

Laura Edwards, Ph.D.

Lcedwar1@gmail.com

Academic Preparation

Ph.D., Higher Education Administration, Illinois State University, August 2018
Foci: International Education, Second Language Acquisition and Critical Identities During Study Abroad,
Cultural Foundations of Education
Dissertation: *A Critical Interpretation of Study Abroad, Participant Identity, and Second Language Learning*

M.A., French Literature and Culture, Illinois State University, May 1994

B.A., French, Illinois State University, May 1991

Study Abroad Experiences as Student

Université de Poitiers, Poitiers, France (Fall semester 1993)
Université Catholique de l'Ouest, Angers, France (1989-1990)
Charlottenlund Ungdomsskole, Trondheim, Norway (1983-1984)

Professional Positions

Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

- Faculty Co-Director, ISU in Bologna Study Abroad Program, Bologna, Italy (May 2018 - present)
- Clinician, Supervisor of Student Teachers (January – May 2022)
- Director of Recruitment and Retention (Fall 2018-present)
- Academic Advisor (2005-present; 2004-2005, Interim)
- Instructional Assistant Professor of World Languages Teaching (Fall 2019-2022)
- Instructional Assistant Professor of French/Italian (Fall 2018-present)
- LAN Webmaster and NewsStory author (2014 - present)
- Director of LAN labs. Manage 10-15 grad student workers and scheduling, lab use statistics, technical problems, event sign-up, evolution of lab needs. (2010 - 2021)
- French Lecturer (1994 -1995; 1997-1999; Spring 2001; Fall 2002-Spring 2018)
- Italian Lecturer (2011-2018)
- Graduate Student Teaching Assistantship (1992-1994)

Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL. Adjunct French Instructor (2001-2002)

University Teaching

French: First-Year French, Part I & Pt. II; Second-Year French, Pt. I & Pt. II;
Advanced Grammar and Oral Proficiency; Independent Study: Written Communication in French
Italian: First-Year Italian, Part I & Pt. II.
Pedagogy: World Language Teaching in the K-12 Setting, Principals in World Language Learning
General: Career Development for Foreign Languages Majors;
Independent Studies: LAN Ambassador recruitment project, Written Communication in French; Challenges and subversions of heteronormativity in L2 learning, and un-gendering of Romance languages;
Comparative analysis of Italian and American food culture from a cultural and chemical perspective.

Professional Recognition

- *Illinois State University*: [Impact Award](#) recipient (2024)
- *Illinois State University*: Living Our Values Award for Individualized Attention (2023)
- Outstanding Administrative Professional Award, CAS. Illinois State. (2019)

Faculty Advisor for Pi Delta Phi – French Honor Society (2010-present)

- Attend French Consulate Midwest French Clubs Conference (March 2021)
- Edit and oversee multi-page newsletter each semester published by board members.
- Biweekly/weekly/twice-weekly French conversation hours for all FRE students
- Thematic events and presentations focusing on Francophone culture and social justice
- Took part in bilingual puppet shows at IWU's Saturday Language School
- Taught French to after-school program at Univ. of Illinois extension Unity Center
- Social encounters with Illinois State's Management Development International (MDI) training course participants from Francophone countries (2016-2017, 2019)
- Fundraised/raised awareness re: local Congolese population/One Heart for Congo
- Helped build Habitat for Humanity house for local Congolese Family (2013)
- Conduct initiation ceremony twice per year, hosted in my home. Provide dinner and post initiation festivities.

Faculty Advisor for La Tavola Italian Club (2021 - present)

- Oversee twice monthly exec board meetings, create monthly/semester schedule
- Lead/Attend Conversation Hours twice weekly
- Organize, oversee, and attend cultural events three times per semester.
- Organize Cineforum film series (once per month) each semester
- Edit and oversee multi-page newsletter each semester published by board members.
- Budget Officer for grants received through Dean of Students office

Faculty Advisor for Study Abroad Programs: Provide pre-departure orientation, course planning, emotional/academic support to students on-site, communication with directors on-site and ISU Study Abroad liaison, help with Visa application, airline ticket purchase, placement exam preparation, navigation upon arrival.

