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## The 2014-15 Polyglot Team:

Shijuan "Laurel" Liu (Chair)  
Vicente Gomis-Izquierdo  
Joachim Noob

## Chinese Language Student Receives 2nd Place Award in the Final Chinese Speech Contest in Boston

Linus Morales, a student in CHIN281 class, received second place in the final contest of the 5th "Chinese Bridge" Speech Contest for University Students in New England, held in Boston, on April 12, 2015.

This contest was organized by the Confucius Institute of the University of Massachusetts at Boston, and held together with the 14<sup>th</sup> "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition for College Students (East USA Preliminary).

*Linus (in the middle) holding his prize with his parents*



The twenty contestants were finalists selected from the preliminary contest held online, representing nearly 20 universities in New England, such as Harvard University, and other states in the eastern United States, such as North Carolina University.

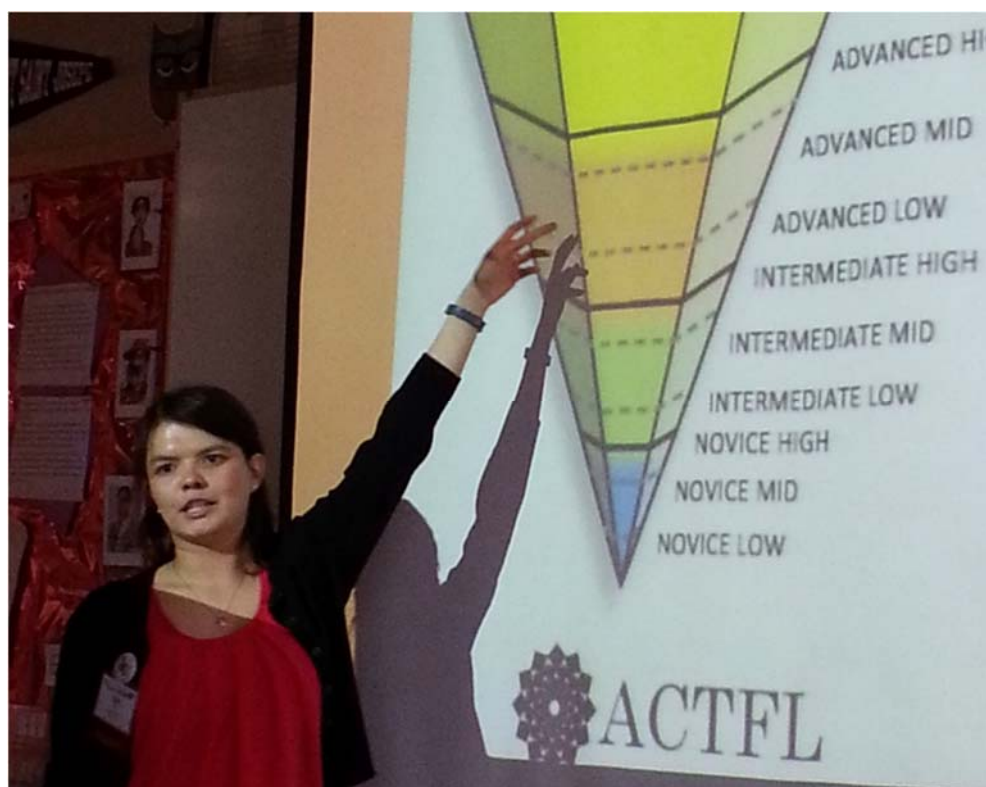
In addition to the Chinese speech competition, contestants also competed in a Chinese talent performance. Only one student received the first place award, and two students, including Linus, received second place for the Intermediate level.

Linus is an IUP freshman majoring in Asian Studies with a focus on Chinese.

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## Alumni Presented at Foreign Language Conferences



Cecilia Weaver, a May 2014 graduate of our Spanish Education K-12 Program, recently presented the session "Creating World Ready Communicators Using Simulated Immersion and Survivor" at the annual Spring Conference of the Maryland Foreign Language Association in March 2015.

Cecilia is a Spanish teacher at Joppatowne High School in the Harford County Public Schools (MD).

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## **New Chapter of the International Honor Society Phi Sigma Iota Established**

From left to right: Dr. Vicente Gomis-Izquierdo, Faculty Advisor; new inductees: Shelby Ledger, Sarah Bradshaw, and Melina Fuchs; Dr. Stuart Chandler, guest speaker.



