

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.

\$1.5 million gift to Classics

By Dave Evensen, LAS News

The Department of the Classics at Illinois has received from LAS alumnus George Reveliotis an endowment commitment of \$1.5 million, one of the largest gifts to a humanities program on campus.

The George N. Reveliotis Family Hellenic Studies Endowment will support a lecturer position in the Department of the Classics, which offers courses in Ancient and Modern Greek studies. In addition, the endowment will support undergraduate and graduate scholarships and fellowships, as well as study abroad opportunities. In the near future, the endowment will also support a professorship in Hellenic Studies.

Reveliotis (BA, '96, history) is the founder and managing partner in Reveliotis Law, P.C., a property tax and real estate law firm in Park Ridge, Ill. He serves as the president of the Pan-Arcadian Federation of America and a board member of the Greek American Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He is also on the board of advisors of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation.

He has already been a strong supporter of the Department of Classics. He previously funded a teaching assistant position for the Department, and in late 2018 he pledged another \$100,000 to fund a lecturer. The 2018 gift has now been incorporated into the \$1.5 million endowment, which Reveliotis has pledged over the next 10 years.

Reveliotis said that his decision to give came from perspective he's gained as an attorney who has helped people who've come to America work through their successes and failures. He wanted to leave something that carried a "different type of value," he said, which can carry on in perpetuity.

"The purpose of the endowment will be to help reconnect academia with its roots, to connect students with the history, the language, and the light of the civilization that Greece has given to the world, because I believe that it is a way to promote Hellenism through education at American universities, where Hellenism will be taught to non-Greeks," Reveliotis said.

"The United States is more than just a nation or country. It's an idea. It's an institution of the mind where everything is possible as evidenced by the founders' vision and the Bill of Rights. In essence, America is a child of Hellenism," Reveliotis added. "As such, we Americans need to be afforded the opportunity to learn the basic



From left: U of I Provost Andreas Cangellaris; Antony Augoustakis, head of the Department of the Classics; George Reveliotis; Feng Sheng Hu, Harry E. Preble Dean of the College of LAS; and Joan Volkmann, associate dean for the College of LAS Office of Advancement, pose for a photo after signing an endowment commitment with Reveliotis.

tenets of Hellenism as they were known at inception and their first application in the world's first institution of the Western mind."

Antony Augoustakis, head of the Department of Classics, said that the generous endowment from Reveliotis will strengthen a thriving department on campus and its Ancient and Modern Greek programs.

"Such superb support for the classics and Hellenic Studies translates into amazing opportunities for the undergraduate and graduate students who study the classics, not only Greek language but also cultural studies," Augoustakis said.

The Department of Classics began to offer Modern Greek language classes last August and with great success. Classics offers a variety of classes to thousands of students every year. Greek Mythology alone enrolls 1,500 students every year and has a long tradition at the University for many generations of undergraduates.

"The study of Ancient and Modern Greek will continue to thrive on the flagship campus of the University of Illinois,

continued on page 3



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.

SUMMER 2019

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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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



The School of Literatures, Cultures, & Linguistics has recently been involved in several initiatives aimed at broadening its educational mission and increasing professional opportunities for undergraduate students, majors, and minors from our departments and programs. These various developments are part of a renewed effort to assure students, parents, and advisors that studying the liberal arts in general, and languages, literatures, and cultures in particular, can lead not only to an enriched personal life, but to a rewarding and successful career as well. It is by now well-documented that employers increasingly seek the range of skills acquired in the humanities

classroom, including cultural and linguistic competence, global literacy, effective communication, teamwork, and critical thinking.

Last year, the University of Illinois funded the creation of a Humanities Professional Resource Center housed in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. According to its proponents, "the new Center aims to provide a unique opportunity for employers and corporate partners seeking students with skill sets acquired through by a humanities education at Illinois, by fostering expanded internship opportunities, educational guidance, alumni mentoring, career coaching, and employer outreach to help students succeed post-graduation." I expect students and departments in the School to become major beneficiaries of the Center's activities.

