

## MODLANGS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019 // ISSUE #1 // GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



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#### MODLANGS NEWSLETTER



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

We are thrilled to launch this publication to share news about our students, faculty, staff, alums, and partners. Working under the motto "Change the Conversation: Cross-Cultural Expertise for Global Leadership," the School of Modern Languages is proud to be a recognized leader in equipping the next generation of global leaders with the applicable knowledge, skills, and professional opportunities necessary to foster meaningful communicative and cultural interactions. Our cross-disciplinary partnerships support the exchange of diverse perspectives and the pursuit of purposeful and innovative education, research, and careers. In doing so, we champion:

- Interdisciplinary and innovative research and education in cross-cultural humanities and language studies
- The exchange of diverse perspectives and impactful collaborations and partnerships
- Global competence and inclusivity
- Curiosity about the world and its caretaking
- Transformative experiences and lifelong professional growth

In the middle of an expansive transition as a School and as a community, we continue to strengthen our contributions to the Institute, the greater Atlanta region, the nation, and the world. Founded in 1905 as the fourth non-engineering department at Georgia Tech, our legacy includes more than a century of innovative, adaptive, and integrated language and culture studies. Today we offer a dozen languages – many less-commonly taught – and unique interdisciplinary degrees in Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies (B.S. and M.S), Global Media and Cultures (M.S.), Global Economics and Modern Languages (B.S.), and International Affairs and Modern Languages (B.S.). Currently in the process of designing opportunities for continuing, executive, and professional education, we look forward to connecting with alums, working professionals, and community partners also in these ways in the months and years to come.

Some of our signature strengths are further described in this newsletter and include fifteen immersive faculty-led study abroad programs on five continents in twenty-five locations; an emphasis on experiential, applied, and online learning that promotes deep cultural and linguistic competence for a STEM-driven environment; opportunities for service-learning, internships, and participation in Tech's Create-X program; and extensive partnerships with the private and public sector. Through these and other initiatives, we remain a hub of global engagement at Georgia Tech.

Our faculty's internationally recognized scholarship, artistic creation, and sponsored research continues to reach new heights, covering a diverse range of topics and approaches in cinema, media, and literary studies; inter- and cross-cultural competence; linguistics, bilingualism, and computing and language acquisition; sustainability and environmental studies; digital humanities; gender, memory, and migration studies; and the scholarship of teaching and learning at the cross-section of the humanities, science, and technology.

The achievements of our students and alums are always remarkable. We feature several of these in our Spotlights section and want to make sure we don't miss out on an opportunity to showcase accomplishments. Please let us know what you are up to and if you have news you'd like us to cover. Send us a note, call us, or come visit us in the Swann Building at 613 Cherry Street, Atlanta!

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# Distinguished Alumni Award Winner 2019

#### **Kristen Lundberg**

International Affairs and Modern Languages (Spanish) - 2006

Kristin Lundberg is a career foreign service officer with the U.S. State Department Office of Public Affairs, Planning, and Coordination for the Bureau of International Organization Affairs. Although currently based in Washington, D.C, Lundberg previously served at the U.S. embassy in Madrid, Spain and at the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Lundberg began her public service career at the State Department in 2008 as a Presidential Management Fellow charged with using digital tools to modernize and enhance the Speaker Program, a flagship public diplomacy program that sends hundreds of American experts to speak to foreign audiences each year. She then entered the Civil Service and helped create the Department's first webcasting team tasked with promoting U.S. foreign policy through interactive digital programs. As program director, Lundberg designed and conducted six field training workshops for local embassy staff on digital engagement strategies, content design, and reporting in additional to traveling to 16 U.S. missions to support special projects and high-level visits.

Lundberg earned a Master of Arts in International Politics and Human Rights from American University and graduated from Georgia Tech with highest honors. Kristin has expressed interest in working with the School in order to help identify and develop career path possibilities for ALIS, GEML, IAML majors and students interested in our minor programs.

"I think I really gained a good deal of confidence at Tech. It's a challenging school and being surrounded by so many incredibly talented and intelligent students not only pushed me to work harder, but also helped me remember that there is no point in comparing yourself to others."



- Kristin Lundberg

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# GEORGIA TECH SYMPOSIUM OFFERS VISION OF ATLANTA AS GLOBAL HIGHER EDUCATION HUB



#### By: Michael Pearson

More than three hundred representatives of non-profits, community organizations, K-12 educators, and university faculty members from around Atlanta and the nation gathered on the Georgia Institute of Technology campus in April for the inaugural Atlanta Global Studies Symposium.

The April 25–27 symposium focused on global education, advanced language learning, international studies, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The symposium and other initiatives of the Atlanta Global Studies Center—a partnership of Georgia Tech and Georgia State University—have helped to highlight the city's growing role as a global hub for higher education, said President G.P. "Bud" Peterson.

"Our city is building a rich ecosystem and infrastructure of research, development, and education that is bringing the world to the Southeast and Georgia to the world," Peterson told the symposium. "Leveraging this richness in partnership with the public and private sector is one of the most exciting prospects of this new center—and this symposium. It has the potential to connect people to issues that are critically significant to longer-term sustainable development."

The AGSC is a National Resource Center and a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship program funded by a \$2.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The interdisciplinary center works to enhance access to advanced language learning and deepen knowledge of global and intercultural issues for the benefit of Atlanta region students, faculty and the public.

#### **Higher Education, Sustainability Key Focal Points**

The center's inaugural symposium included a keynote address by Pardis Mahdavi, acting dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver, and five parallel tracks: Transforming Education and Society through University-Community Partnerships; Teaching and Learning in Global Studies; Global Connections: Inequality and Interchange; Translating Sustainability in the Middle East and North Africa; and Challenges in Development: A Global-Local Perspective. The symposium also featured a K-12 professional development workshop that addressed the UN's Sustainability Goals as they relate to the teaching of world cultures, social studies, and foreign languages.

#### Symposium continued

Anna Westerstahl Stenport, co-director of the AGSC and chair and professor in Georgia Tech's School of Modern Languages, noted that the Atlanta region has one of the highest concentrations of institutions of higher learning in the country, along with 70 foreign consular and foreign trade offices, 15 Fortune 500-level headquarters, a vibrant research and development community, and numerous international non-profits. Such diversity of international presence makes the city an ideal hub for innovation in higher education focused on languages, global competence, and sustainable development, she said.

