Faculty News

David Boyk, Assistant Professor of Instruction of Hindi-Urdu Language, as a Fellow of the Searle Center for Teaching and Learning, developed an innovative bilingual course open to students of both Hindi-Urdu language and South Asian culture. He hopes the course will provide a model that can be adopted in other languages.

Laura Brueck, Associate Professor of South Asian Literature and Culture, began a three-year stint as a judge for the A.K. Ramanujan Translation Prize, awarded by the Association of Asian Studies.

Corey Byrnes, Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese Literature, is the co-winner of the 2018 First Book Award for Fixing Landscape: A Techno-Poetic History of China’s Three Gorges, which is forthcoming from Columbia University Press. The First Book Award of the Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute was established to enable young scholars to publish their first work.

Message from the Chair

We had a wonderfully rich year in 2017-2018! In the pages that follow, you’ll see ALC faculty, staff, and student news, as well as catch a glimpse of the bevy of visiting scholars and artists who enriched our lives over the course of the year. Behind the scenes of this annual snapshot is other important ongoing work that sustains and enlivens our department and intellectual mission, including revising the requirements for our Major and Minor curricula and bold new faculty searches. We are going strong as we finish up our fifth year as a department, and look forward to continuing to build on our already impressive strengths!

Laura Brueck

Congratulations Class of 2018!

We are so excited to congratulate all of our graduated students from 2018, including our four majors: Ruogu Xu, Michaela Davis, Allison Bryski, Lo Fei O Yang! We can’t wait to see where your next adventures take you.
Japan Honors Professor Emeritus Phyllis Lyons with Prestigious Award

In April, professor emeritus Phyllis Lyons was awarded the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, bestowed by the Japanese government. Honored for her role in promoting Japanese culture, language education and cultural exchange, Professor Lyons said she was “happily stunned” when the Japanese Consulate General in Chicago first nominated her for the award, which was then ratified through a vote by the Cabinet of Japan. Professor Lyons first established the Japanese language and literature program at Northwestern and was crucial to the founding of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures.

ALC Hosts the 2nd Annual Phyllis Lyons Lecture in Japanese Studies

In May, the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures welcomed Indra Levy, Associate Professor of Japanese & Comparative Literature at Stanford University, for the second annual Phyllis Lyons Lecture in Japanese Studies. Professor Levy offered a lecture on the cultures of translation in Japan, as well as reading from her own translation work at a Global Humanities Initiative Translation Salon at Bookends and Beginnings in downtown Evanston, alongside Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies, Andrew Leong.
Daniel Majchrowicz, Assistant Professor of South Asian Literature and Culture and an expert in 19th and 20th century Urdu travel literature, loves, as one might expect, both traveling and books. That’s what makes his latest extra-curricular endeavor to save endangered manuscripts and early-print books in Urdu and Persian from crumbling bookshops in Pakistan a perfect job for him, and a boon for the South Asian archives at Northwestern.

Daniel has a passion for South Asian book history. For years, during his frequent travels to India and Pakistan, he has made it a point to visit book bazaars and dusty old shops to find unique treasures to add to his collection.

Now, Daniel is partnering with Northwestern Libraries’ Distinctive Collections Department to protect rapidly disappearing books and manuscripts and make them available to scholars of South Asian literature at Northwestern and beyond. On a recent research trip in Lahore, he encountered a large collection early 19th century Persian manuscripts and early Urdu print books. Most of these works are very rare and not found in any library. Knowing that this collection would be a useful resource for scholars researching a wide variety of topics pertaining to South Asian history, literature, culture, and language, and that developing this specialized archive would help to support the study of South Asian humanities at Northwestern, he decided to seize the opportunity.

