PHONOTAXIS: Singing the Songs of Interlanguage or 吟歌麗詩 (A Manifesto of Sorts)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2013
4–5:30PM • 302 SCHAEFFER HALL

Jonathan Stalling, associate professor at the University of Oklahoma, argues for liberating languages from the constraints of their historical scripts so that poets can write out the prosodies of interlanguages. His opera “Yingelishi” was performed in China in 2010 and features an English libretto written entirely in Chinese characters. In this talk, Stalling articulates a larger vision for this work and a broader interlanguage poetics grounded in what he calls “Phonotaxis,” or poetry built to house voices that cross through interlinguistic constraints. The talk will be accompanied by a series of four new video poems featuring his text-to-speech avatars reading a single English poem inscribed in Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, and Korean scripts. He argues that poetry of this kind can modify the way we hear language itself.

"CHINESE IN THREE VOICES"
a reading in English and Chinese

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2013
5–6:15PM • SHAMBAUGH HOUSE
(430 N. Clinton/corner of Fairchild)
Refreshments provided

ABOUT THE READERS:

1 A LAI (阿來) is a Chinese novelist of Tibetan ethnicity, author of Red Poppies and other novels in Chinese, and editor for the Science Fiction World journal.

2 JONATHAN STALLING (石江山) is a poet and professor of English at the University of Oklahoma who edits Chinese Literature Today.

3 WANG JIAXIN (王家新) writes, edits, and translates widely in the landscape of contemporary world poetry. A poetry volume in English is forthcoming.

These events are free and open to the public and sponsored by the UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, the Confucius Institute, the International Writing Program, the Division of World Language, Literatures & Culture, and International Programs.