

# WWU Linguistics Newsletter



## A Word from the Director

Dear Graduates and Friends of Western's Linguistics Program,

On behalf of the linguistics program, allow me to send a hearty greeting to all of you. It has been a busy year, so far. It is frankly a pretty daunting task to head this program after so many years of able administration by my predecessor, Dr. Rudolf Weiss, who is now relaxing in full retirement mode, but I am enjoying working with our excellent faculty and our enthusiastic and diverse group of students. At something like a hundred majors, we are one of the largest undergraduate linguistics program in the country.

We have successfully completed a significant revision of the curriculum. Dr. Anne Lobeck and Dr. Kristin Denham, along with our indefatigable linguistics program assistant, Andrew Blick, were central to this effort. Morphology will be taught as a 402 course now, semantics has become a requirement of the core, and syntax will now be taught across two quarters. I am sure the readers will agree that ten weeks is not enough to cover the basics of syntactic theory. I am also excited that we were able to add psychology as a concentration. Dr. MacNeil Jantzen and Dr. Todd Haskell were instrumental in helping us to accomplish this. Because psycholinguistics is an advanced course, students will have to take quite a few prerequisites, but those who do will have an excellent background in both psychology and linguistic science.

We have lots of news to tell you about the faculty. We were delighted to welcome to the linguistics faculty Dr. Judith Pine, an anthropologist who specializes in language ideology, literacy theory, ethnicity, upland peoples of southeast Asia and southwest China, language maintenance and language endangerment. Linguistics students will be able to study linguistic anthropology and the ethnography of speaking with Dr. Pine next year. The Department of Modern and Classical Languages hired two new linguists, Dr. Christina Keppie, who is a French sociolinguist, and Dr. Shannon Dubenion-Smith, a German dialectologist. Dr. Keppie will be teaching sociolinguistics for us, a big challenge which we are very grateful she agreed to, and Dr. Dubenion-Smith is currently teaching a much-anticipated course on the history of linguistic theories. Dr. Jordan Brewer returned to teaching in the program and just showed up on campus the other day with a very beautiful baby by the name of Kinsey. Dr. Brewer is teaching phonetics and phonology and has graciously accepted a section of sociolinguistics next year.

In the meantime, Dr. Kendra Douglas traveled to England, where she took an intensive course on advanced techniques of phonetic analysis and will be teaching phonetics in the linguistics program for the first time. Dr. Masanori Deguchi, our resident Japanese linguist, will once again teach semantics, and we were very lucky indeed to find another semanticist to teach the second section of semantics: Dr. Janet Xing.

The tremendous variety of linguistics offerings will be further enhanced by a course in Natural Language Processing by computer scientist Dr. Jim Hearne. Dr. Eva Baharav, a neurolinguist from Communications Sciences and Disorders, will be teaching a series of courses on language development and disorders. Dr. Tom Downing will be offering a course on the philosophy of language. Drs. Denham and Lobeck will be teaching courses on linguistics in the schools, the cultural history of English and the structure of English.

On staff as well this year is Liz Goodin-Mayeda, who was our outstanding linguistics graduate a few years back. Liz went on to study at UCLA and is completing her dissertation on acquisition of phonological perception. She has been teaching phonetics and Spanish for us this year. We were thrilled to learn that Liz landed a job as a professor of Spanish phonetics and phonology at the University of Texas at Houston.

And speaking of linguistics students, the linguistics club, headed by the unfaltering Marty Van Schijndel, has been very active with a very well-attended series of "crash courses." You should check out their website, for which there is a link on our linguistics program home page.

Our very capable program assistant, Andrew Blick, will be completing his graduate work in education, so we will bid a fond adieu to him at the end of this academic year. He has put in three years of excellent work for us and will be hard to replace.

I would like to extend a special word of thanks to those graduates who have been so generous as to donate to the Western Foundation. In these tight budgetary times, every little bit helps, and we really appreciate your continued support of our program.

I would like to encourage linguistics graduates to e-mail me at [Shaw.Gynan@wwu.edu](mailto:Shaw.Gynan@wwu.edu) with news about what you are doing in your careers. This kind of information is very useful to our current students, and will make for great copy in our next newsletter!

Best wishes to all of you from

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Shaw N. Gynan.