"Most everyone expressed that the symposium provided a rare and much-needed opportunity for people to come together to share expertise in international education and sustainable development, identify societal benefits of language and global competence, engage with community and corporate partners, develop best practices, and design ways in which to collaborate in the future," she said.

Jennifer Hirsch, director of the Center for Serve-Learn-Sustain and one of the leaders of the Greater Atlanta Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCE Greater Atlanta), hailed the symposium as a key development.

"The symposium provided RCE Greater Atlanta an opportunity to learn from and create new relationships with our colleagues from RCEs around the world and to expose more people in the Atlanta region to our network's work," Hirsch said.

#### 'A Welcome and Important Addition'

Government leaders also welcomed the arrival of the center, and the launch of the symposium—which will be an annual event.

"The launch of the inaugural Annual Atlanta Global Studies symposium is a welcome and important addition to the international academic landscape of the metro region and beyond," said Patrick Wallace, program specialist for world languages and global work initiatives at the Georgia Department of Education.

Vanessa Ibarra, director of Mayor's Office of International Affairs for the city of Atlanta, told the symposium that the AGSC and efforts to increase advanced language learning and intercultural skills are "an essential part of the Atlanta international puzzle."

"At the Office of International Affairs, we know the importance of advanced language learning and the benefits from growing our citizens' multicultural competencies," Ibarra said.

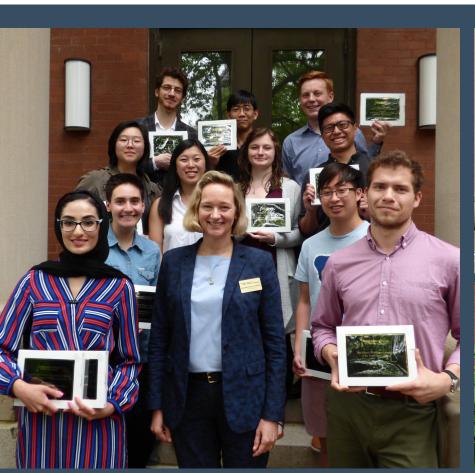
#### Stenport: Educating Good Global Citizens in Georgia Tech's DNA

Stenport highlighted Georgia Tech's contributions as a top-notch STEM-focused research university with a thriving humanities program in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, including the launch of two new globally focused master's degrees, one in global media and cultures and the other in applied languages and intercultural studies. Georgia Tech's School of Public Policy is also launching the state's only master-level program exclusively devoted to sustainability. Georgia Tech also boasts a robust graduate program with a global focus in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs."

Part of Georgia Tech's strategic plan is to enhance our global footprint and educate good global citizens," Stenport said. "That makes Georgia Tech an excellent partner within the larger coalition to help achieve these goals we share."

# Student Award Winners **2019**

- Excellence in Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies Emily Adams
- Excellence in Global Economics and Modern Languages Robert Johnson
- Excellence in International Affairs and Modern Languages Najia Humayun
- Outstanding Senior in Arabic **Stephanie Blough**
- Outstanding Senior in Chinese Rachel Yating Hu
- Outstanding Senior in French Jeongmin Huh
- Outstanding Senior in German Sophie Archer
- Outstanding Senior in Japanese Camden Hine
- Outstanding Senior in Korean Jason Shing Yi Ngor
- Outstanding Senior in Linguistics Jonathan Jiang
- Outstanding Senior in Russian William Emken
- Outstanding Senior in Spanish Najia Humayun







Fall Semester

# MARKS OUR INAUGURAL CLASS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

#### By: Jenny Strakovsky, Campbell Beadles

Like the many trailblazing undergraduates who have explored unfamiliar places on our study abroad programs, the School of Modern Languages is embarking on its own journey into a new world: graduate education. On August 15th, the School hosted its first-ever Graduate Orientation, and welcomed 21 new Master of Science students to Swann to launch the inaugural M.S. Applied Language and Intercultural Studies and M.S. in Global Media and Cultures programs, offered in collaboration with our sister School of Literature, Media, and Communication.

Our inaugural class boasts and amazing diversity of backgrounds and interests. From applied math to documentary film-making, from radio production to business, the 21 students bring unique and multi-faceted perspectives that will transform our classrooms and the future of our programs.

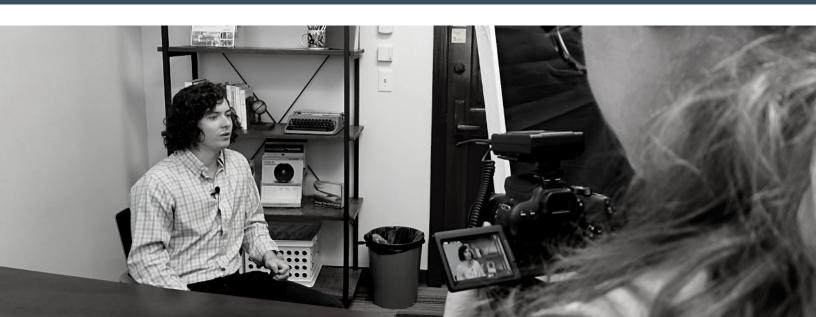


#### Inaugural Class continued..

Our students' career plans show the many applications of language and culture in the 21st century and in an interconnected world. Our class includes a computer scientist mobilizing translation and Japanese media studies to expand smart technologies for Asian markets, a business student leveraging the cultural history of Russia to facilitate long-term economic solutions in Eastern Europe, an award-winning journalist applying French and Portuguese to document Atlanta's globalization, and an educator combining intercultural competence and project management to design diversity and inclusion initiatives at Georgia Tech.

In the coming 12 months, our students will take advanced classes in their language of focus (Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, Spanish) and in media studies as they work on a customized final project that showcases their multifaceted expertise and jumpstarts the next step of their career. Whether they choose an internship, research thesis, documentary, or even a graphic novel, we look forward to seeing how our students will apply their cultural and linguistic knowledge to "change the conversation" at home and abroad.

The Graduate Program at the School of Modern Languages is redesigning humanities education for the 21st century. We emphasize essential skills like communication, leadership, and global expertise while providing advanced training in a high-impact language and region (Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish).



