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Photo courtesy of Jordan Sandoval

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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

Spring 2020 Newsletter

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To request this document in an alternate format, please contact the Linguistics Department Manager Sara Helms at 360-650-3914 or helms@wwu.edu

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

WOW, WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN! We started off the year last fall with our new department offices on the fourth floor of Bond Hall – the very first time that Linguistics has had its own space. This sweet space, with a view of Fisher Fountain, houses linguistics faculty and our Department Manager Sara Helms, who started in July of 2019. Many current students know Sara as the face of the department. She advises students, promotes our activities and events, puts together this newsletter, and assists me with so much of both the day-to-day and the long-term planning for the department. Fall quarter was filled with hiring committee meetings, which led into winter quarter candidate campus visits, which led into snow – so much snow. Western was closed for a full week, right when our phonology candidates were visiting! Little did we know that winter quarter would end with all classes moving to remote learning, due to COVID-19, followed by a spring quarter with all teaching online and all of us working from home. We end this year with uncertainty about what next year will look like, with the pandemic affecting every aspect of all of our lives, but we take comfort in the fact that we're all in this together – and that Linguistics at Western is thriving. Wishing you all good health.



KRISTIN DENHAM
CHAIR | PROFESSOR OF LINGUISTICS



Sara Helms (left) and Dr. Kristin Denham pose on the roof of Bond Hall, fall 2019. Photo by Peter MacCoy.

Our alumni are living, working, and contributing in exciting and important ways to their communities all over the world.

The Department of Linguistics leads students not only to find interesting and engaging careers but also to give back to their communities in important ways. They are teaching, creating, writing, analyzing, and serving in a vast array of jobs and civic engagement.

Your financial support can help the new Linguistics Department offer scholarships and awards to our outstanding and deserving students.

You can choose to make a gift in honor of your favorite faculty member or another loved one who has supported you through your educational journey. We appreciate your support as WWU Linguistics continues to grow and receive national attention for the quality graduates we are known for.

**DONATE
HERE**

MESSAGE FROM THE LINGUISTICS DEPARTMENT FACULTY



After years of planning, organizing, and convincing, in particular by Kristin Denham, we are thrilled to announce that Linguistics has moved from interdepartmental program to full-fledged department! As of Fall 2019, the new department has three tenured positions, filled by Kristin Denham (Chair), Anne Lobeck, and McNeel Jantzen. We will add two additional tenure track positions in Fall 2020, filled by phonologist Jordan Sandoval and semanticist Virginia Dawson. Rounding out our small but dynamic group is our new department manager, Sara Helms, who has been indispensable in navigating the many administrative challenges we've faced in this inaugural year. Sara has also created the new department web site, which includes a slide show: Why Study Linguistics. Be sure to take a look!

Though now a department, Linguistics still maintains a strong interdisciplinary focus, with a wide range of affiliated faculty from

other departments across campus, including Modern and Classical Languages and Anthropology, as well as associated faculty from Communication Sciences and Disorders, Computer Science, MCL, Philosophy, English, and Education. You can read about some faculty members' research and teaching in the newsletter Spotlight section. *

Left, Dr. Anne Lobeck, Dr. Kristin Denham, and Sara Helms pose beside the new department offices.

Below, faculty, staff, friends, and family of Western's Linguistics Department celebrate the holidays. Photo by Noah Dubenion-Smith.



We have new stickers to send out to our generous donors. Photos courtesy of Kristin Denham.

MARIJA RUNIĆ Fulbright Visiting Scholar

A Fulbright Scholar from Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Marija Runić** holds a doctorate in Linguistics from the University of Padua, Italy. Her research interests lie in the area of formal grammar and linguistics and education. She has worked primarily on Slavic and Romance languages in a situation of language contact. Runić has been actively engaged in promoting linguistic literacy and fighting linguistic discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond.

Fall of 2019, she taught a special topics course at Western, LING 402: Language(s) of the Balkans. Her students participated in an online class with high school students from 'Poliglota' Language Institute of Brčko, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Brčko is the seat of Brčko District, a self-governing administrative unit, that has become a symbol of multiethnic coexistence in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina. The students discussed their life on campus and in school, the education system in the two countries, and other topics of their interest. The Bosnian students had the chance to speak to native speakers of English for the first time.



Winter of 2020, Dr. Runić gave a talk titled "Linguistics and Education in Post-Conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina" at Western. She presented her preliminary

results and reflections of her research project "It's high time: linguistics in high schools," awarded by a Fulbright research grant and developed in collaboration with Western's Kristin Denham, Ph.D. The project examined how and to what extent linguistic knowledge can be incorporated into the first language curriculum of the post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) educational context, by building on the best practices for the integration of linguistics in U.S. secondary education.

The project was organized in three phases. In the first phase (June 2019 – September 2019), Dr. Runić conducted field work with students and teachers of three high schools in BiH in order to understand the specificity of the post-war BiH educational context. In the second phase (September 2019 – February 2020), she collected data about the integration of linguistics within the U.S. secondary education, taking into account which solutions could be a good fit for the BiH educational setting. In the third phase, to be completed upon her return to BiH, she will come up with concrete recommendations and solutions.



High school students from Brčko pose while video chatting with linguistics students at Western, fall 2019.
Photo courtesy of Marija Runic.

This was the first year Linguistics has hosted a Fulbright Scholar. We look forward to continuing to facilitate this important exchange. *

2018-2020 EVENTS

The Linguistics Program
along with the Behavioral Neuroscience Program
and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
present

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE AND RHYTHM SKILLS: A JOURNEY FROM BEHAVIOR TO BRAIN TO GENETICS

A talk by Dr. Reyna Gordon

Monday, Nov. 5, 3:00 p.m.
Miller Hall 152

Dr. Reyna Gordon, Ph.D. is the Director of the Music Cognition Lab at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Gordon's research examines the relationship between rhythm and grammar skills in typical development and specific language impairment, the neural mechanisms underlying rhythm and grammar skills, the genetics of language disorders, and how musical training can improve language skills. Dr. Gordon's lab is the central hub of the Program for Music, Mind, and Society (MMS) at Vanderbilt and aims to discover and understand how music works on both the neuronal and molecular level as well as on the cultural and societal level.

