

Spring 2004

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Linguistics at WWU

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Linguistics Program
WWU
linguistics@wwu.edu

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A Word From The Director

Greetings!

Welcome to another newsletter from the WWU Linguistics program. There have been a significant number of changes to our program since our last newsletter a little over a year ago. We have become one of the largest undergraduate linguistics programs in the country. Our current enrollment now stands at 108 majors, approximately one-third of which are also double majors. In addition to our outstanding faculty, the popularity of our program is no doubt in great part due to its unique interdisciplinary nature. In fact, it received some national publicity by means of the Director's paper "A Unique Linguistics Major: An Interdisciplinary Model for Success", presented and published in the proceedings of the Hawaii International Conference on the Arts and Humanities in January 2004. You will also be pleased to learn that our program is no longer a "pre-approved student-designed major" but received approval as a regular major by the Higher Education Coordinating Board last year. We have also expanded the options in our area concentration to seven, now to include TESOL and Philosophy in addition to English, Modern and Classical Languages, Anthropology, Communication Sciences and Computer Science. We have had the good fortune of attracting new faculty into the program and now have representation in Japanese Linguistics (Dr. Masanori Deguchi), African languages and French (Dr. Fallou Ngom) and language acquisition (Dr. Eva Baharav). We continue to have an active speaker series and will have two guest speakers this spring: Dr. John Lawler (University of Michigan) and Dr. Loraine Obler (Distinguished Professor, CUNY), in addition to a presentation by our own Dwan Shipley.

Due to the increase in majors, our Student Colloquium has been extremely active. Dr. Kristin Denham, our student colloquium coordinator is now scheduling regular quarterly presentations. She has also arranged to have five of our students present during WWU's Scholars Week activities this quarter. All this points to an extremely successful program of which we and hopefully you, as well, are justly proud. Over 1400 students at Western are exposed to linguistics courses each year and all our courses are filled to capacity. The only down-side to our enormous success as a program is, that we are, for the first time in the history of the program, having to restrict enrollment in our upper division courses to majors only. We'll be working with the administration to try to remedy this situation.

In this edition, we will reintroduce the faculty to you, solicit your suggestions for a new Logo and encourage you all to keep in touch and inform us of your successes as alumni. We thank all the alumni who have supported the program through the Western Foundation Fund. We greatly appreciate your support. Even if you don't quite strike it rich, you might consider contributing to the linguistics program; all funds will be used in direct support of the program. The students also have an active WWU linguistics club and have designed and are selling very cool T-shirts at a reasonable price.

A special thank goes to Sonja Thoma, our Linguistics Program Assistant, who has performed admirably in this capacity and is almost single-handedly responsible for this newsletter.

Dr. Rudi Weiss, Director
Linguistics Program

Spotlight our New Faculty Members

Masanori Deguchi, Ph.D.

We have had the pleasure to welcome Dr. Masanori Deguchi to the linguistics program as assistant professor. Deguchi received a Ph.D. in linguistics from Indiana University in 2003. While he has worked in many different subfields, he has focused on the syntax and semantics of Japanese. In particular, he is most interested in interface phenomena, such as the effect of prosody on the interpretation of interrogatives, and the role of information structure in quantifier scope interaction. His representative works in those areas include: Deguchi and Kitagawa (2002) "Prosody and Wh-questions" in the Proceedings of NELS 32, and Deguchi (2003) "The Anatomy of Quantifier Scope Interaction" (IU dissertation), respectively.

In addition, his secondary interest lies in phonology. His representative works in phonology include: Deguchi (2001) "Affrication in Wichita: An OT Account," where he analyzed two opaque phenomena involving Wichita consonant-cluster alternations from an optimality-theoretic perspective.

Eva Baharav, Ph.D.

Dr. Eva Baharav, assistant professor at the department of communication sciences and disorders, also joined our teaching faculty this year. She received her Ph.D. at Boston University in neurolinguistics, having conducted research on cross-language studies of agrammatism in aphasia. She studied under Dr. Loraine Obler who specializes in issues of the bilingual brain and language and aging. Dr. Baharav's M.A. degree earned at U.C. Berkeley is in linguistics. Her current research interests are in the areas of auditory processing in children with autistic spectrum disorders, social communication among hearing impaired adolescents, the bilingual brain, cross language dyslexia and reading disorders, cross language agrammatism and the development of narrative skills.

