



Polyglot Newsletter

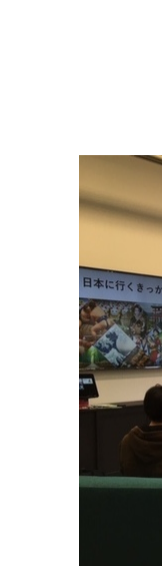
FALL 2019

psu.edu/wll

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Dr. Gina Greco

Warm greetings to our World Languages and Literatures students, alumni, and friends.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who made donations to the Department in the last year, and share with you some of the projects that we have been able to complete with your support. As I explained in my appeal letter last November, creating a space where students can mingle, interact socially with faculty, meet alumni at events, use their language in conversation, and have a place to call home in conversation, was our major goal with the remodel of Farboz Maseeh Hall (FMH, formerly known as Neuberger). I was moved by the gifts that we received during the fall appeal and the online Day of Giving. Thanks are also due to our faculty: WLL won a \$1,000 award from the PSU Foundation for having the greatest faculty participation in the Day of Giving. We also won for my email next December: our goal is to win the faculty award again, and add the alumni participation award to our list of successes! More importantly, I am pleased to say that we now have a beautiful space, which we have named the Language Lounge, and we look forward to welcoming students in there throughout the school year.

Our inaugural public event for the Language Lounge will be an Open House on October 16, 2019, during Portland State of Mind. Please stop by between 3:30 and 5:00 pm to meet current students, reconnect with faculty and former classmates, and see the space that we have created for you. We will be hosting guest speakers and international visitors in our Language Lounge, and we will keep you abreast of such cultural events.

I look forward to seeing you in our beautiful new space!

Warm regards,

Gina

Gina L. Greco, Department of World Languages and Literatures Chair

YOU'RE INVITED!

Open House

Help us celebrate the grand opening of our Language Lounge!

Stop by to meet current students, reconnect with faculty and former classmates, and see the space that many of you helped create!!

Wednesday, October 16
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm
Farboz Maseeh Hall 334
(Formerly Neuberger Hall)
1855 SW Broadway

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PUTTING WORLD LANGUAGES TO WORK

By Malcom Goldman



Maevie Stier

During the Spring 2018 term, students in Senior Instructor of Italian **Angela Zagarella**'s Italian 203 course worked together to write English subtitles for an Italian documentary about the LGBT community in Italy. Instructor Zagarella received the script from the directors of the film themselves, offering the translation in return.

Maevie Stier, who has taken Instructor Zagarella's Italian course, was in charge of compiling the final draft, and used the experience to enrich her personal and professional life. Maevie is PSU senior with a major in Opera and a minor in Italian, and has been studying the language for three years.

The documentary, called *Fuori!* (Out, in Italian), takes the form of several roughly 15-minute-long episodes, which tell the stories of LGBT people in Italy and interview a sample of the population about their stance on LGBT issues according to Maevie. It was fascinating to hear people's different perspectives. There was a wide range of responses from the population, much like in the United States. Despite Italy's reputation as a Catholic country, the Church's political influence on people's personal feelings towards the LGBT community seemed to be limited, and many people expressed their support. The documentary project allowed Maevie to spread awareness of a situation regarding LGBT people in Italy, as well as ask questions of the population that they may not have thought about before.

The process of translating the subtitles was almost entirely student-led. Their interest in LGBT topics prompted the selection of the film, and the translation work itself was completed by students. Instructor Zagarella played a guiding role, helping students understand idioms and learning together with the students as they negotiated the language. The students learned a lot about the process of translation - the biggest challenge being to settle on one translation that was both coherent to English speakers and faithful to the original text.

Upon completion of the project, many students felt fulfilled by the fact that they had applied their language skills to a real life project. Maevie, reflecting on the experience, stated, "Getting the chance to engage like that was really special. Yeah, it was great! I shared the sentiment that they were working so hard, and I was glad to be a part of it." The students were proud to help spread awareness of the LGBT situation in Italy to other, non-Italian-speaking populations.

Work on the project helped change Maevie's perspective on her own career. Leading to opportunities that will benefit her well into the future. Shortly after completion of the project, she began an internship with the honorary Italian consulate in Portland, answering emails and telephone calls and speaking with Italian clients in person. Her familiarity with vernacular language from the documentary was invaluable in understanding conversations, and the translation practice has helped her manage her own career, especially in urgent or stressful situations. If things work out as planned, she may even be recommended to work at the Italian consulate in San Francisco.