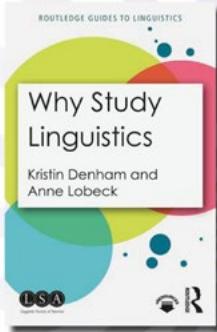
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WHY STUDY LINGUISTICS

Kristin Denham and Anne Lobeck
will discuss their new book
Why Study Linguistics (Routledge)



ROUTLEDGE GUIDES TO LINGUISTICS

Why Study Linguistics
Kristin Denham and Anne Lobeck

USA Linguistic Society of America R Routledge

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LINGUISTICS PROGRAM

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Thursday, Nov. 15
4:00 PM
MH 022

The Linguistics Program Presents

THE GLOTTAL STOP IN PARAGUAYAN GUARANÍ AND SPANISH

A talk by Dr. Ernesto Luis López Almada of the Universidad Nacional de Itapúa and the Universidad Católica de Encarnación and Dr. Shaw Gynan, retired Western Washington University Professor

Wed. Jan. 16
MH 235
4-5 P.M.

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Dr. Ernesto Luis López Almada of the Universidad Nacional de Itapúa and the Universidad Católica de Encarnación poses with Dr. Shaw Gynan, retired Western Washington University Professor. Photo courtesy of Kristin Denham.

2018-2020 EVENTS cont.

Dr. McNeel Gordon Jantzen hosted our first community round-table discussion, "Libations with a Linguist," this winter at Stemma Brewing. Her talk was titled "Enhancing Language Networks Through Music: Musicianship and Neural Representation of Language." Our goal is to have faculty from Western's Linguistics Department organize these events once a quarter.



Department of
LINGUISTICS

presents

LIBATIONS with a LINGUIST

at Stemma Brewing Co.
2039 Moore St
Bellingham, WA 98229

Featuring Dr. McNeel Gordon Jantzen, a Cognitive Neuroscientist and Associate Professor in Western's Linguistics Department

Faculty from WWU's Linguistics department organize these community round-table discussions once a month. They are free and open to the public of all ages.

For more information on this event, contact Sara Helms at 360-650-3914 or at helms@wwu.edu. Additional program information can also be found at <https://chss.wwu.edu/linguistics>.

Wednesday, January 22, 2020
6 PM - 8 PM
FREE and open to the public
ALL AGES

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WESTERN
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A decorative background graphic consisting of a grid of IPA symbols (vowels and consonants) in pink and purple colors.

2018-2020 EVENTS cont.

The Department of Linguistics
presents

Career Linguist

Anna Marie Trester

on

Bringing Linguistics to Work

We can take our skills and training anywhere, but only to the extent that we can recognize them ourselves and make these better understood by the people with whom we would wish to work. Participants in this workshop will be given the tools to bring a linguistic practice to the texts and interactions that structure the job search. Students will hear stories of career linguists featuring the multifaceted ways that linguists are bringing linguistics to work. Participants will be given the opportunity to practice being linguists for themselves by familiarizing themselves with the career genres including job ads and adopt a story practice to bring analytical attention to the language used in professional self-presentation in resumes, cover letters, job interviews, and in networking interactions. They will leave with a clearer sense of the many ways in which the skills they are cultivating now may be applied to challenges known and also to those not yet uncovered.

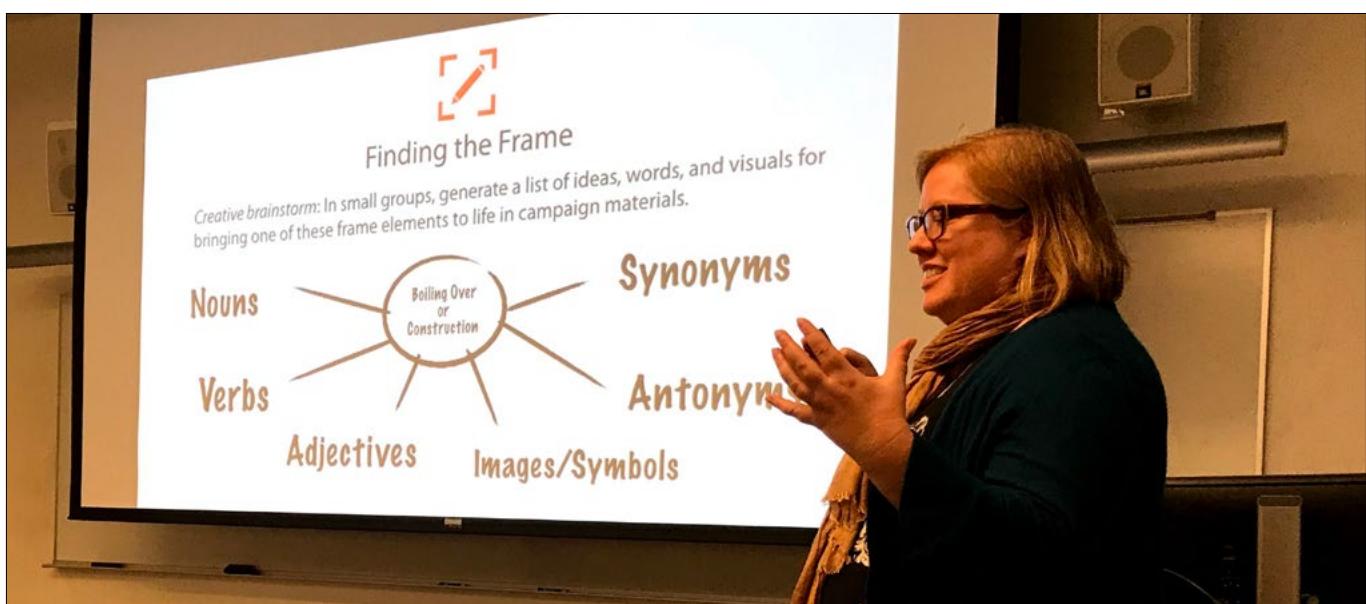
Dr. Anna Marie Trester is an interactional sociolinguist and storyteller whose research and practical interests center around the language of work and career. She has worked with hundreds of linguists to find professional expression of their skills and training, and is the founder of Career Linguist, a blog and resource center for career exploration.

