

Comings and Goings

FACULTY INTRODUCTIONS



Jeff Peterson (Asian & Near Eastern Languages) earned his PhD at Purdue University in applied linguistics/foreign language acquisition. He has taught Japanese courses across the entire spectrum and was the recipient of the 2022 Hamako Ito Chaplin Memorial Award for Excellence in Japanese Language Teaching. He specializes in Japanese language pedagogy and linguistics and is especially interested in extensive reading.



Jonathan B. Allred (English) earned a PhD in English education from the University of Arkansas, an MA in curriculum and instruction at Weber State, and a BA in English teaching at BYU. His research centers on English education, digital literacies, and dialogic pedagogy in secondary English language arts classrooms.



Matthew Wilcox (Center for Language Studies) joins the Center for Language Studies as an assistant professor of measurement and evaluation. He holds a PhD in educational inquiry, measurement, and evaluation from BYU. He is interested in assessment design and validation, and his research focuses on using experimental and statistical methods to examine language assessments.



Tyler D. Gardner (English) holds a PhD in English from the University of Notre Dame, where he was a Mellon Fellow in Religion. He received his MA at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and graduated from BYU with a BA in English. Along the way, he worked in writing center administration at California Polytechnic State University and now as the Writing Center manager in the BYU Research & Writing Center.



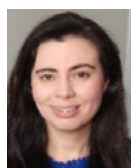
Erik Yingling (Comparative Arts & Letters) is trained in the history of art (Stanford, PhD), religion (Yale Divinity, MAR), and the ancient Near East (BYU, BA). His current research explores the art and imagination of mythical metamorphosis in Greco-Roman and Egyptian antiquity. In 2020 he curated an exhibition titled *Aura: Art and Authenticity* for Stanford's Cantor Arts Center.



Taylor-Grey Miller (Philosophy) earned a PhD and MA from the University of Texas at Austin and a BA in philosophy from BYU. He focuses mainly on issues in metaphysics—in particular, how to understand various kinds of explanation. He also is interested in the philosophy of religion and philosophical theology. He is also the cofounder (along with James Faulconer and Katharina Paxman) of the Latter-day Saint Philosophical Theology Project.



Kenneth Hartvigsen (Comparative Arts & Letters) holds a PhD in art history from Boston University, where he studied American art and visual culture. His research interests include 19th- and 20th-century painting, popular illustration, and the visual cultures of popular music. He has organized art exhibitions at the BYU Museum of Art, maintains his own art studio, and has taught art history at Boston University.



Desirée de Almeida Oliveira (Spanish & Portuguese) earned a PhD in applied linguistics from Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, an MA in Portuguese from BYU, and BAs from Universidade Federal de Viçosa and Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora. Her research interests include teacher education, text genres, motivation, language policy, and beliefs and narratives about language teaching and learning.



Laura Hatch (Comparative Arts & Letters) received her PhD in comparative literature at the University of California, Irvine. Her research focuses on trust, uncertainty, and decision-making in medieval and Renaissance literature and culture. Her current projects explore how trust, uncertainty, and literary form converged in medieval and Renaissance approaches to narrating the experience of indeterminacy.



Jordan B. Jones (Spanish & Portuguese) earned his PhD in Portuguese and Brazilian studies at Brown University, with a dissertation analyzing empathy and human rights in literature of the Americas. Jordan holds degrees in Luso-Brazilian literatures (BYU, MA), secondary English education (Johns Hopkins, MS), Portuguese and Brazilian studies (Brown, MA), and Hispanic studies (Brown, MA). He completed his BAs in English and Portuguese at BYU.



Luke Drake (Comparative Arts & Letters) received his PhD in religious studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a master of theological studies in the New Testament and early Christianity from Harvard Divinity School, and a BA in English from BYU. His training is in ancient Mediterranean religions (early Christianity, early Judaism, Greek and Roman religions).