### Alumni SPOTLIGHT



#### **Emily Clifton - IAML, 2007**

Associate Director of Humanitarian Response, Save the Children

Emily Clifton combined her broad education at Georgia Tech with her passion for travel to embark upon a career in humanitarian response, which has taken her around the globe. She began her work in 2010 with Doctors With-out Borders, where she oversaw the implementation of emergency health programs, including a measles vaccination campaign in Malawi that inoculated more than 2.5 million children, major responses to cholera epidemics in Nigeria and Haiti, and much more. In 2014, she joined nonprofit Save the Children to help lead their humanitarian response, and has worked extensively helping youth in need in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

Last year, she coordinated Save the Children's response to hurricane-stricken areas in Puerto Rico, Texas and Florida. Currently, she is managing the organization's major, multi-pronged project in war-torn Yemen, helping to provide needed services in health, nutrition, water, sanitation and child protection. She's twice won the Save the Children President's Award for her work on the West African Ebola Response in 2014-15 and the Somalia drought crisis in 2017.

"The demanding curriculum at Tech perfectly prepared me to work in international humanitarian response," Clifton says. "The work can be very high stress and often requires creative problem-solving—skills I picked up as a student that I draw upon every day in the field."





## A WORLD-CLASS DEGREE AND EXPERIENCE IN A THRIVING MEDIA HUB?

YOU CAN HAVE BOTH AT GEORGIA TECH

#### By: Emily Snelling

Nestled in the historic corner of campus overlooking Tech Tower, the School of Modern Languages is taking the lead in helping to transform Atlanta's global media industry. The School is rapidly becoming a hub for cutting-edge researchers in international film, documentary, digital media, and global studies, attracting budding media professionals from across Georgia to its new Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, the first multicultural professional graduate degree in applied languages in the United States.

Being in the heart of a thriving film hub gives Georgia Tech students an extraordinary opportunity, led by the School of Modern Languages and the School of Literature, Media, and Communication in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, to get an education at one of the leading technological universities in the country while studying film. Georgia Institute of Technology is taking advantage of this by making film a more central part of what we do in the classroom.

The Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures is a prime example of the kind of innovation that comes out of a unique environment like Atlanta. As the headquarters for some of the world's leading global businesses, with access to over 75 consulates and countless international organizations, Atlanta offers an unparalleled living laboratory to see firsthand how media can change the world. The new Master of Science degree offers creative spaces and labs, such as an in-house mobile film studio and lab courses that teach students key skills like interviewing, multimedia production, and communications management. Students have the opportunity to study media as a part of their major or minor, or broaden their studies with a film elective.





#### A World Class Degree Continued...

Modern Languages' professors are encouraging students to present their research projects in a film medium, allowing for more creativity in the classroom and including film as a part of their courses.

"I offer all students the opportunity to present their work in a film medium because it encourages artistic expression and showcases a wide variety of skills," said Ayda Melika, a visiting assistant professor of Persian and Middle Eastern Studies at the School of Modern Languages and the School of History and Sociology at Georgia Institute of Technology. "Courses like these led me to continue with my film career and following my undergraduate degree, I began producing films on the topics of urbanism, cultural experience, and politics of space. Many of my pieces have been featured in prestigious film festivals such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York Film Festival. Those experiences pushed me to continue my education at UC Berkeley where I obtained a Master's degree in Science and Architecture and a Ph.D. in Architecture: History, Theory and Society and a minor in Urban Sociology of the Middle East, all along pursuing film as a medium for my research," said Melika.

Melika is one of many faculty within the School of Modern Languages who has film expertise. Amanda Weiss, Assistant Professor of Japanese, presents her research on combat films and portrayals of war as well as gender identity in Japanese culture following World War II. Associate Professor of Spanish, Paul Alonso, showcases his film expertise as Director and Producer of Polivision, a bilingual docu-series and multimedia outlet documenting cutting-edge artists who work between Atlanta and Latin America. Both Weiss and Alonso work with their own innovative VIP teams (for-credit lab experience with hands-on research opportunities.)

Juan Carlos Rodriguez, Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Professor of Spanish, studies how Latin American documentaries represent contemporary urban issues such as housing problems, transportation dynamics, water resources, economic development, and

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social movements. Rodriguez also brings film to the main stage at Tech every spring semester, hosting the Global Media Fest. The annual event focuses on international media productions that explore issues and challenges associated to sustainability. The festival's goal is to serve as a global interdisciplinary forum that creates awareness of the cultural and linguistic challenges that emerge from the different meanings and interpretations of sustainability in diverse contexts.

Recently mentioned in *The New York Times* as having created "programs aimed at developing language skills that allow them to work more effectively in, and to be more attractive to, international companies and organizations," the School of Modern Languages continues to offer students unique opportunities and innovative curricula to elevate student experiences and strengthen their competitive resumes. Our graduate program offers the resources and rigor of a top-tier research university, the personalized attention of a boutique liberal arts college, and the out-of-the-box flexibility of an up-and-coming hub for creative industries and global business. For more information on our graduate programs, visit **grad.modlangs.gatech.edu** or contact Jenny Strakovsky, Assistant Director of Graduate Programs.





Melika's study of film led to the opportunity to attend the Cannes Film Festival as a guest of the influential Isreali Film Maker, Amos Giatai. Pictured above.

### Featured Faculty Publications and Research Projects

### West Germany, the New Start of a Republic

#### By: Emily Snelling

Associate Professor of German, Jan Uelzmann, published a new book after five years of extensive research on the topic of West German democracy in a post-war context. His research studies the new state's democratic institutions from the perspective of Public Relations efforts led by the administration of the Federal Republic's first federal chancellor, Konrad Adenauer (1949-1963).

Dr. Uelzmann's book **Staging West German Democracy: Governmental PR Films and the Democratic Imaginary, 1953-**

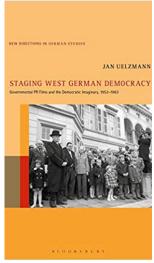
**1963** (Bloomsbury Academic, 2019) examines how political "founding discourses" of the nascent FRG were reflected, reinforced, and actively manufactured by the Federal government through PR films produced in conjunction with the West German newsreel system Deutsche Wochenschau. By looking at the institutional history of the Deutsche Wochenschau and its close relationship to the Government Press Office, Dr. Uelzmann's study traces the Adenauer administration's project of maintaining a "government channel" in an increasingly diverse, de-centralized and democratic West German media landscape.

Apart from providing election propaganda for Adenauer's CDU party, the study argues that these films provided an important stabilizing factor for the FRG's project of explaining and promoting democracy to its citizens, and of defining its public image against the backdrops of the Third Reich past and a competing, contemporary incarnation of German nationhood, the German Democratic Republic (GDR). In this regard, Staging West German Democracy adds in important ways to our understanding of the media's role in the West German nation building process.