Wed. Nov. 6
4-5 p.m.
MH 235

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Dr. Anna Marie Trester visited Western this fall to talk to our students about the value of bringing a linguistics background to the workforce. Dr. Trester is an interactional sociolinguist and storyteller whose research and practical interests center around the language of work and career. She has worked with hundreds of linguists to find professional expression of their skills and training, and is the founder of Career Linguist, a blog and resource center for career exploration.



2018-2020 EVENTS cont.

It's High Time: Linguistics in High Schools
Linguistics and Education in Post-Conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina

A talk by Dr. Marija Runić



**Wed. Feb. 5
4 PM
BH 417**

Dr. Marija Runic is a Fulbright Scholar from Bosnia and Herzegovina. She holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Padua, Italy. Her research interests lie in the area of formal grammar and linguistics and education. She has worked primarily on Slavic and Romance languages in a situation of language contact. Besides research and teaching, Dr. Runic has been actively engaged in promoting linguistic literacy and fighting linguistic discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond.

Photo: A segregated high school in Tuzi, central Bosnia and Herzegovina. The school illustrates the phenomenon known as "Two schools under one roof", in which children are segregated according to their ethnicity. Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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Department of
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presents

Romanian & Serbian
in Interaction:
Traditional Noun Phrase - Internal Code-Switching

a talk by
Vanessa Petroj
of Oregon State University



Vanessa Petroj, Ph.D. was born and raised in a culturally and ethnically Romanian village, Uzdin, in Serbia. Growing up bilingual has shaped her interest in languages. Much of Petroj's research focuses on bilingualism and code-switching between Romanian-Serbian bilinguals from her hometown, Uzdin.

**Nov 13
BH 112
3-3:50 pm**

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During her time at Western, Dr. **Marija Runić** presented her Fulbright research in a talk titled "Linguistics and Education in Post-Conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina." Dr. Runić also helped to arrange talks by two of her colleagues, Dr. **Vanessa Peroj**, and Dr. **Neda Todorović**.



Photo by Emily Hillman

Photo by Emily Hillman

Marija Runić poses with friends and colleagues Vanessa Peroj (left) and Neda Todorović (right).



Sequence of Tense in a Language without Tense: The case of Gitksan

A talk by Dr. Neda Todorović

Neda Todorović is an Assistant Professor in Linguistics at the University of British Columbia. Her primary research interest lie in the area of syntax, semantics and the syntax-semantics interface. Her work is primarily based on the interaction between syntax and semantics in the domain of Tense and Aspect in Slavic languages and languages of the Northern America. She is also actively involved in primary data collection in Gitksan, an endangered language of British Columbia, Canada.

NEW DATE

**Mon. Feb. 10
4 PM
BH 417**

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LSA 2020

Western Attends LSA

We had a full crew representing Western at the 2020 Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Students Calli Hilvitz and Abi Freitag were able to attend this year's conference thanks to the support of Western's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the AS Student Enhancement Fund, and our generous donors. To make a donation to Western's Linguistics Department, visit www.wwu.edu/give.

Kristin Denham, Dr. Emily Curtis, student Calli Hilvitz, and student Abi Freitag. Photo courtesy of K. Denham.



Freitag, left, and Hilvitz snap a selfie in Legacy Kitchen in New Orleans after attending the final presentations of the LSA conference, on Jan 5th. "While we are smiling in the photo, we were sad that the conference was over," Hilvitz said, "but we look forward to attending more LSA conferences in the future!" Photo courtesy of Calli Hilvitz.

"Being able to attend the LSA conference in New Orleans was a wonderful and educating experience. While almost no other undergraduates get the chance to attend this conference, it was an amazing experience and peek into the professional and academic world that I will be immersed in shortly after graduation. I walked away from the conference with connections to professors and other students from all over the world, and an assurance that I was pursuing the field that was right for me."

-Calli Hilvitz

LING LABS

The Department of Linguistics has several labs on campus. Our Linguistics Resource Lab has an extensive library of Linguistics related literature.

Our computer labs have basic equipment for speech recording and analysis. We have hopes to expand our labs in the coming years and plan on adding eye tracking software.

Software

Amadeus Pro
Audacity
Eprime
iWorks (on Macs)
MacQuirerX (on Macs)
Microsoft Office
PCQuirerX (on PCs)
Praat
SPSS
Synthworks
Matlab



Eckel AB-4240
Sound booth
&
Cedrus RB-740
Response Pad

LING LABS cont.



Auray PFSS-55
Pop Filter with
Gooseneck

Polson
HPC-A30
Closed-Back
Studio Monitor
Headphones

Audio-
Technica
AT2020 – Cardioid
Condenser
Microphone

Focusrite
Scarlett 2i2
USB Audio
Interface (2nd
Generation)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Courtesy Elizabeth Bigwood.



Courtesy Tally Callahan.



Courtesy Russell Hugo.