I have met this spring with representatives of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the Gies College of Business at Illinois to explore areas of cooperation regarding the new Master of Science in Management offered to liberal arts students, including those majoring in the fields and disciplines taught in School units. The new degree program will provide recent graduates from non-business and non-technical fields with a foundation in finance, management, and business administration through courses including global business and communication strategy, two areas for which SLCL graduates with an interest in business should be particularly well suited for, given their training in world languages and cultures, and transnational relations.

Lastly, the Illinois Informatics Institute, a unit devoted to building bridges between the sciences and the liberal arts in the area of information technology, has proposed to establish a Global Informatics Certificate that would enable interested majors in SLCL departments to fulfill the requirements of the Informatics Minor. The certificate would thus combine linguistic, cultural, and computational fluencies, preparing students to enter a world in which information technologies are ubiquitous and global in scope.

On a personal note, this will be my last "letter from the Director," as I will be stepping down from my position at the end of the summer. It has been a privilege to reach our alumni and friends, and to document and celebrate twice a year the accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students. I am confident that all the participants in our common enterprise will continue to excel, as the contents of this *Newsletter*, once again, amply demonstrate. ✍


Jean-Philippe Mathy

Classics graduate student receives fellowship for year of study in Greece

By Rick Partin, Editor



Chris Gipson, a fifth-year graduate student in the Department of the Classics was quite ill the opening weekend of spring break in March when he received a life-changing email.

The email informed him that he had received the Fowler-Merle-Smith Fellowship from the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) to support a full year of study in Greece for 2019-20.

His reaction? "I said, 'Oh, cool...I'm sooo sick!'" But he called his mother at his home in Los Angeles to share the good news.


The ASCSA provides graduate students and scholars from affiliated North American colleges and universities a base for the advanced study of all aspects of Greek culture, from antiquity to the present day. Gipson will leave for Athens in early September and remain in Greece till May of 2020. It will be his first trip to Europe. He looks forward to seeing "the grandeur of all of it," plus meeting scholars and visiting libraries.

Athens will be his home base during his first semester, as there will be trips in the region surrounding Athens, and in the second semester trips to islands or to various historical sites, with a week or two at each site. He said there will be lectures at each site, plus an option to "do some digs." There also is an optional trip to Europe during the break between semesters.

Gipson came to Illinois after completing a BA in classics at Loyola-Marymount University in Los Angeles (in 2013), and a one-year post-baccalaureate at UCLA. He says the Department of the Classics is a "warm place" with wonderful people, and that his advisor, Angeliki Tzanetou, is "an amazing resource."

Gipson studies Greek religion and ritual. He's working on his prospectus, which he plans to finish and defend before leaving for Athens in early September. His other interests include 'the other' in Greek literature and the ancient world, as well as cannibalism and Greek literature.

As a teaching assistant in the Department of the Classics, Gipson has taught Latin 101 and 102, plus Classic Civilization-115, "Mythology of Greece and Rome," a popular gen ed course. He said he loves teaching, and the students at Illinois are good and enthusiastic. Beyond Illinois he said he wants to teach, either at a small liberal arts college, like Loyola Marymount, or at a research university. "Both have their strengths and weaknesses," he said. As a teacher, he especially likes mentoring. "It's exciting to see a student grow and learn, and come into their own."

And, with a fellowship in hand for his year in Greece, Gipson is looking forward to growing and learning as well. 

Gift to Classics *continued from page 1*

in a department with such a long tradition in offering Greek and courses in Hellenic culture since the foundation of the university," Augoustakis said.


There are three designations for the gift:

- The George N. Reveliotis family Hellenic Studies Lecturer Fund will support a lecturer in the Department of the Classics to teach courses in Modern Greek language, Greek culture, and the reception of Classics.
- The George N. Reveliotis Family Hellenic Studies Travel Scholarship Fund will support scholarships intended to expose a wide variety of students to Hellenism through study abroad in Greece.
- The George N. Reveliotis Family Hellenic Studies Endowment Fund will support specific purposes such as professorships, graduate fellowships, and scholarships.