Shaw N. Gynan, Director of the Linguistics Program

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## Mongolian Language and Culture at WWU in 2009-2010

-Dr. Edward Vajda



Sukh-Baatar monument,  
Central Square, Ulaan-Baatar



Ovoo (Mongolian prayer  
cairn)

During the past few years elementary Mongolian language was offered on a non-credit or independent study basis. In 2009-2010 Mongolian studies and language will be taught by Edward Vajda on a credit basis. Fall quarter will begin with a culture course taught in English (East Asian Studies 210, Nomads of Eurasia) at 10a.m. daily. Winter and spring quarters will feature a sequence of two four-credit elementary Mongolian language classes taught at 2p.m.. No prior knowledge of Mongolian is assumed. There will be considerable content aimed

toward linguistics majors, as well as cultural information of value to anyone wishing to learn more about ancient or modern Mongolia. For more information contact Edward Vajda at: Edward.Vajda@wwu.edu

During March, 2009 Dr. Vajda visited Ulaan-Baatar, capital of the Republic of Mongolia to meet with university officials and initiate the process of establishing regular student and faculty exchanges. He brought back new teaching materials and visual aids. He also met Bayarmaa and Munkhzhayaa. They

toured the city together and visited the new 300 foot high statue commemorating Chinggis Khan, located in the steppes to the east of the capital.

Mongolian is a language with fascinating structural and phonetic features. It is written in a Cyrillic (Russian-style) as well as a vertical script. Both the grammatical and phonetic structure, as well as the two systems of graphics will be covered during the first year of Mongolian study. A second year of Mongolian instruction is also anticipated in 2010-2011.

## Changes to the Program for 2009-2010

The linguistics program is officially changing its major requirements as of Fall 2009. These new requirements will be:

Intro to Linguistics (LING 201, ENG 370, or TESOL 401)

Sociolinguistics (LING 204 or ENG 270)

Phonetics (LING 314)

Phonology (LING 315)

Syntax I (LING 321)

Syntax II (LING 322)

Semantics (LING 331)

Colloquium Presentation (LING 099)

Two of: Topics in Linguistics (LING 402, or other course under approval)

The language component is remaining the same.

There will be some minor changes to the concentrations:

A concentration in Psychology is now officially recognized as a component of the Linguistics major, including: Psychol-

ogy 101, 210, 301, 318, and one elective.

Dr. Judy Pine, professor of Anthropological Linguistics will be taking over as the Anthropology Concentration advisor. She has already added new courses in "Ethnography of Communication" and other topics in Anthropological Linguistics.

We hope that these changes improve the program and help prepare students for future work in Linguistics.

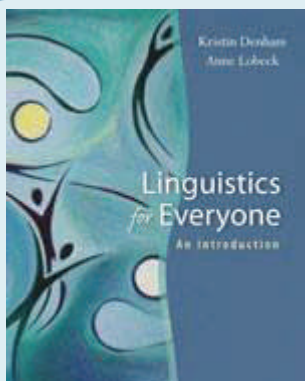
## Linguistics for Everyone!

Drs. Anne Lobeck and Kristin Denham have just completed their new textbook, *Linguistics for Everyone: An Introduction*. The Linguistics program is proud of their accomplishment! Below is a description of the new textbook.

*Linguistics for Everyone* contains many elements relating the study of linguistics to the lan-

guage of communication in the real world. The text is organized to make the material easy to find and the content interesting and relevant to your life. The first chapter gives you the basics such as how to define language, new ways to look at grammar, your innate knowledge about language, animal communication systems, and so on. Later chapters address core

linguistics areas in depth (phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics). The many innovative and varied activities help you review and practice the content and offer ample opportunities to apply the knowledge immediately. Anyone with an interest in language will find much to enjoy in this new book by two respected educators.



Anne and Kristin's new Textbook

*"Linguistics Club is more fun than a barrel of morphemes."*  
-Rod Powell

## The Linguistics Club Update

"Linguistics club is more fun than a barrel of morphemes," says club vice president Rod Powell. No surprise then, that the WWU Linguistics club has announced earlier in January of 2009 that they have reached and exceeded 200 members. During the winter and fall quarters the group arranged presentations by guest speakers on a bi-

weekly basis. Presenters have included Dr. Amir Abedi with a crash course on Farsi, Dr. Lena Ericksen with a crash course in Swedish, Dr. Kristin Denham on Lushootseed Informants and language documentation, as well as Dr. Christina Keppie on the Aca-dian Language.

