



UNIVERSITY OF  
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# Language Matters

The biannual newsletter of the Language Research Centre

Volume 8, Number 2

## Director's message

Dear Colleagues, Students & Friends of the Language Research Centre,  
Welcome to the 2017–2018 academic year!

2016–2017 was a transition year for the LRC as it became an integral part of the School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures. Its vision and mission were revised to reflect a new mandate under the leadership of Olga Mladenova, the previous LRC director. The LRC is now the research hub of the School – the site of disciplinary, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge dissemination for work on languages, literatures and cultures.



Wei Cai, LRC Director

With this widened scope, the LRC will build on the School's vast range of research strengths and create collaborative research opportunities in all our areas of expertise. It will fulfill its role in encouraging the exchange of knowledge and ideas across its different divisions and support both formal and informal interaction among them, leading to increased interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative research.

### The LRC hosted and supported a number of events in Winter 2017, including:

- The annual Student Poster Symposium, held on May 2, 2017: The symposium included presentations on linguistics and cultural studies from students at both undergraduate and graduate levels.
- The Language of Literature Speaker Series: On January 13, Martin Wagner and Anthony Wall presented a talk titled "Enlightened aesthetic theory in Germany and France: The case of the ancient Laocoon statue."
- The Language Acquisition and Learning Speaker Series: On March 31, Katherine Mueller (University of Calgary) discussed the application of the neurolinguistic approach in the classroom in the teaching French as a second language program. On March 24, Ana T. Pérez-Leroux (University of Toronto) presented "Productivity, directionality and proficiency: Exploring L2 speakers' difficulties with recursive NPs."
- A Celebration of Indigenous Languages in Alberta: This event, hosted by the Linguistics Division, was held on April 27, 2017, and showcased the collaborative work done by our linguistics colleagues and the indigenous communities of Alberta.
- The Aula Cervantes at the University of Calgary successfully offered DELE exams in May 2017.
- CEFR examinations: Odile Rollin, representing the University of Calgary DELF Centre, organized the DELF examinations and a DELF assessor training session in Whitehorse. She also organized a DELF Trainer session for Canadian DELF assessors and made three movies of B2 mock oral examinations for broader use.
- The Alberta Open Educational Resources (OER) Summit: The summit was held on May 11, 2017, at the University of Alberta and was live-streamed to the University of Calgary.
- Ongoing support of the Japanese Literacy Club, which is actively engaged in promoting the learning of Japanese language and culture by organizing regular reading sessions, fundraising and film night events.

The LRC is also proud to report that Sarah Elaine Eaton was the only Canadian invited to participate in the Technology in English event at the White House (see full report on page 4).

# Upcoming Events

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Fall 2017 is going to be a busy semester for the LRC. In September, the LRC will host the Work-in-Progress talks and will also begin the new offerings of its Speaker Series. All the talks will take place on Fridays at 3:00 pm in CHD 420, unless otherwise specified.

In November, the LRC will also host the "I Would Like to Know More About..." workshop and a workshop on digital humanities. Stay tuned for more details.

**Work-in-Progress talks**  
September 22 | CHD 420

Presenters give a general overview of their individual research projects, using the presentation method of the international 3MT (3-minute thesis) competitions. Presenters use a single powerpoint slide and have three minutes to describe their research to a broad audience.

## Speaker Series

September 29 CHD 420	Rüdiger Singer (University of Minnesota): Private eye Nick Knatterton; or, how the Germans learned to love the speech bubble
October 3 CHD 419	Peter Siemund (University of Hamburg): From multilingualism to bilingualism: Singaporean students' language repertoires and attitudes
October 13 CHD 420	Jim Wood (Yale University): Extended benefactives in Southern American English
October 20 CHD 420	Angeliki Athanasopoulou (University of Calgary): The acquisition of prosody above the word level
October 30 (Monday) CHC 110	Jonathan Livernois (Université Laval): Seventies in Quebec: looking for an epistemological common ground
November 3 CHD 420	Heidi Harley (University of Arizona): Invisible passivization
November 14 (Tuesday) CHD 419	Stefan Höppner (Klassik Stiftung Weimar/University of Calgary): Re-measuring the world (of books): Goethe's library in context
November 24 CHD 420	Christina Yi (University of British Columbia): Colonizing language: Japanese-language literature in imperial Japan and beyond