Feng Sheng Hu, the Harry E. Preble Dean of the College of LAS, said that the gift from Reveliotis will support a vital avenue of study at Illinois.

"This wonderful gift is a testament to the excellence of people and programs in LAS and the Department of the Classics, and it provides the means for an even more successful future," Hu said. "We are enormously grateful for the generosity of Mr. Reveliotis. His gift helps secure the future of an important program in LAS, and it affirms the importance of Hellenic studies and humanities as fields of study."

U of I Provost Andreas Cangellaris said that the university is fortunate for Reveliotis' passion about Hellenic studies.

"This gift will help cultivate and extend access to Hellenic studies across the campus," Cangellaris said. "We are grateful for his loyalty, and we look forward to all the good that his gift will bring to our programs and our students for years to come." 

SLCL student has his translation of novel reviewed in *New York Times*



Edgar Garbelotto, an MFA candidate in creative writing pursuing a Certification in Translation Studies, translated from Portuguese into English a book that was reviewed in the *New York Times*.

Garbelotto translated João Gilberto Noll's novel, *Lord*, described in the March 22 edition of the *Times* by critic Jamie Fisher as a "manic treatise on travel and transformation. The narrator begins very firmly in the customs line at Heathrow Airport and ends placeless, not so sure where or who he should be."

Fisher concluded, "...for a novel guided by delirium, 'Lord' is remarkably suspenseful and assured."

How did a graduate student manage to translate a book reviewed in the *New York Times*? "With the guidance of Joyce Tolliver," Garbelotto explained, "I took an independent study course with Elizabeth Lowe, one of the most prolific and successful translators of Brazilian literature into English." Tolliver is the current director of Illinois' Center for Translation Studies, and Lowe is professor emerita and the Center's first director.

The independent study class was titled "Brazilian Literature in Translation," and Garbelotto and Lowe discussed a few authors that Garbelotto wanted to translate. "I always had very clear in my head that I wanted to translate from my native language, Portuguese, into my second language, English, which is not the norm among translators," he said.

"I had many reasons for my choosing: Contrary to the U.S. where only 3 percent of what is published is translation, in Brazil,

60-70 percent of what is published is mostly translations from English, and from the U.S. more specifically. I didn't want to be one more person doing that. Instead I wanted to promote Brazilian literature in the U.S., which is seriously under-represented."

Garbelotto chose *Lord*, whose author, João Gilberto Noll, "is a writer extremely focused on the power of language. I wanted to transmit that power into English, staying very close to the same enchantment his prose provoked in me in the original language."

"I wasn't concerned with 'Americanizing' Noll's prose, but instead wanted to convey the same sense of strangeness of the original prose into English."

Garbelotto sent a sample of his translation of *Lord* to Two Lines Press, which had published two previous works by Noll, "and they loved it and wanted to publish it." Once the contract was signed, the work became collaborative, as he had "the help of my friend and amazing writer, Kent Quaney, and my mentor, Elizabeth Lowe, and ultimately, CJ Evans, the editor at Two Lines Press."

Garbelotto is from Florianópolis, Brazil, but has lived in Chicago for the past 20 years. While many Illinois students take online classes in translation and interpretation, he attended classes on campus, although during the spring semester he worked on his Capstone (research project) online.

"I can tell you that, online or on campus, the quality and dedication of the faculty is impressive," he said.

Garbelotto added that although he has studied extensively and in many different institutions, "I was pleasantly surprised with the community I found here. They root for you and want you to succeed. And they give you the tools for that." 🌀

Summer Arabic program for high school students receives scholarship grant

In March the Summer Arabic Language Program for High School Students received a grant from the Qatar Foundation International which will allow the program to provide scholarships to qualified students.