Even with the new directions the language has given her, Maevie still hasn't lost sight of her original goal. A job at the consulate would be perfect for a musician in between gigs, but her dream of being an opera singer is still strong. Her Italian experience has benefited her in that regard as well. Not only does she feel a closer connection to the meaning of sound they are looking for, she also has been able to use her knowledge of Italian diction to help her peers find the authentic sound they are looking for.

Above all, the opportunity to work on such a hands-on, intimate language project made students feel engaged, valued, and rewarded, and many students have expressed hopes for similar projects in the future. Maevie praised her professors for giving students the opportunity, expressing that her passion for the language is "thanks to the passion and the enthusiasm of the professors here, and making me feel like I was doing a good job, and like my hard work was being rewarded, and like it was part of a family." The first part of the documentary is available in Italian on YouTube. You can watch it [here](#).

LEND THEM YOUR VOICE

By Noah Sellers



Noah Sellers

Noah Sellers graduated from PSU with a Post-Bac degree in Arabic. In 2018, he has taught English in various countries including Saudi Arabia, and now is starting the 60-hour Oregon Health Care Interpreter Association Training this summer.

Did you know that thousands of interpretations are performed by hundreds of interpreters almost every day in the State of Oregon, and that the demand for interpreters exceeds the supply? Do you want a career in a field that is growing rapidly and offers a good result from an approved interpreter? Have you ever considered becoming an interpreter?

There are many benefits to becoming an interpreter, especially for students. Many, but not all, clients prefer an on-site interpreter to a telephonic interpreter, and most on-site interpreters work with one or more interpreting agencies on a freelance basis. That means they accept the appointments that suit them according to their day, time, location, and nature, and decline the ones that don't. Additionally, interpreters are competitively paid according to the demand for interpretation in their languages and locations, and this work brings them into contact with service providers in a variety of professional settings; clinics, hospitals, schools, etc., whom may become primary or secondary employers.

The path to becoming an interpreter has never been clearer. Thanks to increased interest by the State of Oregon in the quality of health care, there has been a push for more interpreters, and an on-site interpreter is in high demand. The Oregon Health Care Interpreter Association has developed a process whereby anyone can become either Health Care Qualified or Health Care Certified. With demonstrated proficiency in English and a second language, or a first language and English, 60 hours of approved health care interpreter training, and 15 hours of health care interpreting, you can become a Qualified Health Care Interpreter. With these and a successful result of one of two tests, interpreters of Arabic, Cantonese, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, or Vietnamese can become a Certified Health Care Interpreter.

While I was a post-baccalaureate student in PSU's Arabic program, I worked for a non-profit company, IRCO, connecting immigrants and refugees in the Portland metro area with resources. Occasionally an Arabic-speaking client and the receptionist would require assistance communicating with each other. It was a very small service to facilitate communication between two speakers of different languages, and making them feel appreciated and respected was and still is very meaningful to me.

Proficiency in a second language is not easily attained by adult learners, but when attained it is worthy of respect. Employing one's second language proficiency in the service of others is even more worthy of respect. As an undergraduate at PSU, I witnessed both among both instructors and colleagues with a tremendous admiration. Thanks to the confident instruction I received in my Arabic program, their support in a successful study abroad application that took me to Morocco, and an employment opportunity that took me to Saudi Arabia, and thanks to my last proficiency test my Arabic is now minimally at the level required of current Qualified and Certified Health Care Interpreters. It has been a dream of mine for many, many years to work in such a capacity, and although I may never realize that dream, anticipating a good result from an approved health care interpreter training course and test, I am closer to that dream now than I would have ever thought possible.

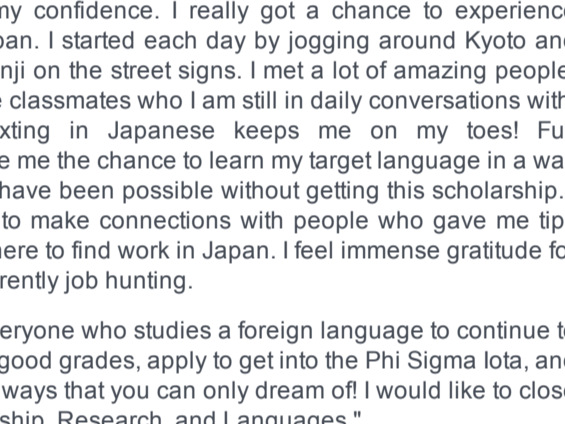
EYE ON ALUMNI:

Bryan Houde

French Major, 2011

Please introduce yourself.

