

**IUP DEPARTMENT OF  
FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**ISSUE 13**

**THE POLYGLOT**

**FALL 2017**

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**The Fall 2017 Polyglot Team**

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

**Three Foreign Languages Students Received Scholarships from U.S. Department of State**

Two of our Spanish majors, Alexandra Roach and Ryan Caldwell, have received Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships from the U.S. Department of State. They will use these awards (around \$3500 each) to help with their study abroad expenses for the Valladolid program in Spring 2018.



*Alexandra Roach & Ryan Caldwell*

In addition, IUP had a third awardee, Joseph Gallo, an Asian Studies major. Joseph will be studying Japanese in Japan next year.

Each awardee is one of nearly 1,000 American undergraduate students from 386 colleges and universities across the United States selected to receive the prestigious [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship](#) to study or intern abroad during the 2017-2018 academic year.

The Gilman Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE). Gilman Scholars receive up to \$5,000 to apply towards their study abroad or internship program costs with additional funding available for the study of a critical language overseas. The late Congressman Gilman, for whom the scholarship is named, served in the House of Representatives for 30 years and chaired the House Foreign Relations Committee. When honored with the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Medal in 2002, he commented, "Living and learning in a vastly different environment of another nation not only exposes our students to alternate views, but adds an enriching social and cultural experience. It also provides our students with the opportunity to return home with a deeper understanding of their place in the world, encouraging them to be a contributor, rather than a spectator in the international community."

Congratulations to all three awardees and also to Dr. Lydia Rodriguez, Director of the Valladolid program at IUP!

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## **Spanish Education 100 Percent Job Placement Continues**

Graduates of our Spanish Education K-12 Program from May 2017 both accepted teaching positions.

Elizabeth (Liz) Keller accepted a teaching position in the Union School District in Clarion County, PA.

Danielle Kieser accepted a position in Harford County Public Schools, Maryland.



*Danielle Kieser (left) and Elizabeth Keller (right)*



Congratulations to our Spanish Education Program for keeping the 100 percent job placement record!

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## News from Our Alumni

**Mr. Jesse Carnevali**, a 2013 IUP graduate of the Spanish Education K-12 Program, is Head of the World Language Department in the Franklin Regional School District in Murrysville, PA, a position he has held for two years. Jesse recently announced that the administration at Franklin Regional has approved and paid for the entire World Language Department to receive training and become certified in the Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (MOPI). This is evidence that both the administration and the School Board place an emphasis on and see the benefits of a proficiency-based program. During the previous school year, the department submitted a new proficiency-based curriculum to the board that was approved. This new curriculum is currently being implemented this year, and faculty are excited to have the opportunity to use the MOPI in assessing the benchmarks put in place within our new curriculum.



“I personally would like to thank my professors and IUP’s Spanish Education program for preparing me to achieve these accomplishments in my early career. With my training and experience that I received from IUP, our language department at Franklin Regional created a brand new curriculum from scratch over the course of three school years. At the same time, we have been able to convince our administration that students who study a foreign language should acquire a certain level of proficiency upon exiting the program. This has been a challenging process, but one that has been facilitated by my education. Thank you!”

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## News from Our Alumni

**Alexis Gates**, 2012 Spanish BA, became certified to be a bilingual medical interpreter. After she graduated, she started her own business called The BOB-B-Q Truck along with her father. They sold barbecue sliders from a food truck. However, her passion for Spanish took her to Peru where she lived and visited the country for months. She came back to the United States to pursue a certification in bilingual medical interpretation in Spanish which she concluded this Fall.



*Left: Alexis in Moray Ruins, Peru,  
May 2017.*



Congratulations, Alexis!

  
**You ROCK!**

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## **News from Our Students**

### **A Note from Jay Clinton: My Austrian Experience**

“It is wild where art might take you. If you would have asked me four years ago during my senior year of high school if I thought I would get to spend a summer in Europe, I would have told you I had no business there. Thankfully, things (and people) change and during the summer of 2017 I got to spend seven weeks in Germany and Austria with the American Institute of Musical Studies.”

