Professor Phyllis Lyons retires after 38 years at Northwestern

Dr. Phyllis Lyons has pioneered the study of Japanese language and literature at Northwestern since 1978. She helped to found both the International Studies Major and the Asian Studies Program at Northwestern, enduring campus institutions that are a testament to her commitment to internationalizing the Northwestern curriculum and offering a diverse set of global learning opportunities to students. Her own area of research is modern Japanese literature and her commitment to innovative scholarship has also been unflagging: in 1985 she published *The Saga of Daisai Osamu: A Critical Study with Translations* (Stanford University Press) and she has just completed the translation of a 1928 novel by the Japanese writer Tanizaki Jun’ichirō, *In Black and White* (Kokubyaku), which has been accepted for publication by Columbia University Press. We are grateful to Phyllis for paving the way for the creation of ALC and wish her the very best in retirement!

Paola Zamperini Steps Down as ALC Chair

Joining the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at its inception in the Fall of 2013, Dr. Paola Zamperini spear-headed numerous leadership efforts, including overseeing the hires of numerous language and culture faculty, and helping to institute a departmental curriculum and student advising system. In 2016-2017, Paola will be on leave and pursuing research in Asia.

Faculty Focus

Corey Byrnes, Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese Literature, will spend next year as a Fellow at the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard. He will participate in the Center's Andrew W. Mellon Foundation seminar on the topic of violence and non-violence.

Jingjing Ji, lecturer in Chinese, has been certified as an ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview Tester.
Japanese and Korean Language Programs Welcome Students

On May 19, for the 8th year in a row, the Japanese Language Program hosted 39 junior high students and 9 teachers from Aichi Prefecture, Japan. 44 Japanese language students served as campus tour guides for the visitors, speaking in Japanese the whole time! On March 29, 10 high schoolers and 2 teachers of Korean language and culture at a Montessori high school in Ohio visited Northwestern for a tour by Korean faculty and students.

Laura Brueck Helps Launch Global Humanities Initiative and Brings Progressive Pakistani Pop-Rockers to NU for Two-Week Residency

With support from the Buffett Institute for Global Studies and the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Laura and History Professor (and affiliated faculty with ALC) Dr. Rajeev Kinra founded the Global Humanities Initiative, a multi-year project to bring new attention to translation and the non-Western and non-modern arts and humanities on Northwestern’s campus. The centerpiece of this year’s programming was the visit of Ali Aftab Saeed and Saad Sultan, two of Pakistan’s most influential and political contemporary musicians, as the Jean Gimbel Lane Global Humanities Initiative Artists in Residence. While on campus they performed two full-length concerts, visited half a dozen classes, screened and discussed a documentary film on religious minorities in Pakistan, and collaborated with students to record a new song and make a music video.
ALC STUDENTS COLLECT HONORS

ALC’s first two Majors will graduate this year: Savannah Couch (Chinese/Theatre) and Benjamin Bloch (Japanese/Linguistics).

ALC Major (Chinese Language and Literature, 2017) Jaclyn Zhou won an Undergraduate Research Grant and the Franke Undergraduate Fellowship for Innovative Humanities Scholarship for 2016-2017. Her summer research project is "Radical Comrades: Politics and Performance in Beijing’s Queer Cultures.”

Four Chinese language students won medals in the Midwest Chinese Speech Contest at DePaul with dozens of students from 15 universities: Alec D’Alelio (silver medal), Boyuan Peng (silver medal), Emillie Jones (bronze medal), Weipeng Zhang (bronze medal).

Two second-year Hindi-Urdu language students, Michaela Davis and Jackson Walker, were awarded Critical Languages Scholarships to study Hindi-Urdu in India this summer.

Sabrina Williams, a second-year Japanese language student, received a Summer Undergraduate Research Grant for her project, “New Youth Activism in Japan.”

Two Japanese language students won grants and scholarships to participate in internships and Japanese cultural programs this summer: David Ben Huang (Summer Internship Grant) and Mary Wu Shi (Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship; Freeman-Asia Award).

Four graduating seniors were recognized by the Department for Outstanding Achievement in Asian Languages and Cultures: Savannah Couch (Chinese), Parag Dharmavarapu (Hindi-Urdu), Michael Yipeng Chen (Japanese), and Wares A. Salehzai (Korean).

Congratulations to our wonderful students!

Just a few of the new courses ALC faculty developed this year:

Burning Embers and Burka Avengers: Studies in Literature and Popular Culture in Pakistan

Tues. & Thurs., 9:35-10:50
Location: CHLS 307
Instructor: Daniel MacGowan

KOREAN FILM AND SOCIETY

Tues. & Thurs., 9:35-10:50
Location: CHLS 307
Instructor: William Shin

Andrew Leong, Assistant Professor of English and Japanese Literature, will be on research leave in 2016-2017 in Los Angeles to complete his book manuscript, Shut the Door: Japanese American Fictions of Exclusion and Desire.

Licheng Gu, Professor of Instruction for Chinese, published two articles (one in Chinese and one in English) on the Midwest Chinese Bridge Speech Contest and the NU Study Abroad Programs in China.

Qiuyu Wang, Associate Professor of Instruction for Chinese, will serve as an AP Chinese reader and as a judge on the Undergraduate Awards Committee in summer 2016.
This year ALC hosted and co-sponsored several diverse events:

**Korean Culture Night: Sing in Korean**

- **Friday February 12th 6-7 PM**
- Harris 116

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**Documentary Screening "In The Underground"**

- **March 4th 7PM**
- At Block Cinema in Block Museum

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**Five-Skilled Approach: Preparing Chinese Language students for the 21 Century**

- The Asian Studies Graduate Student and the Chinese Language and Culture Graduate Student Committee, Prof. William Tan, China Foreign Trade University, Song Chao, Confucius Institute, in block B, room 102, 6:30 PM-7:30 PM

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**Interdisciplinary Collaborations**

Corey Byrnes organized an Environmental Humanities Workshop with the support of the Kaplan Institute, and Laura Brueck organized the Sounds of South Asia Lecture series with the support of the Center for Global Culture and Communication.

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**DALE JAMIESON**

Living With Climate Change: Will Paris Make a Difference?

- Harris 108
- 5:30 PM

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