

Linguistics PROGRAM Newsletter *Fall 2018*

Table of Contents

NACLO	2
Linguistics Lab	3
2017-2018 Events	4
Scholars Week	6
Outstanding Students	7
End-of-the-Year Potluck	7
Faculty Spotlight	8
Alumni Spotlight	10
Retirement Tribute	12
Linguistics Club	13

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To request this document in an alternate format, please contact the Linguistics Administrative Assistant Sara Helms at 360-650-3918 or sara.helms@wwu.edu

Message

from the Director

Greetings alumni, students, and friends of WWU Linguistics!

It was an exciting year here at Western, and I'm so very pleased to report that our Linguistics Program continues to grow and thrive. In these pages, you can learn more about some of the research our students are conducting, the innovative teaching and groundbreaking research our faculty are engaged with, and the exciting jobs and graduate work our alumni are involved in. Oh, and you'll get to see our new state-of-the-art linguistics laboratory space and equipment,

Continued on next page



Linguistics Program Directors, past and present, from left: Rudolf Weiss, Shaw Gynan, and Kristin Denham. Not pictured, Edward Vajda. Photo courtesy of Kristin Denham.

Message *continued*

which is providing lots of new opportunities for students to do phonetic, sociolinguistic, and psycholinguistic research. You'll also get a glimpse of the fun we have together and get a sense, I hope, of what a great community of linguists this is!

Alumni, we'd love to hear from you! Please let us know what you've been up to (linguistically-related or not). Also, we'd like to help make connections among you – are you interested in networking with more recent graduates? Having social gatherings (beyond WWU's alumni weekend, possibly in other locations like your very own city)? Having a virtual linguistics reading group? Being a part of the new AP Linguistics initiative in high schools? Other ideas are welcome! Please write to me directly: kristin.denham@wwu.edu. And be sure to join the [WWU Linguistics Alumni Facebook](#) page.

Best wishes to each and every one of you!

Kristin



Back to Top

NACLO



This year, about a dozen high school students from Whatcom County participated in the [North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad \(NACLO\)](#) in January. Thousands of students from the US and Canada participate at the same time (9:00-12:00 PST) in this Olympiad, which has been going on since 2006. Western has hosted the annual competition since 2013. The top scorers of the competition are eligible to represent their countries at the International Olympiad in Linguistics (IOL). This year's competition was held in Prague, Czech Republic. For the second year in a row, Ethan Flanagan, a student at Sehome High School, qualified for the invitational round, based on his scores in the open competition.

Students compete in the Linguistics Olympiad by solving challenging problems using data from a variety of languages and formal systems. There is no prerequisite knowledge required, but students discover facts about languages and formal systems in the course of solving the puzzles. The competition is an excellent way of helping high school students discover their talents and interests in the areas of language, linguistics, and natural language processing.

Kristin Denham coordinates the event, and Western's Linguistics Club members have presented about linguistics and about the competition at several area high schools and have been instrumental in promoting and organizing Western's Linguistics Olympiad.●

Linguistics Labs

This past year, Western's new linguistics computer and sound booth labs opened up, thanks in large part to the generosity of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' dean's office. These labs are equipped with iMacs and Windows desktop computers, audio recording equipment and a range of cutting edge software. Emily Curtis utilized the space for her LING 311, Phonetics and Phonology course, and Jordan Sandoval used it in her LING 411, Topics in Phonetics and Phonology course.



If you would like a tour of the labs, located in Miller Hall 021A and Miller Hall 024, please contact Sara Helms (sara.helms@wwu.edu). If you would like to donate funds to help support student research like that conducted in our labs, you may make a gift.



Equipment and Software

Audio Recording

- Audio-Technica AT2020 – Cardioid Condenser Microphone
- Auray PFSS-55 Pop Filter with Gooseneck
- Polsen HPC-A30 Closed-Back Studio Monitor Headphones
- Focusrite Scarlett 2i2 USB Audio Interface (2nd Generation)

Soundbooth

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

Software

- Amadeus Pro
- Audacity
- iWorks (on Macs)
- MacQuireX (on Macs)
- Microsoft Office
- PCQuireX (on PCs)
- Praat
- SPSS
- Synthworks
- Matlab

Counterclockwise, from top left: Linguistics Program computer lab (MH 021A); Eckel AB-4240 sound booth (MH 024); and 3D sagittal head and larynx models in the computer lab (MH 021A). Photos by Sara Helms.



2017-2018 Events

The Center for East Asian Studies, the Institute for Global Engagement & Western Libraries present

The Features of Mongolian Morphology

a talk by
Byambakhand Chuluundorj
Associate Professor of Mongolian Language and Linguistics,
National University of Mongolia

Friday, May 25
Miller Hall 121
3 p.m.-4 p.m.



