

Faculty Introductions



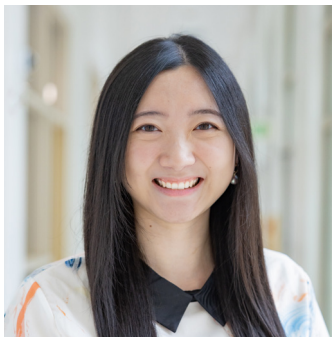
ALLY BRAITHWAITE CONDIE (*English*) graduated with a BA in English teaching and MFA in creative writing from BYU. She is the author of the no. 1 *New York Times* and internationally best-selling *Matched* trilogy, the *USA Today* bestseller and Reese's Book Club Pick Novel *The Unwedding*, the Edgar Award Finalist novel *Summerlost*, and many other nationally published works across multiple genres.



BRIAN FELT (*German & Russian*) earned a BA in European studies and Russian from BYU and his MA and PhD in Slavic linguistics from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His professional work has centered on developing and teaching courses in Russian language and culture. He has also developed and taught courses for the International Studies program at BYU-Idaho.



EVE OKURA KOLLER (*Linguistics*) graduated with a BA in anthropology and archaeology, an MA in linguistics, and a graduate certificate in museum studies at BYU. She earned her PhD in linguistics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She coedited the *Open Handbook of Linguistic Data Management*, which was published with MIT Press, and also published on the endangerment of language isolates.



VASHTI WAI YU LEE (*Linguistics*) received her BA in linguistics from BYU, an MA in applied linguistics at Georgetown University, and a PhD in second language studies at Michigan State University. She has taught Mandarin, Cantonese, and ESL to adult learners in a variety of contexts.



SETH MCCOMBIE (*Asian & Near Eastern Languages*) earned a BA in linguistics and Arabic from BYU and a PhD in second language acquisition from Carnegie Mellon University. His research involves the Arabic study abroad experience, focusing on the development of students' interactional competence and sociolinguistic awareness. He is interested in Arabic teacher ideologies and the relationship between teacher beliefs and pragmatics instruction.



MARK WOLFERSBERGER (*Linguistics*) received his BA in Japanese teaching and MA in TESOL from BYU. He earned a PhD in applied linguistics from the University of Auckland. At BYU-Hawaii, he taught academic English for international students and TESOL for 18 years. Before accepting his current role, he taught as a visiting professor in the Linguistics Department.

College Farewells



DANA BOURGERIE (*Asian & Near Eastern Languages*) was the department chair for Asian & Near Eastern Languages from 2015 to 2021 and was the director for the Chinese Flagship Center for 10 years. He also created and directed the Cambodian Oral History Project for nine years, which is now housed in the Kennedy Center.



NORMAN EVANS (*Linguistics*) spent 19 years teaching linguistics courses and 25 years serving as a professor of English language teaching at BYU–Hawaii. At BYU, he has spent the past 15 years helping to establish a program that allows missionaries called to Mongolia to serve in a meaningful and culturally appropriate way through English language teaching.



CHRIS CROWE (*English*) taught English education, creative writing, and YA literature courses. He was the recipient of the Karl G. Maeser Excellence in Research and Creative Arts Award, the Nan Osmond Grass Professorship, the Karl G. Maeser Excellence in Teaching Award, and the Karl G. Maeser Distinguished Lecturer Award—BYU’s highest faculty honor.

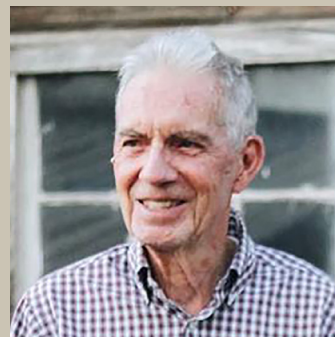
In Memoriam



GARY BROWNING (*German & Russian*) passed away in September 2024. In 1976, he accepted a teaching position in Russian studies at BYU. Throughout the years, he was the director of the Honors Program and chair for the German & Russian Department.



ROBERT SMEAD (*Spanish & Portuguese*), who retired in 2025, served as associate professor and taught a wide variety of Spanish linguistics courses. His research centered around Spanish mood (indicative and subjunctive), language contact and bilingualism, and Spanish in the US. He passed away in October 2025.



MELVIN DELOY PACK (*Asian & Near Eastern Languages*) passed away in December 2024. He earned his BS in chemistry from University of California, Los Angeles, pursued his MA in Old Testament studies from BYU, learned Hebrew at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and earned his PhD in Assyriology from the University of Vienna, Austria. After completing his education, he was appointed to teach Hebrew at BYU.



LOUISE PLUMMER (*English*) passed away in March 2025. She studied at BYU and the University of Utah and then finished her BA and MA in English with a creative writing emphasis at the University of Minnesota. Her master’s thesis-turned-manuscript won the Delacorte Press for a First Young Adult Novel Contest. She began teaching creative writing classes at BYU in 1985.