, concerts, nightlife! And, most importantly, thousands of people from all over the world."

She said she wanted to immerse myself in all Illinois had to offer, with all of its opportunities. But, "At the same time, I 'knew' (or thought I knew) that I was not like everyone else. I was just a girl from a tiny high school...in a tiny town...in the middle of the Illinois corn fields."

Also, she was the first in her family to attend college, and naturally wasn't sure what to expect. "Could I handle the work? How could I compete with the smartest students from huge, well-funded high schools?"

Abbott turned her focus to her audience, reminding them that they're at Illinois because the university believes in them. She pointed out that although students have lived different lives, cultures, experiences, accents and beliefs, they also have much in common, including age, the goal of getting an education, and the challenge of spending "the next month or so figuring out how to navigate this new place."

And so, she said, "You share common bonds. And you're all different. But you're in a place that values you. Your language and your culture are welcome here."

"We celebrate diversity – and that means both SHARING who we are and how we see the world...and LISTENING to the stories of people whose backgrounds are different."

She told the student that figuring "it" out involves doing through "a discovery process we undertake that requires that we give up some of what we know to be true."

"Sometimes what we think are facts are more like opinion. And sometimes there are multiple truths."

Abbott went on to earn a BA in psychology and an MA and PhD in Spanish from Illinois. She joined the faculty in 2000 after teaching for one year at Millikin University in Decatur, Ill. Since 2012 she has been Director of Undergraduate Studies for her department.

She uses service learning so that her students actually experience the language, cultures and the course content. She regularly teaches "Spanish in the Community," "Business Spanish" and "Spanish & Entrepreneurship." Abbott has a strong presence on social media as well; her blog can be accessed at spanishandillinois.blogspot.com.

Abbott has received numerous campus awards, including the Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) Award, the University Distinguished Teacher-Scholar, the LAS Academic Professional Award, the Campus Award for Excellence in Public Engagement, and the J. Frederick Miller Award (University YMCA).

Not bad for a small-town girl who wondered if she could handle life at a big university.

Her parting advice to this year's new students? "We are together in this new home, and what we can discover here – together – will be life-changing." ✨

Illinois, French partners digitizing Proust's letters

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



Caroline Szylowicz, the Kolb-Proust librarian and a curator of rare books and manuscripts, and François Proulx, assistant professor of French and Italian, are experts in the correspondence of French author Marcel Proust. Photo by L. Brian Stauffer

Thousands of letters written by Marcel Proust (1871-1922) will be available to scholars, Proust fans and the public on a website created by U of I researchers and their partners in France to digitize Proust's correspondence.

The first phase of the Corr-Proust website—Marcel Proust's World War I letters—was launched in late November. The French-language site features letters written by Proust between 1914 and 1918, including one to his financial adviser on the eve of World War I, as Proust's younger brother joined the French army

(English translation from a printed volume of Proust's letters): "In the terrible days we are going through, you have other things to do besides writing letters and bothering with my petty interests, which I assure you seem wholly unimportant when I think that millions of men are going to be massacred in a War of the Worlds comparable with that of (H.G.) Wells, because the Emperor of Austria thinks it advantageous to have an outlet onto the Black Sea."

The Corr-Proust website continues the legacy of Proust scholarship at Illinois. Two researchers who specialize in Proust's correspondence are overseeing the project—**François Proulx**, assistant professor of French and Italian, and **Caroline Szylowicz**, the Kolb-Proust librarian and a curator of rare books and manuscripts.

The Rare Book and Manuscript Library holds more than 1,200 letters—the largest repository of Proust letters in the world. The library acquired many of the letters to support the research of Philip Kolb, a professor of French at Illinois who devoted his career to creating a 21-volume chronological edition of Proust's letters.

Proust rarely dated his letters, so Kolb played detective for 60 years, trying to match the contents of the letters with sources that help verify the dates they were written, such as newspaper stories, stock exchanges and weather reports. Kolb maintained meticulous notes, with 40,000 entries on notecards cross-referenced by date and recipient of the letter. The University Library created the Kolb-Proust Archive for Kolb's research materials in 1994.

The U of I's partners in the Corr-Proust project are the Université Grenoble Alpes and the Institute for Modern Texts and Manuscripts in Paris. Funding for the project came from the French Embassy in the U.S. and from donors William and Joan Dutton of Chicago. The first phase of the project focused on

letters written during World War I because the French embassy's funding related to the centenary of the entry of the U.S. into the war in 1917.