“My name is Jay Clinton and I am a senior Vocal Performance major getting ready to graduate this year. I am also hoping to leave here with a Certificate in German and a Theater Minor. I have been in a few productions during my time at IUP such as: *The Magic Flute*, *The Tender Land*, and most recently *Lizzie Borden*. I have also sung with the University Chorale for four years, and intend to accompany them this year to Prague as they participate in Perform International’s Acapella Abroad.”

“As part of the Vocal Performance program, I had to take at least two semesters of a language. After some thought, the obvious language choice for me was German. Many of the professors in the Voice Area speak varying levels of German, and at the time, I was singing a lot of German music so the transition to speaking was very easy. I have taken German 101, 102, 201, and this semester I am taking German 220, which is a conversation class. These courses prepared me very well for the “real” German-speaking world.”

“Studying a language and using it practically to speak with native speakers could not be more different. The low-stake feeling of being in class and only using words or phrases you are learning as part of a lesson plan cannot be reproduced in a real target language interaction. Fortunately, thanks to the preparation of the German Faculty at IUP, I was able to develop a confidence in my German speaking and the fear that I would say something wrong lessened. I certainly did not speak perfectly, but I was able to communicate.”



*Jay with German soprano Gabriele Lechner*

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## News from Our Students

### A Note from Jay Clinton: My Austrian Experience (Continued)

“As part of the program that brought me to Austria, I had to take a German class. Knowing at this point I had already taken three semesters of German here, I decided to take the fourth level German class. As I soon found out, the fourth level German class was designed to increase the fluency of a person already fairly well versed in the German language. That person was not me. Though with a lot of practice and a little bit of fear-inspired studying, I was able to hold my own fairly well in the class.”



*A view of the “Altstadt” of Graz in Austria from the “Schlossbergbahn”*

“The intersection of music and language is where I found myself over the summer, and being in that sort of environment allowed me to thrive as a musician and as a language learner. With the support of the German faculty here at IUP and the Department of Music, that love continues daily.”



*The stage of the Vienna Opera House with the iron curtain down for the off-season repairs and updates*



*The only remaining part of the castle that sat on top of the Schlossberg Mountain from the flower garden*

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## News from IUP Chinese Language Students Studying in China

**Rebecca Deremer**, an Asian Studies major with a focus on China, is studying Chinese at Nanjing University, China, together with another IUP student, Daniel Wethli, in the 2017 fall semester. During their spare time, they traveled to other places in China. In addition to making new friends in China, they were also able to reunite with some old IUP friends in Nanjing, such as Robert Werder, a 2014 IUP graduate, who is teaching English there, and Jiawen Zhang, an IUP student from China whose hometown is close to Nanjing!



Rebecca on the Great Wall, Beijing

Rebecca wrote in a note from Nanjing that she would like to share: *"Living in China for four months was such a phenomenal learning experience, just as much culturally as it was linguistically. Within four months, my language skills greatly improved, and I gained a new understanding and new respect for Chinese culture. I've learned that though a culture may be different from one's own, there are still many positive ideas and ways of thinking to be learned. The one thing I wanted to do while in China was to visit the Great Wall, and while the journey on the wall was no easy task, the views and the experience were simply breath-taking. I'm so proud to say these are memories that I will have for the rest of my life ."*



Daniel (first from right) and Rebecca (second from right) with Robert and his Chinese wife in Nanjing



Rebecca with Jiawen in Nanjing

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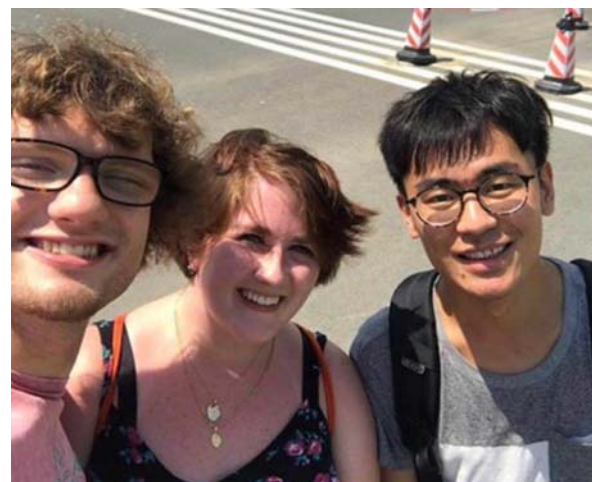
## News from IUP Chinese Language Students Studying in China