In his research, Dr. Uelzmann merges approaches from cultural history, cultural studies, film studies, and literary studies to explore questions related to postwar democratization, governmental media policies of the Adenauer period, Cold War politics, the provisional capital Bonn, and Weimar modernism.









# Faculty RECOGNITION

#### **Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure**

Paul Alonso Jan Uelzmann

#### **Class of 1940 Course Survey Teaching Effectiveness Award**

Lionel Gall Kathrin Koppe Jin Liu Natasha Myshkin Melissa Pilkington Samba Sy

#### **IAC Student Award for Best Instructor**

Adèle Douglin

#### **IAC Administrative Excellence Award**

Jenny Strakovsky

#### **Emerging Leaders Winner**

Jin Liu

#### **American Association of Teachers of German-GA**

Britta Kallin, Professor of the Year

#### Georgia Association of Teachers of Japanese

Aya McDaniel, Teacher of the Year



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### Faculty

### RECOGNITION

## Sponsored Projects and Support for Faculty Research, 2018-19

Dean's SGR-IAC: Bilingual Text Messages - \$4,500

Cecilia Montes-Alcala

DILAC: Polivision: Covering Latin(o) American Popular Culture - \$25,000

**Paul Alonso** 

**VPII: Denning Seed Grant Morocco Study Abroad - \$15,000** 

**Chris Ippolito** 

Halle Foundation - M.S. funding, LBAT support, career education - 2018-2020 - \$130,000

Britta Kallin Jenny Strakovsky Jan Uelzmann

Prokhorov Foundation - Russian Historical Memory and The Politics of History - 2019 - \$38,000 Dina Khapaeva

DILAC: Building a Digital Resource Center for the Cultural Study of Chinese Dialects - \$5,000 Jin Liu

GVU/IPaT Research & Engagement Grant Lelia Glass - "Workshop on Language, Technology, and Society"

SPAG-CNE: Global Media Fest - \$45,000

Juan Carlos Rodriguez

DILAC: Vieques Struggle: A Digital Video Archive - \$25,000

Juan Carlos Rodriguez

Japan Foundation - 2018 - \$30,000

Rumiko Simonds

DILAC: Visualizing Climate Change In The Artic and Beyond - \$15,700

Anna Stenport

SSHRC, Anxiety of Ice: Cinemas of Climate Change - 2018-2021 - \$197,000 (CAD)

Anna Stenport

Title VI-NRC and FLAS - 2018-2022 - \$2,250,000

Anna Stenport

GT-FIRE: Leveraging the Cross-Cultural Humanities for 21st Century Whole-Person Education" \$38,000

Jenny Strakovsky

# Featured Faculty Publications and Research Projects

#### Studying the Filmmakers Who Are Changing How We See the Arctic

#### By: Michael Pearson

Early documentaries such as 1922's Nanook of the North and even the 1951 alien invasion potboiler The Thing From Another World offer an image of the Artic as an ever-frozen, never-changing place of mystery that glosses over or distorts the cultures of those who live there.

However, indigenous filmmakers—particularly women, but all spurred by climate change—are starting to change that. Anna Westerstahl Stenport, professor and chair in the School of Modern Languages, is among the world's leading academics working to help better understand their contributions.

She shares that expertise in courses she teaches as part of the new Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, which promotes connections between STEM disciplines and cultural, environmental, and social contexts.

"These kinds of connections are necessary to achieve real and impactful sustainability in the Arctic and beyond," she said.

Stenport is one of the pioneers of the burgeoning field of Arctic cinema studies. She co-edited the first book on the topic, Films On Ice: Cinemas of the Artic, with her frequent research collaborator, Scott MacKenzie of Queen's University in Ontario, Canada.

They also produced an edited volume in 2019 called Arctic Cinemas and the Documentary Ethos. Stenport is now working to finish a new book that will delve more deeply into contemporary Arctic cinema—work that helps highlight the impact on Arctic residents of globalization, increasing resource extraction, international regulation, indigenous governance, and climate change.





### Studying the Filmmakers Who Are Changing How We See the Arctic

#### Continued...

#### 'The Right to Be Cold'

"The Artic is a region of the world deeply affected by climate change with temperatures rising much faster at the poles," Stenport said. "In addition, films that seek to document global warming often turn to images of ice melting. It's one of the few ways to visualize climate change.

"Indigenous activist Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Stenport says, has even framed the question as an Arctic Indigenous fundamental human right, "the right to be cold." But Arctic filmmakers have a story to tell that goes beyond a melting landscape, Stenport said. "These films provide an opportunity to talk about climate change not only as a scientific phenomenon, but also as one that is cultural, societal, and political," she said.

#### Women Filmmakers Are Leading the Way

"Indigenous Arctic cinema production has grown over the past decade, with a flourishing global community exchanging art and ideas across languages and cultures.

"My research counters the idea that this is an isolated area, she said. In fact, it is globally integrated." Stenport's current work focuses on indigenous women filmmakers of the Arctic and their experience navigating an Artic increasingly impacted by climate change and globalization.

Sámi filmmaker Amanda Kernell's fiction feature, Sami Blood (2016), premiered at the Venice Film Festival to great acclaim. It showcases the impact of Swedish policies on Sámi communities and efforts to sustainably manage the Arctic environment. Another example Stenport cites is Nunavut-based filmmaker Alethea Arnaquq-Baril. Her 2016 documentary Angry Inuk focuses on the difficulties faced by Inuit communities over commercial seal hunting, which global environmental and governmental groups have sought to ban.

Stenport calls the film an excellent showcase for what she calls the "global Arctic," and a refutation of the notion that the region is a remote, isolated place populated by exotic people disconnected from the rest of the world. Instead, Angry Inuk shows indigenous people fighting for an economic and cultural way of life that governments in Europe and the United States have sought to ban. The film also highlights the increasing impact of climate change and globalization on Arctic populations.

"Climate change makes ice and weather, and therefore hunting, more unpredictable, and when you can't sell what you hunt for market price, it does little to prevent poverty in remote communities; it also increases the likelihood of people having to leave the region or that there will be local support for increased resource extraction in fragile environments," she said.

"Films like Angry Inuk or Sami Blood help us understand how communities react to environmental changes, what kind of political efforts they may want to mobilize to provide better resources, to mitigate the effects, to construct more resilient communities and to move toward sustainable practices. Women are continuing to serve in leadership roles in these communities" she said.

