GRINNELL LECTURE: A CELEBRATION OF FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

2021 Honored Grinnell Lecturer

JIN FENG
Professor of Chinese and Japanese, Orville and Mary Patterson Routt Professor of Literature

The Grinnell Lecture recognizes a distinguished body of scholarly work, including artistic production and/or performance, that makes a significant contribution to one’s field or has a broad impact on the scholarly community.
Jin Feng is a highly accomplished scholar and teacher who has provided exemplary service to her field, her students, and to Grinnell College since her arrival in 2001.

Feng’s substantial body of scholarship explores cultural exchange between China and the West. She is the author of *The New Woman in Early Twentieth-Century Chinese Fiction* (Purdue, 2004), *The Making of a Family Saga* (SUNY, 2009), *Romancing the Internet* (Brill, 2013), and *Tasting Paradise on Earth* (University of Washington, 2019), in addition to other books and numerous articles in English and Chinese. Her latest book, *Chihuo zhi shu, (The Foodies’ Book)*, published in 2020, continues her scholarship on understanding the culture of China through its food. In her most recent project, Feng has begun to study the export of a uniquely American cultural product—the modern creative writing workshop—to China; this project has its roots in her study of Chinese writers’ participation in the International Writing Program of the University of Iowa.

As a teacher, Feng has offered outstanding courses in Chinese language, literature, history, and culture, including a recent Global Learning Tutorial on food, culture, and identity in China and Russia. She has supervised Mentored Advanced Projects on such diverse topics as Chinese economic reform, translation studies, Chinese-American foodways, and war memories. She is a true teacher-scholar whose research has both shaped and been shaped by her teaching and mentored research with students.

Feng has helped to sustain Grinnell College’s long-standing relationships with Nanjing University and Waseda University, including mentoring visiting faculty fellows. Her support of the East Asian Studies Concentration is vital to helping students broaden and strengthen their knowledge of the region.

Before joining the faculty at Grinnell, Feng served as a visiting assistant professor at Swarthmore College. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chinese from Fudan University, Shanghai, China, and Master of Arts in Comparative Literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Feng graduated from the University of Michigan with a Ph.D. in Asian Languages and Cultures as well as a Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies.

Feng’s peers nominated her to be honored at the seventh annual Grinnell Lecture on Thursday, February 4, 2021.
REFEREED ARTICLES
Published by faculty between Jan. 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2020


Harold Kasimow, “To Be Is to Stand For: Abraham Joshua Heschel’s Friendship with Maurice Friedman and Martin Luther King, Jr.” *Interreligious Insight*, 18(2), 2020.


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**AWARDS AND HONORS**

**2020**

**David Arseneault, Jr.**, coached the Grinnell Pioneers Men’s Basketball to an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III National Championships.

**J.M. Bacon** was awarded the 2020 Environmental Sociology Early Career Prize from *Environmental Sociology* for “Settler Colonialism as Eco-Social Structure and the Production of Colonial Ecological Violence,” *Environmental Sociology,* 5(1):59-69.

**Vance Byrd** was nominated for election to the Modern Language Association (MLA) Executive Council, and appointed Program Chair for the German Studies Association Conference, 2020–21, and appointed to serve on the Modern Language Association Executive Committee of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADFL) (2020–2023).

**Brian Jaworski** earned a Distinguished Pass from the United Soccer Coaches, the largest soccer coaches’ organization in the world, for completing the Advanced National Diploma.

**Celeste Miller** was nominated for the United States Artists Fellowship in 2020.


**Hai-Dang Phan**’s translation of *Paper Bells* by Phan Nhiên Hạo was placed on the longlist for the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation.

**Sharon Quinsaat** received a 2020 Research Paper Award from the Section on Asia/Asian America of the American Sociological Association for her paper “Linkages and Strategies in Filipino Diaspora Mobilization for Regime Change.”

**Sharon Quinsaat** received a 2020 Honorable Mention for the Best Article Award from the Filipino Studies Section of the Association for Asian American Studies for her article “Linkages and Strategies in Filipino Diaspora Mobilization for Regime Change.”

