

Annual Assessment Report

Summary of Departmental News for the Academic Year 2017-2018

Brad Hall continued to serve as Department Head. David Richter became the Associate Department Head. The department graduated 136 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 four new tenure track faculty members for the upcoming year and one new lecturer. The new Assistant Professors are Nicole Allen in Communication Studies, Mollie Murphy in Communication Studies, Kaitlin Phillips in Communication Studies, and Yu Hsing (Jasmine) Chen in Chinese. Our new Lecturer in the IELI program is Kim Andrus. We also had two postdocs this last year, Daniela Raducanu in Spanish and Kaitlin Phillips and Sidi Becar Meyara in Communication Studies. We lost three faculty members this year. Jim Bame retired and Kristina Scharp and Justin Clark took positions at other universities.

Three faculty members were promoted this year. Crescencio López González and Claudia Schwabe were promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, and Marta Halaczkiwicz was promoted to Senior Lecturer. Our faculty members continue with the tradition of excellence in all areas. Over the last year (2017) the faculty members have published four books, thirty-six journal articles, and nineteen book chapters. They have made eighty-two conference presentations. In addition, the IDEA teaching evaluations for all of the LPCS benefited faculty over the last year averaged 58.7 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 – Jennifer Peeples; Teacher of the Year – Jason Gilmore; Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year – Crescencio López González; Faculty Service Award – David Kleiner; Faculty Advisor of the Year – Harrison Kleiner; Lecturer of the Year – Atsuko Neely; Adjunct Teacher of the Year – Roberto Ausin. Our student research symposium and our student scholarship program continue to go well. We had 78 students give papers or poster presentations as part of the research symposium and typically had groups of around 10-20 students to watch each of the panels. The staff, faculty, and students in the department work together well and produce an excellent learning environment.