### Studying the Filmmakers Who Are Changing How We See the Arctic

#### Continued...

#### **Bringing the Arctic to Atlanta**

Stenport's scholarship on Arctic cinemas and climate change has been supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and by the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts through its Jean Monnet Center of Excellence award in the Center for European and Transatlantic Studies, as well as a Mellon Foundation grant in the Digital Integrative Liberal Arts Center.

Not only do such efforts help better visualize a changing world, they also extend awareness about the needs and interests of a vibrant community, one that for decades lacked access to international media distribution.

"The quality of indigenous filmmaking in the Arctic is astonishingly diverse and rich" said Stenport. "I am thrilled to be able to present these works to Georgia Tech students in the courses I teach, which promotes connections between STEM disciplines and cultural, environmental, and social contexts. These kinds of connections are necessary to achieve real and impactful sustainability in the Arctic and beyond."



Sami filmmaker Amanda Kernell's fiction feature, Sami Blood (2016), premiered at the Venice Film Festival to great acclaim and has since won many awards at festivals worldwide. It showcases the impact of Swedish policies on Sami communities and efforts to sustainability manage the Artic environment. Pictured above.

#### Recent Publications - Books





#### **Paul Alonso**

Satiric TV in the Americas: Critical Metatainment as Negotiated Dissent, Oxford University Press, 2018.





#### Stephanie Boulard

**Ententes - A partir d'Hélène Cixous.** Parution, 2019





#### **Kelly Comfort**

Cien años de identidad: Introducción a la literatura latinoamericana del siglo XX.
Georgetown University Press 2018









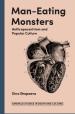
#### **Chris Ippolito**

Vers des identités culturelles postfrancophones, Caen, Passage(s), coll. « Essais », 2019. 278 pp.

*La Littérature et la vie.* Classiques Garnier, 2018

**Récit de vie, récit de soi.** Passage(s). 2018.





#### Dina Khapaeva

Man-eating Monsters: Anthropocentrism and Popular Culture. Emerald Studies in Death and Culture, 2019.





#### **Natalie Khazaal**

**Pretty Liar: Television, Language, and Gender in Wartime Lebanon**. Syracuse University Press, 2018.





#### Kyoko Masuda

Cognitive Linguistics and Japanese Pedagogy: A Usage-Based Approach to Language Learning and Instruction. Applications of Cognitive Linguistics, 2018.

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#### Recent Publications - Books continued







#### **Anna Stenport**

**Arctic Cinemas and the Documentary Ethos.** Ed. w/Scott MacKenzie and Lilya Kaganovsky. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2019.

August Strindberg and Visual Culture: The Emergence of Optical Modernity in Image, Text and Theatre. J. Schroeder, A. Stenport, E. Szalczer, Eds. Bloomsbury Academic, 2018,





#### Jan Uelzmann

Staging West German Democracy: Governmental PR Films and the Democratic Imaginary, 1953-1963. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019. 352 pp.

### Recent Chapters and Articles

**Boulard, Stephanie.** "Facing the Intolerable: Aesthetics, Writing, and the Power of the Image between Hélène Cixous and Adel Abdessemed." *Nouvelles Francographies,* 2019.

**Boulard, Stephanie.** "To Write or To Paint the Monstrous? The Case of Claude Louis-Combet." *SITES. 22.5,* 2019.

**Glass, Lelia.** "Adjectives relate individuals to states: Evidence from the two readings of English Determiner + Adjective." *Glossa*, 2019.

**Glass, Lelia.** "Systematicity in the Semantics of Noun Compounds: The Role of Artifacts vs. Natural Kinds." *Linguistics,* 2019.

**Ippolito, Christophe.** "Eurydice en Bécassine dans Par les champs et par les grèves." *Flaubert voyageur. Paris: Classiques Garnier,* 2019.

**Ippolito, Christophe.** "L'agriculture hors de son champ : débordements du chapitre II dans Bouvard et Pécuchet." *Revue Flaubert*, 2019.

**Ippolito, Christophe.** "La Québécoite: faillite des paradigmes identitaires et intégrationnistes, cosmopolitisme du futur." *Littérature et cosmopolitisme.* Dijon: Éditions universitaires de Dijon, 2019.

**Ippolito, Christophe.** "Le nationalisme par lui-même: sur une anthologie du nationalisme et de ses styles." *Du style des idées : nationalisme et littérature.* Peter Lang Publishing, 2019.

Khapaeva, Dina. "Death as Fan." The New Literary Observer, vol. 159, 2019.

**Khapaeva, Dina.** "Dialog or Senseless Sound? Problems of Bakhtin's Readings of Dostoevsky," *Festschrift for Mikhail Epstein*, 2019.

### Recent Chapters and Articles continued

**Khapaeva, Dina.** "Eaten in Jurassic World: Antihumanism and Popular Culture." *Man-eating Monsters: Anthropocentrism and Popular Culture.* Emerald Publishing, 2019.

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# INNOVATIVE CAREER COURSE FEATURES CROSSCULTURAL STUDIES, IMPORTANCE OF HUMANITIES

By: Michael Pearson

Learning the nuances of workplace culture is a bit like exploring another country, says Jenny Strakovsky, assistant director of career education and graduate programs in the School of Modern Languages. Each field has a vernacular and tempo of its own. Values, goals, and cultures differ from field to field.

This is why Strakovsky and the School of Modern Languages at the Georgia Institute of Technology are pioneering the use of "culture-driven career design." Using the study-abroad model as a metaphor for career exploration, Strakovsky and Anna Westerstahl Stenport, chair and professor in the school, teach a class called Career Design for Global Citizenship. The class seeks to inspire both undergraduate and graduate students to consider how humanities-based skills can be central to their careers and give them tools to design "meaningful, fulfilling, and impactful careers."

#### 'Real-World Scenarios for How to Collaborate'

"This innovative course brings together undergraduate and graduate students from fields as diverse as computer science and international affairs, math and city and regional planning, and public policy and applied languages and intercultural studies," Stenport said. "It provides real-world scenarios for how to collaborate in multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural professional environments, while applying project management and communication strategies.

"The class is attracting attention nationally. Strakovsky has presented the work to the Modern Language Association (MLA), among others. The Association of Departments of Foreign Languages and English also has invited Strakovsky and Stenport to present the work at the annual ADFL/ADE Summer Seminar for department chairs this summer.

The career education programs at the School of Modern Languages are part of an effort to change the direction of liberal arts education in the United States. "It's an approach to teaching humanities at the intersection of cultural studies and career education, which are two different fields," Strakovsky said of the class. "It's unique and at the cutting edge of what is happening in both fields," said Stenport.