After graduating from Western, **Elizabeth Bigwood**, '12, B.A., linguistics and communication sciences and disorders, moved back to Seattle and began working at Seattle Children's Hospital where she worked in a variety of roles, including data coordinator for the voice operations team and supervisor of a front desk float team. In 2019, Bigwood accepted her current position as a process improvement specialist at Neighborcare Health. There, she is helping assist with organization-wide improvement projects including launching a new software application for health records and most recently supporting Neighborcare's response to COVID-19. She lives in the Seattle area with her partner Bradley, enjoys backpacking, roller skating, and still takes the occasional nostalgic trip to Bellingham to enjoy the breweries and walk around campus.*

After graduating from Western, **Tally Callahan**, '08, B.A., linguistics, pursued a doctorate degree at the City University of New York Graduate Center. While there, she worked closely with Dr. Janet Dean Fodor on double center-embedded sentences at the school's psycholinguistics lab. After successfully defending her dissertation in the area of experimental semantics, Callahan soon accepted a full-time position as a lead linguist at Appen. She currently continues to work in that position on a natural-language understanding project, where she manages a team of over 30 specialized linguist annotators for a confidential client. *

Russell Hugo, '06, B.A., linguistics, attended graduate school at the University of Washington until 2016 when he earned his doctorate in linguistics. His work focused on critically approaching the integration of technology, pedagogy and Indigenous language revitalization, along with issues related to language attitudes and policy with a more sociolinguistic framework. While a graduate student, he served on the graduate and professional student senate and various committees with an interest in advocating for minoritized languages on campus, whether it be dialect discrimination for TAs or the lack of indigenous language representation on campus. For the majority of his time in graduate school, he worked as a graduate staff assistant at the Language Learning Center. Upon graduating, he began working in the center full-time and is currently the assistant director.*

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT cont.



Courtesy Danielle Kim



Courtesy Carlos Nye



Courtesy Tyler Peckenpaugh

Danielle Kim, '17, B.A., linguistics, is currently an English language acquisition instructor at Skagit Valley College. After graduating from Western, she went on to study at the University of British Columbia to get her master's degree in teaching English as a second language. She will graduate in June after completing her thesis which explores how students experience language ideology in higher education courses. In September, Kim will go back to UBC as a doctoral student in the Department of Language and Literacy Education. She plans to continue her research on language ideology and gender in education as well as game studies. *

After graduating from Western, **Carlos Nye, '02**, B.A., Spanish and linguistics, went on to complete his master's degrees in Spanish linguistics and communication disorders. He taught college-level Spanish and worked as a speech-language pathologist before later pursuing his doctorate at The University of Texas at Austin. His research interest focuses on facilitating generalization of skills across languages in Spanish-English bilingual children with speech sound disorders. He currently works as an assistant professor at the University of New Mexico's Speech & Hearing Sciences Department where he continues to teach and research how to assess and treat communication disorders in culturally and linguistically diverse populations. *

Since graduating from Western, **Tyler Peckenpaugh, '08**, B.A., linguistics and English literature, earned his doctorate from The Graduate Center, CUNY in theoretical linguistics. His dissertation reported an experimental study on the impact of prosodic phrasing on the ease of interpretation of temporary PP-attachment ambiguities. He now works as a software engineer at Nylas and continues to live in Astoria, New York, with his two cats and his longtime partner. *

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT cont.



Courtesy Lisa Perdue.

Lisa Perdue, '13, B.A., linguistics, has been navigating the “real world” with a continued desire to learn. She moved to a third tier city in China in 2014. In China, she taught English from a descriptive and conversational framework to students of all ages. From there, she happily returned to the Pacific Northwest to provide real-time speech-to-text accommodations for Western’s deaf and hard-of-hearing students. You may have seen her typing away in a corner of your classroom! As of now, she’s moved from Bellingham to Everett to Seattle, got married to an amazing nonbinary person, and continues to plug away at the pitfalls of millennial life with as much optimism as she can muster. *



Courtesy Samantha Prins.

Samantha Prins, '15, B.A., linguistics and Spanish, is currently serving as the program coordinator for the Institute on Collaborative Language Research at the University of Montana. After spending some time away from academia, in 2019 she completed her master’s in linguistics at the UM, where her research centered on Niitsi’powahsin (Blackfoot). This fall, she will be begin pursuing her doctorate in linguistics at the University of Arizona. Her research interests include descriptive, documentary and theoretical linguistics, particularly in the domains of morphology and syntax; Indigenous languages of North America; language maintenance and revitalization; as well as issues in community-based research and interdisciplinarity.*



Courtesy Nicole Riggan.

Nicole Riggan, '17, B.A., linguistics, worked her way up in the industry of luxury travel with no limitations. Her senior year at Western, Riggan was bartending at a hotel four nights a week while focusing on her schoolwork. After graduating, moving into the role of front desk agent seemed like an easy decision to make. Six months later, Riggan transferred to a hotel property in sunny Sonoma, California where she became a sales coordinator. Spring of 2019, Riggan took on her first role as sales manager at a privately owned hotel in Silicon Valley. Today, Riggan lives in Palo Alto working as a corporate sales manager at the luxury-lifestyle brand of Nobu. Riggan works with international corporate accounts and assists in bringing in the most profit to her hotel. Riggan believes that she gave up a lot in college but is finally bearing the fruits of her labor, working for an international luxury brand that now allows her to do what she wants- travel! *

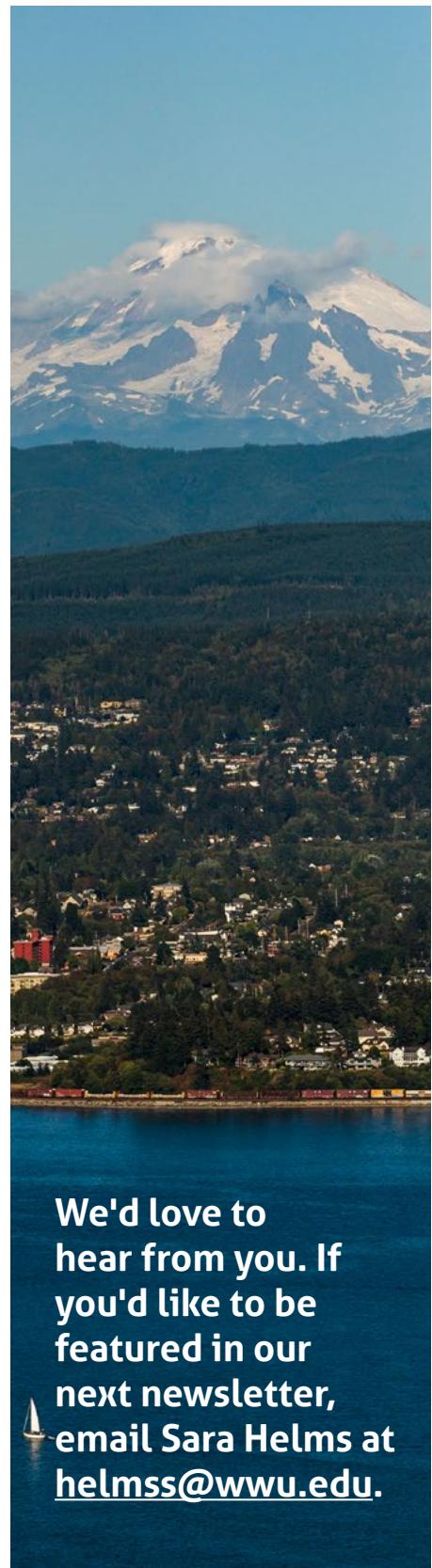
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT cont.