- Angers, France Study Abroad Program at CIDEF (2011-present)
- Grenoble, France Study Abroad Program (2015-present)
- Québec, Canada Abroad Program at Université Laval (2011-2014)

Recruitment and Retention and University Initiatives

Internationalize Your Voice: World Languages High School Visit. Planned, organized, and executed a day of learning about the value of language study at Illinois State. Hosted over 100 high school students and 6 teachers. The entailed mini language sessions in all seven languages offered at ISU, then attending an actual language class with current ISU students, then trivia game and lunch with current ISU students from a variety of majors who have added a minor or double major in a language. (March 2023 and again February 2024)

Guest speaker in Illinois high school Italian classrooms. Highlighted the professional and personal benefits of continuing Italian in high school and through college, minor requirements, extracurricular and study abroad opportunities (Spring 2021)

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) preparation session. Provided overview of structure and strategies for success on the OPI in order to increase retention of LAN teacher education majors. With Dr. Sue Hildebrandt and Dr. Jim Pancrazio September 6, 2019 and individually presented (September 2020, April 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022)

Internationalize Your Major recruitment sessions at 11+ Honors prospective students/Scholars Days. With Dr. Julie Lynd. (Spring 2019)

Recruitment and Retention and University Initiatives, continued

- Co-organized with Dr. Julie Lynd and Dr. Kathryn Jasper “Internationalize Your Major” panel and World Languages Spectacular Karaoke event, ISU. (February 25, 2019)
- Developed Languages, Literatures, and Cultures “Languages Ambassadors” program. Recruited three high-achieving LAN students, trained them to represent LAN at events, mentored them in their research projects in support of language learning. (2018-2019)
- Created Double Major Plans of Study. Work across departments and Colleges to create double major plans of study providing tangible evidence that students can do both and graduate within four years. (2018 – present)
- Internationalize Your Major. Met with Web to create IYM landing page on ISU Admissions website. (September 2018)
- Developed marketing signs, tablecloth, and giveaways for LAN publicity and recruitment. (August, 2018)
- LAN recruitment and retention presentation to ISU Admissions with Dr. Julie Lynd. (August 2018)
- Internationalize Your Major. Met with U-College and Registrar Staff to concretize plans of study on new online version (piloting for university’s shift to online catalog). (Summer 2018)
- Internationalize Your Major interdisciplinary initiative with Dr. Jim Pancrazio in LAN, HIS, COM, POL, and supported by OISP. Marketing materials created to encourage students to study abroad and add a minor in a second language. (Spring 2018)
- Along with Dr. Juliet Lynd, organization of Language Proficiency Testing Policy and Procedures for students who speak languages other than those offered at Illinois State so that they meet their CAS or B.A. language requirement. (February 2018)
- Composed syllabus statement regarding ISU resources and support services for undocumented or DACAmented ISU students. (January 2018)
- Researched scholarship and financial aid information for undocumented and DACAmented students for CAUSA. (Spring 2017)
- Author of LAN NewsStories for LAN webpage and ISU social media. (2017 – present)
- Member of ISU’s Committee Assisting Undocumented Student Achievement (CAUSA) since its inception in an effort to support recruitment/retention. (2016 – present)
- Guest Speaker about the benefits of learning world languages. Normal Community High School Foreign Languages Honors Initiation Ceremony. (April, 26, 2016)
- OPI Rating practice, Guided Interviews, and Independent Interviews completed over 2 years in an effort to support and retain LAN ed students. (2014 – 2016)
- Organized and hosted two-day OPI familiarization workshop and ACTFL guest speaker to provide LAN faculty with ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines training to increase student retention. (2015)

Recruitment and Retention and University Initiatives, continued

Community College Counselor Day. Up to 75 Community College Counselors travel to Illinois State for updates that help in recruitment of students to ISU. (2015 – present)

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Tester Training. ACTFL workshop, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, to improve retention of LAN teacher education majors. (June 17-20, 2014)

Coordinate student visits to LAN for one-on-one advising session, class visits, faculty meetings, and departmental tour (2005-present)

Academic and Student Services Fairs. A chance to speak with prospective students about their academic interests and recruit to ISU. (2005 - present)