#### The Value of Humanities in the Workplace

Ryan Gemilere, a second-year physics major from Saint Louis Park, Minnesota, took the class in 2018. He is now a research assistant in the career design studio at the School of Modern Languages, working with Strakovsky and Stenport on the intersection of humanities and STEM. "A strong understanding of many subjects that fall under the umbrella of the humanities, especially philosophy and management, is fundamental for a successful career based in physics," he said.

#### Career Course continued

The course includes lecture and project components. Students learn about the changing world of work and the role of liberal arts skills in professional life. They also learn how to hone in on their own career goals and create long-term plans for their lives.

The students are then sent out to create case studies examining how humanities skills, such as well-developed communications abilities and a focus on human-centered problem solving, are crucial in helping solve intractable social and policy challenges. Students have examined issues such as energy consumption and conservation, the impact of space policy on humanity, how to keep equity issues in the forefront of the sustainability debate, and water security.

#### **Different Perspectives Are Crucial**

This exploration also helps students learn the value of applying humanities-based skills, especially intercultural studies, to the field of work they want to pursue.

"In the process of doing science, or designing a product, you need to have the ability to design questions and think about other people's perspectives," Strakovsky said. "Having the ability to think from the perspective of a different culture allows you to tap into new markets and discover new questions that you might not even realize are questions if you're only looking at it from your own cultural perspective." Career exploration as a form of cultural studies also helps students overcome a pervasive unease with the process that will get them their first job. "In career education, we talk about networking and the importance of tailoring resumes and writing cover letters a certain way," Strakovsky said. "There's a place for that, but students will often talk about how they hate it because it feels artificial and manipulative."

"But when you bring the cultural studies framework to it, and you explain that this is a community and you are learning about it, that you're on a study abroad in this community, it changes their perspective. If you were living in another country and trying to learn the language and the culture, of course you would connect with as many people as possible to ask questions and do justice to understanding that community," Strakovsky said.

For Gemilere, who wants to work in the space sector after he graduates in 2021, the class proved invaluable. "To do something other than university research with a physics degree, I believe an understanding of many humanities topics is essential," he said, "I would even say that the humanities enriches the research process in which many physicists take part."

#### A Leader in Empowering Liberal Arts Graduates

The School of Modern Languages, a unit of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, is quickly enlarging its reputation as a national leader in empowering liberal arts graduates to pursue successful careers in many sectors. The School's new Master of Science in Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies and the Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, which is offered in conjunction with the School of Literature, Media, and Communication, were recently mentioned in the New York Times as an example of innovative curriculum for the future of language study.

Strakovsky and Stenport taught the class in Spring 2019. Strakovsky will also expand offerings of the class with a master's level version, part of the new Global Media and Cultures program. "The humanities, particularly cultural studies, teach us how to create meaning out of facts, mobilize stories to shape our future, and connect with people who are very different from us," Strakovsky said. "These skills are crucial for the kinds of leadership and innovation-oriented roles that Georgia Tech alumni pursue."

MODLANGS NEWSLETTER

### Faculty-led

### STUDY ABROAD

#### **LBAT - Ecuador**

"Development, Commerce & Sustainability"

Study sustanaibility for five weeks in the beautiful mountain city of Cuenca, once part of the ancient Inca Empire and now Ecuador's tourist mecca, and spend six days in the famous Galapagos Islands, where Charles Darwin conducted his research for his Origin of the Species. Deepen your knowledge and understanding of contemporary Andean culture and society and its historical roots as well as Ecuador's mega-diversity and issues facing the country's sustainable development.









### GEORGIA TECH, GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY OFFER CLASSES IN HINDI AND PORTUGUESE

#### By: Michael Pearson

Students at Georgia State University and the Georgia Institute of Technology can now enroll in elementary Hindi and Portuguese, widely spoken but rarely taught languages used in two of the world's top 10 economies. Hindi is one of the most commonly spoken first languages in the world, with 341 million native speakers worldwide, including India—the world's seventh largest economy. Portuguese is the first language of 221 million people around the world, including residents of the world's ninth largest economy, Brazil.

"Learning these languages will give students, whatever their area of study, the ability to connect with populations and regions of the world that are booming with economic opportunity, as well as experiencing myriad problems in need of solutions in the areas of climate change, environmental sustainability, urban development, public health, and more," said Anna Westerstahl Stenport, professor and chair in Georgia Tech's School of Modern Languages and founding co-director of the Atlanta Global Studies Center (AGSC).

The courses are being offered starting with the Fall 2019 semester. They will be taught by faculty of Georgia Tech's School of Modern Languages in collaboration with Georgia State's Department of World Languages and Cultures. The offerings are part of the universities' partnership in the AGSC, funded through a \$2.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Students attending colleges and universities affiliated with the Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education (ARCHE) may be able to join Georgia State and Georgia Tech students in taking the new classes through the council's cross-registration program. Students at other institutions should check with their school's registration office for details.

"These courses provide a complementary vehicle to deliver language learning in ways that are resource-efficient and collaborative, building further bridges between Georgia State and Georgia Tech to strengthen the region's global competence, while also complementing faculty research expertise in studies of India, Brazil, and Portugal at both institutions," said Anthony Lemieux, professor of global studies and communication at Georgia State, as well as director of the Global Studies Institute, and founding co-director of the AGSC. While the initial offerings focus on elementary Hindi and Portuguese, Georgia Tech and Georgia State expect to add intermediate and advanced-level courses in upcoming semesters. AGSC will also offer programming, events, and faculty development opportunities in these areas during the coming years.

Students will attend classes in a state-of-the-art classrooms equipped with videoconferencing technology, making them accessible to registered students on other campuses.

INDOVATIVE

CURRICULUM

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#### Educational

### INNOVATION

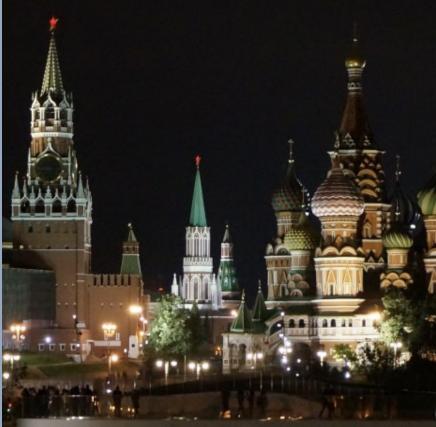
### Modern Languages' Russian Program Partners with Aerospace Engineering

The Aerospace Engineering Program (School of Aerospace Engineering), in unique collaboration with the Russian Program (School of Modern Languages at Georgia Tech), is now offering classes in Russian for Aerospace Engineering students.