These scholarships will cover a portion or even the entire cost of the program for the eligible students, including tuition, fees, and board. The Summer Arabic Language Program for High School Students took place on campus from June 9-22.

The Arabic language is one of the emerging must-have languages in an increasingly global world. High school students can earn two U of I credits in just two weeks. This is an introductory course in modern standard Arabic for high school students with limited or no prior knowledge of the Arabic

language. "Our program is a great way for high school students to prepare for college," said Dr. Eman Saadah, director and language coordinator of Arabic.

Program highlights include:

- A language program designed and run by experienced teachers, tutors, and staff with a native command of Arabic
- No prior knowledge of Arabic assumed
- Small class size and a supportive environment
- A program that provides high school students with a solid preparation for college

In just two weeks students can start from scratch in learning Arabic to conversing in it.



"Learning Arabic can certainly be the start of a fulfilling college experience," said Saadah. "We're excited to run an excellent program that promotes the learning of a less commonly taught language (LCTL) such as Arabic and introduces the wonderful culture associated with it."

The special high school Arabic program for high school students started in 2016 at Illinois, and has grown steadily. 🌀

“Spanish in the Community” first Gen Ed class offered in language other than English

By Rick Partin, Editor

“**Spanish in the Community**,” a 200-level course begun in 2005, will this fall become the first general education (“gen ed”) course the U of I will offer in a language other than English.

In the fall of 2018, Associate Dean Kelly Ritter contacted Spanish and Portuguese department professor and head Mariselle Meléndez about a new gen ed course for the category, U.S. Minorities. Ritter asked about courses that already existed in the Spanish and Portuguese curriculum. Mariselle identified 232, “Spanish in the Community.”

Ann Abbott, current associate professor and director of undergraduate studies for Spanish and Portuguese, started the course in 2005 with the idea of focusing on language and content, but also to involve students in the local community. Students were required to volunteer a total of 28 hours in the community during the semester.

The first community partner was the Refugee Center of Urbana. Twelve students enrolled in that first class. By the second semester of the course a second community partner jumped on board, and by the third, 10 partners took part.

Today the course regularly fills at its maximum of 20 students. For its gen ed version, the maximum remains at 20, as placing more than 20 students with community organizations would be a tremendous challenge, but two sections will be offered in the fall. The course will be taught in Spanish, and students will be expected to volunteer 28 semester hours in the community. However, for the gen ed version of the course, some of the available readings will be in English, and, as Abbott points out, perfect Spanish grammar or speech won't be expected by instructors.

This approach was necessary to ensure that the course would be accepted as a gen ed class. Abbott said that one goal is to allow students to personalize the course—for example, which language or languages will they choose to read in, while recognizing the value of students coming together in the class to share the knowledge they glean from either English or Spanish sources. As Abbott also notes, the vast majority of U.S. students have already taken as many as four years of Spanish in high school. But that also underscores another fact she makes clear, namely, that Spanish is a “language of the United States.”

Statistics support that assertion. Illinois is in the top 10 states with the largest Hispanic population, reaching 17.2 percent of the state population. The majority is located in Chicago. “In fact,

our university is trying to recruit heavily within this population,” notes Meléndez. “The demographics of our state and the University’s commitment to underrepresented minorities support the idea of accepting courses in Spanish that address crucial issues such as bilingualism, migration and the role of Spanish in our communities.”

That idea is one that Champaign-Urbana organizations have bought into. The C-U Refugee Center, whose stated mission is to “provide services essential to refugee and immigrant resettlement in East-Central Illinois and to aid in the exchange and preservation of their respective cultures,” continues to be a key partner among community organizations. Students who volunteer there typically work two hours a week. For example, they answer the door or the

phone; they play with children of parents who are meeting with counselors; they explain bills that clients receive; or they accompany immigrants to court or to doctor appointments.


