

Annual Assessment Report

Academic Year 2010-2011

Brad Hall continued to serve as Department Head and Felix Tweraser again served as Associate Department Head. Kevin Krogh was promoted to Senior Lecturer. Javier Dominguez was promoted to Associate Professor and given tenure. The department was able to make two immediate hires for two new temporary instructors (Harrison Kleiner in Philosophy and Samantha Senda-Cook in Speech Communication) that were able to begin service in the fall of 2010 through an MOU with the Provost's office to support the heavy general education load we cover. The department was able to hire two new tenure track faculty to begin in the fall of 2011. The new Assistant Professors will be Erica Holberg in Philosophy (a new position) and Joshua Thoms in Spanish Linguistics. Professor Thoms will be replacing Professor John Lackstrom who is retiring at the end of this year after a distinguished career of 41 years here at Utah State University. It will be hard to replace him. He was instrumental in many of our current programs including helping to start our MSLT program. The college was restructured so that it only contains the humanities and the social science programs (now known as CHaSS).

Our faculty continued a tradition of excellence and the following were given departmental awards and, if noted, college ones as well: Researcher of the Year - John Seiter; Teacher of the Year - David Richter (also the CHaSS winner); Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year - Matthew Sanders; Service Award - Kathy McKee (staff) Ko-Yin Sung (faculty); and UG Advisor of the Year - Karin deJonge-Kannan. Because Dr. deJonge-Kannan works primarily with graduate students, Jennifer Peeples was put forward for the undergraduate advisor of the year and won this award at the college level. Jennifer Peeples also won the first annual Giraffe Award for the college for innovation and being willing to take a risk.

The department's new Global Communication major went through the university approval process and was accepted by the Board of Regents. We also began the discussion of adding a teaching emphasis option to our Chinese minor. Our study abroad programs to Spain, France, and Germany were very successful as well as our new study abroad program to Taiwan. The faculty members continue to perform at a high level in regards to both teaching and research.