One series of letters on the website concerns possible military service by Proust, who had famously ill health, rarely leaving his bed. He wrote to a friend, asking him to request medical certificates from a doctor on his behalf that tell why he couldn't fight in the war. The website includes images of the medical certificates that have never been published.


The war years were a particularly creative period for Proust, Szylowicz said. Publication of his novel "In Search of Lost Time" had temporarily ceased and he continued working on the manuscripts, writing new sections dealing with the war.

The website will include letters that were only recently published for the first time in specialized journals, plus letters from many collections, including those held by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the National Library in France, other research universities and in private collections.

The first phase includes 30 letters, with about 150 more to be added in the coming months. The website will allow scholars to see the text as Proust wrote it, in the "diplomatic transcription" section. All printed editions of his letters, including Kolb's, have edited the text for easy reading, eliminating the line breaks, abbreviations, symbols and misspellings of Proust.

Proust used a particular code to indicate paragraph breaks, and he also used the code like an ellipsis, to indicate a pregnant pause when making a joke, Proulx said. That was also eliminated in printed versions of his letters.

One of the next steps for the website is to add a crowdsourcing tool for translation of the letters into English, and later into other languages as well. The vast majority of Proust's letters have never been translated into English, Proulx said.

More than 6,000 known letters by Proust have been published. It will take years to put them all on the website with transcription, text, notes and other information. Proulx and Szylowicz plan to add to the war letters collection and choose other thematic phases, possibly based around the centenaries of Proust winning a major literary prize in 1919, publishing the third volume of the novel in 1920 and his death in 1922. 

John G. Barnitz (PhD, U of I '78; AM, '75) enjoys successful career as applied linguist and literacy educator



John G. Barnitz (AM, '75; PhD, '78) is Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and Literacy Education at The University of New Orleans (UNO) in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education of the College of Liberal Arts, Education and Human Development.

John specializes in theoretical and applied linguistics, related to psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic aspects of reading, language, and communication development of children, teens, and adults. John integrates his multidisciplinary academic research expertise, relevant to linguistically and culturally diverse learners in school, family, and community contexts, through the interaction of theory and practice. At UNO, John also served as departmental Graduate Studies Coordinator and Department Chair in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

Dr. Barnitz's very most recent publication is: Barnitz, J. G. (2019), *Literacy Education of English Language Learners: Some Linguistic Aspects of Theory and Practice*. "Invited guest chapter in Gipe, J.P. & J.C. Richards, Multiple Paths to Literacy: Assessment and Differentiated Instruction for Diverse Learners, K – 12, 9th edition, NY: Pearson, pp. 42-63.

Over his 40-year career, Professor Barnitz has received a variety of awards and honors: The UNO Alumni Award for Excellence in

University Teaching; and, an honorary Research Professorship. He was co-named on an annual scholarship at Northeastern Illinois University: *The Brommel, Kramer, and Barnitz Scholarship in Communication, Media, and Theatre*. He also was inducted into Gordon Tech High School (Chicago) Distinguished Alumni "Hall of Fame".

While at the University of Illinois (1973-1978), John served in a variety of ways: as a student worker in the Hebrew Language Curriculum Project (PLATO); as a coordinator of the Linguistics Seminar Lecture Series; and, especially, as a Graduate Research Assistant at the Center for the Study of Reading. He was a former reading program teacher in the Champaign Unit Four School District. Dr. Barnitz's doctoral dissertation was: *Children's Development of Syntactic Aspects of Reading Comprehension: Pronoun-Referent Structures*.

Moreover, John met Christine Gora (EdM, '76, Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education, U of I, 1976). Together they served in various campus ministries affiliated with the University of Illinois Newman Foundation. John and Chris married in Chicago (1977), and moved from Urbana to New Orleans in 1978. Over forty years later, they currently have four adult married children and three grandchildren. The Barnitz Family serves in various schools, churches, and communities.

John may be reached at jbarnitz@uno.edu. 📧

Illinois welcomes second largest international student population in US

The U of I remains one of the top destinations for international students and scholars studying in the United States, according to the annual Open Doors report.

Released on Nov. 13 by the Institute of International Education, the report ranks Illinois as second in the nation by international student body in 2017-18 (sixth when including private institutions) and 24th for students participating in credit-bearing education abroad programs in 2016-17.