Other participating community organizations include SOAR (Student Opportunities for After-School Resources), Champaign-Urbana schools, Crisis Nursery, Latino Boy Scouts, the Francis Nelson Health Clinic, and the Parkland College Dental

Clinic. SOAR is an after-school tutoring program that provides literacy support and homework help to Latina/o emergent bilingual/biliterate students in grades 2-5 by pairing them one-on-one with students from the U of I.

Abbott said she is happy that the course “fits so well because we’re not just talking about Latino immigrants; the students are helping them and also realize the diversity among them, including, for example, indigenous people from Guatemala.

“I think it’s a really rich way for students to learn about U.S. minorities,” she said,

Abbott said a goal is to communicate with organizations to realize how students can help them, for instance, using Spanish on their websites, or putting volunteers to work at tasks beyond simply answering phones or doing paperwork. “We help them imagine how they can use our students’ Spanish, knowledge and skills,” she said.

Overall, Abbott takes pride in the effort to match students with community involvement, and is thrilled to see the course become part of the gen ed curriculum. 



NEWS BRIEFS

Thulin Lecture in Religion features leading Christian ethicist



David P. Gushee, Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University, Macon, Ga., gave the annual Marjorie Hall Thulin Lecture in Religion on campus on March 6.

His lecture was titled "From Wilberforce to Malala: Assessing the Religious and Ethical Journeys of Transformative Leaders."

In his talk, Gushee introduced the life stories of 14 transformational leaders in world history, including such notables as William Wilberforce, Harriet Tubman, Mahatma Gandhi, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

One of the world's leading Christian ethicists, Gushee is the author, co-author, editor or co-editor of 24 books. His latest book, *"Moral Leadership for a Divided Age: Fourteen People Who Dared to Change Our World,"* was published in October 2018.

His other most notable books include *"Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust," "Kingdom Ethics," "The Sacredness of Human Life," "Evangelical Ethics," "Letter to My Anxious Christian Friends,"* and *"Still Christian."*

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. Each year her endowment brings an internationally known scholar of religion and contemporary culture to the Champaign-Urbana campus for several days. ☞

Three SLCL professors receive awards in humanities research competition

Three SLCL professors are among recipients of financial support from the Presidential Initiative to Celebrate the Impact of the Arts and the Humanities for their respective academic projects.

Of 14 awards given to 53 applicants from all three of the U of I campuses as a result of this competition, **Melissa Bowles**, **Stephanie Hilger**, and **Rini Mehta** were among those whose projects merited awards.



Bowles, an associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese, and linguistics, received support for her project, "The Bilingual Advantage Starts at Home: Raising Awareness of the Benefits of Home Language Maintenance among Illinois Teachers and Families."



Hilger, a professor of comparative and world literature, and Germanic languages and literatures, received funding for her project, "The Art of Medicine: A Public Square on Health and Medicine for the Illinois System."

Mehta, an assistant professor of comparative and world literature, and religion, received financing for her project, "Global Film History from the Edges: Engineering a Comparative Public Humanities."

Mehta also was named a Faculty Fellow for 2019-2020 by The National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) for her project, "The Big Picture: Media, Capital and Networks of Influence." ☞



Mara Wade receives international research prize



Mara Wade, professor of Germanic languages and literatures, has received the Reimar Luest Prize for International Research Cultural Exchange, a competitive prize given to scholars whose research has shaped academic and cultural relations between Germany and their own countries.

Wade is one of two winners this year of the award given by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Fritz Thyssen Foundation in Germany.

Wade has achieved international recognition in the areas of emblem research, research on European aristocratic and festival culture, gender research and research on the urban culture of Nuremberg.

She is the principal investigator for Emblematica Online, a multiyear international digital humanities research project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities that established a database of collections of books on emblems. Emblems are concise combinations of text and images used in 1500-1800 and usually consisting of a motto, a puzzling picture and an epigram. ☞

Joyce Tolliver receives U of I Outstanding Faculty Leadership Award



Joyce Tolliver, associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese, and director of the Center for Translation Studies, has received the U of I Outstanding Faculty Leadership Award.

