

## **Annual Assessment Report**

### **Summary of Departmental News for the Academic Year 2016-2017**

Brad Hall continued to serve as Department Head and Christa Jones served as Associate Department Head. The department graduated 161 students this year. The department now houses eight distinct majors and three additional “teaching” majors that are attached to our language majors. The department has 16 separate minors. The department was able to hire two new tenure track faculty members and one new full-time lecturer. The new Assistant Professors are Elena Shvidko in IELI and Tim Curran in Communication Studies and the new lecturer is Virginie Reali in French. We also had two postdocs this last year, one in German, Heidi Hart, and one in French, Caroline Mosser. This next year we will have three postdocs, two in Communication Studies and one in Spanish. We lost two faculty members this year. Frank Bacheller retired and Elizabeth Dorrance Hall took a position at another university.

Three faculty members were promoted this year. Maria Luisa Spicer-Escalante was promoted to Full-Professor, Joshua Thoms was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, and Kevin Krogh was promoted to Principal Lecturer.

Our faculty members continue with the tradition of excellence in all areas. Over the last year the faculty members have published four books, thirty-six journal articles, twenty-four book chapters, and made one-hundred-and-one conference presentations. In addition, the IDEA teaching evaluations for all of the LPCS benefited faculty over the last year averaged 59 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 – Christa Jones; Teacher of the Year – Crescencio López González; Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year – Kristina Scharp; Faculty Service Award – Claudia Schwabe; Lecturer of the Year – Marta Halaczkiwicz; Adjunct Teacher of the Year – Rami Heers. Our student research symposium and our student scholarship program continue to go well. We had 124 students give papers or poster presentations as part of the research symposium and typically had groups of around 15-25 students to watch each of the panels. The staff, faculty, and students in the department work together well and produce an excellent learning environment.