

Spring Quarter
2006
Issue 6

WWU Linguistics Newsletter

Special Interest Articles:

- WWU Linguistics Program welcomes new faculty member.
- Students achievements honored: Scholar's Week and 2006 Outstanding Student Awards
- WWUUCI-II: Celebrating undergraduate excellence
- Guest Speaker: Dr. Wayne O'Neil of MIT visits WWU

Individual Highlights:

Welcome, Dr. Douglas
Program Website
Dr. Wayne O'Neil
Language Lab: PRAAT
WWUUCI-II
Outstanding Students
Scholar's Week



Logo by
Russell Hugo

A Word From the Director:

It is now almost ten years since we started our re-vamped linguistics program. As some early alumni may recall, we started out with meager offerings and small numbers, but with supportive faculty with enough energy and commitment to take on overloads if necessary to help get our program off the ground. You have responded by enrolling in ever-increasing numbers, supporting our program and faculty and being heads-and-shoulders among the best students on the campus, thus giving our program an outstanding reputation. The administration has responded positively in supporting us by funding more classes and sections and allowing us to develop a truly unique and enviable program. Originally our core courses (phonetics, phonology, morphology and syntax) were offered once every two years. Now the demand is such that we are offering them twice each year and having to limit access to majors only. From a handful of original courses, our offerings have now grown to 24 courses this last year. We now have over 140

majors and will begin the fall quarter with well over 100 majors enrolled; I'm not aware of any other undergraduate linguistics major in the country larger than ours. The courses we offer are unique and varied. The 402 courses this year included topics such as Old English (cross-listed with the English department), Creole (back by popular demand with Dr. Abou Bai-Sheka), Historical Linguistics (Dr. Vajda), Language Contact, taught by our newest faculty member, Dr. Kendra Douglas. Forensic Linguistics will be offered for the first time next winter by Dr. Fallou Ngom.

Our linguistics faculty has been very active. Dr. Vajda recently returned from a research stay in Russia and Germany. While Dr. Lobeck is now completing a professional leave, Dr. Gynan and Dr. Denham have been awarded leave for two quarters for next year. They will all no doubt tailor their 402 courses to reflect their current research.

(This story continued as *Director* on p. 4)

Quarterly Student Colloquium:

As part of the Linguistics major requirement, students presented their work in the quarterly student colloquium on May 31. This relaxed venue for presentation of ongoing or completed research is often an undergraduate's first chance to share their work outside of the classroom. The spring quarter Student Colloquia this year feature the following presentations:

Elisa Hamilton
A Comparative Study of Classifiers in Chinese and Japanese
Miho Kamijo
Differences in Chinese and Japanese Classifiers
Nathan Tracy and Katherine Shin
Comparisons between German and Chinese Passive Voice
Rie Kawai
Japanese and English Bilingual Analysis
Jonathan Lytle and Lisa Jacobs
Making One's Mouth Pleasant: Translating Brand Names
from English to Chinese

Faculty Welcomes New Member: Dr. Douglas



Dr. Kendra Douglas

Professor Kendra Douglas, our newest faculty member, has just completed teaching her first year in the Modern and Classical Department and the Linguistics Program. She was able to teach a course in one of her main research interests, language contact, offered Fall quarter as a Ling 402 course. She engaged students in projects involving field research incorporating the recording, transcription and analysis of different foreign populations living here in the Bellingham area. Students had the opportunity to learn the challenges of writing and administering a questionnaire, as well as the rewards of working one-on-one with a native informant.

Applying their knowledge of contact linguistics to the sociolinguistic data gathered, the students compared their findings with those of their classmates and presented their analyses in class. Seven students also presented their projects at the Linguistics Student Colloquia during the academic year. Both the enthusiasm of the students and the quality of the work they accomplished was extremely rewarding for Dr. Douglas. Given the success of the course, Ling 402: Dynamics of Language Contact will be offered again in Fall 2006.

New Program Website:



In the spring of 2005, **Brian Hutchinson**, Computer Science graduate student and past Linguistics major, developed a new website for the WWU Linguistics Program. While the site features similar information as the original, it now also serves as an active, constantly updated source of current announcements for events, courses of interest, and linguistic news items.