The Department of Foreign Languages initiated a new chapter of the International Honor Society Phi Sigma Iota. The new chapter, Chi Beta, encompasses all languages as well as culture programs such as Latin American Studies. The first initiation ceremony was held on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, and the guest speaker was Dr. Stuart Chandler, who spoke about the importance of foreign languages in a person's life. The Department is very excited to have a new Honor Society to accompany Sigma Delta Pi that can accommodate students of all languages.

To learn more about the new chapter, contact Dr. Vicente Gomis-Izquierdo at [vgiz@iup.edu](mailto:vgiz@iup.edu).



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## Fun With Languages

A fun and relaxed environment makes learning much easier.



During a class debate about the epic poem "Poema de mio Cid," student Brock Romano (picture left), a Spanish BA major, took on the role of the main protagonist, El Cid, as a way to illustrate his position in the debate in Spanish 410 class taught by Dr. Laura Delbrugge.

Picture on the right: A group of students in Chinese 201 class role playing as customers and a waiter at a restaurant



Picture on the right: Students in Chinese 102 class discussing the vocabulary related to transportation (meaning, pronunciation, and writing)



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## Foreign Language-Related Scholarship Funds Support Students Abroad

Thanks to the on-going generous support of donors, the IUP Department of Foreign Languages continues to award scholarships to majors and minors pursuing study abroad.

Since this time last year, the Drescher, Valladolid, Jessica L. Aaron Memorial, and Renee Liscinsky Memorial Funds, administered by The Foundation for IUP, have provided more than \$3000 of financial support to foreign languages students completing course work in Costa Rica, Spain, and France.



Won't you consider continuing that legacy by making a contribution today?

No amount is too small. Together, we make a difference.

Visit [www.iup.edu/supportiup](http://www.iup.edu/supportiup) to learn more.





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## Chinese Program Organizes the 2015 Chinese New Year Celebration

The Chinese Program organized the 2015 Chinese New Year celebration event on February 20 in the Ohio Room of the HUB, along with the IUP Chinese Students Association, and the Wallwork Global Awareness Living-Learning Community.

The event included Chinese cultural activities, games, displays of student projects and information about study abroad in China, and performances by students of the Chinese program, visiting scholars, students from China, and other talented community members. A professional group from Pittsburgh gave a stunning performance of the Chinese lion dance, and Chinese food was served at the end of event.

IUP President, Dr. Michael Driscoll, attended the entire event and gave remarks. Provost and Vice President, Dr. Timothy Moerland, and several other administrators, such as Drs. Pablo Mendoza (Office of Social Equity) and Carolyn Princes (African American Cultural Center) also attended. The event was well received and attracted more than 200 students, faculty and staff, as well as local community members.



*Above: Dr. Michael Driscoll (back row, 3rd from right), Dr. Pablo Mendoza (back row, 2nd from right) with lion dance performers, Chinese language students, and Dr. Shijuan Liu (back row, 4th from right)*



*Left: Dr. Shaowei Ai, a visiting scholar from China, performed at the event*

*Right: Audience watching the performance*



*Right and below: Lion dance*



*Picture in the middle below: Community kids enjoying food*



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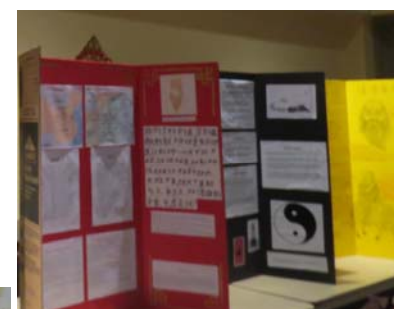
# THE POLYGLOT SPRING 2015

## Chinese Program Students Participate in the Chinese New Year Celebration



*Three hosts of the performance (from left to right): Lingtao Hu (a student from China), Sierra Sailor, and Linus Morales*

Students of the Chinese program shared their talents in the 2015 Chinese New Year celebration. Students sang Chinese pop songs with dance and guitar. An advanced Chinese language student who studied in China also performed Chinese Yoyo. Students from Chinese language and literature courses displayed their projects on China and Chinese culture at the event as well.



*Left and above: Display boards made by students in CHIN281 and FNLG121 courses.*

The event was sponsored by Asian Studies, the Department of Foreign Languages, Office of Housing, Residential Living, and Dining, the Office of International Education, SWUFE-Exchange Student Association, and the Student Co-op.