Every Lecture during spring quarter has pulled an audience

of at least 30 attendees, according to club president Marty van Schijndel. As for the club's goals for next year, Powell "can't ask for a bigger attendance, since most of our events this quarter [winter] been almost over crowded." However, he "would like to see more suggestion and participation from the members of our group."

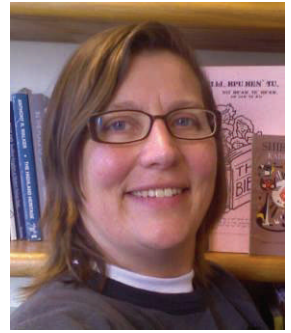
## Linguistic Anthropologist, Judy Pine

I am the newest member of the Anthropology Department, and, as a Linguistic Anthropologist, the anthropology representative to the Linguistics program. I'm beginning my second quarter of teaching at WWU, where I'll be offering the introductory course in linguistic anthropology as well as advanced courses such as the Ethnography of Communication and Semiotic Anthropology. I've had some excellent linguistics majors as students in my fall and winter quarter classes and a number of Anthropology majors have expressed an interest in pursuing Linguistics in some fashion. I am very excited to participate in the interdisciplinary program, and look forward to getting to know everyone better.

My research site is northern Thailand, where I work with Lahu speakers. Lahu is a Tibeto-Burman language traditionally spoken in the uplands of mainland South East Asia and southwest China. My initial research looked at Lahu literacies. As an anthropologist, however, I collected data in a holistic fashion and have as a result written on a number of other topics based on that original research. Most recently, I presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Nov. 2008. This paper, which explored the indexical nature of specific instances of Lahu-English code switching, was entitled "What is the point? Indexicality, language ideology and the use of English

in Lahu settings".

My current project expands this interest to look at Lahu language media more generally. This summer I'll be using a summer research grant to return to my field site in the northern part of Chiangmai province, Thailand. I'll also participate in the First International Symposium on Lahu Ethnic Minority, to be held in Yunnan, PRC in July 2009. An NSF proposal I have just submitted is designed to fund this project over a three year period, and will include some funding for undergraduate research assistants. Should this proposal meet with success, I'll be advertising a research assistant position in Fall 2009.



Dr. Judy Pine

## At Home and Abroad

-Dr. Kendra Douglas

In finishing the winter quarter, I reflect on the past year and half of teaching, research, and learning opportunities at home and abroad. This past term presented a special opportunity to teach Portuguese phonology in conjunction with elementary language in a pilot course. The format, while challenging, gave an opportunity to the students to learn fundamentals of the language while focusing on details of its rich phonological system. Students applied this knowledge in the final project: to expand Wikipedia pages on Portuguese-based creoles that had contained only skeletal information at the beginning of the course. In this way, students discovered that Portuguese encircles the world, and that their efforts had the potential of making their research globally available.

Last fall, I helped put Linguistics on the map and minds of my

colleagues from other disciplines at WWU. Participating in my Faculty GUR mini-course "Talking the Talk: Globalization & Language Contact," my colleagues engaged in an exciting discussion about phenomena of language contact, both in theory and personal experience, and from the eye of their respective areas of expertise. Inspired by what we do in such a course, my colleagues are better able to direct their students to take our classes. Their experience with linguistics will be among those highlighted in this year's Innovative Teaching Showcase. <http://pandora.cii.wvu.edu/cii/showcase/>

Opportunities to conduct research, present at conferences, participate in courses, and just be with language took me to Uruguay and Peru in 2007 and Great Britain and Italy in 2008. In Uruguay I conducted research on gesture, the findings

which will be published as a chapter in a forthcoming volume. In Peru, I presented a paper on graffiti in Galicia, Spain, inspired by walking the Camino de Santiago. I also had the opportunity to experience the nuances of Peruvian Spanish in Lima and Quechua-Spanish language contact in the Sacred Valley. In 2008, I travelled to Great Britain to participate in an advanced course in phonetics at the University College London, which culminated in the rigorous IPA exam of the International Phonetics Association. From there, I headed to Sardinia, Tuscany and Umbria – an opportunity to rediscover my history with Italian and observe bilingualism and regional dialects with an entirely different perspective from when I was only a teen. As always, these are the rich experiences that I take to the classroom to make linguistics come alive. As they say in Britain, "brilliant!"