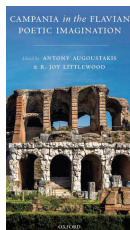
The award recognizes "a faculty member who has provided extraordinary leadership contributions across many dimensions of shared governance (e.g., committee work, chair of task force, service in the Senate) that advance the excellence of a unit, a college, and/or the campus, and who exemplifies the campus commitment to collaborative decision-making."

As stated by the Provost, "This award is the highest accolade honoring a faculty member whose professional service has advanced progress toward the Illinois mission."

Tolliver also is an associate professor of gender and women's studies, and an affiliated faculty member of the Center for Global Studies and the European Union Center. ☞

Antony Augoustakis publishes new book

Antony Augoustakis, professor of classics, has published a new book on Flavian Campania, published by Oxford University Press, with co-editor Joy Littlewood.



Titled *Campania in the Flavian Poetic Imagination*, the collection of essays examines various aspects of Campania just before and after the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 CE, during the period of the Flavian emperors.

This new work offers the first examination of the region of Campania in Flavian poetry, orienting readers in the most recent research on the topic. It also examines the works of prominent Flavian authors in detail, alongside an overview of the portrayal of the region and its cities in Flavian literature. The book includes a range of contributions from an international group of established and emerging scholars. ☞

Vincent Cervantes awarded Criticism & Interpretive Theory Junior Research Fellowship

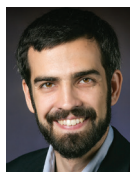


Vincent Cervantes, assistant professor of Spanish and Portuguese, has been awarded the competitive Criticism & Interpretive Theory Junior Research Fellowship for 2019-2021, from the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory.

This fellowship support is for his current book in progress, *A Body Exposed: The Aesthetics of Sex, Death, and Mexicanness*. The fellowship will help Cervantes undertake the research necessary to complete the manuscript, and as part of the award, he also will be named a Criticism and Interpretive Theory Junior Fellow and will receive discretionary research funds to be used toward the project.

Cervantes joined the Illinois faculty in 2018 after completing his PhD in comparative studies in literature and culture (Spanish and Latin American Studies) at the University of Southern California. ✎

Michael Dann named Center for Advanced Study Fellow for 2019-20



Michael Dann, assistant professor of religion, has been named a Center for Advanced Study (CAS) Fellow for 2019-20.

CAS Fellows are untenured U of I faculty members whose proposals are selected in an annual competition. These appointments grant one semester of teaching release time in order to pursue an individual scholarly or creative project.

Dann's research interests include early Islamic history, medieval and modern Islamic thought, sectarianism, Sunnism and Shi'ism, hadith, biographical literature, historical memory, and modern Islamic historiography.

CAS Fellows also participate in a yearly roundtable discussion of research interests and are invited to offer a future CAS presentation. ✎

Hans Hock receives honors



Professor **Hans Hock** of the Department of Linguistics has received an honorary life membership from the Societas Linguistica Europaea for his service to the society. He also received an honorary doctor of letters (D.Litt.) award from the Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune, India. This

honor was bestowed for his work in historical linguistics and Sanskrit.

The Societas Linguistica Europaea is The Linguistic Society of Europe. Its members may be Europeans and non-Europeans. Its purpose is the advancement, in European countries and elsewhere, of the scientific study of language in all its aspects.

The Deccan College, Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune is the third oldest Educational Institute in India, founded in 1821 as the Hindoo College. ✎

Lilya Kaganovsky appointed Professorial Scholar



Lilya Kaganovsky, professor and director of the Program in Comparative and World Literature, and professor of Slavic languages and literatures, has been appointed as a Richard and Margaret Romano Professorial Scholar in recognition of her outstanding achievements in her research and leadership role on campus.

Richard Romano (BS, '54, chemical engineering) and his wife, Margaret, established the Richard and Margaret Romano Professorial Scholar program. "It's a joy for us to be able to support the work of scholars who have been chosen by their own colleagues as outstanding contributors," Romano said.