*Below: Chinese language students and students from China singing and dancing a Chinese pop song, Little Apple*

*Right: Sierra Sailor performing Chinese Yoyo*





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## **Guest Speaker Gives Talks on a Chinese Novel and Chinese Language Learning**

The Chinese Program invited Dr. Katherine Carlitz, the Chinese Studies Coordinator of the Asian Studies Center and the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, to give a talk on *Plum in the Golden Vase* (金瓶梅), a classical Chinese novel, on March 23, 2015. The talk was open to students enrolled in FNLG 121 classes (Chinese Literature in English) as well as any interested community members. Dr. Carlitz also met and shared her Chinese language learning experience with students in CHIN 281 and CHIN102 courses. Dr. Sean McDaniel, Chair of the Department, attended the talk and met with Dr. Carlitz over lunch. Dr. Carlitz received her Ph.D. and M.A. in Chinese Literature from the University of Chicago, where she studied with Dr. David Roy, the translator of the novel.



*Left: Dr. Carlitz gave the talk on the novel Plum in the Golden Vase in FNLG 121 course (section I).*

*Below: Dr. Carlitz (middle) with Dr. Sean McDaniel (right) and Dr. Shijuan "Laurel" Liu (left)*



*Picture on the left: Dr. Carlitz sharing her Chinese learning experience with students in CHIN 281 class*



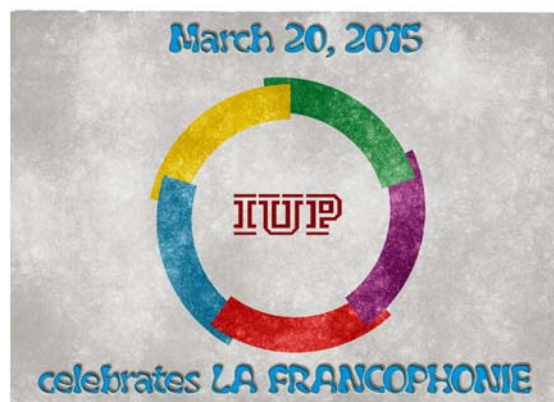


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# THE POLYGLOT SPRING 2015

## International Francophonie Day

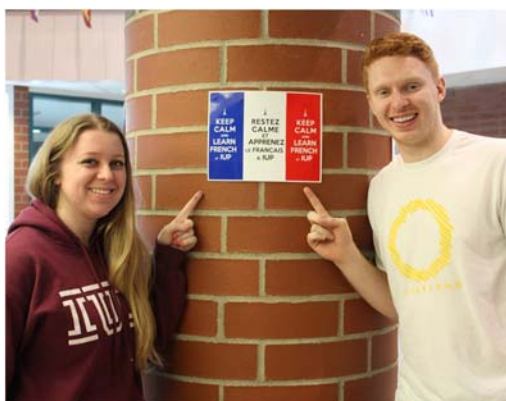
International Francophonie Day (in French: *Journée internationale de la Francophonie*) is observed all around the world and within the OIF's (International Organization of La Francophonie), 77 member states to celebrate the French language and Francophone culture every March 20. There are over 274 million French speakers on Earth. This year, IUP celebrated International Francophonie Day, thanks to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Department of Foreign Languages, and Assistant Dean Cindy Strittmatter (Eberly College of Business).



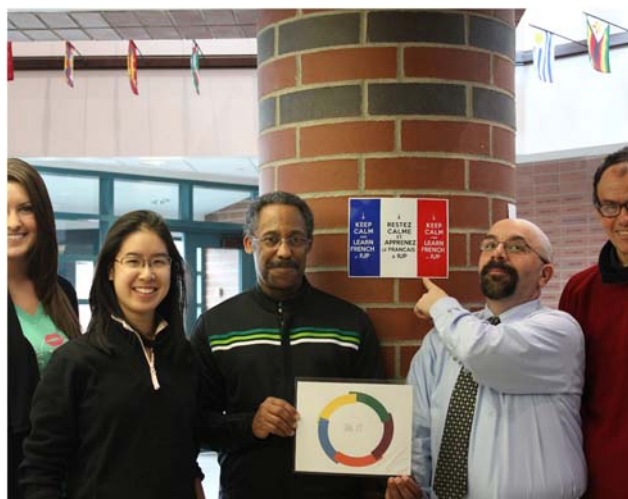
*Above: A group of students with visiting professor Roger Retana. (second on the right)*

All day, French faculty, students, and every one crossing the ground floor atrium played a game: the life-size Francophonie *Jeu de l'Oie* created by visiting Professor Roger Retana and French tutor Pierre-Alexandre Hugron. And the French Club officers recorded several short interviews with IUP students to test their knowledge of the importance of knowing French (pictures and interviews posted on the Facebook page "Learning and Teaching French"). It was a great day, where the French faculty and the IUP French Club reached a lot of students.