I was born and grew up in Roseburg, Oregon (southern Oregon). I started at Umpqua Community College at 18, moved to OSU in 2005, then finished at PSU in 2011. I graduated with a major in French and a minor in Business. I then obtained a master's degree in Business Management from the University of Peripignan (France) with an emphasis on Wine Tourism.



Bryan Houde

What do you do for a living now and where?

I currently work for Chène Bleu, an organic and biodynamic vineyard and winery in the south of France at the foot of the Ventoux mountain in the department of the Vaucluse. Chène Bleu is redefining the definition of "fine wine" and pushing the boundaries of traditional winemaking in an attempt to stop the chemical usage of conventional viticulture. For the past 4 years, I was based at the winery (lived in Vaison-la-Romaine) working as Responsible caveau et ventes France (Tasting and Sales). As one of the winemakers, I developed on-site sales through tourism offerings and an internationally renowned wine school and worked with members of the French on-trade (restaurants, hotels, bars) and off-trade (wine shops, retailers) to increase sales and visibility of our wines across France.

In January 2019, I moved to London to head up our international activities. I currently work as senior manager for UK and international trade and private client relations working with our various importers and trade clients and developing new sales channels geared at direct selling (e-commerce, wine club, etc.).

Tell us how you got there.

In 2009, I decided to study abroad with the exchange program through PSU. I spent 11 months in Poitiers, France living with a host family and absolutely loved it! However, I had hoped to spend those 11 months that I would have progressed more in my language skills and could have traveled more, so after returning to Portland and completing my degree, I decided to go back to France. I thought the best way was to find a job, and English was my obvious USP (I applied to every university in France to be a lecturer of English). I eventually found a position at the University of Peripignan in the south of France and taught for 2 years. After my contract had ended, I still wasn't ready to leave, so I decided to enroll in a master's degree, still in Peripignan, and ended up finishing with a master's in Tourism Management, specializing in wine tourism. From there, I started up my own consulting business for small independent wineries in France and met the owners of Chène Bleu who were looking to develop tourism at the winery. You might call it destiny as I was not looking to work for someone else, but here I am, and I'm loving it!

How have your French language skills and/or cultural knowledge helped you in your career path?

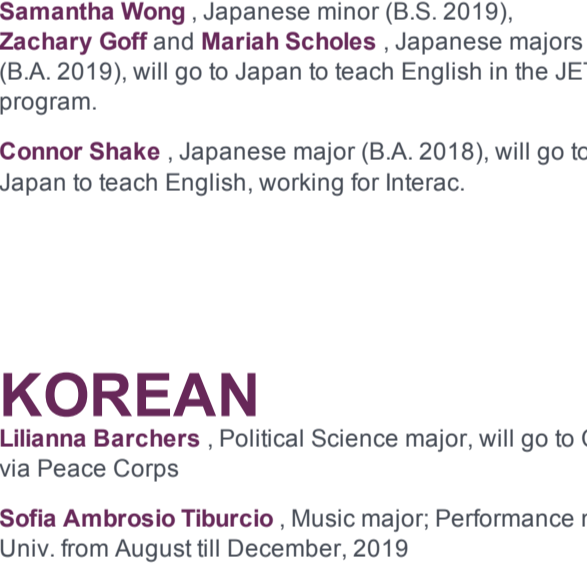
France is one of those countries where the language is vital to social interaction. You can't get away with speaking English to everyone and hope they might be willing to reply. Having a strong level of French is not only a must for those who want to move there, work there, and eventually become a citizen. There are lots of opportunities for native English speakers throughout France, but you have to be able to conduct business in French or you don't stand a chance.

What advice would you have for current graduates?