## I'd Like to Know More About... workshop

November 10, 2017 (Friday)

9:00am–10:30am Joseph Windsor : Aliens and elves and fantastic peoples oh my! Giving a voice to fictional races  
10:45am–12:15pm Dennis Storoshenko: Experiment programming with PsychoPy  
1:00 pm–2:30pm Lorraine Markotic: Psychoanalytic theory

## A Workshop on Digital Humanities

November 17 | 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm | Location: TBA

X. Jie Yang and Kenneth Brown      Digital humanities: Challenge and opportunity

In the 2017–2018 academic year, the LRC will continue to hold meetings of our Psycholinguistic Research Group, Cercle Benveniste, and will host the annual student poster symposium next spring. Stay tuned for these and other events as they are scheduled and announced on the LRC website and sent to our mailing lists.

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## Cercle Benveniste

Ozouf Sénamin Amedegnato, Division of French & Francophone Studies, SLLLC, University of Calgary

### LE CERCLE

Le Cercle Benveniste est un groupe de recherche de la faculté des Arts de l'Université de Calgary.

Les rencontres du Cercle Benveniste sont un forum de discussion ouvert à toute personne s'intéressant à la linguistique où l'on échange et débat des questions relatives aux sciences du langage. Il s'agit, en quelque sorte, d'une école péripatéticienne où les participants peuvent – justement et à l'instar d'Émile Benveniste – se promener dans les différents recoins de la discipline et en interroger les zones d'ombre, les aprioris, les impasses ; bref, explorer différents aspects du langage, à la recherche de Problèmes de linguistique générale. Les séances de travail alternent séminaires (dédiés à l'étude de textes) et conférences publiques (en français ou en anglais).

**Où?** LRC CHD 412 - **Quand?** Vendredi (aux deux semaines)

Le Cercle se réunira selon le calendrier ci-après:

***Participation libre et gratuite. Pas besoin de s'inscrire. Juste se présenter au lieu de rencontre.***

### CALENDRIER DES RENCONTRES

2017-18 -- SAISON 6

Automne 2017 (Vendredi, 14:00-15:00)

08 septembre 2017

22 septembre 2017

06 octobre 2017

20 octobre 2017

03 novembre 2017

17 novembre 2017

01 décembre 2017

Hiver 2018 (Vendredi, 14:00-15:00)

12 janvier 2018

26 janvier 2018

09 février 2018

23 février 2018

09 mars 2018

23 mars 2018

06 avril 2018

### APPEL ET INVITATION

Les séances séminaires sont ouvertes à tous. La participation est libre. Cette année, nous lirons et travaillerons deux textes : Jean-Paul Demoule. 2014. Mais où sont passés les Indo-Européens ? Le mythe d'origine de l'Occident. Paris : Éditions du Seuil (821p.) ; Tomáš Hoskovec. Les Thèses de Prague 2016 (Texte rédigé par procuration du Cercle Linguistique de Prague, 14p.)

Le CB lance par ailleurs un appel permanent à communiquer dans le cadre des Conférences Benveniste. Parallèlement à son travail linguistique proprement dit, Émile Benveniste a établi des passerelles entre l'univers des signes linguistiques et plusieurs disciplines : la littérature, mais également la philosophie, l'histoire, l'anthropologie, la sociologie, la psychologie, la psychanalyse, la traduction, les sciences de l'éducation, les sciences de l'information et de la communication, les études culturelles. Aussi, cet appel s'adresse-t-il, au-delà des linguistes, aux chercheur(e)s de tous ces horizons.

Si vous souhaitez proposer une communication, ou être ajoutés à la liste de diffusion du groupe, afin de recevoir les lectures, ou encore tout simplement pour être tenus au courant des activités, veuillez contacter le coordonnateur du groupe à l'adresse suivante : [s.amedegnato@ucalgary.ca](mailto:s.amedegnato@ucalgary.ca)

# Sharing knowledge

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## Technology in English

Sarah Elaine Eaton, Assistant Professor, Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary



*Photo credit: U.S. Department of State, Office of Exchanges*

In November 2016, Sarah Elaine Eaton took part in the Technology in English event hosted at the White House.