*Below: Students at International Francophonie Day*



*Right: Students with Dr. Charles McCreary (third on the left), Dr. Jean-Louis Dasser, (second on the right), and visiting professor Roger Retana at International Francophonie Day*



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## Japanese Program Hosts the 1st College Japanese Contest in Western PA

The Japanese Program hosted the 1st College Japanese Speech Contest in Western PA on April 11, 2015. Contestants are from IUP (4), Carnegie Mellon University (5), Slippery Rock University (4), and Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania (1).



Picture on the left: Dr. Yongtaek Kim (first from right) with contest winners and three judges from the Pittsburgh area: Ms. Ritsu Shimizu (first row, second from right), Ms. Ikuko Kurasawa (second row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left) and Ms. Chie Ramsey (second row, first from left).

Picture on the right: Dr. Yongtaek Kim handed the prize to Leo Campanella, an IUP student, who won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in Level II.





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# THE POLYGLOT SPRING 2015

## Department Presence at the International Unity Day

The 2015 International Unity Day was celebrated on April 11<sup>th</sup>. It is a celebration of international culture and its presence on the IUP campus, organized by the Office of International Education. The Department had a role in this year's celebration in different manners. For example, the Hispanic Heritage Council had a booth with food from Spain and Spanish America, and Dr. Yongtaek Kim offered a Korean music performance with a group of students.



### The Hispanic Heritage Council Booth

Picture above: (from left to right): Melina Fuchs, Pamela Guzmán, Dr. Marjorie Zambrano-Paff and daughter Isabella, Dr. Vicente Gomis-Izquierdo, and Darynette González.



### German Club Table

Picture above (from left to right): Member Justin Bogar, Vice-President Adam Ryan, Club Advisor Dr. Joachim Noob, and President Hanna Andrussier.



Dr. Yongtaek Kim (third from left) performing Korean music with a group of students



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## Message from Dr. Pete Brooks in Costa Rica



“This semester I have had the unique opportunity to engage in a professor exchange with Professor Roger Retana Calderón of the Universidad Nacional, located in Heredia, Costa Rica, just west of the capital city, San José. We are in Costa Rica’s Central Valley, the most heavily populated part of this beautiful Central American country where the temperature fluctuates very little, with daytime highs in the lower 80’s and nighttime lows about 58. It’s paradise! Once one gets out of the Central Valley, however, it can get quite warm during this time of the year, what they call summer, *el verano*, but also known as the dry season because it rains very little during any of these days.”

*Dr. Brooks (right) with Dr. Jim Ramirez Acosta, Director of Escuela De Literatura y Ciencias del Lenguaje*

“I arrived on January 20 and the academic year began on February 9. I got to escape the beginning of the coldest part of the year in western PA (Hurray!) and will be here teaching my 3 courses until the semester ends closer to the end of June. While here, I’ve been assigned to teach three English courses in the Escuela de Literatura y Ciencias del Lenguaje in the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, which are (1) Composition, (2) Advanced Grammar, and (3) Oral Expression and Listening Comprehension. The students in these classes are majors either in the English B.A. program or in the program for teaching English. My classes have on average 18 students who are eager to learn English, and many of them have confessed that they “love English.” This is their mantra, and I’ve been quite impressed with the level of English many of them already command. I love teaching them idiomatic expressions in English and telling them about Pittsburghese!

My classes are early morning classes. In fact, on Mondays I have a class (Oral Expression) that starts at 7:00am and goes until 9:30. Mondays are very early days for me, but this really is no problem because being closer to the Equator, the sun is up much earlier here, and many people are already out and about before 7:00am, and the hustle and bustle around my apartment wakes me up very early, most especially because there’s a flight that departs the airport in Alajuela at 4:30am on most days. On other days, classes begin at 8:00, but my teaching day is complete by 9:40am on Tuesday and Thursday and by 11:40 on Monday and Wednesday.

