

Annual Assessment Report
Summary of Departmental News for the Academic Year 2020-2021

Brad Hall continued to serve as Department Head and Ko-Yin Sung served as the Associate Department Head. The department graduated 156 students this year. The big news for the year is that the proposal to split the department into two departments was accepted and approved. Starting July 1, 2021 Brad Hall will step down as department head and two new departments will be created. They are the Department of World Languages and Cultures with David Richter as Department Head and the Department of Communication Studies and Philosophy with Jennifer Peeples as the Department Head.

Jim Rogers is stepping down from being director of the Intensive English Program (IELI) and entering a phased retirement. Marta Halaczkiwicz is becoming the new director of IELI. We have hired two new Postdoctoral teaching fellows in Communication Studies.

Four faculty members were promoted this year. Li Guo, Ko-Yin Sung, and David Richter were each promoted to Full Professor. Felipe Valencia was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

Our faculty members continue with the tradition of excellence in all areas. Over the last year (2019) the faculty members have published nine books, 52 journal articles, and 23 book chapters. They have made 33 conference presentations. In addition, the IDEA teaching evaluations for all of the LPCS benefitted faculty over the last year averaged 56 on the summary converted score, which is in the IDEA's top 30% nationwide. This takes into account the excellence of the course, the teacher, and how well the course objectives are met. To have our "average score" be in the "higher" category on this national form speaks well for the department as a whole and the learning environment that exists overall.

The following were given departmental awards: Researcher of the Year – Tim Curran; Teacher of the Year – Marcus Brasileiro; Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year – Kaitlin Phillips; Faculty Service Award – Karin deJonge-Kannan; Faculty Mentor of the Year – Ekaterina Arshavskaya; Lecturer of the Year – Virginie Reali; Adjunct Teacher of the Year – Hyrum Checketts. Our student scholarship program continues to go well. However, due to COVID-19, we had to do our student research symposium via Zoom. It worked quite well. It was an unusual year with mask wearing, social distancing and many more online options. The staff, faculty, and students in the department worked together well and produced an excellent learning environment.