Byambakhand Chuluundorj, right, with Henry Schwartz.




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Click on each poster to view or download a PDF.




Associate Professor of Mongolian Language and Linguistics at the National University of Mongolia, **Byambakhand Chuluundorj**, taught EAST 297, Introduction to Mongolian Language and Culture spring quarter of 2018. In May, she presented her research to the public in a talk titled “The Features of Mongolian Morphology.”

Linguistics Lunch & Learn Job Search & Resume Clinic

Career Services will help you craft your resume and focus your job search.

Wednesday,
May 9th
noon-12:50p.m.

FREE PIZZA **MH 123**




For more information, please contact Sara Helms, 360-650-3918, sara.helms@wwu.edu

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Linguistics Lunch & Learn Developing a Linguistics Major into a Career

Career Services is holding an informational session focusing on putting your linguistics major to use after graduating.



MH 035 **FREE PIZZA**

Wednesday,
Feb. 7th
Noon-1p.m.

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The Linguistics Program hosted two “Lunch and Learn” sessions for our majors. Each was facilitated by **Karen Powell** from Western’s Career Services Center. She discussed the different tools and resources available to students through Career Services, but tailored her talk to students majoring in linguistics, preparing them for life after graduation. The program provided pizza to the linguistics majors who came to Powell’s valuable presentations.

2017-2018 Events *continued*



SHE RESCUES HERSELF:
Romantic love and traditional gender roles in Lahu Music Videos

WEDNESDAY, NOV 15, 4:15PM

Speaker will be Western Professor Dr. Judith Pine • Miller Hall 123 • Free event with refreshments

Click on each poster to view or download a PDF.



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2018 Linguistics Program
presents the
Let's Talk Series

A Lecture by Western Professor Shaw Gynan

Bilingual Performance in Paraguay: Evidence from the Third-Grade

FREE EVENT

MILLER HALL 123

JANUARY 31, 2018 • 4 P.M.

Refreshments Provided


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LINGUISTICS PROGRAM

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*The Center for East Asian Studies,
Department of Liberal Studies,
and Linguistics Program
present*

Dr. Robert Sanders
Komatsu University

**"To mark or not to mark:
Just how similar are Chinese dialects
in this regard?"**



This presentation reports on an experimental study of the frequency of formal passive and disposal marking in five Chinese dialects — Beijing Mandarin, Taipei Mandarin, Guangzhou Yue, Shanghai Wu and Taiwan Southern Min. Using oral stories and oral responses, the study examines whether usage frequency is dialect-specific or is relatively uniform throughout. The results provide a rather nuanced view of 'Pan-Chinese' grammar, i.e. the usual distinction of Northern vs. Southern dialects is not fully predictive of the relative frequency at which the passive and disposal functions are formally marked.

Robert Sanders holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of California at Berkeley (1986) and has previously taught Chinese language and Chinese linguistics at the University of Hawai'i (1986-1988), the Ohio State University (1988-1993), Tohoku University (1998-2004) and the University of Auckland (1993-1998, 2004-2016). He takes up a similar position at Komatsu University in April of this year. His publications include the two textbooks *Fundamental Spoken Chinese* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2009) and *Fundamental Written Chinese* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2009), as well as journal articles that examine Beijing and Taiwan Mandarin from a variety of linguistic perspectives, including phonetics and phonology, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis and cognitive linguistics.

Thursday, February 8, 2018
3:00 PM
Bond Hall 217

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Scholars Week 2018

This year's annual celebration of student research did not disappoint! Our linguistics students presented on a lovely May day on an array of engaging, well-researched, and fascinating topics, which emerged out of the upper division classes Discourse Analysis, Endangered Languages, Grammaticalization, Natural Language Processing, Syntax, and Chinese Linguistics.

Mike Jones & Jazzy Edwards: "A House of Cards" (mentored by Dr. Cathy McDonald, Discourse Analysis)

Mack Wright: "Stereotypes, Ageism, and Millennials: Generation Discourse within an Abercrombie & Fitch Commercial" (mentored by Dr. Cathy McDonald, Discourse Analysis)

Isabelle Crecca: "Klallam: Not Sleeping but Awakening" (mentored by Dr. Judy Pine, Endangered Languages)

Anne Tynan: "I'm finna prove something: A study on the grammaticalization of 'fixing to'" (mentored by Dr. Janet Xing, Grammaticalization)

Dustin Davis: "Automatic Poetry Generation" (mentored by Dr. Yudong Liu, Natural Language Processing)

Salvador Avalos: "A Case(marking) of Korean Postpositionals" (mentored by Dr. Kristin Denham, Syntax)

Holly Lund: "Hungarian: The Language of Extraterrestrials" (mentored by Dr. Kristin Denham, Syntax)

Kailey Hegedus: "Second Language Acquisition of Consonant Allophones in Mandarin" (mentored by Dr. Janet Xing, Chinese Linguistics)

And thanks to the Dr. Cathy McDonald, who helped out with additional mentoring and practice talks. We're very proud of what our linguistics scholars accomplished!