**Daniel Wethli**, an IUP junior with double majors in Philosophy and Asian Studies with a focus on China, is studying Chinese at Nanjing University, China, together with another IUP student, Rebecca Deremer, in the fall semester of 2017. Daniel also studied at Sichuan University, China, in the summer of 2016. He served as the President of the Chinese Language and Culture Club during the 2016-17 academic year, and was a recipient of the study abroad scholarship from Asian Studies (\$1,000).

Left: Daniel at the Great Wall

Daniel wrote a note below from Nanjing



Daniel (left) and Rebecca (middle) in Nanjing, China

*“This semester in China has truly been amazing, it’s been the experience of a lifetime and I’m so grateful for making this decision. I have learned how to interact using another language and develop a life in China. It isn’t always easy, the food is different and my habits changed but I have still been able to adapt. I also have met some great Chinese friends. It’s amazing to see the perspectives from the people in China compared to the United States. People here are different in so many interesting ways and learning from and adapting to this culture has helped me grow as a person. In addition to growing as a person from the influence of culture and friendships I also have noticed the way language affects the brain. There are some days that I talk in Chinese for hours with friends and then in addition have to complete various homework assignments for my Chinese classes. I have noticed that after the long hours studying and talking in Chinese when I switch to English I sometimes accidentally write English sentences with Chinese grammar patterns. This is very interesting to me and has made me even more fascinated with the language. I can’t wait to return to China after I graduate from IUP.”*



Daniel (with blue quilt) in Inner Mongolia, China



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## Chinese Language and Culture Club

The Chinese Language and Culture Club continued to be very active in the fall semester. The Club participated in the Passport program organized by Wallwork Residence Hall on August 30, the Foreign Languages Programs and Activities Fair organized by the Department of Foreign Languages on September 13, and the Crimson Blast organized by the Center for Multicultural Student Leadership and Engagement on September 22.



*Above: Picture taken at the Crimson Blast event (left to right): Dr. Shijuan Liu (club advisor), Jeanie Showers (Club Co-President), and Yanyi Jiao (club member)*



*Picture taken at the Passport event (left to right): three Club officers Linus Morales, Amber Pavucsko, Jeanie Showers; Dr. Shijuan Liu, Anthony Nguyen (Wallwork assistant director), Zack Neil (Wallwork Residence Director)*

In addition, the Club co-organized the East Asia Night with the Asian Studies Club, the Japanese Students Association, and Korean Students Association on November 14. The Club also co-organized and/or participated in a number of other events with the Club advisor and the Chinese program professor, Dr. Shijuan “Laurel” Liu (see more reports on pages 13, 14 and 20 ).



*Left: Picture taken at the East Asian Night. Two club officers: Amber and Jeannie with two event participants (Dr. Ryan-Sams and her son)*

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## Student Organizations German Club

The IUP German Club hosted a number of events in the Fall 2017 semester. These events included:

- October 4, 2017: *Oktoberfest* Night cultural information
- October 11, 2017: German Food Night [food samples and presentation]
- October 18, 2017: German Music Night
- October 25, 2017: German Movie Night (5:30-7:30 p.m.)
- November 1, 2017: German Trivia Night
- November 8, 2017: German Games Night
- November 15, 2017: *Why German is for you*-Night
- November 29, 2017: German “Top Ten” Night
- December 4, 2017: Advent/Christmas Night
- 

The following students served as officers of the German Club:

President: Kathryn (Kate) Seale

Vice President: Michaela Caldwell

Secretary: Rachel Foor

Advisor and Treasurer: Dr. Heide Witthöft

Co-Advisor: Dr. Joachim Noob

Dr. Noob also hosted the *Stammtisch*, the German language table at IUP, which met every week during the academic year.