Hutchinson created an

interactive forum for use by linguistics students, faculty, and language-oriented clubs, allowing faculty and students to post announcements or ask questions for help in their linguistics courses. Currently, the space of the forum is devoted to updating information about the recent WWUCL-II conference.

This isn't his first contribution to the program, however. Hutchinson has

been head of web design and maintenance since April of 2003. We are all extremely grateful for his continued efforts.

It is strongly encouraged that staff, faculty, and students visit the website and offer their opinions, suggestions, and input.

The new linguistics URL:

<http://linguistics.wwu.edu>

For more information, contact:

linguistics@finiteset.com

*"How does a
second language fit
into the
mind/brain?"*

Dr. Wayne O'Neil of MIT Speaks at WWU

The Linguistics Program is proud to have welcomed **Dr. Wayne O'Neil**, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who gave a talk entitled "How does a second language fit into the mind/brain?" on May 18th which was well attended by both faculty and students.

Dr. O'Neil has worked at MIT since 1968, where he is currently Professor of Linguistics and Director of

the Mind Articulation Project. He works on and writes primarily about language change, second language acquisition and bilingualism, and linguistics in education.

O'Neil has long been connected with educational practice: at the University of Oregon with the Oregon Curriculum Study Project (1962-1965), at the Harvard Graduate School of

Education with various projects (1965-1973; 1977-1986), and at Wheelock College (1991 to the present), where for the past ten years, he has taught a course on linguistics and second language acquisition with Maya Honda.

The linguistics program and students are very grateful to Dr. Kristin Denham, who spearheaded the organization and promotion of this event.

Language Media Center offers new resources for students

Linguistics students are very fortunate to now have access to software and other technology resources in the Language Media Center. The lab has been available to students for years, offering tutorial material and foreign language media. Recently, software for

spectrographic analysis has been made available. Phonetics students have benefited greatly from the availability of PRAAT. Previously, students used the limited space and schedule of the linguistics resource room, in Humanities 245.

L.M.C. Hours*:

Monday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tuesday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Sunday 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Contact Director Dr. John Underwood at: John.Underwood@wwu.edu for more information.

* These hours posted for 05-06 school year, not including summer quarter.

WWUUCI - II Marks Second Annual Undergraduate Conference

On May 20th, the WWU Linguistics Club proudly presented the second annual Western Washington University Undergraduate Conference in Linguistics, WWUUCI-II.

Last year, Jason Rudd and Chelsea Loeffers, coordinators for the club, founded the conference with wonderful success. This year, Kristi Krein acted as chair organizer having assisted with last year's conference.

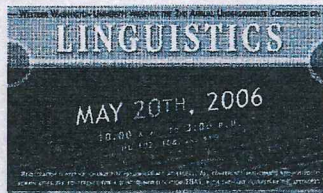
With the call for papers posted internationally to the listserv LINGUISTlist.org, submissions from as far as Turkey and presenters from as far as UCLA attested to the growing popularity of this unique event.

"Developing outlets for professional undergraduate experiences is absolutely essential for advancing the field [of

linguistics] as a whole," said Krein, when explaining what makes WWUUCI-II different than most other presentation opportunities for undergraduates. She suggests that "students get a chance to interact with people from other institutions, hear about new theories, and overall increase the breadth of their exposure to linguistics as a developing practice."

Among other out-of-state presenters, WWUUCI organizers were honored to host speaker Fan Xianlong, a visiting professor from China who was currently conducting research at Portland State University.

The Linguistics club coordinators are extremely grateful and appreciative of the support, enthusiasm, and hard work of Western linguistics students, faculty, and staff as events such as these continue to bring attention to our rapidly expanding program.



Scholars from PSU, UCLA, and WWU enjoyed a day of presentations.

Congratulations to the following WWU students selected to present at this year's conference:

Jeff Bryan, Jacqueline Hawkins, Russell Hugo, Brian Hutchinson, and Shannon Williamson

2005-06 Linguistics Program Assistant

We are fortunate to have **Kristi Krein** as the assistant to the Linguistics Program this year. Kristi is a senior and majors both in linguistics and English. She has been an active participant in the linguistics program for the last two years. Last year she helped organize the first ever Undergraduate Conference in Linguistics and will be the main person in charge of that endeavor this year. She is also one of the organizers and now the president of our very active linguistics club. As linguistics assistant, Kristi keeps regular hours in the linguistics office, answers all the e-mails and telephone calls to the office and assists students and professors with projects and assignments. She also maintains all the data on our majors and assists the director in preparing data for the program. Kristi plans to continue in graduate studies in linguistics at the University of Washington after graduation this spring.