Click here to view and download the poster.



Linguistics
PROGRAM

SCHOLARS WEEK 2018 SYMPOSIUM

MONDAY, MAY 14
4PM-6PM at Haggard Hall 153

Free to attend • Refreshments provided

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Mike Jones & Jazzy Edwards, <i>A House of Cards</i>	Isabelle Crecca, <i>Klallam: Not Sleeping but Awakening</i>	Dustin Davis, <i>Automatic Poetry Generation</i>	Holly Lund, <i>Hungarian: The Language of Extraterrestrials</i>
Mack Wright, <i>Stereotypes, Ageism, and Millennials: Generation Discourse within an Abercrombie and Fitch Commercial</i>	Anne Tynan, <i>I'm finna prove something: A study on the grammaticalization of 'fixing to'</i>	Salvador Avalos, <i>A Case(marking) of Korean Postpositionals</i>	Kailey Hegedus, <i>Second Language Acquisition of Consonant Allophones in Mandarin</i>

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Linguistics Program Outstanding Students

2017-2018

Outstanding Graduating Senior
Kailey Hegedus

Outstanding Graduating Senior Finalists
Mike Jones
Maria José Palacios Figuero

Linguistics Student Scholarship Award
Holly Lund

Linguistics Program End-of-the-Year Potluck

Click
here to see
more photos from
the event.

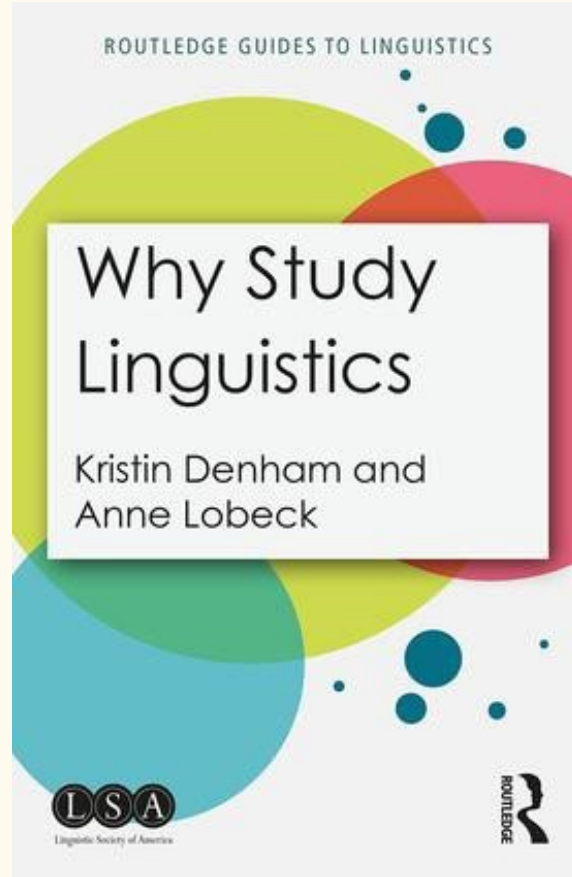


Linguistics students enjoying food and friendship. Photo by Sara Helms.

Faculty Spotlight

Kristin Denham, Ph.D., had a great time this year teaching a new course, HNRS 217, Colloquium in Linguistics. This is the first time that Western has offered a regular introductory linguistics course for the Honors Program, and it will now be offered every year. Denham and Anne Lobeck, Ph.D., have continued their active collaboration. You know why you studied linguistics, but in case others want to know, they can check out Denham and Lobeck's new book *Why Study Linguistics* (Routledge). Denham and Lobeck also continue to work on the integration of linguistics into K-12 teaching; they co-authored a chapter in *What Teachers Need to Know about Language* (CAL).☺

In addition to co-authoring a book chapter for the second edition of *What Teachers Need to Know About Language* (CAL), and the forthcoming book *Why Study Linguistics* (Routledge) with Kristin Denham, Ph.D., **Anne Lobeck**, Ph.D. contributed a chapter, "Teaching linguistic diversity as the rule rather than the exception," to the forthcoming book *Teaching Language Variation in the Classroom: Strategies and Models from Teachers*



and Linguists (Routledge). This chapter is based on Lobeck's experience teaching English 436/Ling 402, The Structure of English, at Western, and draws on what she has learned from our wonderful majors. Lobeck has also had an active year as Chair of the Linguistic Society of America: Linguistics in the School Curriculum Committee, and as a member of the LSA: AP Linguistics Committee. "Lots of good things are happening in linguistics and education," Lobeck said.☺

