

Annual Assessment Report

Academic Year 2007-2008

Brad Hall continued to serve as Department Head. J.P. Spicer-Escalante and Taira Koybaeva shared the duties of Associate Department Head. The department had two members, Sarah Gordon and Maria Luisa Spicer-Escalante, successfully go up for tenure and promotion. In addition, Felix Tweraser, John Seiter, and Charlie Huenemann all served either part or all of the year on sabbaticals. Three faculty positions were completed successfully and one position was left incomplete. Christa Jones was hired for a tenure track position in French. Matthew Sanders was hired for a tenure track position in Speech Communication. Gayle Houser was hired as a full-time lecturer in Speech Communication. The Spanish-Brigham city position was not able to be filled, but is left as ongoing and the search will be continued in Fall 2008. In addition, Harrison Kleiner was hired as a visiting assistant professor in Philosophy. Harold Kinzer retired at the end of this year after 33 years of service at USU. We appreciate his many years of service and will miss his dedication to the Speech Communication major and the department in general.

This was a good year in terms of college recognition. Jennifer Peeples won the HASS Researcher of the Year award. Sarah Gordon won the HASS Faculty Advisor of the Year award, Maria Cordero won the HASS Humanist of the Year award, and John Seiter won the HASS Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year award.

All of the study abroad programs were successful this year. The Spanish program went to Mexico this year and had over twenty students participate. The Spanish program also made some changes in terms of prerequisites and created a new course, Spanish for Healthcare Professionals. The Speech Communication program changed its major requirements, eliminating the somewhat fuzzy distinction between theoretical and practical classes (all courses have both theory and practice associated with them). Instead, the major requirements were focused around three thematic areas: influence, society, and organizations.

Finally, the department spent some time this year reworking its mission statement and developing a visioning program that gives greater direction to each of the department's majors and minors. The department remains committed to the success of each of the students, staff and faculty associated with it.