## Welcome New Linguistics Faculty!

The Linguistics program is pleased to announce that three new full-time faculty members have decided to join our wonderful program: Dr. Christina Keppie, assistant professor of French and Linguistics; Dr. Shannon Dubenion-Smith, assistant professor of German and Linguistics; Dr. Judy Pine, assistant professor of Anthropological Linguistics; and Dr. Elizabeth Goodin-Mayeda.

Dr. Keppie will be teaching courses in French Applied Linguistics and course in Sociolinguistics for the Linguistics Program.

Dr. Dubenion-Smith will be teaching courses in Applied German Linguistics and Linguistic Theory.

Dr. Pine will be teaching various in the Anthropology department

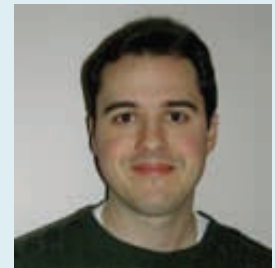
that will be cross-listed into the Linguistics program and offered as topics course, such as "Endangered Languages," "Language and Gender," and "Ethnography of Communication."

Dr. Elizabeth Goodin-Mayeda will be teaching courses in Spanish, Phonetics, and Morphological Theory.

*Check out the Innovative Teaching Showcase*

*Webpage:*

<http://pandora.cii.wvu.edu/cii/showcase/>



Dr. Shannon Dubenion-Smith



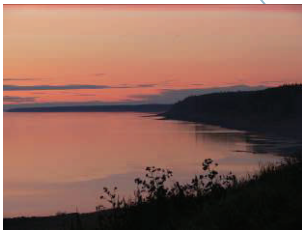
Dr. Christina Keppie



## Tracing Human Prehistory: Language Lessons in Sub-Arctic Siberia -Dr. Edward Vajda



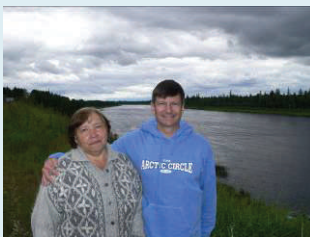
**Dr. Vajda at Tomsk Train Station, embarking on his expedition**



**Yenisei River**



**Dr. Vajda by Ket teepee frame (qu's)**



**Dr. Vajda with Ket speaker Valentina Romanenkova  
Yelogui River, Northern Siberia**

Trained in graduate school as a Slavic linguist, after getting a position at Western 23 years ago, I developed a specialization in the non-European languages of the former Soviet Union. Since that time I have become a world-recognized expert on Ket, a structurally unique and once enigmatic language spoken by fewer than 100 people in a remote area of north-central Siberia. I have become deeply involved in documenting this language before it vanishes, and my efforts have put me in touch with geographically diverse Native American communities grappling with the same issue of language loss. Because much of Siberia remained completely closed to foreigners during the Soviet period, in the 1990s I became the first English speaker ever to meet speakers of this dying language, and the first American to travel to certain corners of north-central Siberia. In the past four years I have published or edited several books on Ket and other Native Siberian languages, including the first-ever, full-length grammar of Ket. Before my research, Ket tones, verb structure, and genetic affiliation had long remained opaque mysteries widely commented upon by other linguists. I managed to solve all three problems.