The 2018 Open Doors report revealed the following data:

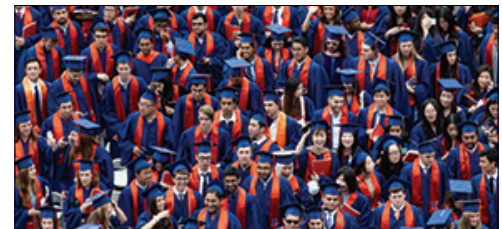
- This year the U of I welcomed 13,445 international students and scholars
- It's 24th in the country for credit-bearing study abroad participation, with 1,945 students earning credit abroad in 2016-17
- Engineering, Business and Management, Math and Computer Science, Social Sciences, and Physical and Life Sciences are the major fields of study selected by international students and scholars
- Students from China, India, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Canada make up the bulk of all international students in the United States;

- The United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, France, and Germany were the top host destinations for U.S. students studying abroad
- International student and scholar numbers on U.S. campuses increased by 1.5 percent and the number of students going abroad has increased by 2.3 percent

"With our large international student population, robust education abroad programming, and cooperative research partnerships, we're proud to offer one of the most comprehensive and diverse learning environments in the world," said Chancellor Robert Jones.

The School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics offers its own huge contribution to diversity in learning as the "Gateway to a Global Learning Experience":

- 34 foreign languages;
- the Less Commonly Taught Languages Program (instruction in Arabic, Hindi, Persian, Swahili, Turkish, and Wolof);
- the annual Summer Institute for Languages of the Muslim World (through which university students earn between 4 and



10 credit hours for taking one or two intensive language courses over the period of 4-8 weeks);

- 23 majors, 18 minors and 15 concentrations for undergraduates;
- 28 graduate programs and more than 300 graduate students in MA or PhD programs; and
- study abroad opportunities in Arles and Paris, France; Barcelona, Spain; Kobe, Japan; Pavia, Italy; and Vienna, Austria.

These international students and scholars also bring numerous economic benefits to the state of Illinois. According to a 2016-17 data analysis by the Association of International Educators, international students and scholars contributed more than \$1.8 billion to the state of Illinois, which also led to the creation of 24,771 jobs.

To learn more about specific languages and coursework offered within the SLCL, visit its website: slcl.illinois.edu. 📧

NEWS BRIEFS

Professor Marianne Kalinke receives Iceland's highest honor



Just two days before **Marianne Kalinke** was supposed to attend the International Saga Conference in Iceland, the professor emerita received a phone call from Guðrún Nordal, director of the Árni Magnússon Institute—the manuscript institute at the University of Iceland.

Nordal was calling to tell Kalinke that President Guðni Th. Jóhannesson of Iceland was going to award Kalinke Iceland's highest honor—the Knight's Cross of the Order of the Falcon.

Kalinke's first reaction was shock, followed by, "What am I going to wear?"

Kalinke is Center for Advanced Study Professor Emerita of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the U of I, where she taught Old Icelandic language and literature from 1979, when she joined the university as an associate professor, until her retirement in 2006.

She was honored for her work as an international authority on cultural and literary relations between Scandinavia and Europe in the medieval and early modern period (13th through the 16th century). In her many publications, she has addressed the transmission of French literature to Scandinavia, the nature of translation in the Middle Ages, and the role played by Iceland in preserving medieval German literature that has otherwise been lost.

In the 1980s, Kalinke conducted research on Icelandic manuscripts at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, but realized that if she ever wanted to be taken seriously as a scholar in Iceland, she needed to spend much more time in that country and also try to learn to speak modern Icelandic.

"The Icelanders tend to be nationalistic—I mean they're a small country and deservedly proud of their medieval literature and culture. So I started going to Iceland and I decided I was much happier in Iceland than I was in Denmark," Kalinke said.

Kalinke and seven other scholars were given the Order of the Falcon, which was established in 1921. It is given to "men and women, Icelandic and foreign, who have made outstanding contributions to the honour and prosperity of the country in some way." ✎

Luisa-Elena Delgado (Spanish & Portuguese) one of five U of I professors named University Scholars



Luisa-Elena Delgado, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, is one of five University of Illinois professors at the Urbana-Champaign campus that have been named University Scholars in recognition of their excellence in teaching, scholarship and service.

