

Annual Assessment Report

Summary of Departmental News for the Academic Year 2014-2015

Brad Hall continued to serve as Department Head and Sarah Gordon served as Associate Department Head. The department graduated 135 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 three new tenure track faculty members and two new full-time lecturers. Two of the new Assistant Professors Elizabeth Dorrance Hall and Kristina Scharp will be in the Communication studies program. The other assistant professor, Felipe Valencia, is in Spanish. The new lecturers are Ruby Carvalho, teaching Portuguese, and Yurika Izumi, teaching Japanese. We also lost two faculty members this year Lisa Guntzviller in Communication Studies took a position at another university and Ruby Ramirez who found a new position after the lecturer line she was in was converted to a new tenure track position.

Three faculty members, Abdulkafi Albirini in Arabic, Doris McGonagill in German, and David Richter in Spanish, were promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Two faculty members, Jennifer Peoples in Communication Studies and James Rogers in IELI, were promoted to Full Professors. One of our lecturers, Harrison Kleiner, was promoted to Senior Lecturer. The department has also been actively supporting the college and university with many faculty serving on the senate, various college and university committees and teaching in the USU Connections program. We again had Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTA) through the Fulbright program, one in Portuguese, one in German, and one in French.

Our faculty members continue with the tradition of excellence in all areas. Over the last year the faculty have produced (I am not counting “in press” items) seven books, forty journal articles, twelve book chapters, and eighty-seven conference presentations. In addition, the IDEA teaching evaluations for all of LPCS’s benefited faculty over the last year has averaged over 58 on the summary converted score, which is in the IDEA’s top 30% nationwide. 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 and, if noted, college ones as well: Researcher of the Year – David Richter; Teacher of the Year – Abdulkafi Albirini; Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year – Li Guo; Faculty Service Award – Charlie Huenemann; Undergraduate Adviser of the Year – Crescencio Lopez Garcia (who also won at the college and university levels); Lecturer of the Year – Karin deJonge-Kannan; Adjunct Teacher of the Year – Katie Marin. In addition, we had two staff, Kathy McKee and Suzann Winn, win the college awards for exempt and non-exempt “Outstanding Staff of the Year.” Our student research symposium and our student scholarship program continue to go well. We had 65 students give papers as part

of the research symposium and typically had groups of around 20 students to watch each of the panels. The staff, faculty, and students in the department work together well and produce an excellent learning environment.