Pictured from left to right at the German Club Food Night are:

Front row: *Magdalena Cassidy, Maria Cassidy, Michaela Caldwell, Alex Edmundson, Lillian Rauss and Kate Seal.* Back row: *Dr. Heide Witthöft, Rachel Foor, and Ariel Shultz.*



*Above: Dr. Noob gave a presentation on German food for the German Food Night.*



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## Meet New Faculty

Professor Giseung Lee joined the Department in the fall semester of 2017 as a full-time faculty member to teach Japanese and Korean courses.

Giseung Lee received his M.A. in Japanese and Korean Language Pedagogy from Portland State University.



His research interests include Language Pedagogy, Language Assessment, and East Asian Studies. One of his primary research focuses is in finding correlations of passive patterns between Japanese and Korean languages. His current research project is on how to effectively implement assessments of second language learners' proficiency using ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) standards. He is an active member of ACTFL and a certified OPI tester.

Giseung Lee has lived in both Korea and Japan and his love of these cultures as well as America led him to study and teach both languages here.

Professor Lee has been active during his first semester at IUP. In addition to teaching, he was involved in student activities, including performing together with students at the East Asia Night (*see picture to the right*).

We are so glad to have him in the Department!



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## Foreign Languages Program and Activities Fair

On September 13, the Department of Foreign Languages hosted its Foreign Languages Program and Activities Fair. The event, led by Dr. Laura Delbrugge (Dept. Chairperson) and Heide Witthöft, was very well received. Participants learned about study-abroad options, different language clubs, and first-hand accounts about travel abroad experiences from student presenters.



*Dr. Christina Huhn and Dr. Dawn Smith-Sherwood at the desks for study-abroad opportunities*



*Drs. Jean-Louis Dassier (left) and Charles McCreary (middle) at the desk for French and Professor Giseung Lee at the desk for Japanese and Korean*



*Above: Dr. Joachim Noob at the desk for German*

*Bellow: Jeanie Showers at the desk for Chinese*



*Above: Cole Scisciani & Dr. Lydia Rodríguez at the desk for Valladolid*



*Above: Samantha Jobe and another student for the Spanish club*



*Student presenters on their study abroad experience (from left to right): Rachel Collette, Jessica List, Dylan Reinhart (for Valladolid, Spain), Linus Morales (for China), Jay Clinton (for Austria), and a student (for France)*



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## Chinese Program Works with Wallwork Living Learning Community

On October 1, the National Day of China, Dr. Shijuan Liu organized an event on the third floor of Wallwork Residence Hall together with Wallwork Global Awareness Living Learning Community and the Chinese Language and Culture Club. At the event, Dr. Shijuan Liu introduced typical celebration activities for major traditional and modern holidays celebrated in China, and facilitated discussions among participants including club members, students of Chinese language courses, residents of Wallwork, and local community members. Participants also received hands-on experience playing two Chinese board games (Chinese chess and Majiang) as well as had a taste of Chinese moon cakes with fruits, drinks and other snacks.

Four pictures at the Oct. 1 event



In addition, every Sunday 6:00-7:30 pm this fall semester, Chinese language students and international students from China living in Wallwork got together to practice Chinese and discuss China related topics, facilitated by Linus Morales (*sitting on the sofa in the picture above*), who is a Community Assistant of Wallwork and an advanced Chinese language student as well as the Co-President of the Club.

Dr. Shijuan Liu, as a faculty liaison of the Wallwork Living Learning Community, has organized a number of events in Wallwork since 2012. She was interviewed by the US News, and cited in the report published on October 18: <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-global-universities/articles/2017-10-18/consider-living-learning-communities-as-a-prospective-international-student>

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## **Celebration of Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival**

On October 4, Dr. Shijuan Liu organized the Celebration of Chinese Mid-autumn Festival (also known as Moon Festival) together with students from the Chinese Program and the Chinese Language and Culture Club in the HSS building lobby. Participants learned customs and stories related to this festival as well as other traditional and modern holidays celebrated in China from student organizers, the display boards, and videos. Participants also had opportunities to taste authentic Chinese moon cakes and candies.