Professor Delgado is an internationally recognized specialist in modern and contemporary Spanish cultures, with an emphasis on the relationship between literature, aesthetics and ideology. Her work on Spanish nationalism and cultural politics has

had a major impact on current public debates on the role of consensus and dissent in the democratic public sphere, particularly in diverse, multi-lingual societies.

Alison M. Bell, a professor of animal biology; Brian L. DeMarco, a professor of physics; Lynford L. Goddard, a professor of electrical and computer engineering; and Kelly S. Swanson, a professor of animal sciences, were also honored.

Begun in 1985, the scholars program recognizes faculty excellence on the three University of Illinois campuses and provides monies to each scholar for each of three years to enhance his or her academic career.

The University Scholars program honors the best of the best, and showcases the leading-edge scholarship and teaching that help transform students' lives and drive progress for our state and nation," said Barbara Wilson, the executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs for the U of I System. Delgado also served as interim director of the SLCL during Fall 2018, as current Director Jean-Philippe Mathy was on sabbatical for the semester. ✎

Professor Brett Kaufman publishes new edited volume



Brett Kaufman, Assistant Professor of Classics is the co-editor (with Professor Clyde Briant of Brown University) of a new book titled *Metallurgical Design and Industry: Prehistory to the Space Age* (Springer 2018).

This edited volume examines metallurgical technologies and their place in society throughout the centuries. The authors discuss metal alloys and the use of raw mineral resources as well as fabrication of engineered alloys for a variety of applications.

The applications covered in depth include financial, mining and smelting, bridges, armor, aircraft, and power generation. The authors detail the multiple levels and scales of impact that metallurgical advances have had and continue to have on society. They include case studies with guidance for future research design and innovation of metallic materials relevant to societal needs.

Kaufman, who joined the Department of the Classics prior to the fall of 2018, is an archaeologist specializing in the Mediterranean and Near East, ancient engineering and design, the formation and maintenance of sociopolitical hierarchy, and reconstructing ecological management strategies of ancient and historical societies. ✎

When retirement is not exactly retirement: Doug Kibbee remains on the move with books, visiting professorship

Douglas A. Kibbee, Professor Emeritus of French and Italian, and former Director of the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, continues to amaze, even in retirement.

The French publisher Classiques Garnier, has just published a book that Kibbee and Marcus Keller, Associate Professor of French and Italian, co-edited, *Liberté de la langue Française dans sa pureté* ("The Liberty of the French Language in its Purity").



(Classiques Garnier).

In 1647 Claude Favre de Vaugelas, the first secretary of the French Academy, published a collection of commentaries about the French language, establishing authority of what constituted proper usage in French. Scipion Dupleix, an aging jurist from the southwest of France, contested

that authority, and argued that French should be more open to variation, while still holding on to an idea that there is “pure” French. He responded to each of Vaugelas’ recommendations, accepting some but more often objecting to the constraints Vaugelas and the French Academy would impose. The new book is a critical edition of Dupleix’s book.

Also, the first reviews of his 2016 book, *Language and the law: Linguistic inequality in America* (Cambridge University Press) are beginning to appear. A review in *Language and Society* reads: “Kibbee offers an extensively researched account of a number of core areas of language policy in the United States, drawing on primary sources spanning all three branches of government, from legislation to case law to executive orders, as well as legal theory and the Constitution.” The review ends with the comment, “The issues that Kibbee highlights in the US thus offer rich insights for considering other contexts.”

Kibbee also reports, “I’ve just learned that my post-retirement ‘victory lap’ continues. Following fellowships at the Newberry Library (Chicago), the Camargo Foundation (a residency program in Cassis, France), the Institut des Humanités (Paris), and a Fulbright research grant (also Paris), the Leverhulme Foundation and the University of Nottingham have offered Kibbee a visiting professorship for the spring semester 2019.

“The moral of the story,” he commented, “is that retirement is great, even if not exactly retirement.”

Marissa Barlaz is new Linguistic Data Analytics Manager for SLCL



Marissa Barlaz completed a PhD in Linguistics in 2018 and was soon hired as the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics’ new Linguistic Data Analytics Manager.

In her new position, Barlaz is available to support any new or ongoing research projects in the analysis stage. She’s also available for consultations regarding what analysis methods to use for a specific research question, and can assist with applying different analysis methods within the R environment.