Program Assistant
Kristi Krein

By Dr. Rudi Weiss

2006 Outstanding Student Awards

Christopher Carignan is this year's selection as outstanding student in the program followed closely by the runner-up, **Shannon Williamson**. Christopher is a double major in French and Linguistics. He had the highest GPA of any graduating senior in the program. The faculty spoke highly of his outstanding work throughout his studies here. Christopher has been awarded a generous grant to pursue graduate work at the University of Illinois

in the fall. Dr. Fallou Ngom was selected to be his faculty host at the award ceremony banquet. Shannon was also highly praised by the linguistics faculty, who for the first time decided to also give recognition to the runner-up. Both were honored along with the Modern and Classical Languages Department's recipients at their last faculty meeting on May 28th.

Congratulations, Chris and Shannon!!

Week Congratulations to Scholar's 2006 Nominees!

Scholar's Week is a prestigious annual event in which all Western departments and programs have the opportunity to honor their most outstanding students by nominating them to competitively present their work amongst scholars from all other fields. The Linguistics program proudly recognizes the hard work and scholarly achievements of the presenters at this year's Scholar's Week events:

Deena Imamura and Ani Martin

Brett Siekkinen and Kelli Misko

Yachiyo Underwood and Huma Memon

Brian Hutchinson

Attention Linguistics Undergrads!!!

Looking for ways to improve your:

- ~ Resume?
- ~ Grad School Applications?
- ~ Curricula Vitae?

Consider becoming a coordinator for the **AS Linguistics Club!**

It's a great opportunity for:

- ~ Leadership Experience
- ~ Community Building
- ~ Event Organization
- ~ Extracurricular Linguistics FUN (yes, seriously, fun!)

Contact club coordinators at: linguisticsclubwwu@gmail.com or the AS for more information.

Linguistics Newsletter

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

PHONE:
360.650.2095
360.650.3918
FAX:
360.650.6110
E-MAIL:

linguistics@wwu.edu

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.linguistics.wwu.edu

Director (continued from pg. 1)

We are justly proud of the accomplishments of our students as well. Dr. Denham was responsible for organizing three very successful student colloquia in which some stellar presentations were given, in addition to overseeing the presentation of a fine set of poster papers for our annual Scholar's Week event.

Kristi Krein, our program assistant this year, organized and presided over the 2nd Annual Student Conference in Linguistics last month. A further word of thanks is in order for Kristi. As the program assistant she has overseen the function of a now very complex linguistics operation on a day to day basis, taking care of overseeing the web page development with Brian Hutchinson, dealing with daily e-mail inquiries and all

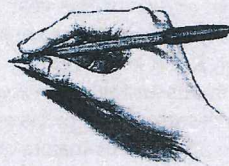
manner of correspondence, scheduling of lab times, helping faculty and students, etc. Not the least of her accomplishments has been the creation of this newsletter. She also served as president of an active student linguistics club. We're going to miss Kristi, who will be moving on to pursue graduate school at the University of Washington.

We always, of course, look forward to hearing from our alumni and would like to include your materials in our newsletters. So as time goes on, please send us an update about yourself and your activities. The Western Foundation has supported our efforts and is in fact subsidizing the printing costs of this newsletter. I hope that your contributions may be forthcoming for their support.

Dr. Rudi Weiss, Director of Linguistics

Linguistics Alumni, we know you're out there! Keep in touch ...

We would love to hear from you! If you would like to share any of your current activities, news, and ideas with us, or if you would like to make a donation to the Linguistics Program, please contact linguistics@wwu.edu.



We encourage alumni who are not currently members of the WWU Alumni Club to join the WWU Alumni Association. For more information or to join the Alumni Club, please contact the Alumni Office at 800.676.6884 or 650.3353.

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

