Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Faculty Research Awards Committee, I write to announce the selection of the 2014-2015 Copeland Colloquium theme. The topic proposed, “The Future of Translation: A Global Multimedia Conversation,” was submitted by a group of faculty as an outcome of cross-disciplinary discussions. I attach our colleagues’ proposal for your information. The group tells me that the goal of the colloquium is to engage the entire Amherst community, as well as our Five-College colleagues and members of the larger community, in a yearlong conversation on the role that translation plays in all aspects of our intellectual life. It is the group’s hope that colleagues across the disciplines will interact fully in this endeavor.

The colloquium will be organized around a series of six global, technologically-driven “town hall” meetings in which various interfaces will be explored, including translation and politics, translation and literature, translation in education, and so on. These meetings, which will be moderated by Amherst College faculty members, will involve distinguished scholars, artists, and practitioners from different parts of the world. In addition to participating in the meetings, some of these scholars will spend a week on campus, giving a lecture, visiting classes, and interacting with students and faculty. Those town hall meeting participants who do not come to campus will engage with us via Skype or Face Time. The meetings will be broadcasted internationally and will have Facebook and Twitter components to broaden the reach of these exciting opportunities for intellectual exchange.

The colloquium will also feature a film series focused around the topic of translation, which will be screened at Amherst Cinema. A total of eight movies will be presented, each of which will be introduced and moderated by an Amherst faculty member. As part of some of these showings, a Skype interview with the director or actors will also be available. Throughout the year, the colloquium will also bring noted translators to campus, as well as scholars and artists interested in translation. Other colloquium-related activities will involve the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) and local organizations such as the Amherst Survival Center, the Jones Library, community centers, and local bookstores.

The colloquium will culminate in the publication of a hybrid book (with TEDtalk-like lectures, as well as text, music, and images). Our Copeland group will select the most outstanding material gestated during the year for this dynamic project, supplementing this work with additional content that is relevant to the theme.

The organizers of the colloquium would like to encourage all members of the Faculty to become involved with the colloquium and participate in the theme by incorporating into their courses appropriate translation-related material to generate discussion.

Please join me in applauding our Colleagues’ creative initiative, and contact the colloquium organizers (Anston Bosman, Catherine Ciepiela, John Drabinski, and Ilan Stavans) with suggestions and questions. While these colleagues will serve as the lead sponsors and organizers of the colloquium this year, it is hoped that other members of the Faculty will wish to participate in the support of the program. Again, please contact the organizers if you are interested in joining in their efforts.
For more information about the Copeland Colloquium, please click here.

All my best,

Greg