If moving abroad is something that calls to you, then do it! There's no better time than just out of school, you have no family or career ties to hold you back. If you go and hate it, then you can always go back home, but at least you'll have done it. Also, you're not called "French" for nothing, it's not the easiest job to do, but it's just become natural, but make sure to immerse yourself. Don't get there and immediately join the local English club. You have to push yourself. It's hard, isolating and somewhat depressing in the beginning, but the rewards are so worth it. Think of it as investing in your future.

PHI SIGMA IOTA

By Cassio de Oliveira and Jon Holt



Dr. Cassio de Oliveira, Maria Riggan, Anna Bonemer, Daniel Mullen, Nicolas Pahomsky, Rama Aviananda, and Michael Wassman at the Spring 2019 WLL Awards Reception

WLL faculty and staff always look for ways to support their students and help them receive recognition for their hard work studying languages at PSU. The Phi Sigma Iota International Honor Society is one of the ways we do this. Each year, we recognize the teaching of seventeen languages each year, is that our students are dedicated to learning how to fluently express themselves in their chosen languages. One resource faculty have to help students feel rewarded and recognized for their excellence is the Phi Sigma Iota Foreign Language Honor Society (PSI). If they meet the academic requirements, undergraduate and graduate students may freely apply to PSI to be a part of this national group that's always been able to be able to add this distinction to one's resume, indicating they not only are superstars in their own majors, but that they also are hard working, passionate, and disciplined. We frequently have to see dozens of student applications for the honor society as we open the application window in late winter quarter.

Phi Sigma Iota is one of the nation's oldest honor societies, dating back to 1925. In 1978, the society expanded into the National Foreign Language Honor Society Phi Sigma Iota in order to honor outstanding achievements in any area of foreign language study and teaching, including classes, reading, Applied Linguistics, Comparative Literature, and Bilingual Education. In 1982, the Society became the International Foreign Language Honor Society by installing its first chapter in a foreign country at Universidad Regiontoma, Monterrey, Mexico. It was in the 1980s that the Portland State University chapter, Nu Nu, began. Helmed by Dr. Siwako Watanabe (Japanese) in the 1990s, Dr. Robert Sanders (Spanish) and Dr. Steven Fuller (German) in the 2000s, and later Dr. Jon Holt (Japanese) and Dr. Cassio de Oliveira (Russian) in the 2010s, PSI remains a vital resource for faculty and students to promote excellence in language learning. Dr. de Oliveira is the current Chapter Advisor, with Dr. Holt serving as Phi Sigma Secretary.

In the past decade, PSI has seen large numbers of WLL students become members, including majors and minors in Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish, as well as members from Applied Linguistics and Classical Studies. Aak Dr. Holt or Dr. de Oliveira and you'll hear we are always interested in getting new students from every major and language-related field of study more involved in the society. For example, in 2019, PSI had a dozen to two dozen members in year and graduation ceremony and party in June. In 2019, Mr. Michael Wassman, a major in Japanese and PSI inductee 2018, won a highly competitive scholarship from PSU, which enabled him to go on from PSU to participate in intensive summer program at the Kyoto Institute of Language and Culture (see separate article in this issue of Polyglot for more details). As one of Michael's instructors, I was proud to see him become a member of the society. He truly realized that learning "Japanese keeps me on my toes!" We want all of our students to use their language studies to keep them engaged with the world around them. Thus, with early successes like Michael—the first PSI scholarship winner at PSU since the 1990s—Dr. de Oliveira begins his tenure as Director of the Nu Nu chapter and we expect great things from his leadership at PSI in the future.

PSI and WLL's partnership has been a good one that one wishes will continue to be strong in the decades to come. PSI's primary intent is to promote the understanding of the peoples of the world as essential to the welfare of humanity. In our current teaching and research, this message resonates with all faculty members of WLL as a part of our shared mission.