Researching the structure of Ket required me to develop novel approaches to describing the language's system of syllabic tones, which, unlike other tonal languages, consist of a unique amalgam of non-melodic features such as length and pharyngeal stricture (i.e., throat muscle tensing to modify voice quality), in addition to melodic pitch. Tone systems in languages like Chinese are based on contrastive pitch only, so that earlier linguists who recorded Ket did not recognize the tonal quality of Ket syllables at all and could not produce an observationally adequate account of the sound system (without which comparison with other language families is fruitless). My research also cracked the code of how subject and object agreement is expressed in the Ket verb. Previous research on Ket had concluded that every verb is an exception, a position that made it impossible to compare Ket word building patterns with those of other languages. Unlike other known languages, Ket has a dozen different lexical patterns for expressing verb agreement, rather than a single overall strategy, as well as five distinct patterns for expressing tense. My research has made Ket verb structure famous among typological linguists. (In linguistics, "typology" is defined as "comparing sound systems or word and phrase building patterns in a way that contributes to our understanding of the human brain.") Due to my expertise in verb agreement systems, during the past few years I have been invited to serve on the dissertation committee of five graduate students who defended their dissertations in Russia (Tomsk, St.

Petersburg), Germany (Leipzig, Berlin), and Australia (Melbourne).

My work in typological and historical linguistics led to a long-term association with the world-renowned Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, where the linguistics department focuses on typology as well as on using language connections to trace human prehistory. Since 2004 I have been invited five times to Leipzig as a fully funded visiting scholar, spending my entire 2005 academic leave there, along with much of the time in between my teaching quarters during the following three years. At Max Planck, my Ket expertise allowed me to participate in several major international projects, including the creation of the *World Atlas of Linguistic Structures*, the Loanword Typology Project, a project on the typology of ditransitive verbs (verbs like 'give' or 'send' that have two objects), and a project entitled "Hunter-Gatherers in Global Perspective". Because guest scholars from all over the world are continually visiting Leipzig, I have been able to present my findings in person to hundreds of top linguists from dozens of countries and consult with them directly to improve my results.

In February-March 2008 at two conferences in Fairbanks and Anchorage, Alaska, a group of the world's most accomplished historical linguists unanimously accepted my research on Ket and Athabaskan as the first demonstration of a language connection between an Old World and a New World language family, something that has been sought for over 200 years. This language family, which I call "Dene-Yeniseic", became the first new language link to be discovered in more than half a century. Based on my knowledge of Inner Asian history, I succeeded in explaining how the Ket tone and agreement systems developed from a prototype identical to that which gave rise to certain prefixing Native American languages – the Athabaskan, Eyak, and Tlingit languages, which together form a family called "Na-Dene." Ket was formerly much closer typologically to the tonal, prefixing Athabaskan, only gradually developing its modern-day structure through centuries of pressure from the non-tonal, exclusively suffixing Turkic, Mongolic, and Samoyedic languages spoken by adjacent groups from whom the Ket inducted marriage partners – a process for which I have coined the term "typological accommodation." These historical explanations go beyond mere typology, however. In the basic vocabulary inherited from the ancestral language, I have demonstrated that certain Ket tones correlate systematically with certain syllable-final consonant articulations in Athabaskan, Eyak and Tlingit. And certain configurations of Ket verb prefixes correlate with homologous configurations in these

languages as well. My typological investigation of Ket phonology and morphology thus served as a prerequisite for solving the biggest mystery of all – the origin of the Ket language and its genetic relations alongside other language families of the world.

Since March 2008 my work in describing the unique Ket syllabic tones and prefixing verb structure, and especially my establishment of a genetic link between Ket and Na-Dene has garnered a great deal of attention among linguists as well as in the popular press. If one enters combination of words such as 'Vajda', 'Alaska', 'Ket' (or 'Vajda' + 'Athabaskan') into any Internet search engine, some of this information becomes immediately accessible, including newspaper and magazine articles, as well as professional reviews.

In June 2008 my Athabaskanist colleagues invited me back to Alaska for a follow-up conference. I also visited an archeological dig (Gerstle River, 120 miles due east of Fairbanks), where I gave a guest presentation about the Ket-Athabaskan language link to the archeologists excavating the 10,000 year-old site. This was a real privilege, since that very week the dig had yielded America's first ever microblades discovered imbedded in a bison rib in precisely the same manner characteristic of those typically found in eastern and southern Siberia. The hunters who fashioned these implements are conceivably the same ones who spoke the ancestral language I have been reconstructing.