*Below: Dr. Shijuan Liu (Right) with Dr. Theresa McDevitt at the event*



*Right: Charles McCreary at the event*

*Below: Dr. Sean McDaniel at the event*



*Below: Desks for display boards and related video shows*



*Right: Many other faculty members and students stopped by.*



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## Hispanic Honor Society Sigma Delta Pi

On November 3, five new members were inducted into the Hispanic Honor Society *Sigma Delta Pi*. Dr. Christina Huhn was the guest speaker and gave a very engaging lecture about her travels in Mexico titled “El México que conozco.”



Left to right: Rachel Collette, Janet Juárez, Dr. Vicente Gomis-Izquierdo (academic advisor), Ryan Caldwell, Dr. Christina Huhn (guest speaker), Natalie Morano, and Samantha Jobe

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## **The Foreign Language Honor Society**

The Foreign Language Honor Society *Phi Sigma Iota* received its charter from the central office.



Dr. Vicente Gomis-Izquierdo, academic advisor of *Phi Sigma Iota*, poses with the charter diploma.



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## **The Hispanic Heritage Council**

The Hispanic Heritage Council (chaired by Dr. Marjorie Zambrano-Paff) organized its fall 2017 Movie Forum on October 11 to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month.

The movie screened was “Even the Rain,” which was followed by a Q&A led by Dr. Vicente Gomis-Izquierdo.

The event was very well-received, with over 120 attendees, including students and faculty.

*Picture: promotional poster for the event.*



ALGUNOS QUIEREN CAMBIAR EL MUNDO...  
POCOS QUIEREN CAMBIARSE A SÍ MISMOS.

LUIS TOSAR GAEL GARCÍA BERNAL

**TAMBIÉN LA LLUVIA**

DIRECCION POR ICIAR BOLLAIN ESCENAS POR PAUL LAVERTY

**HISPANIC HERITAGE COUNCIL  
PRESENTS THE FALL 2017 MOVIE FORUM  
TO COMMEMORATE HISPANIC HERITAGE  
MONTH**

SNACKS AND  
ATTENDANCE  
VOUCHERS WILL BE  
PROVIDED!

WEDNESDAY,  
OCTOBER 11TH  
PROMPTLY @ 6:00 PM  
IN HSS B11

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## Faculty Achievement and Scholarly Activities

**Dr. Laura Delbrugge** was selected as one of twenty-seven participants nationwide for the 2017-2018 American Association of State Colleges and Universities' (AASCU) Emerging Leaders Program. The Emerging Leaders Program was created for mid-career professional staff and faculty who have an interest in and talent for higher education leadership and who want to advance their careers in administration. Participants in the program are sponsored by their home institutions, but are selected by the AASCU. Participation in the ELP includes a four-day intensive training workshop, a year-long professional development project, and the assignment of an AASCU mentor.

Dr. Delbrugge gave two presentations in the Spring of 2017. One was "The *Gamaliel*'s Progression from Devotional Manuscript to Banned Incunable: A Case Study of the Confluence of Spanish Printing, Popular Devotional Practices, and Inquisitorial Prohibition in the Sixteenth Century." Invited Guest Speaker, Magdalen Iberian Medieval Studies Seminar, Magdalen College, Oxford University, England, March 17th, 2017. The other was "From Popular Devotional to Banned Book: The Intersection of Faith and Fear in the Inquisitorial Prohibition of the Sixteenth-Century Devotional, *Gamaliel*." Instituto Cultura y Sociedad, Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain, March 28th, 2017 .