Eaton was the only Canadian invited to attend this elite event, which brought together approximately thirty individuals from academia, industry and government with expertise in language learning and technology.

During the event, participants divided into groups based on key themes, with a goal of addressing the theme in an innovative way. This group included scholars from Westcliff University and the University of Pennsylvania, as well as Eaton from the University of Calgary. Other participants came from the U.S. Department of State and TESOL International. The group focused on teacher training and social media. The result was a Facebook campaign called #TESOLquestions, which reached over 100,000 social media users, according to project analytics. The group followed up on their project with an invited talk at the TESOL International Convention in Seattle in March 2017. The working group is now exploring their next collaborative initiative to continue this work. For a full report on the event, see:

Eaton, S. E. (2016). Technology in English at The White House: Report. Retrieved from University of Calgary:

<https://dspace.ucalgary.ca/bitstream/1880/51772/1/White%20House%20Report.pdf>

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## Enlightened Aesthetic Theory in Germany and France: The Case of the Ancient Laocoon Statue

Anthony Wall, Division Chair of French and Francophone Studies, SLLLC, University of Calgary

On January 13, 2017, Martin Wagner (German Studies) and Anthony Wall (French Studies) presented a double lecture dedicated to the famous Laocoon statue from ancient Rome (today the work is housed in the Vatican Museum in Rome). What is surprising is that this statue had become the centre of a number of aesthetic controversies among philosophers and art connoisseurs of the eighteenth century in both France and Germany, more specifically with Denis Diderot in France and with Gotthold Ephraim Lessing and Johann Joachim Wickelman in Germany. Today, the statue can be seen as a transcultural object of the finest sorts.

It turns out that the ancient statue was taken by eighteenth-century thinkers, in both France and Germany, to embody certain complex theories of time and space. It created the springboard for much creative thinking about how language, the visual arts and sculpture all treat time and space in competing ways.

For France, Anthony Wall presented a number of paintings and drawings by the French landscape artist Hubert Robert in which one sees a reproduction of the Laocoon statue along with ruins, multiple spectators and spectacular architecture. For Germany, Martin Wagner not only showed the importance of the Laocoon statue in the aesthetic writing of Lessing and Winckelmann, but he also showed how the issues evoked by the eighteenth-century thinkers were still very much alive today, an importance that was reinforced in the twentieth century in the writing of Georg Lukács.

Wagner and Wall are putting together a research dossier on the Laocoon Statue in France and Germany, which will be published by the Geneva-based journal *Diderot Studies* (forthcoming in 2018).

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## A Celebration of Indigenous Languages in Alberta

Elizabeth Ritter, Division of Linguistics, SLLLC, University of Calgary

On Thursday, April 27, 2017, the Linguistics Division of the School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures hosted the event A Celebration of Indigenous Languages in Alberta at the LRC.

This event, which was generously funded by the Office of the Provost, the Faculty of Arts and the Graduate Students Association, showcased the documentation, preservation and revitalization work that our linguistics faculty and their students have been doing in collaboration with members of the indigenous communities in this province. The event was very well attended by members of the local Treaty 7 and Calgary communities, faculty, staff and students from the University of Calgary, and linguists from across Canada and around the world, who were participating in the 35th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics hosted by the linguists on April 28–30, 2017.

Among the highlights of the celebration were opening prayers by Elders Fred Breaker (Siksika Blackfoot) and Tina Fox (Stoney Nakoda), poster presentations on Blackfoot by Noreen Breaker (Siksika Blackfoot) and Heather Bliss (UVic & UBC) on digital resources for documenting and preserving the language, and by Joey Windsor (UCalgary) and Emily Elfner (York U), each presenting results of their linguistic research on the language. There was also an exhibit showcasing materials on learning (about) Stoney Nakoda, presented by Trent Fox and his mother, Tina Fox (Stoney), and a poster presentation on language maintenance efforts in Denesūliné communities by Shirley Cardinal (Cold Lake Denesūliné) and Andrea Wilhelm (UVic).