Also in 2008, Max Planck linguistics director Bernard Comrie (one of the world's leading linguists and author of over 30 books) pronounced my conclusions on Dene-Yeniseic as among the most important discoveries of the institute in the past decade. Max Planck fully funded me in late summer 2008 to lead an international expedition to the remote area of Turukhansk District of north-central Siberia, where the remaining speakers of Ket live in general poverty, rampant alcoholism, and a deep geographic isolation accessible only by river boat or government helicopter. During August and September I became the first person from the Americas ever to visit this remote area. In fact, this year I probably became the first person in history to sail in a canoe on both the Yukon and the Yenisei rivers in the same summer. My expedition to the Ket proved to be a grueling trek across 16 time zones, on 11 planes, 6 trains, two amazing helicopter rides out across the vast taiga forest, and a two day river trip on the last steamboat to leave the northern Yenisei before winter (it dipped below freezing already on Aug. 18). I could write a book about this amazing, life-changing experience, and one of these years I almost certainly will. From a linguistic standpoint, the trip yielded a huge trove of new language data, very little of which I have yet had time to process. I also brought back 45 hours of high-quality video and audio and over 2000 photographs documenting never-before described aspects of remote Native Siberian social life. One of the accomplishments of which I am particularly proud is that I was able to get the first frank account of traditional men-women relations, with much ethnographic and linguistic detail. While working with some of the last Ket hunters to have grown up in birchbark tents deep in the forest (rather than in the Russian-style village where most Ket live today) I succeeded in recording a near-complete roster of plant, bird, and animal terms in native Ket and key them to the correct scientific (Latin) identification (though I do confess I still have a few unanswered questions about thrushes, snow buntings, and woodpeckers). I also discovered an entirely new morphological subsystem in the Ket verb involving how third-person objects (i.e., 'him, her, it') are encoded. In addition to helping further demonstrate the connection with Native America, these and other data gathered will greatly aid me in the four long-term projects in which I am currently involved: writing the first-ever Ket ethnographic history, writing a definitive, full-

length grammar of Ket (as a volume in the series "Mouton Grammar Library"), creating a comprehensive etymological dictionary of Ket and its extinct relatives (co-authored with the veteran Ket scholar H. Werner, this manuscript is already over 1,500 pages long), and a comprehensive Ket-Russian-English-German dictionary. For the last project, I am collaborating with linguists from the Siberian Languages Laboratory in Tomsk, Russia, which I have visited five times in the last ten years.

Since returning home from Siberia on Sept. 22, 2008, I have visited, by invitation, native educators on the Navajo Reservation (Oct. 7-10, 2008), as well as the Denai'na Athabaskans of Alaska (Oct. 13-16, 2008) and the Tsuut'ina and Dene Suline Athabaskan tribes of Alberta (Oct. 27-28, 2008). I have begun a co-operative project of developing techniques for creating teaching materials around the typologically rare verb structure shared by all these languages, as well as by Tlingit, using my analysis of the genetically related Ket verb as a reference. From Oct. 27 to Nov. 2, I was invited to the University of Alberta, Edmonton, as a Distinguished Visiting Speaker on a fully funded trip. There in Edmonton I presented four 2-hour lectures on my research, as well as a shorter report to the Baikal Archeological Project, which is researching archeological and DNA evidence of Native American origins in South Siberia in the very area where I can demonstrate on the basis of substrate river names that the Ket people likewise trace their origins, a finding that accords with traditional Ket folklore. I have begun turning down out-of-town speaking invitations, as my 23 plane flights in the past three months are starting to wear on me.

My 16 trips to Russia have included some real brushes with life-threatening danger, especially during the first winter (1998) I spent in Siberia before I knew what I was up against. The temperature regularly dipped lower than 40-degrees below zero (the convenient point where Fahrenheit and Celsius coincide and require no conversion). One night as I lay asleep, the heat in my room quit (perhaps Boris Yeltsin stopped paying the university's steam bill), and the ear exposed to the air began literally freezing before I awoke. After returning home, I eventually recovered full hearing in my ear. In order to prepare myself for further research I decided to adapt to the Siberian climate in advance by taking daily cold showers and to gain better endurance through taking time to get a hard physical workout every morning. But the rewards have been worth the rigors. For one thing, I could probably hold my own in a decathlon with most people half my age. For another, my research promises to contribute yet more findings to linguistic typology, genetic linguistics, and the history of early human migrations in the Northern Hemisphere. I'm pretty sanguine that my future holds the authorship of a best-selling book on Native Siberia, one that goes beyond the trite 20th century stereotypes that normally form the sum total of the outsider's estimation of this stunningly beautiful and humanly fascinating region of the globe – a continent surrounded by ocean on two sides rather than four.