Phi Sigma Iota 2018-2019

Honor Society Inductees

Nickolas Jones, German

Marena Riggan, Arabic

Rama Aviananda, French, German, Japanese

Nathaniel Wong, Japanese

Nikolas Pahomsky, Japanese

Ashlyne Poirier, French

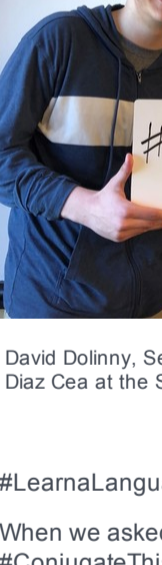
Anna Bornemer, German

Ariel Andrea Iannone Romaneli, Spanish and French

Daniel Mullen, German (M.A. graduate)

PSI SCHOLARSHIP WINNER:

Michael Wassman



Michael Wassman at the Spring 2019 WLL Awards Reception

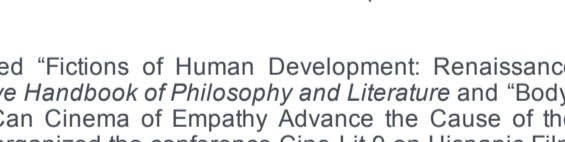
Since starting school at PSU, I've always tried to get as much as I could out of my education. I was a member of the Phi Sigma Iota International Honor Society. It felt amazing to get recognition for all of my hard work. During the spring of this year, I was awarded the Dr. Santiago Vilas Scholarship from Phi Sigma Iota, which enabled me to participate in Kyoto Institute of Language and Culture's summer intensive course. During the four-week course, I had Japanese class for 3.5 hours a day, Monday through Friday. A full month of lessons in reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, listening comprehension, and accent elevated my ability and boosted my confidence. I really got a chance to experience daily life in Japan. I started each day by jogging around Kyoto and reading some Japanese that I am still in daily conversations with. Continually reading in Japanese helped me to learn the language. Immersion gave me the chance to learn my target language in a way that would not have been possible without getting this scholarship. I was also able to make connections with people who gave me tips on how and where to find work in Japan. I feel immense gratitude for this as I am currently job hunting.

I encourage anyone who studies a foreign language to continue to work hard, get good grades, apply to get into the Phi Sigma Iota, and to be a part of this national group that's always been able to be able to add this distinction to one's resume, indicating they not only are superstars in their own majors, but that they also are hard working, passionate, and disciplined. We frequently have to see dozens of student applications for the honor society as we open the application window in late winter quarter.

STUDENT NEWS

ARABIC

Six students of Arabic received Noury and Larina Al-Khatib Endowed Scholarship. Tyler Miller, Alex Berg, Ismahani Dahr, Emily Nickell, Sanaa Shaheen, and Marena Riggan. In addition, Riggan received the Joseph and Sakia Azar Scholarship, shared receive the Frank and Margaret Bitar Scholarship, and Nickell received the Elie & Nayla Kassab Scholarship.

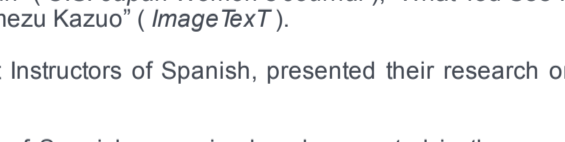


Arabic scholarship winners and graduates with Dr. Yasmine Harouani at the Spring 2019 WLL Awards Reception.

FRENCH

Meagan Beckman will be spending the next school year teaching English near the French Riviera through the Teaching Assistant Program in France.

Allison Gardner received the Claudine G. Fisher Endowed Scholarship.



French scholarship winners and graduates with Dr. Steve Watson, Dr. Julie J. Penner, and Senior Instructor Stephanie Roulin at the Spring 2019 WLL Awards Reception.

GERMAN

Kimberly Molsan, German M.A. (2019), has been accepted to pursue a Ph.D. in German at the University of Oregon.

Dan Balaban, German M.A. (2019), has been accepted to pursue a Ph.D. in Art History at the University of Oregon.

Katrina Katzenbach, German M.A. (2019), has been accepted to pursue a Ph.D. in German at Princeton University.



German graduates with Dr. Carrie Coltenberg-Gonzalez at the Spring 2019 WLL Awards Reception.

HEBREW

Francesca Casper received the Aspen Mitzvah Fund Scholarship.

ITALIAN

Emily Richardson received the Giovanni Fanci Scholarship to study Italian in 2019 and study abroad in Italy in 2020.

Elliott Vaughn also received the Giovanni Fanci Scholarship to study third-year Italian.



Italian scholarship winners and graduates with Dr. Emily Richardson and Dr. Kathi Keltchoun at the Spring 2019 WLL Awards Reception.

JAPANESE

Samantha Wong, Japanese minor (B.S. 2019), Zachary Goff and Mariah Scholes, Japanese majors (B.A. 2019), will go to Japan to teach English in the JET program.