Kaganovsky's research areas include Soviet literature and film, film and critical theory, gender and women's studies, sound studies, the nineteenth century novel, and modernism and the avant-garde. ✎

Eduardo Ledesma named IPRH Fellow for 2019-20



Eduardo Ledesma, associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese, is among seven faculty members who are recipients of Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities fellowships for the 2019-20 academic year.

Ledesma received a fellowship for his project "Blind Cinema: Visually Impaired Filmmakers and Technologies of Sight."

His book project, *Blind Cinema*, has two aims: to raise critical awareness about the existence of blind filmmakers, and to establish the contours of a blind cinematic style through theories of the gaze and haptic film. "It's the first book to examine how visually impaired filmmakers use digital media to make visible the experience of disability and destabilize stereotypes about the blind," he said. ✎

Daniel Leon receives Arnold O. Beckman Research Award



Daniel Leon, assistant professor of classics, has been awarded the prestigious Arnold O. Beckman Research Award for his project "Disability and Monarchy in Ancient Macedonia." This award comes with a substantial budget to conduct field work and research in Greece on this fascinating book project.

Leon's main area of research is Greek and Roman historical narrative, particularly as it reflects intercultural relations and the political uses of the past.

In 1980, Dr. and Mrs. Arnold O. Beckman initiated the Beckman Research Endowment with a major gift to the Campus Research Board and a challenge to the U of I to develop matching private support. After a review process, the Board selects projects of special distinction or promise for designation. ✎

Pilar Martinez-Quiroga receives outstanding article of year award



Pilar Martinez-Quiroga's article "La detective Bruna Husky de Rosa Montero: Feminismo, distopía y conciencia cyborg" (*Hispania* 101.2, 2018, pp. 306-17) was recently nominated as the winning outstanding article of this year's competition held by the American Association of teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AASP) flagship research journal *Hispania*.

Martinez-Quiroga is a teaching assistant professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Her research interest lies in representations of female communities in Spanish women's literature.

Winning AASP's Outstanding Article of the Year award marks the prominent insight Martinez-Quiroga incorporates into her research on Spanish women's literature. AASP is a leading organization that supports teaching and learning Portuguese (K-16+) in the United States. ✎

SLCL May Convocation 2019

The May 2019 SLCL Convocation ceremony took place in Foellinger Auditorium on Saturday, May 11. The featured speaker was Harriet Murav, from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Program in Comparative and World Literature. Murav is the Catherine and Bruce Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies.

In attendance were 108 graduates, 35 faculty members, and nearly 600 guests. A reception took place in the Foreign Languages Building following the ceremony. This year's group of graduates include 68 in the bachelor's degree category, 26 in master's degrees, and 14 in doctoral degrees.

In her address to this year's graduates, Murav gave three pieces of advice. First, to "value the useless, the Vita Contemplativa." She asked the audience, "How do we know today what will be useful 25-50 years from now?" To help illustrate her point, she referenced Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple Computers. "His early interest in Japanese culture and sense of beauty must have struck his friends and colleagues in the engineering community in Palo Alto as useless. But Japanese simplicity and organic form are key to Apple design. Not so useless, it turns out."

Second, "Wherever you end up living, talk to your neighbors, get to know them in face to face interactions, find common cause with each other, and organize. Organize for whatever common goal you can find. It doesn't have to be a political issue.

"Remember, it's not the outcome or the product that matters... This isn't failure, because it's the process that counts. Democracy is a process, not a product."



Dana Shalash, Department of Linguistics, was one of 14 doctoral candidates hooded at the SLCL Convocation ceremony held in Foellinger Auditorium on May 11. To her left, just behind her, is fellow doctoral candidate, **Jeriel Melgares**, Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Finally, she told graduates not to become discouraged. "Things will take shape the way you want them to, eventually. In the meantime, keep reading, value the useless, talk to your neighbors, and take a tech sabbath every week." ❧