*Elder Fred Breaker (Siksika Blackfoot) giving an opening prayer to start the event.*

Visitors also had a chance to enjoy videos produced by members of the Tsuut'ina Gunaha Language Institute as part of the Tsuut'ina language revitalization efforts, along with explanations by Steven Crowchild, director of the institute, and videos from a Blackfoot rap camp featuring Brent Prairie Chicken (Siksika Blackfoot) and Blackfoot youth who wrote and performed their compositions, with explanations by camp director Darin Flynn.

In addition, the event featured Tsuut'ina field work materials by Professor Emeritus Ed Cook from the University of Calgary Library archives, and an exhibit entitled "Cree: The People's Language" on loan from the Canadian Language Museum. No celebration is complete without a feast, and certainly this one did not disappoint. Guests and participants enjoyed a wonderful buffet of indigenous-themed food prepared by chef Craig Miles.



## DELE: (Diplomas of Spanish as a Foreign Language)

Melania Pascual-Salcedo, Aula Cervantes Coordinator, Instituto Cervantes Calgary, Division of Spanish and Italian Studies, SLLLC, University of Calgary

Calgary is the city showing the most interest for the DELE (Diplomas of Spanish as a Foreign Language/) exams in Canada. A total of 194 students sat the DELE Escolar tests at the Aula Cervantes at the University of Calgary and 15 students took the General DELE tests in the same centre in May 2017. Majors and minors in Spanish and graduate students in Spanish at the School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures have taken the DELE with excellent results, getting B1, B2 and C1 scores.



The DELE diplomas, granted by Instituto Cervantes on behalf of the Spanish Ministry of Education, are official and international accreditations of a person's degree of proficiency in Spanish. The diplomas can be obtained by completing an examination that tests the candidate's ability to read, write, speak and understand spoken Spanish, according to internationally standardized levels of competence established by the Council of Europe in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Examinations are held three times a year — in April, May and November — in more than 500 centres around the world, of which 17 are located in Canada.

The Aula Cervantes at the University of Calgary is part of the Instituto Cervantes, a global network of centres created by the government of Spain in 1991 to promote the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. It is the only centre of its kind operating in Canada. The Aula Cervantes supports teaching and learning of the Spanish language and culture with linguistic resources, cultural and academic projects, and professional development activities to Spanish teachers and students.

Registration is currently open for students to take the DELE test on November 24 and 25. For more information on the DELE test, please visit our websites at: <https://slllc.ucalgary.ca/instituto-cervantes> or <https://examenes.cervantes.es/>

Registration for the November exam dates will be closed after October 11, 2017. Once the examination results have been approved, Instituto Cervantes will make them available through its website approximately three months after completion of the examination.



## DELF: (Diplôme d'études en langue française)

Odile Rollin, Division of French and Francophone Studies, SLLLC, University of Calgary

The Ministry of Education in Yukon selected the University of Calgary DELF Centre to organize and run a DELF examination sessions in June 2016 and April 2017 in Whitehorse, with the help of the University of Calgary DELF Coordinator Yukon (Odile Rollin) and one assessor (Robert Corbeil). Both sessions were very successful: 45 candidates took the examinations A2, B1 and B2. All candidates passed the examinations and received their diplomas from Paris, France. Another examination session is scheduled in May 2018. In addition, I organized an intensive DELF Assessor Training Session in Whitehorse, Yukon, on April 19–21, 2017, and trained six participants as assessors. Finally, I organized a DELF Trainer session for Canadian DELF assessors. This session took place at the University of Calgary on July 4–8, 2017. There were 22 participants from all over Canada trained by Mrs. Sylvie Lepage from CIEP, Paris.



### DELF B2 movies: (Diplôme d'études en langue française)

In 2017, I produced three movies of B2 mock oral examinations for international public use. Films are posted on the University of Calgary DELF webpage and are available worldwide: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/delf/oral\\_DELF\\_B2](https://www.ucalgary.ca/delf/oral_DELF_B2)

The DELF Headquarters in Paris (CIEP) highly commended this work, as these films are the only movies available worldwide for public viewing.