Departmental Service

- Teaching in Progress Seminar Presentation on Inclusive Language in the World Language Classroom (Fall 2022)
- Search committee for Coordinator of Teacher Ed and Director of World Languages Teacher Education (Fall 2022)
- Compose and submit program revision for French teacher education major and Classical Studies (Spring 2021)
- Compose and submit temporary and new Italian course proposal. (2020-21)
- Work with Superintendent, director of clinicals, and teachers to discuss world language teaching and clinicals at ISU Lab Schools (multiple times in 2020)
- Create alternate clinical experiences due to Covid-19 w/Dir. Teacher Ed. (2020)
- Lead student clinicals Unity Community Center, Normal, IL. (Fall 2019-2021).
- Search Committee for Support Staff for LAN (Fall 2018, Fall 2019, partly Fall 2020)
- Italian Conversation Hour and film series facilitator. (2017 - present)
- Search Committee for Lead Staff for LAN (Spring 2014)
- Predeparture preparation and *sur place* course and emotional support for ISU study abroad students taking LAN courses. (2005 – present)
- Search Committee for Chair of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Dr. Daniel Everett was hired. (2005 – 2006)
- Preview Departmental Sessions - 7 weeks each summer. (2005 – present)
- Transfer Day meetings with incoming transfer students. (2004 – present)

Professional Service

External Consultant for Academic Program Review, Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, James Madison University (April 2021)

Officer, Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ICTFL)

Higher Education Committee Chair (2021 – 2023)

College/University/Community Service

- Community Health Care Clinic, Normal, IL. French interpreter/volunteer. (2021)
- Translation of COVID-19 flyers for McLean Cty. Health Department. (Spring 2020)
- General Education Task Force, Best Practices subcommittee (Winter/Spring 2020)
- Present to CAS advisors about LTI Proficiency exam, OPE, and Language Requirement. (Spring 2019)
- Italian Language Consultant for Illinois State School of Theatre and Dance production of *The Light in the Piazza* (January – March 2019)
- Internationalize Your Major recruitment sessions at ISU Scholars Days (Spring 2019)
- Search Committee for ISU VP of Finance and Planning. Dr. Dan Elkins hired. (2019)
- CAS Internationalization Committee to promote International Education week (October 2017)

Publications

Edwards, L.C., and Lynd, Juliet. (2023). Internationalize Your Major: Embracing the Supportive Role of Language Study. Chapter in edited volume: *Language Program Vitality in the United States: From Surviving to Thriving in Higher Education*. Springer.

Edwards, L.C. (2023). L2 Learning and Religious Communities of Practice in Study Abroad. *Study Abroad Research in Second Language Acquisition and International Education*, 8(1), 24-49.

Edwards, L.C. (2021). No Longer A Wacky Foreigner: Study Abroad, Communities of Practice, and Second Language Learning. *Study Abroad Research in Second Language Acquisition and International Education*, 6(1), 91-123.

Translations

Translation of international student transcripts from French to English for admission to Illinois State University, Normal, IL. (2004 – present)

Lejeune, P. (2017). [Review of the book *Milt Buckner: The Life and Music of a Unique Jazz Pianist and Organist*, by W. Woodward]. *Jazz Dixie Swing*, 96. 7-8. (Translation of book review. April 2018).

A.C. (2017). [Review of the book *Milt Buckner: The Life and Music of a Unique Jazz Pianist and Organist*, by W. Woodward]. *Hot Club of France*, 660. 20-21. (Translation of book review. July 2017).

Translation of Illinois State University Admissions page to French to reach out to growing population of Congolese immigrants to Illinois. (May 2017)

Woodward, W. (2017). *Milt Buckner: The Life and Music of a Unique Jazz Pianist and Organist*. (Paragraph translation for book. May 2015).

Organized French Interpretation for ISU French majors and minors at Unity Community Center, Normal, IL (Fall 2014)

French Interpreter at parent/teacher conferences, Unity Community Center (May 2013)

Translation of paperwork for parents of Unity Community Center, Normal, IL. after-school participants (Summer 2013)

Article Reviews

Foreign Language Annals (2023)

Routledge (2023)

Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad (2022)

Professional Conference Presentations

Edwards, L. Keller, Sandra, et al. (2022, January 5). *Course Civic Engagement with a Global, Multilingual, Perspective*. Panel, CTLT Conference: Listen, encourage, Inspire, Challenge: Building a Relationship-Rich Campus. Virtual Conference. [URL](#).