We would like to welcome them both into the program. Their expertise and respective research foci are yet another affirmation of the high quality instruction we offer our students.

Faculty Activity, Research and Publications

Ngom publishes, presents paper and receives research grant

Dr. Fallou Ngom was recently published in *Language Variation and Change*, Vol. 15, 2003. The title of his article was "The Social Status of Arabic, French and English in the Senegalese Speech Community" (p. 351-368). He also traveled to Harvard University from April 02-04, 2004, to present a paper on 'Wolof variation and change in the Senegalese speech community' at the 35th ACAL (Annual Conference on African Linguistics). Ngom's summer plans this year include traveling to West Africa to research Arabic-based scripts in Senegalese Muslim communities. This research is made possible by a WARA (West African Research Association) post-doctoral fellowship and the ACLS (American Council of the Learned Societies).

Welcome to our new
Faculty Members

Eva Baharav
Masanori Deguchi

Western Working Papers in Linguistics

A call for papers to be published in fall 2004 is forthcoming. Faculty members in charge will issue guidelines for submission soon.

Watch our website for details!

Class added to Summer Schedule

Linguistics 402/Engl 436

*"The Structure of
English"*

Kristin Deaham
MTWR 10-12

Denham and Lobeck involved in various projects

Dr. Anne Lobeck and Dr. Kristin Denham are organizing the program for the Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar (ATEG) Fifteenth Annual Conference to be held July 16-17, 2004 at Seattle University. The conference presentations may describe, analyze, and/or critique any and all aspects of the teaching of grammar in our schools, at all levels, from any perspective. There will also be a pre-conference mini-course for K-12 and college teachers that will focus on "Grammar in the Writing Classroom." Mini-course faculty will include grammarians, linguists, and teachers of writing and literature. For information on conference registration and on the pre-conference mini-course contact:

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Kristin Denham is serving on the Language in the School Curriculum Committee of the Linguistic Society of America and attended the annual meeting in January 2004, held in Boston. She and Anne Lobeck are members of a national working group developing a proposal for K-12 linguistic curriculum and materials and teacher education. Their work has also been included in the Linguistic Society of America's compendium of linguistic educational projects from around the world, and they have been recognized by Ray Jackendoff, president of the Linguistic Society of America, in his addresses to the National Science Foundation (meeting on Education in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, January, 2003) and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE, November, 2003), as being at the forefront of research and collaborative efforts in linguistics and education.

Shipley travels to Israel to present paper

Linguistic lecturer Dwan L. Shipley, Ph.D. Candidate at Simon Fraser University, presented a paper at the Sixth International Conference on Jewish Names at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv on June 11, 2003. He was one of two international persons to be included in the conference. His talk was a comparative toponymic analysis of the two different languages of Hebrew and French, concentrating on the place naming along the coastal regions of Israel and Normandy. Shipley is currently researching toponyms in the Fiji Islands to include in the comparative study mentioned above.

Future plans include presenting his Ph.D. Proposal Defense this summer at Simon Fraser University.

Upcoming Events

Thursday April 22
Dwan Shipley

WWU

"Conquest Influences
on Two Toponomastic
Regions: Israel
and Normandy France"
4 pm Haggard Hall 355

Thursday May 13
Dr. John Lawler

University of Michigan
Rhyme and/or Reason:
A short Introduction to
English
Phonosemantics"
4pm Haggard Hall 355

Thursday May 27
Dr. Loraine Obler,

Distinguished
Professor, CUNY, "The
Bilingual Brain
Revisited"
4pm SMATE 150.

on
Wednesday May 19
3-5pm

Student Speakers:

Laurel Evans
Coordination of NPs

Jason Rudd
Comparing Aspects
of Acquisition and
Aphasia

Allison Belgarde
German Verb
Particles

Sonja Thoma
The Influence of
English on
Acquisition of
German Vowels

Melanie Slagle
Theories of
Identity
Formation in
Bilinguals

*Linguistics Students to
participate for the first
time in Scholars Week
activities*

Outstanding Student for 2004

We are pleased to announce the Outstanding Graduating Student in Linguistics



Alison graduated with an unusually high overall GPA of 3.99 for her undergraduate course work in December. She was not only an active participant in the linguistics program, but has also been actively involved in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages in acquiring a high level of skills in Spanish, her second major, as well as in French, her minor. She has since graduation been working at a missions school in Cartagena, Columbia. She has also been accepted to study at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics in Dallas, TX. Alison's work here has reflected the highest levels of achievement and we are rightly proud of her. Alison joins the ranks of our past Outstanding Students:

- 2003 Jenifer Condit
- 2002 Jordan Crossfield
- 2001 Liz Goodin
- 2000 Caite York
- 1999 Yoshiko Miho

Scholars Week

To highlight the importance of undergraduate research and creative activity in a Western education, the university has designated May 17-21 as Scholars Week 2004. During this fifth annual observance, Western is recognizing the work of students and faculty mentors with whom they collaborate.

All departments and programs in Western's seven colleges have been encouraged to stage or create events demonstrating their students' research or creative activities work during Scholars Week.

The Linguistics Program has a history of supporting and encouraging student research and requiring public presentation of that work; it is a requirement of the major that all students present their research at the quarterly linguistic colloquia. Beginning in 2004, we are selecting some of the better examples of student research to highlight during Scholars Week. Following have been invited to participate this year: Laurel Evans, Jason Rudd, Allison Belgarde, Sonja Thoma and Melanie Slagle.

Students initiate Linguistics Club

In fall quarter, several students officially founded a Linguistics Club at WWU. They organized several social events, one of which included a trip to Seattle to see Ray Jackendoff speak at the UW. They also designed and sell fun t-shirts with the print **I wildly ungrammatical am.* across the front. For further information or any questions about upcoming events, contact the club at linguisticsclubwwu@hotmail.com

Logo Competition



With the all the recent amendments and changes of the linguistics program, such as the addition of linguistics as a regular, pre-approved major into the catalogue, the addition of TESOL and philosophy as options for the concentration, and the number of enrolled and active majors exceeding 100, we thought that our "appearance" also could use a little change. A new logo seems to be the perfect way to reflect all the changes and growth, so we are looking for your submissions and ideas for a new logo. A jury of linguistics faculty and student representatives from the Linguistics Club will select the winner from the hopefully numerous submissions. All your effort is not going to be for nothing, of course, as there is a fine book prize and a fun linguistics T-shirt waiting for the winner, whose logo will represent the linguistics program in the future. So grab a pencil, get your creative juices flowing, and send your submissions to the Department of MCL, or e-mail to linguistics@wwu.edu. Good Luck!

Quarterly Student Colloquium

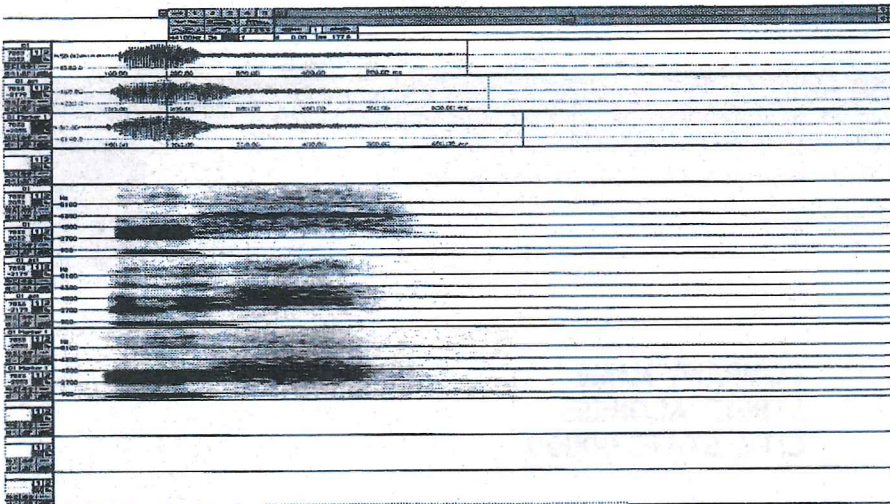
Due to the ever-growing number of linguistics majors, the formerly yearly Colloquium is now happening on a quarterly basis, typically during Dead Week. The Colloquia for spring quarter are scheduled for

**Thursday
June 3**

Look for flyers or announcements on the Linguistics message board on the second floor of HU for exact time and location.

For more information or to participate, call Dr. Kristin Denham 650-3217

Part of students' phonetics training includes spectral analysis. This is an analysis of the German word "Ol."



Our Faculty



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