A key stimulus behind my field trip to Siberia this fall was the sense of urgency I feel about the need to document the world's disappearing languages. Of the 5,000 or so mutually unintelligible languages spoken today, in a century perhaps fewer than 1,000 will remain. Such a catastrophic loss will be all the more irreparable without immediate effort to preserve what we can before it is too late. The clearest lesson gleaned from comparing Yeniseic and Na-Dene is that effort spent today in recording the world's disappearing languages could have vital consequences for the future. Who could have guessed that the ancient words Native American and Native Siberian boarding-school children were punished for speaking aloud just a few short decades ago would prove to wield a power vast enough to reunite entire continents?

## WWU Linguistics Program

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### Linguistics Alumni!

We are interested in hearing what you have been doing these past few years. If you have had any recent accomplishments, please e-mail them to the Linguistics Program Assistant ([Linguistics@wwu.edu](mailto:Linguistics@wwu.edu)) and they will be published in the upcoming Spring/Summer 2009 Newsletter! Some examples include: recent career changes, completion of further education, etc.

### WWU Alumni Association

If you are interested in becoming a member of the WWU Alumni Association, contact the Alumni Office at: (800)676-6885, or on the web at: <http://alumni.wwu.edu/>

### Colloquium Corner

Both Fall and Winter quarter colloquia were very successful! Students presented on a range of topics including syntactic theory, language acquisition, phonological theory, and historical linguistics, among others.

For a comprehensive list of colloquium presentations, please refer to the WWU Linguistics website:

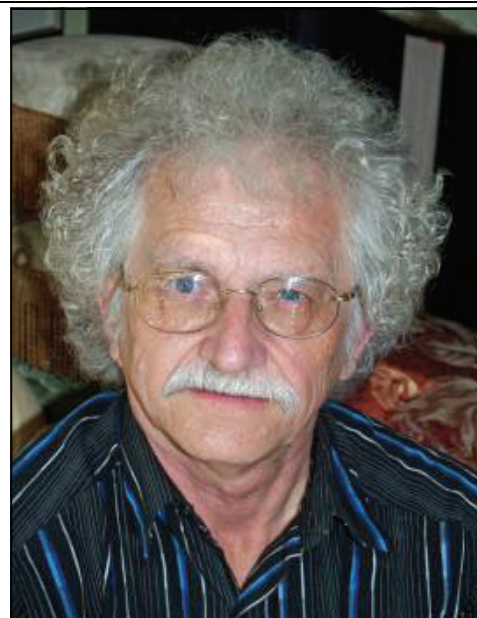
<http://linguistics.wwu.edu/colloquia.html>

### A Goodbye to Dr. Weiss

The Linguistics program is sad to see Dr. Rudi Weiss retire after 38 years. He will be missed by his colleagues and students.

Dr. Weiss has been a fundamental component of the WWU Linguistics Program and Department of Modern and Classical Languages since his employment in 1970. He has made many contributions to both the university and the field of linguistics throughout his career at Western.

Thank you, Dr. Weiss for all of your effort, time, and commitment throughout the years to the university community!



Dr. Rudi Weiss

### Note to Alumni:

If you have a story or a note that you would like to include in the next issue of the Linguistics Program Newsletter that involves Dr. Weiss, please feel free to e-mail it to:

[Linguistics@wwu.edu](mailto:Linguistics@wwu.edu)

The Western Washington University Linguistics Program Presents  
**The Winter 2009 Linguistics Program Colloquium**

**Note to Linguistics Students:**  
The colloquium presentation is mandatory for all majors. If you plan to present, be sure to contact the professor for whom you completed the presentation project. Then, complete a colloquium presentation form available outside of Haggard Hall and submit, and schedule a conference with either Dr. Kendra Dierham or Dr. Kendra Douglas (information on right).

**Thursday  
March 10th,  
2009  
2:00 to 5:00  
PM in  
Haggard Hall  
153**

**For More Information:**  
Kendra Douglas  
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