Students can earn a double major/minor in Russian while majoring in Aerospace Engineering. For future engineers, the Russian Program offers:

- Bachelors or Masters Degree with a concentration in Russian; Russian Certificate
- Scholarships
- Fellowships
- Study abroad opportunities in Russia spring semester and summer semester
- Russian classes for Humanities credits (HUM)





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# Faculty-led STUDY ABROAD



#### **Early Immersion: German in Vienna**

This summer, Georgia Tech students will walk in the footsteps of Mozart, Beethoven, Freud, Wittgenstein, and Schoedinger as they visit the capital of Austria and the former Habsburg empire. Our newest study abroad program, *Early Immersion: German in Vienna*, directed by Kathrin Koppe, Lecturer of German, covers the entire second year of the German language curriculum in six weeks, so students are ready to start advanced courses or do an internship after only one year of language study.

"Why did we choose Vienna? Well, it's one of the most historic and centrally located cities in Europe, with access to some of the world's best museums, music, historic sites, and global organizations like the UN," says Jenny Strakovsky, Assistant Director of Graduate Studies, who is co-teaching the program. This year, students will be in the city during the Summer Night Concert, when the world-renowned Vienna Philharmonic performs for free in the garden of the Schoenbrunn Palace.

"Vienna is an incredible opportunity for students to experience both Germanspeaking and global culture," Strakovsky says. "Also, the coffee and the cake are just amazing. That may have played a role in the decision, too."





### Signature Events

#### **Global Media Fest**

#### By: Emily Snelling

Created by a faculty team from the Ivan Allen College's Schools of Modern Languages and Literature, Media, and Communication at Georgia Tech, The Global Media Festival: Sustainability Across Languages and Cultures focuses on international media productions that explore issues and challenges associated to sustainability. The Global Media Festival's goal is to serve as a global interdisciplinary forum that creates awareness of the cultural and linguistic challenges that emerge from the different meanings and interpretations of sustainability in diverse contexts.

Sustainability provides a set of analytical and normative frameworks to understand and overcome the challenges of the 21st Century, such as extreme poverty, climate change, and social inequality. Although sustainability is a driving force behind many global agendas for the future, each society adopts and interprets sustainability according to its different cultural and linguistic resources. As long as institutions continue to take its meanings for granted, we will always fail to understand how sustainability works in the real world.



To overcome this problem, it is imperative to examine sustainability across languages and cultures. To achieve this goal, we have created a media festival that looks at the role of media in the creation and dissemination of stories about economic activities as well as social and environmental challenges. The study of media productions in different languages and from different cultures around the world opens the door to compare how different societies adopt, implement, reframe or defy sustainability, while using specific conventions and protocols that respond to particular expectations, legacies, habits, and aspirations.

The Global Media Festival supports Georgia Tech's strategic vision for the 21st Century of producing "good global citizens" by providing windows to investigate how other societies around the world take key decisions in the present while imagining the future. It promotes partnership, curriculum development, and civic engagement opportunities that contribute to expand the links and collaborations between the humanities and the STEM disciplines. This program also takes advantage of Atlanta's diverse communities and the city's role as a major global media player to build educational and civic connections related to sustainability across local, regional, and global networks. The Global Media Festival is sponsored by a grant from Strategic Plan Advisory Group of Georgia Tech, as well as by The School of Modern Languages and The Center for Serve Learn Sustain.

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# Event HIGHLIGHTS

**Below:** Chinese Day 2019 - Zhou Family Band performance







### Signature Events

### China's Largest Retailer, Hisense Company, Talks with Students about Internships at Chinese Day

#### By: Emily Snelling

The rising superpower of China in global affairs and the prospect of enormous markets in Chinese-speaking regions have made proficiency in Chinese an important criterion for those seeking to enter both public and private-sector job markets. The School of Modern Languages has taught Mandarin Chinese for many years and watched enrollment continue to rise with China's entrance onto the world political and economic forums.

"The ability to effectively interact in the Chinese language and culture has become a must for many future leaders of technology, science, industry, business, government, and nonprofit organizations," said Jin Lui, who directs the Chinese program in the School, which is a unit of Georgia Tech's Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts.

Liu and her team brought the Chinese program to the foreground by hosting Chinese Day, on Thursday, September 12. This year's event featured the Hisense Company, the most successful television retailer in China. Hisense's U.S. representatives participated on a panel "Taste of China," highlighting the experience of studying, interning, and working in China. They also spoke one-on-one with students about internship opportunities in both China and the U.S.

Panel participants also included the Georgia Tech Office of International Education Global Internship advisor, alumni of the China Language for Business and Technology program (LBAT), and recipients of Chinese Government Scholarships. This year's event was the most successful yet, attracting guests from other institutions such as Georgia State University and Emory University.

"I enjoyed hearing people's experiences on exchanges to China and what they learned abroad," said one student. "It was very informative to learn the differences between spending a summer abroad and spending an entire academic year from someone that had done both. It made it much easier to begin thinking about my study abroad options in regards to what type of experience abroad I want to have."

Chinese Day is an annual celebration, highlighting the language, culture, and traditions that can be learned through studies at Georgia Institute of Technology.

This year's event opened with a musical performance by the renowned Zhou Family Band, a Chinese folk group, playing traditional Chinese wind and percussion pieces for students, faculty, and staff. Small bites of authentic Chinese cuisine were sampled including dumplings, stir-fried Chinese broccoli with beef, sesame orange chicken, spicy mapo tofu, green beans with garlic, Yangzhou fried rice, chowmein with chashao BBQ pork.

Chinese Day is sponsored by China Research Center, a regional academic organization to promote understanding of greater China through in-depth research and experience.

#### Event

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Below:** Russian program leads an ongoing cooking class for students.



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# Event HIGHLIGHTS

**Below:** Graduate students celebrate at the 10th Annual Beltline Lantern Festival





### Signature Events

"What is Intercultural Competence?"