Edwards, L. (2021, 20 October). *Internationalize Your Major in College!* Presentation, ICTFL Conference: A Brave New World: Reimagining Language Education. Virtual Conference. [URL](#).

Edwards, L., Keller, Sandra. (2020, November 14). *Forging Nuanced Understandings of Frenchness and Francophonie in the Second-Year Classroom*. Diversity, Decolonization, and the French Curriculum, Virtual Conference. [URL](#).

Professional Conference Presentations, continued

Edwards, L. (2017, February 10). *The Effect of Communities of Practice on L2 Acquisition During Study Abroad*. Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication conference on study abroad, Rice University, Houston, TX. [URL](#).

Illinois State University, Normal, IL. Teaching and Learning Symposium.

- Jan. 8, 2020. Poster Topic: Getting to know the Oral Proficiency Interview: Translating it to Student-Ease.
- Jan. 12, 2017. Poster Topic: A culture of oral proficiency in Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.
- Jan. 7, 2015. Poster Topic: The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview

Edwards, L. (2013, November 1). *The Development of OPI-rated Oral Proficiency and Whether Study Abroad Has a Significant Effect*. Midwestern Conference for International Studies. Illinois State University, Normal, IL.

Grants Awarded

Pi Delta Phi/Francophone Club. (2024). Dean of Students Opportunity Fund allocation for LAN banquet.

[Registered Student Organization Fund](#) award for La Tavola Italian Club. (2023)

Edwards, L. (2022). Instructional Innovation Grant of \$329 for *Teaching Black Italy* (Jan. 7-9, 2023). Center for Integrated Professional Development, Illinois State University.

Edwards, L. (2019). Faculty International Travel Grant of \$2,000 to develop faculty-led Bologna, Italy program. Illinois State University. Office of International Studies and Programs.

Hildebrandt, S. A., & Edwards, L., Pancrazio, J. (Spring 2019). Teaching Innovations Grant of \$2,500 to create materials for training sessions about Oral Proficiency Interview to increase retention of LAN teacher education students. Illinois State University. Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology, Normal, IL.

Pancrazio, J., & Edwards, L. (2018). Internationalize Your Major grant \$6,000. Illinois State University. Office of International Studies and Programs, Normal, IL.

Edwards, L. (Spring 2017). Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) grant of \$700

Edwards, L. (Spring 2017). CTLT Travel grant \$200, both to attend and present at CLIC conference at Rice University in Houston, TX, February 2017.

Hildebrandt, S. A., Edwards, L., Castillo, M., & Bailey, A. (2016). Senior Professionals and American Democracy Project Civic Engagement Grant of \$700 for French and Spanish language clubs' work at Unity Community Center.

Hildebrandt, S. A. & Edwards, L. (2016). "A culture of proficiency: Hearing Student Voices." CTLT Teaching-Learning Innovations Grant of \$1130 to purchase hardware to create videos for students about the Oral Proficiency Interview in order to increase retention.

Hildebrandt, S. A. & Edwards, L. (2015). "Promoting a culture of proficiency at Illinois State University." CTLT Teaching-Learning Innovations Grant of \$2500 to host 2-day OPI familiarization workshop and ACTFL guest speaker to provide LAN instructors with ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines training.

Grants Awarded, continued

Edwards, L. (2014). Teaching and Learning Development Grant of \$1500 for ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview Assessment 5-day workshop at Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.

Professional Development

Vera Gheno Master Class – “La lingua accogliente” Scuolaholden.it Sept. 2023.

Teaching Black Italy Course. (Jan. 7-9, 2023). <https://www.blackitalia.info/teachingblackitaly>

College of Arts and Sciences EDIA workshops. Dec. 2021, May 2022 and Dec. 2022.

CRCC Conference: Equity with a Mirror, Illinois State University, March 19, 2021

Keynote: Tyrone Howard; *Accepting responsibility and developing policies to address anti-Blackness in the academy*, Dr. Kisha Porcher.