I have to use public transportation while here, taking a bus each day from near my residence, which usually takes about 20 minutes to get closer to the university, but then I have a walk of about 9 blocks during which I get to dodge cars, trucks and buses. The pedestrian has no right of way here, so walker, beware! Yes, I do miss having my own car to use but the bus system is easy once you get the swing of it, and it’s pretty inexpensive, costing only 230 Colones each way, around \$0.30.

It’s great being back in a Spanish speaking environment! That said, because I am teaching English, I use my native language all day with students and faculty, although I do interact with office personnel and building custodians only in Spanish. Also, the elderly couple who live downstairs from me and their many family members who come by on a regular basis do not speak English. Because I have many meals with them, we communicate only in Spanish..”

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# THE POLYGLOT SPRING 2015

## Visiting Professor Róger Retana Calderón from Costa Rica



Róger Retana, 57, is a visiting professor in our Department this semester. He is a Professor of French and Spanish in Heredia, Costa Rica. He studied at La Sorbonne in Paris, France for seven years, and afterwards he stayed in France to work as an assistant professor of Spanish. In 1987 he returned to Costa Rica, where he works at Universidad Nacional in the School of Literature and Language Studies. During his 28 years as a professor, he has taught French, Spanish, culture, translation and composition. He held the position of Coordinator of the Department of French and Hispanic Studies, and he was the co-director of the above-mentioned School. During the Fall semester of 1995, professor Retana participated as an exchange professor with IUP. He has always strived to extend awareness of French language and culture, and even created a radio program to that effect in 1999. This program was nationally broadcasted and was aimed at Costa Rican students.

He adapted and directed for the stage the book *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint Exupéry. He also taught at workshops on foreign language pedagogy in Central America. For four years he offered courses on Hispanic American culture for the Summer program of the Escuela Española at Middlebury in Vermont. While in Middlebury, he was renowned for his participation in the Zarzuelas at the College and also as the organizer of a “pasacalle” as an expression of the culture of his own country and the Hispanic world.

Sometimes, our guest professor gets stricken by the Muse of poetry, as he is the author of several articles about Voltaire and his *English Letters*. He also authored French textbooks for Costa Rican university students. He also dabbles as a cook and is known for his crepes.

This Spring semester, professor Retana is at IUP for the second time teaching Spanish and French. This experience has meant braving the cold weather, but also seeing again the friends he made in 1995 and making new ones. His expertise as an educator has been enriched by the contrast between the teaching methodologies both in the U.S. and his native Costa Rica.

We welcome and thank him, and wish him the best experience at IUP!

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## Faculty Scholarly Activities

**Dr. Kathy Barton** presented at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) in Panama City, Panama, in July 2014. Her presentation, “A Lesson in Teaching Spanish Gender”, explored the questions: What is grammatical gender? Why is gender and agreement often a difficult concept for students whose first language is English to fully grasp? Dr. Barton presented research on the phenomenon of grammatical gender as it occurs in the Spanish language and, with that background of information, discussed the development of a pedagogical grammar that would help promote a clearer conceptualization and greater facility in acquisition among students learning Spanish in a communicative and proficiency-oriented classroom. In November, along with over 6,000 language educators from around the world, Dr. Kathy Barton attended the 2014 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in San Antonio, Texas. Additional time was spent by Dr. Barton being immersed in the Hispanic culture and taking in the sights, sounds, and events of historical San Antonio.

**Dr. Eileen W. Glisan** presented several workshops this semester for foreign language faculty at the secondary and post-secondary levels. She conducted a workshop for faculty at the University of Pennsylvania on the Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA) and gave the keynote speech on “Active Language Learning: On the Role of Meaning, Interaction, and Novelty” for the 2015 Penn Language Center Symposium. Dr. Glisan presented a talk at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (CA) as part of the Leo Van Lier Lecture Series; the title of her talk was “Crossing the Border: Helping Students Reach Advanced-Level Proficiency”. At the secondary level, she conducted a workshop on “Curricular Planning for Language Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” for world language faculty in the Gateway School District in Monroeville, PA. Additionally, she presented two workshops on the topic of developing oral interpersonal communication for language teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Dr. Glisan continues to co-direct the national Research Priorities in Foreign Language Education Project, now beginning its fourth year, which seeks to promote research on areas that have been identified as national priorities for advancing language education.