When he returned from Lahore, he collaborated with other faculty and approached the NU Libraries’ Acquisitions Department, who agreed to provide funds to support purchasing a portion of the collection. The following summer, he returned to Lahore and bought around two hundred of the most unique pieces. They have recently arrived, and he and the library staff have now commenced the complicated tasks of cleaning, repairing, and cataloguing the diverse collection. These books will be a valuable asset: providing the foundation for a distinct collection of library materials here that would parallel the growth of our research and faculty in South Asian humanities, and putting the NU Libraries on the map for South Asian scholars around the world. Majchrowicz hopes to continue to collaborate with NU Libraries and his network of booksellers in India and Pakistan to purchase more, expand Northwestern’s collection, and help the library grow into a nationally recognized center for rare 19th century South Asian materials.
Exploring Japanese Media Across Time

Nathan Shockey, Assistant Professor of Japanese at Bard College, gave a stimulating lecture titled *Pictures and Voices of a Paper Empire: The Birth of Modern Japanese Culture* on the birth of modern Japanese mass culture. In his work, he focuses on how the medium of typographic print interacted with visual and aural media in mass-market magazines of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Japanese woodblock print collector and dealer Elias Martin (right) gave a brief introduction to the history of woodblock prints from early modern *ukiyo-e* to contemporary prints, commented on collecting and viewing, and allowed the audience to view museum-quality works firsthand. This event integrated with material taught in *Early Modern Japanese Literature and Culture* and *Paying For It: Sex, Money, and Literature in Early Modern Japan* both taught by Thomas Gaubatz.

Paul Anderer, Mack Professor of Humanities and Professor of Japanese Literature at Columbia University, discussed the inspirations and methods that he brought to studying this celebrated director and unearthing the biography, history, and textuality behind Kurosawa's most iconic work. This talk integrated with material taught by Thomas Gaubatz in his class *New Waves in Japanese Cinema*.
Graduate News

Jae Kyu Lee, a graduate student in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, taught Korean 311-1, Korean IV: Introduction to Korean Literature.

Staff News

ALC Department Assistant Jean Deven was one of seven finalists nominated for Northwestern Employee of the Year. Congratulations, Jean!

Student News

Sung Woo Ahn was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Japanese Language and Culture.

Adina Cianciootto was awarded the Fulbright U.S. Student Grant. She will work for a year in South Korea as an English Teaching Assistant in a Korean School. Adina was also awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Korean Language and Culture.

Hira Malik was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Hindi-Urdu Language and South Asian Culture.

An Eye on Korean Culture

Sohl Lee, Assistant Professor in Modern and Contemporary East Asian Art, Stony Brook University gave a talk titled The Democratic Avant-Garde: Minding Art and Social Movement in South Korea.

Jisoo Kim, Associate Professor of History, International Affairs, and East Asian Languages and Cultures, George Washington University gave a talk Suspicious Deaths: Forensics, Medicine, Dead Bodies, and Criminal Justice in Eighteenth Century Korea.

Sunyoung Park, Associate Professor at the University of Southern California, spoke on Between Science and Politics: Science Fiction as a Critical Discourse in Twentieth-Century Korea. In this lecture she discussed how select science fictional texts have represented the techno-scientific enterprise in South Korea during the latter half of the twentieth century. This more critical vein of science fiction attests to the genre’s hitherto under appreciated potential for fruitful engagement with the political and social challenges of modernization both globally and within South Korea’s technologically saturated society.
Charu Gupta, Associate Professor of History at the University of Delhi gave a talk titled *Dread and Desire: Hindu Masculinities, Muslim Sexualities and Recalcitrant Romances in Modern India*. Her lecture focused on the modern political and social phenomenon known as “Love Jihad” in India.

A lecture by Ulka Anjaria, Associate Professor of English at Brandeis University titled *In Search of an Indian Contemporary* asked, “What is the Indian contemporary and what does it mean to represent it?”

Paromita Vohra, award-winning filmmaker, writer, and media activist from Mumbai, India spent two weeks in residence at Northwestern. Among other events, she conducted a student and faculty workshop titled *Imagining a Feminist Life*. A special film screening of Vohra’s three acclaimed short films was followed by a conversation between Vohra and Ulka Anjaria, who is a specialist on Vohra’s work.