AAS-CSJA SIG Joint Webinar - Employing Anti-racist Pedagogy in the Foreign Language Classroom: Using Anti-Blackness as an Example. Dr. Priscilla Layne. March 8, 2021

Diversity, Decolonization, and the French Curriculum Virtual Conference. Nov. 13-14, 2020

CRCC Conference: Equity with a Mirror, Illinois State University, Oct. 29, 2020

Rosa Clemente: Afro Latinx Identity and Dr. Angel Acosta: Healing and Mindfulness

Virtual ICTFL Conference (Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Oct. 2020

CERCLL Webinar: Some Considerations for Social Justice Teaching in a World Language Setting: From Self to Students to World, Michelle Nicola, Oct. 17, 2020

CERCLL Webinar: Transformative Learning in a Social Justice Oriented Language Classroom, Stacey Margarita Johnson, Oct. 3, 2020

CERCLL Webinar: Cultural and Linguistic Competence Through Social Justice, LJ Randolph, Sept. 12, 2020

AAAL webinar – Race, Racial Justice, and Indigenous Language Revitalization in Applied Linguistics. (July 10, 2020).

Italian American Committee on Education. IACE. Italian refresher course. April 2020 – August 2020.

Virtual conference: Teaching Diversity in the Italian Classroom. Modern Language Centre, King’s College, London, England. (June 30, 2020).

Vista Higher Learning Webinars for transition to online learning during Covid-19 crisis: March 13, 16, 17, 18, May 13, and June 25, 2020.

Attended ICTFL (Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Conference along with 11 pre-service teachers. Naperville, IL. (October 25, 2019)

Participant in Vice President for Academic Administration (VPAA) Leadership Initiative Cohort, Illinois State University. A year-long course for developing leadership potential with Dr. Sam Catanzaro. (2018-2019)

Professional Development, continued

Critical and Social Justice Approaches ACTFL Webinar led by Dr. Kris Knisley-Southerland, University of Arizona, and Tovah Skiles, Emerson Junior High School. "Effective Practices in the World Language Classroom for Gender Diverse Students." (April 8, 2019)

Critical and Social Justice Approaches ACTFL Webinar led by Dr. Hines-Gaither
"One Classroom, Many Experiences: Incorporating Social Justice into the World Language Classroom." (June 25, 2018)

CAUSA, Supporting Undocumented Students' Achievement and Success Workshop. (July, 2018)

CAUSA Second Annual Workshop Supporting Undocumented Student Achievement and Success. Institutionalizing Support for Undocumented Students. Facilitators from Northeastern University. (January 12, 2018)

CAUSA Know Your Rights workshop sponsored by the Immigration Project. (July 2017)

CAUSA Seminar, La Causa: Supporting Undocumented Student Achievement and Success. ISU Bone Student Center Ballroom. (Fall 2016)

Illinois State University Internationalization Conference attendee in an effort to improve ISU student participation in study Abroad programs. (2012, 2013, 2014)

K-12 Teaching

Unity Community Center, Normal, IL (Fall 2019, 2020, 2021). Teacher and Supervisor: Supervised French and Spanish teacher candidates as they led second language reading circles and taught introductory French and Spanish lessons to K-5th graders for 9 weeks.

Unity Community Center, Normal, IL (2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017). Supervised Pi Delta Phi (French Honor Society) French reading circles/ taught introductory French to K-5th graders. University High School, Normal, IL. French IV. (Fall 1999)

Budgetary Experience

Budget Officer for grants received through Dean of Students office for La Tavola student club (2023 -)

Enrollment management with chair of LAN. Discussed placement of TT and NTT faculty in ICAR in preparation for upcoming semesters. (Summer 2019)

Feasibility report for ISU in Bologna Faculty Study Abroad program. (January 2019)

Budget preparation and adjustment for ISU in Bologna Faculty Study Abroad program. (Summer/Fall 2019)

CAS College Council budget subcommittee in which I read CAS departments' budget narratives and wrote up a summary, discussed patterns, and highlighted potential important areas for funding. (2010-2012)

Professional Memberships

ACTFL – American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (since 2014)

ICTFL – Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (since 2019)

AAAL – American Association for Applied Linguistics (since 2020)

Technology Knowledge

Highly proficient in Peoplesoft Campus Solutions, Microsoft Office Suite

Languages Spoken

English: Native speaker

French: Superior (OPI, July 2014)

Italian: Advanced Low

Norwegian: Intermediate High

Spanish: Intermediate High reading/ Intermediate Low speaking