**Dr. Christina Huhn** and **Dr. Shijuan “Laurel” Liu** gave a presentation entitled “Understanding the Realities of Digital Natives at IUP” at the IUP Technology Day, in January 2015. In addition, **Dr. Liu** presented at the IUP Reflective Practice Large Group Meeting, together with three faculty members from other Departments in March. She also presented her scholarly work at the 2015 Spring Symposium of the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Western Pennsylvania (CLTA-WPA) at the University of Pittsburgh, in April 2015, together with a graduate of the IUP English Department. The title of their presentation was “A Study of Non-Native Chinese Language Instructors as Successful Learners: Preliminary Findings.”

**Dr. Heide Witthöft** presented a paper called “(Non)Person: Jean-Baptiste Grenouille’s (Un)Real Existence” as part of the session on *Homely, Unhomely, Uncanny: The Familiar and the Unfamiliar in German Literature and Culture*. 2014 PAMLA Conference. Riverside, CA. October 31–November 2, 2014.



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## 2015 IUP Spring Methodology Conference

The Department of Foreign Languages celebrated the 40th anniversary of the IUP Spring Methodology Conference on Foreign Language Teaching this Friday, April 17, 2015, at the KCAC. The keynote speaker was Toni Theisen, recipient of the 2009 Teacher of the Year Award by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and the 2013 ACTFL president. A great lively program was proposed to foreign language teachers from Pennsylvania (and beyond), including three past ACTFL presidents and many outstanding teachers or professors.

More information is available on the conference website ([www.iupmethodologyconference.com](http://www.iupmethodologyconference.com)), on Facebook (IUP Spring Methodology Conference on Foreign Language Teaching), or Twitter (@IUPMethodConf).



*Above: Registration tables at the Kovalchick Center*



*Above: Alumni who attended the Conference*



*Left: Atitlan Chapter of Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority, with faculty advisor Dr. Marjorie Zambrano-Paff (far left) at the Conference*

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**Happy 40th Anniversary of the Spring Methodology Conference**



Commemorative cake of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Conference



Methodology Conference organizing committee and guest speaker

From left to right: Dr. Yongtaek Kim, Dr. Jean-Louis Dasser, Dr. Christina Huhn, Dr. Tony Theisen (guest speaker), Prof. Liza Valle, Dr. Heide Witthöft, Dr. Eileen Glisan, Dr. Kathy Barton, and Dr. Marjorie Zambrano-Paff



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# THE POLYGLOT SPRING 2015

## Department Retreat

The faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages took part in a whole day retreat on Friday, October 10th, 2014, at the IUP College Lodge. They welcomed a very engaging consultant from the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADFL), Dr. Omar Ka, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication (MLLI) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

The retreat focused on three key areas: recruiting efforts, developing a Department of Foreign Languages mission statement, and brainstorming curricular initiatives to prepare more IUP students to become global citizens.



*Above: Dr. Ka (left) talking with Dr. Dawn Smith-Sherwood*



*Above: Dr. Ka together with Dr. Eileen Glisan*

*Below: Faculty discussion over lunch*





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## Department Five Year Review

As part of the five-year program review process for the Spanish BA, the faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages welcomed Dr. Karen Stolley to campus on Monday, April 20th, 2015. Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Emory University and member of the Executive Board of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADFL), Dr. Stolley met with Spanish majors and minors, the Office of International Education, foreign languages faculty, Dean Asamoah, and the Provost's Office.

Following the day's formal meetings, colleagues gathered for a reception at Dr. McDaniel's home.

Picture on the right: External program reviewer, Dr. Karen Stolley (front row on the left) with some of the Department faculty outside of Dr. McDaniel's (front row in the middle) house.

Picture below: Faculty and family members chatted over the reception.



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Now that you've read all of our news, we would like to hear some of yours! Please fill out the following questionnaire and return it to the address at:

Attn: *Polyglot Team*

Department of Foreign Languages  
455 Sutton Hall  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Indiana, PA, 15705

If you prefer to respond by Email, please send your information to:

**[Polyglot.iup@gmail.com](mailto:Polyglot.iup@gmail.com). Thank You!**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Language (s) Studied at IUP: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree (s) received/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Study Abroad Program( s) attended, if any (Country/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

**UPDATE:**

Any news about yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

Any other alumni's addresses you know? \_\_\_\_\_

How are you using your language skills? \_\_\_\_\_

Any special memories of your language experiences that you would like to share? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**The 2014-15 Polyglot Team**

**Shijuan "Laurel" Liu (Chair), Vicente Gomis-Izquierdo, Joachim Noob**