An article by **Paul Tjossem, William Case,** and Rachel M. Bass ’19 (“The Candle Seesaw,” *American Journal of Physics,* 87(370), 2019) was named one of the top 20 most read papers of the AJP in 2019.
BOOKS PUBLISHED

2020


CHAPTERS CONTRIBUTED TO PUBLISHED BOOKS

2020


CHAPTERS CONTRIBUTED TO PUBLISHED BOOKS

2020


CREATIVE WORKS

2020

Jennifer Brown, La Calisto, Francesco Cavalli (Jennifer Williams Brown edition, published 2007) was performed virtually at Princeton University, directed by Christopher Mattaliano and Michael Pratt.

Celeste Miller, Metaphoric Time in a Pandemic performed at the re-imagined arts festival, “Human: A Pretty Monstrous Experience,” a part of the Seven Stages Award from the National Endowment of the Arts “Big Read.”


Craig Quintero directed the performance of Body Experiment #1 at the Dream Factory Festival, Taiwan Traditional Theatre Center: Taipei, Taiwan.

Craig Quintero exhibition, To Martian Anthropologists, Banqiao Arts Center, Banqiao, Taiwan.

Craig Quintero exhibition, Subconscious Theatre, Yuanlin Arts Center, Yuanlin, Taiwan.

Craig Quintero exhibition, Taipei PHOTO, Chiang Kai-shek Memorial, Taipei, Taiwan.

Bill Rudolph published the following poems in 2020:
“Missing the Beloved,” DASH Literary Journal.
“Study in Grey,” The Ekphrastic Review, 3Elements Review.
“Say this is the year” and “The Scent of Soap,” Flint Hills Review.
“Finding Only Half a Worm,” Great Ape.
“As He Begins to Forget His Life,” Grub Street Literary Magazine.
“Herbie Playing Darby,” Midwest Review.

Ralph Savarese published the following poems in 2020:
CREATIVE WORKS

2020


Nicky Tavares, Searching for Beauty in Student Loan Debt or at Least the Envelopes in Which It Comes, was selected and screened by eight film festivals including: the Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival in Hawick, Scotland; Antimatter Media Art Festival in Victoria, BC, Canada; and the Chicago Underground Film Festival.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

2020

Charlie Curtsinger and his collaborator Daniel Barowy (Williams College) were awarded a research grant from the National Science Foundation for a collaborative project that will explore ways to improve the productivity of software development. Their project will develop a set of tools to automate certain low-level tasks in the software development process, allowing developers to focus on higher-level aspects of software development.

Nicole Eikmeier and her colleagues Matthew Junge (Baruch College) and Felicia Keesing (Bard College) were awarded a Rapid Response Research grant from the National Science Foundation. Their project, “Quarantined Networks and the Spread of COVID-19,” builds on mathematical models of COVID-19 spread developed at Imperial College London. These models were highly influential in both the U.S. and the U.K. response to limit the spread of coronavirus.

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest selected John Garrison and Kelly Maynard’s proposal, “The Politics of Performance,” for the fall 2021 ACM Newberry Library Seminar. Their seminar will engage students in the Newberry collections and the rich performance culture of Chicago to explore political texts and themes of plays, opera, and dance, as well as the settings and bodies that create performances.

Jennifer Dobe was selected to participate in the 2020 New Currents in Teaching Philosophy Institute sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges.

Keisuke Hasegawa was selected to participate in the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine’s Fostering Undergraduate Talent - Uniting Research and Education (FUTURE) in Biomedicine program.
GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

2020

Doug Hess and collaborators Margaret Cummins (Queens University), Emily Sydnor, (Southwestern University), and Adriano Udani (University of Missouri at St. Louis) received a special projects research grant from the American Political Science Association for their project, “The Components, Processes, and Implications of Conducting Civicly Engaged Research in Political Science.”


Leif Brottem briefed a U.S. Government Inter-Agency Working Group on pastoralism and conflict in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sharon Quinsaat was awarded a Summer Stipend fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to complete a book project entitled “The Active Diaspora: How Protest Forges Transnational Filipino Communities.” Her project investigates three distinct social movements, including collective memory of the authoritarian Marcos regime, which engendered the Filipino diaspora.

Jennifer Paulus received a Fulbright Science and Technology Award to teach and conduct research in Chile. In addition to working with Chilean mathematicians on the decomposition of Jacobian varieties, she will teach a course for doctoral candidates, provide outreach to high school students about the beauty and interest of mathematics, and give talks to general and disciplinary audiences.