Connor Shake, Japanese major (B.A. 2018), will go to Japan to teach English, working for Interac.



Japanese graduates and faculty at the Spring 2019 WLL Awards Reception.

KOREAN

Liliana Barchers, Political Science major, will go to Cambodia for 2 years from this summer to teach English via Peace Corps.

Sofia Ambrosio Tiburcio, Music major; Performance major, will go to Korea and study in Soonchunhyang Univ. from August till December, 2019.

Jacqueline Dickson, International & Global Studies major, will go to Korea and study in Hanyang Univ. in Seoul from July till June, 2020.

Paula Raburn, Political Science major, will go to Japan and study in Hiroshima for 6 months.

Madison Fikes, Criminal Justice & Criminal Justice and Applied Linguistics major, received a scholarship from Paul Lee Foundation.

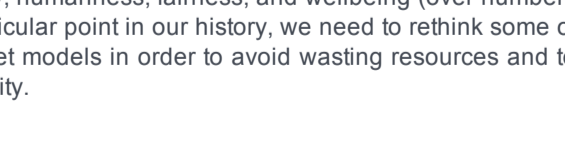
Korean language class students were invited to the "Korea Night", the biggest event hosted by the Korean Students Association on May 24, 2019, and performed an iconic Korean traditional song "Ariarung" on the finale stage.

Daniella Uribe, Art History major, was awarded the 2019-20 Asian Studies Scholarship.

PERSIAN

Abbas Habibi, a Persian minor, was admitted to the M.A. program in Liberal Arts at Persion College.

Jonathan Blayne Pearson, Persian graduate, was admitted to the new Law Schools' University of Oregon, and budgets in academic decision making. At this particular point in our history, we need to rethink some of our administrative and leadership structures and budget models in order to avoid wasting resources and to focus on students and our mission to serve the community.



Persian scholarship winners and graduates with Dr. Anousha Sedighi at the Spring 2019 WLL Awards Reception.

RUSSIAN

Hannah Schuman, double major in Mathematics and Russian (through the Russian Flagship program) received the Sandra G. Fishers Endowed Scholarship. She is studying abroad with RLASP in Moscow during the Summer 2019 term. She also received the Cliff and Deborah Burns Scholarship from the Math department for the upcoming school year at PSU.



Russian scholarship winners, graduates, and faculty at the Spring 2019 WLL Awards Reception.

Vianca Diaz Cea, Linguistics major, received a \$10,000 scholarship to the Middlebury School of Russian for Summer 2019.

SPANISH

Isabelle Orcutt-Guerra, PSU-Spanish MA alumni, a PhD candidate at UC Davis in Spanish social/linguistics, was hired as Assistant Professor in Spanish Linguistics at the U of Denver, Colorado, starting fall 2019.



Spanish students and faculty at the 2019 Cine-Lit Conference.

Steven Adams, **Jared Barrios**, **Rosanna Grazia Braciluni**, **Andrea De Guzman**, **Sarah Kernoyan**, **Georgina Lupton**, **Elvira Martinez Rueda**, **Andrew O'Brien**, **Nathalie Quiroga**, **Jared Molynaux**, and **Katherine Young-Ells** presented their research on psychoneuroscience at the [Cine-Lit Conference](#) this March 2019.

Isabel Jaén Portillo, Professor of Spanish, published "Fictions of Human Development: The Cause of the 'R-rated and Excessive' Long-Juana in the 'Banks of Havana' (Spanish Language and Literature)", "X-Rated and Excessive: Long-Juana in the 'Banks of Havana' (Spanish Language and Literature)", "What You See is What You Get: Visualizing Hypocrisy in the 'Manga of Umezu' (Image Text)", "What You See is What You Get: Visualizing Hypocrisy in the 'Manga of Umezu' (Image Text)".

Jon Holt, Associate Professor of Japanese, published three articles on poetry and manga: "Chocolate Revolutionary: Ji-Amari in the 'Banks of Havana' (Spanish Language and Literature)", "X-Rated and Excessive: Long-Juana in the 'Banks of Havana' (Spanish Language and Literature)", "What You See is What You Get: Visualizing Hypocrisy in the 'Manga of Umezu' (Image Text)".

Lisa Norman and **Elis Stears**, PSU alumni and Adjunct Instructors of Spanish, presented their research on Hispanic film at the Cine-Lit conference in March 2019.