Courtesy Heidi Strum Sterling.



Courtesy Samantha Wray.



We'd love to hear from you. If you'd like to be featured in our next newsletter, email Sara Helms at helmss@wwu.edu.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Sheryl Bernardo-Hinesley presenting at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest. Photo courtesy of Sheryl Bernardo-Hinesley.

Sheryl Bernardo-Hinesley, Ph.D., has completed her first year as an assistant professor at Western. She had the opportunity to teach a course in Pidgins and Creoles in spring of 2020. Aside from this course, she taught courses in general Spanish linguistics, Spanish sociolinguistics, second language acquisition, and world language teaching methodology for the departments of Linguistics and Modern and Classical Languages. Since arriving on campus, she presented on task-based language teaching at the fall 2019 Washington Association for Language Teaching Conference, and at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest on the linguistic landscape of Cavite

City, Philippines, in where the remaining speakers of Cavite Chabacano reside. This creole variety, which is critically endangered of extinction, is a Philippine Creole Spanish variety that emerged during the Spanish colonial occupation of the Philippines. Her book chapter “Linguistic Landscape and the Struggle for Survival: The Case of Cavite Chabacano,” is currently under review for inclusion in an edited volume, *Linguistic Landscape in Southeast Asia*. Her article “Multiple Grammars and L2 Optionality: The Case of Acquisition at the External Interface” appeared in the *Journal of Second and Multiple Language Acquisition* in January 2020. In addition, she has been awarded the 2020 MCL Department Research/Teaching Grant. •

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT cont.



Virginia Dawson, earned her bachelor's degrees in linguistics and Spanish from the Australian National University in 2013. She moved to the U.S. in 2014 to attend the University of California, Berkeley, earning her master's in linguistics in 2016. Dawson will earn her doctorate from UCB this summer. Her main research interests lie in semantic and pragmatic theory, with a particular focus on cross-linguistic variation. Questions that particularly excite her include the extent to which disjunction, indefinite articles, and other "logical" words differ across languages, and how semantic theory can be refined to take into account a wider range of typologically diverse languages.

The majority of her research centers on her ongoing fieldwork with Tiwa, an understudied Tibeto-Burman language spoken in Assam, India. Dawson began working with the Tiwa community in

Umswai, India in 2012 while earning her undergraduate degree, and has returned throughout her graduate studies to continue this research. In addition to her theoretical interests in semantics and pragmatics, Dawson has explored questions in Tiwa morphology and syntax and is working to document Tiwa grammar and use so that it will be preserved for future generations.

Dawson is extremely excited to join the Linguistics Department at Western. She is looking forward to teaching semantics and pragmatics and linguistic analysis in the fall, getting to know the students, staff, and faculty, and exploring Bellingham and the surrounding area. •

Left, Virginia Dawson at the Museum of Old and New Art in Tasmania, early 2020.

Below, Dawson takes a selfie with friends in Tiwa, 2018. Photos courtesy of Virginia Dawson.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT cont.



Photo courtesy of Kristin Denham.

Kristin Denham, Ph.D., had two journal articles published this year: “The AP Linguistics Initiative” (co-authored with colleague Anne Lobeck, Ph.D. and also with Stonybrook University professor Richard Larson, Ph.D.) on the development of high school linguistics courses, and “Positioning Students as Linguistic and Social Experts: Teaching grammar and linguistics in the United States”, which is due out later this year in L1 Educational Studies in Language and Literature. The latter article grew out of a conference Dr. Denham presented at in January of 2019 in Barcelona, Spain, The III International Congress on Teaching Grammar. Dr. Denham has become more involved in the Scholarship of Teaching and

Learning (SoTL) this year, and as part of that research, is an invited participant in a Faculty Learning Community, as part of a National Science Foundation grant. Through this work, Dr. Denham was also expecting to present “How Metasyntactic Knowledge Correlates with Performance in a Syntactic Course,” at the EduLing conference on Linguistic Awareness at Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands in June of 2020, but the conference has been cancelled due to COVID-19. Also due out later this year from Cambridge University Press is a book that Denham is co-authoring with colleague Jordan Sandoval, Ph.D., *Thinking Like a Linguist*. Dr. Lobeck and Dr. Denham received a Social Justice and Equity Committee grant this year from Western to continue their Western Talks project, which aims to change attitudes and highlight behavior surrounding language variation that can lead to linguistic discrimination. •

Dr. Kristin Denham was chosen as the LSA's featured member for April 2020.

Read the April 2020 faculty spotlight [HERE](#).

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT cont.