Viktoria Pötzl received the Professional Development Award for Contingent Faculty from the Coalition of Women in German.


Vance Byrd, “Inclusive Teaching in a Global Context,” School of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, online.


PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

2020


Leif Brottem briefed a U.S. Government Inter-Agency Working Group on pastoralism and conflict in sub-Saharan Africa.

Eiren Shea received a grant from the Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Studies for her project, “The Mongol Legacy: Textile Exchange between East Asia and the Mediterranean World in the Fourteenths Century.” The grant will allow her to travel to examine textile collections in London and Berlin to study the far-reaching cultural impact of the Mongol empire in the Mediterranean region.
Presentations and Conference Papers

2020


Marc Chamberland, “When are a Polynomial’s Zeros all Real and Distinct?” Joint Mathematics Meetings, Denver, Colorado.


Katya Gibel Mevorach, “Challenges Teaching about the Intersecting Phenomenon of ‘Racism and Antisemitism’” Race And Antisemitism: Contemporary Global Perspectives, Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, School of Arts & Humanities, The University of Texas, Dallas, Texas, online.

Katya Gibel Mevorach, “Thinking, Talking and Teaching about Antisemitism (anti-Jews) and Racism (anti-Blacks) in an Era of Amnesia, Erasure, and Omissions,” Anti-Semitism and Racism, Comparative Approaches to Black and Jewish Studies in Britain and the U.S., University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom, online.

Katya Gibel Mevorach, Panelist, “The Festering Wound: Racism in the United States, Where Do We Go From Here?” The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, online.


Raquel Greene, “Preparing Undergraduates for Study Abroad: Lessons Learned,” discussant, Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, online.


Raquel Greene, “Histories of Race, Blackness, and Otherness in Russia,” panelist, Do Black Lives Matter in Russia? Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Realities, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, online.

Brian Jaworski, panelist, “The Coaching Code of Achievement,” a podcast of five 30-minute episodes produced for Boston University’s graduate course, “The Achievement Gap.”


Kent McClelland, “Control System Modeling with CODAP (Easy-to-Online Software),” Annual Meeting of the International Association for Perceptual Control Theory, online.

Celeste Miller, “Teaching Towards Diversity and Inclusion: An active pursuit,” Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin.

Celeste Miller, “The Art of Teaching Dance,” Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia.

Celeste Miller, “Artists Talk,” Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

Joseph Neisser, “Minimal autonoesis, episodic memory, déjà vu,” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, online.

Joseph Neisser, “Neurohumanities and Multidisciplinarity,” Institute for Liberal Arts, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.


Eric Ohrn, “Tax Breaks and Executive Compensation,” University of Munich, Munich, Germany, online.


Viktoria Pötzl, “Gendered Orientalism: Representations of Israel/Palestine in Jewish-Austrian Literature, Coalition of Women in German Conference, Sewanee, Georgia.


Sharon Quinsaat, “Contentious Migrants: Transnational Protests and the Making of the Filipino Diaspora,” University of the Philippines, Dilliman, Quezon City, Philippines.


Ralph Savarese, Writers@Grinnell Reading with Stephen Kuusisto, Prairie Lights, Iowa City, Iowa, online.
Ralph Savarese, “Moby-Dick, Faith, and Ecology,” Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, online.

Ralph Savarese, Poetry readings, Beltway Quarterly and the University of Northern Iowa, both online.

Ralph Savarese, reading with Jim O’Loughlin, Ice Cube Press, online.


Yuwei Pan ’20, Maxwell Tetrick ’19, Richard Li ’17, John U. Seng ’14, and Elizabeth Trimmer, “The Role of Ser26 in the Catalysis of E. coli MTHFR,” Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference, online.


Junmin Hua ’21, Tin Tran ’20, Jason Chien ’16, and Elizabeth Trimmer, “Kinetic Characterization of Mutant Methylene tetrahydrofolate Reductase Enzymes Leu277Ala and Leu277Ile,” Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference, online.

Hâle Utar, Wolfgang Keller, Simon Janssen, and Ehsan Vallizadeh, “Technology Hubs or Backwater?” Econometric Society World Congress, online.


