



WWU Linguistics

From the Director

This is the first, of what will become annual, newsletters of the linguistics program. The program is now completing its sixth year and has become a very popular attraction on campus. We are second in size in the state only to the program at the University of Washington. In respect to interest and productivity, we are no doubt one in a leadership position nationally. The program currently has 55 majors, numerous minors and enrolls more than 1600 students in its classes each year.

We would like to think that the program's increasingly good reputation is in part due to the high quality of the students which our major attracts (both the 2000 and 2001 commencement speakers were linguistics majors), the high level and quality of our instructors (two of our instructors have received the college's Outstanding Teacher Award), and the generally high degree of visibility which our program has enjoyed through our speaker series, student colloquia and our extraordinarily popular GUR classes. I invite you to read about these issues and more in this newsletter.

We also invite you to contribute information about yourself, about what you are now doing. Updates on addresses, e-mails, etc., as well as ideas about changes/additions to the newsletter are appreciated.

If you should choose, particularly if you've recently struck it rich, we invite you to contribute to the Western Foundation in the name of the linguistics program.

Rudi Weiss

*Director, Linguistics,
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Linguistics Program to Add New Faculty, Concentrations

Predominantly second language emphasis to shift with inclusion of new faculty

Although students with second/ third language backgrounds currently dominate the area (40 of our 55 majors have chosen Modern and Classical Languages as their area concentration), the linguistics program is hoping to include Philosophy and TESOL instructors and classes related to the study of language by as early as 2003.

Outstanding Student Award for 2002

Jordan Crossfield, double majoring in Linguistics and German, named as recipient

The linguistics faculty elects the outstanding student in linguistics from those graduating each year, and this year we had a very strong field of outstanding students.

In the end, Jordan Crossfield, a double major in German and linguistics, was chosen to receive the 2002 Outstanding Student in Linguistics Award.

As testimony to the outstanding quality of our graduates, the last two graduates awarded, Elizabeth Goodin and Catherine York, both double majors in linguistics and Spanish were both chosen as commencement speakers for the graduating ceremonies.

Jordan's immediate plans include marriage this August and beginning her master's in divinity at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary this fall. Crossfield hopes to one day teach the application of linguistics to Biblical exegesis at the university level.

Past Outstanding Students

- 2001 Liz Goodin (Ling/Spanish)
- 2000 Catherine York (Ling/Spanish)
- 1999 Yoshiko Miho (Ling/English)

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"All of the green ideas that're fit to sleep furiously"

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- 1 Addition of concentrations expected within year
- 2 June 5th Colloquium to see Larger Participation
- 3 Speaker Series involves faculty and guest speakers
- 4 Major increase: program currently enrolls 55 students
- 5 HEC Board approval nearing final stages
- 6 Linguistics/German Double-major Crossfield Chosen for Outstanding Student Award
- 7 Faculty Profiles

Linguistics Program
Western Washington University
MS-9057
Bellingham, WA 98225

Spring 2002

Student Colloquium Coordinator Anticipates Larger Crowd

Addition of requirement increases participation of majors

Kristin Denham, colloquium coordinator, reports that the 2001 decision to make participation in the Linguistics Program Student Colloquium a requirement for graduation with a linguistics major is beginning to augment the number of students participating in this annual event.

This year's student colloquium is scheduled for June 5. The numbers of participants have steadily increased. The first colloquium in 1990 featured three presentations; last year's involved nine presenters; and we expect to have close to double that number this year.

The colloquium has become the year-end event for the linguistics program. You're cordially invited to attend the festivities.

Weiss Named Laureate

Linguistics Director is fifth person in the 65-year history of the International Society of Phonetic Sciences to receive award.

Dr. Weiss was recently elected as Laureate of the International Society of Phonetic Sciences. He is the fifth person to receive this distinction since the society's inception in 1938. The award is "in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the Phonetic Sciences and his dedicated work for the society." The International Society of Phonetic Sciences is the largest international organization for phoneticians and has co-sponsored the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences held every four years. In

1998, ISPhS sponsored an international conference hosted by WWU for which Dr. Weiss served as the Secretary-General and organizer for the conference. The IPS-98 conference was a great success and the papers were subsequently published by Steiner Verlag, *Advances in Phonetics*, 1999.