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## Alberta Open Educational Resources (OER) Summit

Elizabeth Montes Garcés, Division of Spanish and Italian Studies, SLLLC, University of Calgary

The Alberta OER Summit was the capstone of a \$2 million grant project managed by the University of Alberta. The OER Initiative was administered by Jason Dewling (Olds College) and Rory McGreal (Athabasca University). It distributed \$1.7 million among 18 public institutions province-wide for developing, adopting and championing Open Educational Resources (OER). Michael Dabrowski, an instructor from Athabasca University and the University of Calgary, received a \$120,000 grant for developing a beginners' Spanish I OER textbook.

In June 2016, Elizabeth Montes Garcés and her team (Michael Dabrowski and Fresia Sánchez) received a \$10,000 grant to implement Michael Dabrowski et al.'s textbook in Spanish 201, which was very successfully carried out in Fall 2016 at the School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures.

The Alberta OER Initiative was very effective. It granted 42 awards to 18 institutions across the province: 14 development projects, 21 adoption projects, and 7 awareness projects. The OER Initiative is having a significant impact in cost savings for students in Alberta. In the next five years, students registered in several courses at colleges and universities will save \$5.5 million in textbooks.

The capstone activity for the OER Initiative was a summit held at the University of Alberta on May 11, 2017. The event was live-streamed by four institutions province-wide, including the Language Research Centre at the University of Calgary. The event consisted of a keynote address delivered by Alicia Lunz, Vice-President Academic of the Student Union at the University of Calgary, who discussed her efforts to implement a campaign of awareness on the benefits of OER at the University of Calgary.

Her address was followed by eight panels: course design with OER; OER creation and adoption, OER championship; copyright, Creative Commons and OER; open textbook sprint roundtable; OER tools and tech; and grassroots OER adoption. In the afternoon, there were two presentations by Michael McNally from the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta, and a table discussion on the OER community of practice by Trish Rosseel from the library at the University of Calgary.

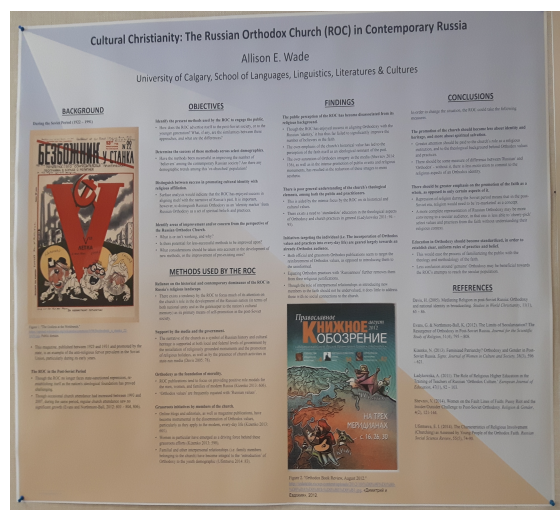
Dr. Rory McGreal (UNESCO/COL/ICDE Chair in OER) delivered an outstanding closing keynote address, which highlighted the challenges of providing education to 90 million additional students expected to enter post-secondary education by 2025, according to UNESCO. By tracing the historical misinterpretations of copyright laws, and explaining the benefits of mobile learning, Dr. McGreal demonstrated the importance of developing and implementing Open Educational Resources (OER) to meet the UNESCO goal.