Gwendolyn Kirk, a researcher at the University of Wisconsin gave a lecture on Pakistani cinema and engaged with students in Professor Daniel Majchrowicz’s course, *Language, Society and Politics in Modern South Asia*. 
Engaging Students in Language Beyond the Classroom

Professor Chin-Hung Chang invited Master chef, Wei Xiong from Peppercorns Kitchen in Evanston to connect virtually with her students to share his experience of mastering Szechuan food both in China and Chicago.

Professor Daniel Majchrowicz invited Consul General of Pakistan Faisal Niaz Tirmizi (front center) to join students and faculty for lunch and an informal conversation about Pakistan, Literature, US-Pakistan relations, the diasporic community, and more.

At the Spring Language Fair students had the opportunity to talk to peers who are learning languages, and discover how learning a language can expand their knowledge of the world.

Professors Eunmi Lee, Ihnhee Kim and Mi-Ryong Shim organized a night of singing Korean songs in a Noraebang (Karaoke) setting.

A Career Panel organized by faculty of the Japanese Language Program gave students the opportunity to learn how to utilize language skills in their academic and professional careers.

Professor David Boyk organized four evenings of Bollywood Movies. These film screenings were meant to introduce students and other community members to significant films from Hindi commercial cinema.
Student News

Julia Jacob is off to graduate school at Yenching Academy of Peking University with full scholarship and will spend the next academic year in Beijing.

Eric Lu’s paper *On the Pros and Cons of Plastic Surgery* that he wrote in Professor Licheng Gu’s Chinese 315 class, was published in JUHE Journal by the University of Iowa.

At the 2018 Midwest Speech Contest, Chinese Language students Eric Lu, Ari Mostow, and Chris Dungey all took home medals for their award winning speeches.

Megan Pan was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Chinese Language and Culture.

Student Workers

A big thank you to all of our student workers who assisted us throughout the year. Kathy Tian, Inseok Son, ChaeJung Lee, Asuka Kosugi, Jiayi Chen, and Ruogu Xu.

Visiting Faculty

Norbu Samphell taught Readings in Tibetan Text.

Language Acquisition through Fun and Food

In May, junior high school students visited Northwestern from Aichi Prefecture, Japan. 32 students studying Japanese language served as campus tour guides for the visitors.

Professor Eunmi Lee’s second-year Korean class celebrated the Korean New Year with food and traditional games.

Professor Jingjing Ji led Chinese language students in the preparation of dumplings.

Professors David Boyk and Rami Nair took Hindi-Urdu language students to Tiffin The Indian Restaurant on Devon Avenue in Chicago.

Campus Engagement

Professor Laura Brueck interviews Emmy-award winning actor, rapper, and social activist Riz Ahmed at the annual distinguished visitor event organized by the Northwestern Muslim Students Cultural Association.

Thank you to other departments and programs that helped make our events possible: Art History, Asian Studies, Associated Student Government, Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Chabraja Center for Historical Societies, Council on Language Instruction (CLI), Course Enhancement Grants, History. Special Thanks to a growing list of generous donors: Nicole Marie Ablondi, Dave Balachandran, MD, Tova Sara Beeber, Dr. Neiloyendu Bhattacharyya, James C. Chen, Bonnie So Chung, Chi Wo Chung, Ton Chi Doan, Clare Croghan Fisher, Julie M. Glanville, Shawn M. Glanville, J. Douglas Gray, Wilmer Ho, Allison Hung, Nikita Anil Jain, Alice Yisook Jeon, Willy C. Lai, Lingyun Liu, PhD, Phyllis I. Lyons, Fatima S. Marashi-Hassan, Alasdair McClintic, Rahul Narain, Dylan Chandler Ong, Kimberly Peitso, Ryan Perumpail, MD, Arastu Sharma, Andrew Jason Thomas, Vishal Vaid, Dr. Anjini Virmani, Stanley James Vuong, Hongwu Wang, PhD, Mark Xue.