Bai-sheka, Ngom Bring New Areas of Expertise to Linguistics

In a program already defined by its wide variety of faculty research, Bai-sheka and Ngom are no exception

This year we've had the pleasure of having Dr. Abou Bai-sheka teaching in our program. He has been a Visiting Professor in French and is also teaching in the linguistics program. His course in Krio, a creole language of West Africa, this quarter has been one of the most popular upper-division linguistics courses offered. The class is filled and the responses from students have been enthusiastic.

This fall the program will also welcome Dr. Fallou Ngom, an African/French linguist joining the French faculty.

He has extensive knowledge in phonology, African linguistics and sociolinguistics, with a focus on the effects of language contact in Africa. In addition to his varied research interests, he speaks twelve languages. His presence will be a welcome addition to the faculty.

Faculty Profiles

Interest in Linguistics and Literature drive Lobeck to explore connections in syntactic and literary theory.

Anne Lobeck has taught in the English Department and Linguistics Program since 1990. She teaches courses on the structure of English, syntactic theory, the history of English, language and

Top Left: Kristin Denham

Wednesday May 22

4:00pm Haggard 153

Images of Paraguayan Bilingualism

The Linguistics Program Colloquium Series presents Dr. Shaw Gynan discussing aspects of the diglossia found in Paraguay

Wednesday June 5

4:00pm Humanities 109

Linguistics Program Student Colloquium

Linguistics majors present their own research on various linguistic phenomena. For more information or to participate, call Dr. Kristin Denham at 650-3217.

June 21

Humanities Building Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast Linguistics Panels

A number of linguists specializing in the study of Asian languages present findings relevant to the study of East Asia

August 14-16

WWU & Northwest Indian College

37th International Conference on Salish and Neighboring Languages

Scholars interested in the study of northwest Native American Languages are invited to submit papers teaching, study and preservation of Salishan and neighboring languages. Papers for ICSNL should be submitted by Friday June 14 to

The editors:

ICSNL 37, 2002

UBCWPL

c/o Department of Linguistics, UBC

E-270 1866 Main Mall

Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

Canada

Those planning on attending should contact Kristin Denham (kristin.denham@wwu.edu) or Mercedes Hinkson (mhinkson@nwic.edu)

gender, and the connections between linguistic and literary theory. Her central research interest is syntactic theory, in particular the cross-linguistic syntax of ellipsis, which has led to a number of publications, including a book, *Ellipsis: Functional Heads, Licensing and Identification* (Oxford University Press, 1995). Anne is also very active in research on the role of linguistics in teacher education and the public schools. Her most recent book is *Discovering Grammar: An Introduction to English Sentence Structure* (Oxford University Press, 2000), a college grammar textbook, and she has recently created a course that explores the role of grammar in teaching writing. She is an active member of the Linguistic Society of America Committee on Linguistics in the Schools, which will present a symposium on this topic at the LSA meeting in 2002. Anne also teaches two courses in the WWU TESL program, and chairs the TESL Advisory Board.

Speaker Series Enjoys Another Successful Year

One of the strong characteristics of our program has been the speaker series, which we introduced some five years ago.

We have been able to attract some of the top scholars in the field to give presentations to our students and faculty here at Western. They include speakers such as Noam Chomsky, Peter Ladefoged, Frederick Newmeyer, Jerry Norman, Merrit Ruhlen, Alan Kaye and William Baxter, as well as most of our in-house linguistics faculty. The program was initiated by the director of the program, Rudi Weiss. Kristin Denham was in charge of this year's very successful schedule.

HECB Approval Pending

The process of application for HEC Board approval for changing linguistics to a regular major is in the final stages. It has hitherto been technically still a student-designed major, albeit pre-approved. We expect the regular major to be in force by next fall.

Rory Moves On

Rory Henneck, our valued assistant to the linguistics program during the past two years, graduates this spring with a major in linguistic and minors in both German and Chinese. Rory is also an advanced student in Chinese having studied in China last summer. His work for the program has been nothing short of stellar. He is, in fact, largely responsible for the preparation of this, our first newsletter.

Rory's future plans include traveling to China in 2003 to continue studying Chinese and teach English. He also plans to return to the US to attend graduate school, likely majoring in linguistics, and then pursue his doctorate.

Rory has been an invaluable help to the director. "Without the aid of Rory's organizational skills, I'd be in dire straits indeed," asserts the director, Dr. Weiss. "He will be hard to replace. We will all miss Rory, his creativity, as well as his skills. He has been an outstanding student and I expect him to make a significant mark in the field some day. We wish him well in his life after Western." he adds.