### Featured Workshop with Founder of INTERGLOBE, Rita Wuebbeler

By: Will Thomas, Georgia Tech - Class of 2019

As President and Founder of INTERGLOBE Cross Cultural Business Services, Rita Wuebbeler builds and leads programs teaching cultural awareness to groups and individuals. At a place like Georgia Tech, the need for intercultural competence speaks for itself. On a 5-minute walk through campus, you can easily hear four different languages spoken. With so many of our students going on to work and live abroad (or even doing so as undergrads - 50% of GT students study a language and 58% go abroad while at Tech), intercultural competence isn't just a bonus skill – it's an essential one for employment in our ever-more globalized world.

"At a place like Georgia Tech, the need for intercultural competence speaks for itself."

- Will Thomas

Wuebbeler first came to Atlanta decades ago and remarked on the fact that she still finds herself making mistakes in cross-cultural interactions. Her experience isn't unique – due to our position near the East Coast (with only a 5 hour time difference to Europe); favorable tax laws; a low cost of living; proximity to the world's busiest airport; and abundant talent (i.e. Tech grads), foreign companies are flocking to Atlanta (especially German companies – there's a reason Mercedes Benz paid for our new stadium).

Rather than stressing specific actions – something that wouldn't make sense anyway in a diverse crowd of language students – Wuebbeler recommended self-knowledge as a prerequisite to all cultural competence. One must first be aware of their own beliefs, values, and prejudices before having any hope of successfully communicating with others. After that, Wuebbeler stressed, you have to do your research. You're in for a surprise if you assume that you can fly blind into a new culture without gathering background information and thinking carefully through your assumptions.

Wuebbeler's company has developed an entire website to help with this. Cultural Detective outlines the lenses through which different cultures see the world – an extremely useful tool for those preparing for interactions in another culture. This tool also allows for the side-by-side comparison of cultures. This led me to wonder – with identity increasingly understood as intersectional and multidimensional, how can we understand the intersection of the values of people's multiple identities? This was, as Frau Wuebbeler put it, an important conversation to have over a long cup of coffee after the talk. As I prepare for my time in the "real world", this is a question I look forward to diving into and continuing to develop my perspective on.

### Signature Events

#### "What is Intercultural Competence?"

#### Continued

It's my last semester as an undergraduate, and I'm currently taking one of my capstone courses – German Intercultural Seminar, a culmination of all the German classes I have taken at Tech and in preparation for my future work in Germany, or in an international or multinational work environment. This talk resonated with many of the issues we discuss in the capstone, although there was an ironic learning curve adjusting to talking about these issues in English instead of in German. I find it funny when people ask me "So what can you do with a degree in International Affairs and German?" I feel the more accurate question is "What CANT you do?" Learning a language at Tech is learning a language in action, and I'm well-prepared for whatever adventures come next.

Will Thomas is an International Affairs and German major, Georgia Tech class of 2019. He has interned with the Goethe Zentrum of Atlanta, the Stacey Abrams Campaign, Let America Vote, and the International Rescue Committee.



Pictured above: INTERGLOBE TECHNOLOGIES

Pictured above: Rita Wuebbeler

#### Retirement

### CELEBRATIONS





Vicki Galloway (Ph.D, University of South Carolina) is Professor of Spanish and Associate Chair for Research and Graduate Programs in the School of Modern Languages. She served as Director of the School of Modern Languages' LBAT (Language for Business and Technology) overseas programs in Mexico, Ecuador and Peru and taught a wide variety of courses in language, literature, business, film and culture studies, focusing on themes of sustainable development, immigration, indigenous issues and perspectives and intercultural communication.



#### Xiaoliang Li

Xiaoliang Li specializes in Instructional Technology in Chinese pedagogy and Intercultural Communication Studies. She earned her PhD in Instructional Technology from the University of Virginia, and her MA in Communication Studies from Baylor University. In 1995 she established the Chinese Language and Cultural Studies program at Georgia Tech. Her research and publications have explored the utilization of multimedia in Chinese language instruction, cultural perspectives in language learning, intercultural communications, and issues involving sustainability in China.



#### **Angelika Oswalt**

Angelika Oswalt, Instructor of German at Ga. Tech, has a Master of Philosophy from Leopold-Franzens Universität in Innsbruck, Austria. In addition to teaching language courses at Ga. Tech, she accompanied students to Germany in the 2006 LBAT program, where she taught Landeskunde (German culture). Her wideranging experience includes teaching German language, culture and literature to students of all levels and many cultures, at posts in Austria, Paris and Atlanta.



#### **Rumiko Simonds**

Dr. Rumiko Simonds received her PhD in Linguistics from the University of Hawaii. She joined the Georgia Tech faculty as an Assistant Professor of Japanese in 1991 and in 2004 was promoted to Professor in the School of Modern Languages. A specialist in pragmatics, historical linguistics (grammaticalization), cognitive linguistics and Japanese and Okinawan linguistics, she has published numerous articles in such refereed journals as Journal of Pragmatics, Journal of Historical Pragmatics, Linguistics, Language Sciences, Journal of Japanese Linguistics, and Gengo Kenkyu.

# Who We Are and What We Believe In

#### Our Motto

Change the Conversation: Cross-Cultural Expertise for Global Leadership

#### Our Purpose

The School of Modern Languages is a national leader in the study of cultures, languages, linguistics, and media. Our faculty are consistently recognized for their impactful and interdisciplinary research, artistic creation, innovations in curriculum development, expertise in study abroad, and close collaboration with industry professionals. As scholars and educators, we are proud of our established strengths in equipping the next generation of global leaders with the essential knowledge, skills, and professional opportunities necessary to foster meaningful communicative and cultural interactions. Our cross-disciplinary partnerships enable the exchange of diverse perspectives. We support the pursuit of purposeful and innovative scholarship, education, and careers that generate lasting and positive social change.

#### We Champion

- Interdisciplinary and innovative research and education in cross-cultural humanities and language studies
- The exchange of diverse perspectives and impactful collaborations and partnerships
- Global competence and inclusivity
- Curiosity about the world and its caretaking
- Transformative experiences and lifelong professional growth

#### We Support and Adhere to Georgia Tech's Core Values:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Community
- Accountability
- Adaptability

#### How to Support Us

We invite each of you to engage more deeply with the College, to understand current goals and priorities needs. Whether through philanthropic gifts or gifts of time and talent, your support is vital to our ability to sustain the leading edge and realize the promises of

- Our remarkably talented students
- Our faculty, whose research has commanding presence in their field and defines the future horizons
- Our vision of academic excellence, innovation and entrepreneurship

Please contact Keatley Scroggins, Director of Development for Ivan Allen College, to explore opportunities for student support and mentoring, faculty support and program enrichment.