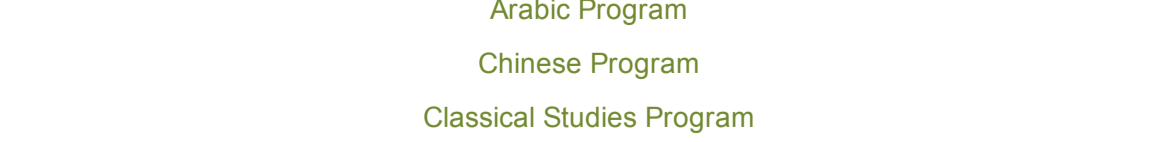
Lyndee Compton, PSU alum and Adjunct Instructor of Spanish, organized and presented in the panel "Overcoming Obstacles - Coping Mechanisms, Social Solutions, and Linguistic Perseverance in Three Latin American Communities: Latin American Literature and Language Studies, historical memory, women studies, migration, and transatlantic studies. I began my PSU adventure in 2010."

Steven L. Thomas, Professor of Second Language Acquisition, co-edited two books: *Encyclopedia of Language and Education* and *Engaging the World: Social Pedagogies and Language Learning* and "Body, Mind, and Spirit: A Phenomenological Approach to the Study of Language and Culture."

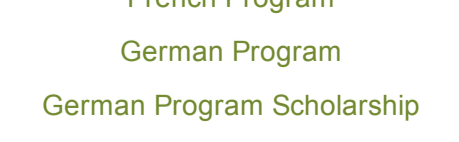
Yasmine Hanouchi, Associate Professor of Arabic, authored *The Chaldeans: Politics and Identity in Iraq and the American Diaspora*.

AWARDS

Congratulations to **Sergel Sychoy** (Russian), **Craig Eppin** (Spanish), and **Tim Nidever** (Latin), the winners for my [2019 Faculty Excellence Award](#) to win the Faculty Excellence Award for Scholarship Research!

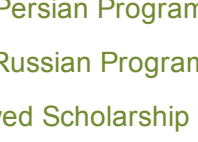


Congratulations to **Yoko Sakurachi** (Japanese), the winner of the **2019 Faculty and Staff Excellence Award for Scholarship Research**!



Dr. Yoko Sakurachi, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Japanese

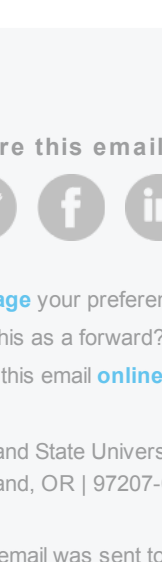
Congratulations to **Cassio de Oliveira** (Russian), the winner of the **2019 Excellence in Teaching Scholarship Award**!



Dr. Cassio de Oliveira, Assistant Professor of Russian

FACULTY SENATE:

Isabel Jaén-Portillo



Dr. Isabel Jaén-Portillo

Isabel Jaén-Portillo, Professor of Spanish, has been elected to the Faculty Senate President for the 2019-2020 academic year. She is a vibrant institution with very caring and capable faculty, who contribute daily to its success. The university is currently facing many challenges and it is important that we continue to promote the importance of academic quality, kindness, fairness, and wellbeing (over numbers and budgets) in academic decision making. At this particular point in our history, we need to rethink some of our administrative and leadership structures and budget models in order to avoid wasting resources and to focus on students and our mission to serve the community.

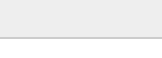
What does this role of FS president mean to you?

I see it as a great responsibility and an opportunity to contribute as much as I can to initiatives and conversations related to the goals I listed above. I am very proud to be part of World Languages and Literatures, one of the departments at PSU with a highest participation in Senate and whose faculty deeply care for academic quality and shared governance.

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY:

Steve Walton

Assistant Professor of French



Dr. Steve Walton

PERSONALS : I was born in Eugene, where I grew up on a farm which is still run by two of my brothers.

LIFE ALTERING EXPERIENCE : In the summer of 1979, with a fresh degree in European history, I went to France for the first time as a singer with the Boston Celtics. Three weeks of music making, Mediterranean food and landscapes, and the experience of a different set of cultural values made a profound impression, but equally important was the satisfaction of using my