**Dr. Eileen Glisan** presented a webinar on high-leverage teaching practices in July 2017. She was invited to conduct the webinar by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Teacher Development Special Interest Group for an audience of some 100 language educators. In July she also presented a keynote speech at the University of California, Santa Barbara, the topic of which was "Enacting Core Practices to Maximize Learner Performance." The talk kicked off the 28th annual Summer Seminar for Language Teachers as part of the California World Language Project, and some 175 teachers attended. In October 2017, Dr. Glisan co-presented a full-day workshop at The Pennsylvania State University on the topic, "Enacting the Work of Foreign Language Teaching: High-Leverage Practices." Additionally she co-presented a full-day pre-conference workshop at the annual ACTFL Convention held in Nashville, TN, in November; the topic of the workshop was "Supporting Language Professionals to Implement Core Practices."

**Dr. Vicente Gomis-Izquierdo** published an article titled "*Riverita* (1886) de Armando Palacio Valdés o la máquina parada del progreso español" in the journal *Hispanófila* about the connection between broken machines and the lack of progress in Spain in the XIX Century.

**Dr. Shijuan "Laurel" Liu** gave a presentation titled "Use Chinese Classical Poems in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign or Heritage Language" at the 2017 Autumn Symposium of Chinese Language Teachers Association of Western Pennsylvania (CLTA-WPA) held at Carnegie Mellon University on October 15. In addition, she gave an invited keynote speech at the 3rd Online Chinese Teaching Forum and Workshop organized by the Confucius Institute of Michigan State University on October 27. The title of her speech was "Teaching and Learning Chinese Characters (Hanzi) in the Era of Smart Technology: Resources, Tools, and Pedagogy."

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## **Department Presence at IUP's Expo**

Three faculty members of the Department: Drs. Laura Delbrugge, Joachim Noob, and Heide Witthöft, worked at IUP's Academic Expos on October 21 and November 11. They spoke with over sixty prospective students interested in language study in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish.



*Above: Drs. Joachim Noob, Laura Delbrugge (middle), and Heide Witthöft*

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## **Chinese Program Participation in the Chinese Culture Show at Indiana Mall**

On December 2, Dr. Shijuan Liu (*front row, fourth from right*) took some Chinese language students and a few members of the Chinese Language and Culture Club to participate in the first Chinese Culture Show at Indiana Mall. Students performed Chinese dragon dance together with local Chinese community members. Two students, Linus Morales (*front row, first from right*) and Jiawen Zhang (*front row, second from right*) hosted the event. Dr. Pablo Mendoza (*front row, fifth from right*), IUP's Assistant to the President for Social Equity, performed Chinese Tai Chi (Taiji) boxing and sword.



There were 20 performances in the show, including traditional and modern dance, Chinese dress show, singing, and Chinese Kungfu, in addition to the festive lion and dragon dances. Most of the performers came from Pittsburgh. Dr. Shenggao Han (*front row, first from left*), a local medical doctor, was the leading organizer. Dr. Feng Zhou (*back row, first from left*), a professor from the IUP's Physics Department was instrumental in this event. The event was a huge success, as reported by the local newspaper and radio station. Performers of the event have received invitation to come back to perform in the Indiana Mall again in 2018!

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## Thank You and Happy Holidays!

The Polyglot team would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue. We are looking forward to receiving news items from our alumni, students, and faculty for future issues. The news items can be submitted via email to [Polyglot.iup@gmail.com](mailto:Polyglot.iup@gmail.com).

감사합니다 Natick  
Danke Ευχαριστίες Dalu  
Grazie Thank You Köszönöm  
Спасибо Dank Gracias  
谢谢 Merci Seé  
ありがとう Obrigado



Left to right: Drs. Joachim Noob, Shijuan "Laurel" Liu,  
Vicente Gomis-Izquierdo

As we say goodbye to another successful year full of events and various achievements, we wish everyone a restful winter break and a wonderful New Year in 2018!

*Frohe Feiertage*

*Felices fiestas*

*Joyeuses fêtes*

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

节日快乐

楽しいホリデーシーズンを

해피 할리데이즈

The Fall 2017 Polyglot Team

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