Anne Lobeck, Ph.D., is spending the 2019-2020 academic year on professional leave, researching ways in which grammatical error correction, a common social practice in the U.S., supports and perpetuates language subordination and discrimination. Her study begins with the rise of prescriptive grammar and attitudes about correctness in 17th century England, and traces the ways in which those very same attitudes are reproduced today, not only in education, but online, in grammar memes, comment threads on YouTube and Facebook, and in grammar ‘help’ sites such as Grammarly. Another aspect of the study is a critical grammatical analysis of perceived errors; are syntactic errors considered more ‘bothersome’ than morphological errors? Do people react more strongly to phonological and/or spelling errors? Have notions of what constitutes an error changed over time, and if so, how and why? Her study is not limited to prescriptive grammar; she is also investigating how linguists, who claim to be ideologically neutral in their research of ‘natural language,’ also depend on and perpetuate certain language norms. For example, much work in syntactic theory is based on grammaticality judgements of mainstream language speakers. Such theories may therefore miss important generalizations that are revealed by data from speakers of language varieties that are less well studied and/or considered less prestigious than more mainstream ‘standard’ varieties.

In addition to publishing some of the results of her research, Dr. Lobeck hopes to integrate her findings into her linguistics courses. Her



Anne Lobeck and her son Schulyer (Western alumnus) backpacked to Anderson and Watson Lakes in the pouring rain, Sept 2019. Photo courtesy of Anne Lobeck.

paper, “Moving toward critical grammar pedagogy: an experimental undergraduate course on English grammar,” was accepted to The Educational Linguistics Seminar on Linguistic Awareness in L1 Language Teaching, at Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. The conference has been postponed due to COVID19. Dr. Lobeck also had a journal article published: “The AP Linguistics Initiative,” co-authored with colleague Kristin Denham, Ph.D., and Richard Larson, Ph.D. a professor at Stonybrook University, on the development of high school linguistics courses. Dr. Lobeck and Dr. Denham also received a Social Justice and Equity Committee grant this year from Western to continue their work on their Western Talks project, which focuses on highlighting linguistic diversity at Western, and raising awareness of how attitudes about language can lead to linguistic discrimination. •

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT cont.

McNeel Gordon Jantzen, Ph.D., was excited to move from the Psychology Department to her new home in the Linguistics Department this past fall. The transition has allowed Dr. Jantzen to focus and align her teaching with her research interests within Auditory Cognitive Neuroscience. Dr. Jantzen is working with colleague Kristin Denham, Ph.D., to create an upper division psychoacoustics course, that in conjunction with the senior level course, will offer linguistics students a unique opportunity to gain programming and analytical as well as applied, conceptual and theoretical knowledge, relevant to the fields of: Linguistics, Auditory Cognitive Neuroscience, Psycholinguistics, Psychoacoustics, and Communication Sciences and Disorders. Dr. Jantzen and Dr. Denham also worked to develop a new introductory level language and brain course that will also serve as a natural science general university requirement here at Western. The course will address some of the fundamental topics underlying human language: (1) how different components of language are processed by and represented in our brains; (2) how language is acquired and processed throughout the life span; (3) the relationship between language and thought; (4) the effects of music and multilingualism on language networks; and (5) how neuroimaging and computational modeling techniques are used to examine the processing, representation, and acquisition of language. Dr. Jantzen is eager to begin teaching this new course next academic year. In the fall she also began working with linguistics students



Photo courtesy of McNeel Gordon Jantzen.

on preparing a research presentation and poster for the 2020 Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting. Dr. Jantzen has secured a formal offer for publication of a new book that will focus on recent research that speaks specifically and directly to the process that occurs within language systems when individuals are exposed to and engage in musical training and other complex auditory environments. The book will cover topics ranging from human genetics to neurodevelopmental fetal work to subconscious/pre-attentive experiences. The work will be the basis of her application for professional leave in fall 2020 for AY 2021-22. Dr. Jantzen is thrilled to call the Linguistics Department home and is enjoying the opportunity to work more closely with her colleagues here. She is looking forward to helping welcome two new tenure track professors to the Department next fall. •

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT cont.

Jordan Sandoval, Ph.D, is very excited to be joining the department in the fall of 2020 as assistant professor in phonology. After teaching in Western's Linguistics Program over the last decade, the coming academic year promises to bring some happy changes, like setting up lab-space for more collaboration with students and returning to teaching phonetics and phonology classes. This last year was full of many fun and notable projects, including: research on Mandarin phonology judgments; pedagogical development in Spanish language

classes, working with linguistics/speech path/Spanish majors and senior instructor of Spanish, Kirsten Drickey, Ph.D, to create explicit phonological training for Western's 200-300 level Spanish language learners; and co-authoring a textbook with colleague Kristin Denham, Ph.D., *Thinking Like a Linguist*, due out Fall 2020. These projects, as well as collaboration with other Western students, led to conference presentations in Arizona, San Diego, New Orleans, and two spring conferences online. •



Dr. Jordan Sandoval (right) poses with Arizona State University colleague Dr. Amy LaCross at the 178th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in San Diego, Dec. 2019. Sandoval and LaCross shared their research, along with ASU's Dr. Julie Liss. Photo courtesy of Jordan Sandoval.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT cont.

Edward Vajda, Ph.D., continues to teach introductory linguistics, morphological theory, and historical linguistics as well as courses in Russian language and Eurasian peoples in his home department of Modern and Classical Languages. He has served as director of Western's Linguistics Program and the East Asian Studies Program. He also served as an editor of the New York-based linguistics journal *Word*. Fluent in several languages, he has authored six books and dozens of articles and reviews. His current research involves documenting the disappearing languages of Siberia. Dr. Vajda has conducted original fieldwork with Ket, a language spoken by fewer than 50 people in the remote Yenisei River basin. He is also affiliated with the

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, where in August 2006 he proposed evidence of a genetic connection between Yeniseian, the language family to which Ket belongs, and the Na-Dene family of North America, the first widely accepted linguistic link between an Old World and a New World language family. Dr. Vajda continues to work as editor of the volume, *The Languages and Linguistics of Northern Asia*, to be published as volume 10 of the Mouton de Gruyter series "World of Language". He has published a myriad of articles this past year, including co-authoring the article "Paleo-Eskimo Legacy across Chukotka and North America", from the June 13, 2019 issue of the journal *Nature*. •



