



# ***The IALLT Journal***

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## **URSULA WILLIAMS GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEE PAPERS**

Amanda Romjue  
*Appalachian State University*

During the August 2015 FLEAT VI conference in Boston, MA, six graduate students were honored with the Ursula Williams Graduate Student Conference Grant. This grant provided funds to these six students to support their conference attendance. The grant stands in honor of Ursula Williams, a beloved IALLT member who passed away from cancer during her appointment as President-Elect of IALLT. The biography of Ursula Williams provided to each honoree explains that, “since Ursula loved students and always felt she never stopped being a student, herself, it is appropriate that IALLT give a scholarship award to graduate students in her honor.” Honorees reported that IALLT members shared their memories of Ursula Williams during the conference. “The love evident in the voices of those who had known her solidified my belief that what they say is really true, IALLT is family,” one honoree stated.

The six honorees were Mark Arthur Abalos, Rebecca Berber-McNeill, Adrion Dula, Chase Krebs, Ju Seong (John) Lee, and Amanda Romjue. Mark Arthur Abalos is a Master’s student in English Studies at the University of the Philippines-Diliman and is also pursuing a graduate certificate in Language Technology from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Rebecca Berber-McNeill recently completed a Master’s degree in Spanish Linguistics-SLA/Applied Linguistics at Arizona State University. Adrion Dula is currently working on a PhD in Modern Languages-French at Wayne State University. Chase Krebs is currently working on a PhD in Hispanic Linguistics-Second Language and Teacher Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Ju Seong

*Romjue*

(John) Lee is working on a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction also at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Amanda Romjue is working on a PhD in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Each honoree gave a presentation at the conference. We feature two of these presentations in this issue, with more to come in future issues of the IALLT Journal. Titles and brief summaries of each presentation are featured here in alphabetical order by presenter. Mark Arthur Abalos, "Video blogging: Empowering Student Voices in the English Classroom," presented his research on the role that video blogs play, both in practice and assessment, in a classroom where oral communication is key. Rebecca Berber-McNeill, "How do I measure up? A Case Study of Beginning Online Language Teachers." discussed the implications for her research for training programs to improve the design and delivery of online language courses. Adrion Dula, "Pronunciation Teaching Using Automatic Speech Recognition," presented research exploring students' perceptions of how automatic speech recognition (ASR) might impact French pronunciation within a communicative and task-based approach to learning. Chase Krebs, "Teaching and learning the Smart way: The use of Smartphone technology to supplement foreign language instruction," introduced ways in which smartphones were being used in language learning and demonstrated various tools that might supplement instruction. Ju Seong (John) Lee, "Globalization and a New Model for Teaching Englishes via Videoconference: Connecting EFL Students with the World," connected his session with four scholars from Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, and the U.S. in order to demonstrate how tools like Skype can expand the EFL classroom to every corner of the world. Amanda Romjue, "Putting the pieces together: An instructional technology toolkit for facilitating lifelong language learning," discussed the research-based foundation for promoting self-regulated language learning and presented various tools to support this type of learning environment.

The honorees met virtually via social media after the conference to discuss ways they might collaborate on future projects. Several of these scholars hope to compile various overlapping research interests into a proposal for the 2017 IALLT conference to be held at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota next summer. "We are deeply honored to be associated with such a beloved member of the language learning community as was Ursula Williams and we hope to promote her legacy to future generations of graduate student members of IALLT," one honoree concluded.