Tomás Hidalgo Nava (Spanish & Portuguese) holds a PhD in Hispanic literature from the Pennsylvania State University (2015), an MA in comparative literature from BYU, and a BA in journalism and mass communication from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (2001). He is interested in studying the literary and audiovisual arts as vehicles of awareness and criticism of the functions of violence in Latin American and Mexican societies.

RETIREMENTS AND DEPARTURES



Alan Manning (Linguistics) taught English, editing, and linguistics at BYU beginning in 1994. He also taught at Louisiana State University, Stephen F. Austin State University, and Idaho State University. His research primarily deals with information design, editing, and semiotic analysis, and he served as the longtime editor of science fiction publication *Leading Edge*.



Blair Bateman (Spanish & Portuguese) joined the Department of Spanish & Portuguese in 2002 and taught an array of courses in both languages. He served as associate chair of the department and in many other roles, including president of the Utah Foreign Language Association. His research focuses on pedagogy, and he developed curricula for a number of courses in the department.



Devin Asay (Office of Digital Humanities) came to BYU in 1992 in the Humanities Research Center, the predecessor of the Office of Digital Humanities (ODH). He served as the director of ODH from 2016 to 2021. He was involved in building custom educational software tools for faculty and helping with other technological initiatives over the years. He enjoyed teaching technology topics to students who had never tried or believed they could program.



James E. Faulconer (Philosophy) joined the BYU Department of Philosophy in 1975. During his time at BYU, he was named Richard L. Evans Professor of Religious Understanding. He also served as dean of undergraduate education and chair of the Philosophy Department and was a fellow at both the Wheatley Institution and the Maxwell Institute. His research focuses on contemporary European philosophy.



James Toronto (Asian & Near Eastern Languages) joined the faculty of Comparative Religion in 1992 before moving to the Department of Asian & Near Eastern Languages in 2000. He served as assistant director of BYU's David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, director of BYU's Center for Cultural and Educational Affairs in Amman, Jordan, and coordinator of BYU's Middle East studies/Arabic program.



Martha Peacock (Comparative Arts & Letters) taught art history for 34 years at BYU, where she also served as director of the European studies program at the Kennedy Center. She contributed to and edited two BYU exhibition catalogs on the prints of Rembrandt and his circle and cocurated the 2013 BYU Museum of Art exhibit *Rembrandt's Amsterdam*. She received a number of awards and fellowships from BYU over the course of her career.

Photos by individual faculty members

IN MEMORIAM



James Karl Lyon (German & Russian) died in July 2022, aged 88. Jamie graduated from Harvard with a PhD in German languages and literature in 1963. He was adept at working undercover gathering intelligence from espionage sources behind the iron curtain. Jamie taught at Harvard University, the University of Florida, and was the founding provost of Eleanor Roosevelt College at the University of California San Diego. After retiring from UCSD, he taught at BYU for 14 years.



Gary Shelton Williams (Asian & Near Eastern Languages) passed away in November 2021 at age 85. He was one of the first postwar missionaries in the Far East, where he fell in love with the Chinese language and culture. During the course of his career he served as department chair, mission president, and inspiring teacher. After completing his PhD at the University of Washington, he was instrumental in founding the Asian Studies Department (now Asian & Near Eastern Languages) at Brigham Young University.



Todd Adam Britsch (Comparative Arts & Letters) died of cancer in April 2022 at age 84. Todd joined BYU as a faculty member in the College of Humanities in 1966 and spent the next 36 years as a full-time professor. Todd's scholarly interests ranged widely, increasingly focusing on 18th-century aesthetics and Rococo church architecture. Todd served BYU in a number of capacities, including as dean of the College of Humanities and academic vice president under President Rex Lee. The College of Humanities awards the Britsch Professorship in his honor, awarded to those whose service to the department, College, or university represents "university thinking."

Lyon and Britsch photos by BYU Photo;
Williams photo courtesy, Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University

Read about other retiring professors: John Tanner on page 14, Debbie Harrison on page 16, and John Rosenberg on page 18.