All the presentations delivered at the OER Alberta Summit were recorded. The archives are open to the public and are easily accessed at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RBt3v5tRR6evuvBJJN63fuhwJKYQMS6RFhGb31qs7lw/edit>

## Reflections from the Annual Student Poster Symposium

Allison Elizabeth Wade, Undergraduate Student, SLLLC, University of Calgary

At the beginning of May I had the honour of being invited to present at the Language Research Centre's annual Student Poster Symposium, along with four students in the field of linguistics. As one of two undergraduate presenters as well as the only presenter in the field of cultural studies, the symposium was a valuable opportunity for me not only to see the current research under way in the traditional study of linguistics, but also to catch a glimpse of the kind of work one might expect at the graduate level: "The Adaptation of Arabic to Swahili: The Voice-Onset Time Dimension" by Mohammad Alsamaani, "An Investigation of Blackfoot Pitch Accents Using Six Eliciting Methods" by Una Y. Chow, "The Role of Morphology in Japanese Clipping" by Adam Daniel and "Lateralization in Puerto Rico and Equatorial Guinea" by Heans Keeler. The abstracts of all posters can be seen on the LRC website at: [http://arts.ucalgary.ca/lrc/poster\\_symposium.2017](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/lrc/poster_symposium.2017)



My own poster, titled "Cultural Christianity: The Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) in contemporary Russia," presented the research paper that I had produced over the course of the previous winter semester's RUSS 363 course "Key Symbols of Russian Culture," under the instruction of Dr. Olga Mladenova. The research for this project entailed an analysis of the methods used by the ROC in re-establishing itself as an institution following the repression of religion during the Soviet period, as well as identifying the challenges faced by the church in communicating its spiritual message to the Russian public. What I found was that while Russian Orthodox values and traditions have been adopted as an aspect of the modern Russian identity, the underlying spiritual and theological core of the religion has been somewhat lost among the constant promotion, in both the media and by the government, of the ROC as an icon of Russia's culture and history. At the symposium, I was able to discuss my research not only with other students, but also with a number of instructors from my previous courses. Such a variety of input offered valuable insight into potential directions for further research on my topic and provided me with a lot of encouragement to undertake similar projects in the future.



It was incredibly interesting to see all of the posters that were on display, and I enjoyed the opportunity to talk about student research in an environment that allowed us to inform and learn from one another. Though I was not personally able to attend the prior workshop on creating the posters, the symposium itself was certainly enlightening, and I was personally impressed by the research that is done by students at the University of Calgary. As an undergraduate, I would definitely encourage other undergraduate students to consider attending or even participating in future symposiums, and to talk to the presenters and other attendees about their work. Even if the presentations are not strictly within one's field, there is a lot to be gained from broadening one's horizons and, hopefully, learning something new.

## Together with the community

### Japanese Literacy Club

Hazel Ocenar, Undergraduate Student in Japanese, SLLLC, University of Calgary

The Japanese Literacy Club (JLC) is a club established in 2016, where students interested and passionate about Japanese literature and culture can read various texts and hone their skills in the language. Over the winter semester, the club hosted two reading sessions every week in room CHD 401B.

Much thanks to the Language Research Centre (LRC), who allowed us to use the room for our sessions and host our collection of books in the shelves within the room. During these reading sessions, students dropped in and had the opportunity to read from a wide selection of Japanese children's books and mangas that varied in reading levels.

In addition to our weekly reading sessions, the JLC hosted several events. This semester we had two fundraisers: a Japanese drinks and snack sale on January 25 in Earth Sciences, and a White Day chocolate and candy sale on March 14 in Science B. We sold different Japanese snacks, some of which had been imported from Japan, to raise funds for the club.



*Thank you to the LRC for providing space to host the Japanese Literacy Club and its collection of books.*

We also had a film night event on February 27 at That Empty Space in MacEwan Hall. It was an open event where we showed "A New Moon Over Tohoku" by Linda Ohama to commemorate the earthquake and tsunami that occurred in Tohoku, Japan, in March 2011. Fifteen people, some who weren't members of the club, came and watched the film.

With the end of the academic year comes graduation for some students. This year most of our executives graduated from their programs and passed the batons and the JLC's future to their successors. With the club under new leadership for the first time since its creation, the new executive team, which is composed of students passionate about learning the Japanese language, will do our best for the upcoming school year to uphold the JLC's vision and strive to make the JLC bigger and better. We would like to thank our members, supporters, the LRC and professors for accomplishing a fun and exciting semester.

For further information about the club and its events, please visit the club's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/japaneseliteracyclub/> or email us at [uofcjlcc@gmail.com](mailto:uofcjlcc@gmail.com).