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



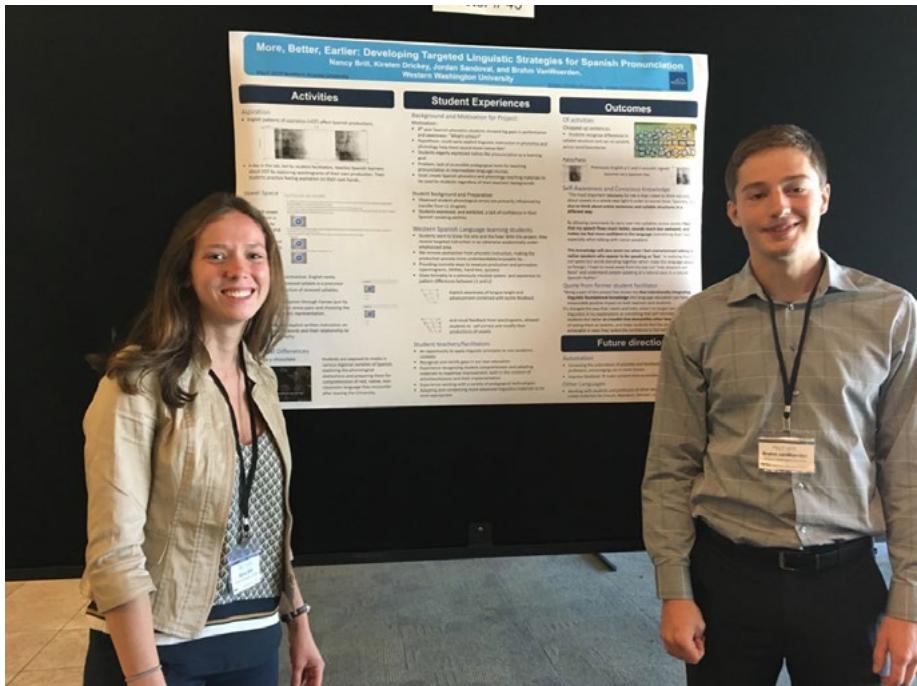
Western Students Present Research at PSLLT in Arizona

Students Nancy Brill and Brahm van Woerden presented their research at the 2019 Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference in Flagstaff, AZ, Sep. 2019. Above, they pose with their research poster in front of the Grand Canyon. Photos courtesy of Jordan Sandoval.

After upper-division Spanish-language students reported difficulty producing and understanding native-like Spanish speech, Dr. Jordan Sandoval of Linguistics and Dr. Kirsten Dickey of Modern and Classical Languages sought to give students explicit pronunciation instruction at the 200-level. With the help of students Nancy Brill and Brahm van Woerden, they created and

implemented a curriculum to help students with their pronunciation skills earlier in their Spanish studies. As a result, students are more prepared to interact with Spanish outside of the classroom and make cultural connections with Spanish-speaking communities at home and abroad. They presented their findings at the PSLLT Conference.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT cont.



Brill and van Woerden pose with their research poster at the conference.

"Attending PSLLT was an incredible opportunity to share and receive feedback on our own research, learn more about how others are applying linguistic research, and meet professionals of all sorts sharing their knowledge of language in various ways. Taking part in this conference has inspired excitement for my own future in linguistics and teaching, and I'm so thankful for all the people who made this opportunity possible for us -- Dr. Jordan Sandoval and Dr. Kirsten Dickey, who have guided both Brahm and me as well as our research team, and Sara Helms and Dr. Kristen Denham, who made our trip to Arizona possible."

-Nancy Brill

"The PSLLT conference showed me the wide world of specialists passionate about the same things that interest me, and actively engaged in answering the questions that I want answered. We got to hear about projects going on all over the world concerned with a huge range of details, but all tightly focused around the improvement of pronunciation instruction. The sheer depth and range of content has encouraged me to invest more in my research on campus, and engage more with my classes. I would highly recommend this experience to all Western students!"

-Brahm van Woerden

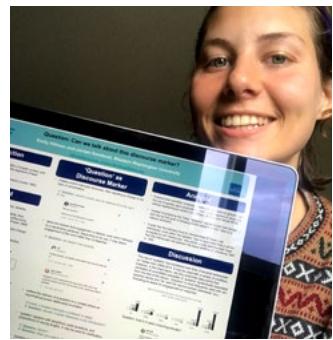


The Spanish pronunciation curriculum team. From left, Dr. Jordan Sandoval, student Nancy Brill, student Brahm van Woerden, and Dr. Kirsten Dickey.

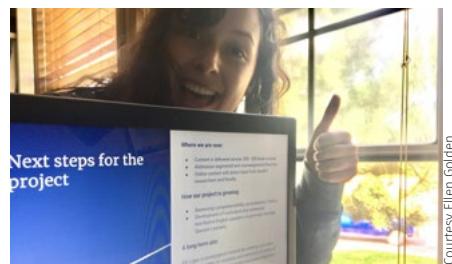
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT cont.

Linguistics Students, Alumnus Present Research at NWLC, 2020

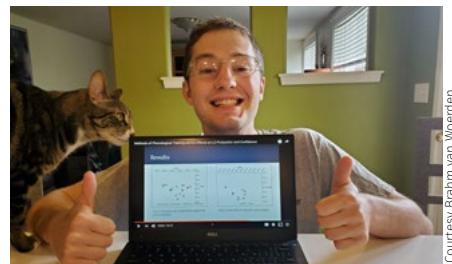
The Department of Linguistics would like to recognize the hard work of our students and alumni who presented at the 2020 Northwest Linguistics Conference, April 25-26, 2020. The conference, hosted by the University of Washington, moved to an entirely online format following social distancing guidelines related to the Covid-19 outbreak. All presentations from the conference can be viewed online [here](#).



Courtesy Nancy Brill.