EAS Conference at Western to Host Talks on Linguistics

June conference of Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast to include two panels on Asian linguistics.

The 2002 ASPAC conference, hosted this year by the Center for East Asian Studies at Western, will feature prominent linguists specializing in the field of Asian linguistics. Among those presenting papers will be noted specialists in Chinese and central Asian linguistics, including Jerry Norman and Western's own Edward Vajda, with paper topics spanning the gamut of linguistic inquiry.

Director of the Center for East Asian Studies and organizer of the event Dr. Kathleen Tomlonovic can be contacted for more information on this event by phone at 650-3836 or by e-mail at Kathleen.Tomlonovic@wwu.edu.

Gynan Returns from Paraguay

Exploration of diglossia in Paraguay yields insight into the exchange between languages

Dr. Shaw Gynan received a second senior Fulbright scholar award to further his research on bilingualism in Paraguay.

His second extended stay last year reflects six months of high productivity, charting the areas of Paraguay that are monolingual Spanish, monolingual Guarani, or bilingual Spanish and Guarani, as well as recording the borrowing that has occurred in both languages.

He traveled throughout the country giving presentations and workshops to literally thousands of language teachers and administrators. He made great inroads to developing close relations with the indigenous population in Paraguay. During

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his stay, Dr. Gyman also managed to write and publish two books written in Spanish.

Paraguay's diglossic situation affords a singular opportunity for linguists studying Native American languages and bilingualism as it is the only country in the Americas where the indigenous language, Guarani, is along with Spanish, one of the official languages for the nation's nearly six million inhabitants.

Dr. Gyman will be giving a talk relating the results of his research and his experience in Paraguay on May 22. See Upcoming Events section for details.

Vajda Publishes New Book

Dr. Edward Vajda recently published a book titled *Yeniseian Peoples and Languages*. It is a collection of resources for the study of the Yeniseian people and the result of a winter spent in Siberia and European Russia researching, collecting materials, and presenting lectures – and notably being the first American professor to visit Tomsk, Russia.

Michael Krauss, the leading linguistic expert on Arctic languages, describes it as "a full history of work and well-annotated bibliography, the definitive reference work for the language family."

Vajda is also nearing completion of another work, what will be the first full English-language grammar of Ket, a non-Slavic Siberian language spoken by only a few hundred people living near the Yenisey River in Siberia.

In addition to having penned several dozen reviews for *Language* magazine, he is also serving as an editor for *Word* magazine, the journal of the International Linguistics Association.

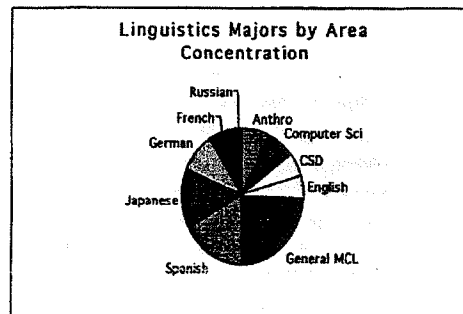
Linguistic Space

The Linguistics program has acquired an office in Hu 245. The space is designated for use by linguistics students and faculty, housing three computers, two printers, a scanner, as well as a number of audio recording devices. The computers are equipped to perform sophisticated sound signal processing and were in heavy use during winter quarter for Dr. Weiss's phonetics class. The room also houses resource materials for the program.

Adjunct Professors Help the Program

Our program has been aided significantly through the dedicated work, not only by our tenured WWU faculty, but by crucial adjunct faculty as well. They have included Dwan Shipley, Ph.D. candidate at Simon Fraser University, who has been largely responsible for many of our GUR courses over the last several years, Emily Curtis, Ph.D. candidate at UW, who filled in to teach phonology and

Dr. Mercedes Hinkson, who taught sociolinguistics and advanced phonetic transcription for the program. Teaching mainly introductory courses, these faculty members are in part responsible for the recent upsurge in interest towards linguistics.



55 Majors Now in Program

Popularity of Linguistics Grows with Interest in Second Languages

Despite a decrease in the number of English concentrations, the interest in languages has buoyed the roster of the linguistics program. Most predominant are those with a Spanish or Japanese background, however the largest subset of the modern and classical language concentration are those that study two or more languages.

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