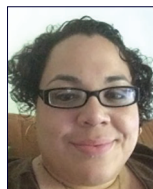
“I’m happy to develop research collaborations in order to help further research programs, as appropriate,” she said.

During the fall semester she also taught an introductory course, “Introduction to Statistical Analyses for Linguistic Research,” which focused on how to do statistical analysis for linguistic research using R (a statistical software environment). In the spring she plans to teach an advanced statistical practices course.

During the fall Barlaz also organized and conducted a workshop series for SLCL students and faculty. The first part of the workshop series concentrated on general best practice in data analysis and

dissemination of research results. The second part focused on analysis practices within different linguistic sub-disciplines. More workshops will follow in the spring.

Spanish advisor named “University Advisor of the Year”



Spanish Advisor **Tasha Robles** has received the “University Advisor of the Year” award from the Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc. This national award recognizes those university advisors that help undergraduate chapters of the sorority on their respective campuses nationwide.

“I was honored to have been nominated, let alone receive the award,” said Robles. “However, to me the best reward was seeing how well our students have done academically over the past year.”

Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha is a Latina Greek letter sorority whose Upsilon chapter was started at U of I in 1997. The organization strives to increase awareness of Latino and diverse cultures, to promote sisterhood and leadership among its members, and to serve as models of excellence in education and achievement among women.

Robles earned her first bachelor’s degree in political science from the U of I, with a minor in Latino Studies. She also earned a second bachelor’s degree in Spanish from Northeastern Illinois University. Additionally, she received a master’s of education degree in higher education from Loyola University Chicago. Some of her academic interests include social justice, Latino studies, education, and gender studies.

Sicilian Puppet Theater performance wows children of all ages



*Sicilian Pupi, or Sicilian Puppet Theater, presented a performance on Oct. 30 in Foellinger Auditorium. The performance, attended by some 500 adults and children, was presented in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago and the Italian Program at Illinois. The tradition of puppet theaters connects Renaissance poems on ladies and knights with street performance and has survived throughout the centuries in Italy. The company is led by puppeteer Mimmo Cuticchio. “It’s an extremely rare occasion to see in the U.S. what has been named by UNESCO as a ‘Masterpiece of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity’” said **Eleonora Stoppino**, the director of the Program in Medieval Studies at Illinois and Associate Professor of French and Italian.*

Two SLCL professors are LEAP Scholars

Clara Bosak-Schroeder of the Department of the Classics and Professor Xun Yan of the Department of Linguistics are among six assistant professors that have been recognized as Lincoln Excellence for Assistant Professors (LEAP) Scholars for their contributions and potential in teaching and research.

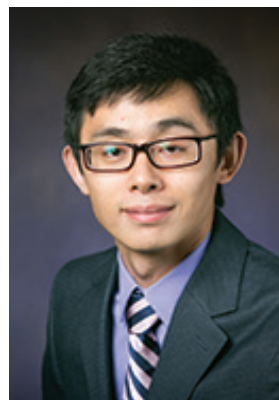
The LEAP Award is granted to faculty early in their career based on scholarly productivity and contributions to the educational mission of their departments and the College of LAS. LEAP Scholars retain the title for two years and each scholar receives \$5,000 in discretionary research funding for each of those two years.



Bosak-Schroeder earned her doctoral degree in classical studies from the University of Michigan. Her research interests include environmental humanities, environmental history, race and ethnicity, and sex and gender studies. She is also especially interested Greek and Roman historiography and technical literature.

Last year Bosak-Schroeder sent the manuscript for her first book, "Other Natures: Environmental Encounters in Ancient Greek Historiography," to the University of California Press, which expressed extreme interest in publishing her work after only reviewing two chapters.

In 2017, Bosak-Schroeder secured three separate conference grants, which helped bring visibility to her department, and she has demonstrated innovation and hard work as a teacher, offering to teach in the Grand Challenge Learning Program.



Yan joined Illinois after earning his doctoral degree from Purdue University in 2015. He is most interested in language testing and learning. He has five book chapters that are published or have been accepted for publication, and 10 journal articles either published or in press.

Yan has been listed among the Teachers Ranked as Excellent in each of his semesters of teaching since 2016, and he is widely sought as an advisor on research projects across campus. Since he arrived in 2015, Yan has also served as director of the English Placement Test, which is taken by more than 2,000 Illinois students per year. He is credited with redesigning the test structure to improve the format for students and instructors. 