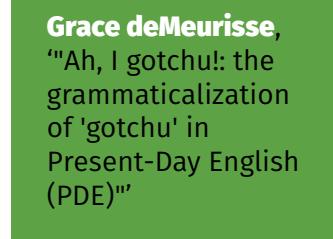
Courtesy Ellen Golden.



Courtesy Brahm van Woerden.



Courtesy Kathryn Pence.



SCHOLARS WEEK 2019

Chris Beswetherick and Daniel Leach: “The Evolution of Spanish Coronal Fricatives”

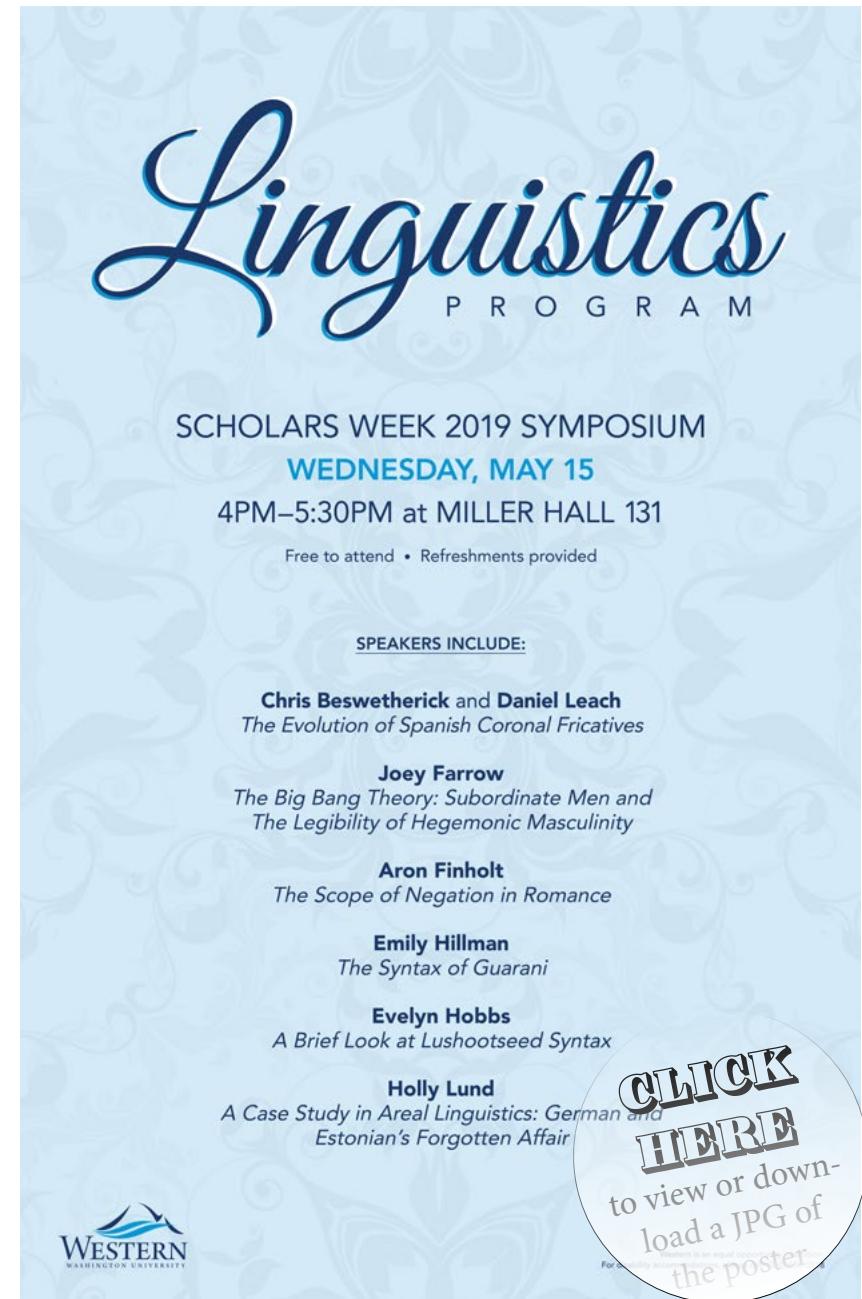
Joey Farrow: “The Big Bang Theory: Subordinate Men and The Legibility of Hegemonic Masculinity”

Aron Finholt: “The Scope of Negation in Romance”

Emily Hillman: “The Syntax of Guarani”

Evelyn Hobbs: “A Brief Look at Lushootseed Syntax”

Holly Lund: “A Case Study in Areal Linguistics: German and Estonian’s Forgotten Affair”



LINGUISTICS CLUB

The Linguistics Club is a student group on campus set on connecting linguistics majors and language enthusiasts outside of the classroom. Their main goals are to educate students in topics not covered in their coursework, to facilitate discussion, and to build a community of linguistics students.

Join us on Social Media

[wwulinguistics](#)

[WWU Linguistics Alumni](#)

[WWU Linguistics](#)

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

2018-2019

**Department of Linguistics
Outstanding Graduating Senior**
Laura Munger

**Department of Linguistics
Outstanding Graduating Senior
Finalists**

Aron Finholt
Catherine Kemp
Chloe Fasoldt
Grace Warthen
Luciele Bolton
Nicholai Whippo

**2019 Winner of the
Linguistics Student Scholarship**
Tabitha Watkins

2019-2020

**Department of Linguistics
Outstanding Graduating Senior**
Emily Hillman

**Department of Linguistics
Exceptional Student Awardees**

Nancy Brill
Abigail Freitag
Ellen Golden
Emily Hillman
Calli Hilvitz
Daniel Leach
Holly Lund

**2020 Winners of the
Linguistics Student Scholarship**
Graham Blair
McKenzie Clark

2020 marks the first year of the Department of Linguistics Exceptional Student Award, coinciding with the first year of our newly-established department. The Linguistics faculty have selected graduating seniors who have made an outstanding contribution to the department with their exceptional scholarship, with their engagement in department activities, and with their service as leaders and mentors.

To contribute to our scholarship fund for students visit
www.wwu.edu/give.