R. Mata, Ph.D., completed his first year as a faculty member at Western. He

had the opportunity to teach introductory linguistics to over 150 students in fall. "This was a great way to meet lots of Western students and expose many of them to the field of linguistics for the first time," Mata said. In spring he taught courses in Spanish linguistics for Linguistics and MCL, and presented a paper on Spanish-language proficiency among Heritage speakers at the University of Iowa.☺

Cathy McDonald, Ph.D., taught LING 431, Topics in Semantics and Pragmatics, with a focus on discourse analysis. We were excited to have McDonald offer this topic, new to most of our students. Some excellent work came out of this class, and two of those were selected for Scholars Week, which McDonald also organized this year. "I had a lot of fun helping to organize Scholar's Week! And I was so very impressed by the array and the intellect of our presenters. It was inspiring to see all that our linguistics majors are doing," McDonald said.☺

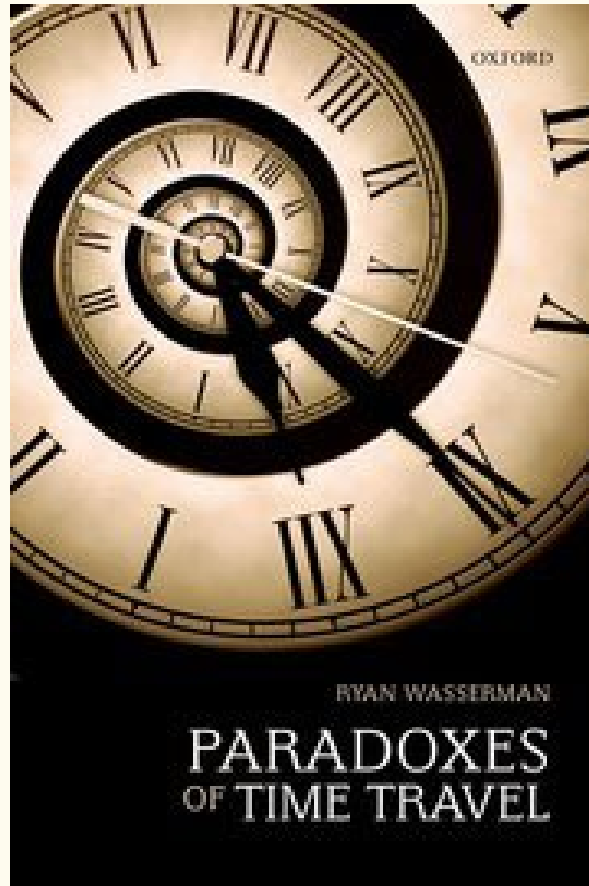
This last year **Jordan Sandoval**, Ph.D., has had a few new and exciting opportunities.

Continued on next page

Faculty Spotlight *continued*

She and Senior Instructor of Spanish, Kirsten Drickey, Ph.D., collaborated on a pilot project introducing explicit phonetic and phonological training to second year Spanish students. They will present their activities at the upcoming PAMLA conference. Additionally, Sandoval got to teach an Honors seminar on Language, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality which she said was a lot of fun. “I learned a lot of new things,” Sandoval said. “I hope to teach it again in some future year.” She also began collaborating with a colleague at Arizona State University on word perception and segmentation by native speakers of Mandarin, and will be presenting that project this coming fall at the annual meeting of the Acoustic Society of America.☺

This past year, **Ed Vajda**, Ph.D., (linguistics, Russian and Eurasian Studies) taught LING 201, Introduction to Language and Linguistics and an upper-division course in morphology. He continues to work on the Ket language of Siberia and its connection to the Na-Dene family in North America. His article “Dene-Yeniseian: Progress



and Unanswered Questions” appeared in the historical linguistics journal *Diachronica* in June 2018. Nine of his book reviews were also published during the past year, including reviews of *The Routledge Handbook of Historical Linguistics* (edited by Claire Bowerman and Bethwyn Evans), *Multiple Exponence* (by Alice Harris), and *An Introduction to the Languages of the World*. (by Anatole Lyovin). Vajda also has a number of other articles and reviews submitted or in press. Finally, he continues to collaborate with population geneticists and archaeologists to study the

prehistory of North Asia and North America and was a contributing author to the article “Between Lake Baikal and the Baltic Sea: A Genomic History of the Gateway to Europe”, published in *BCM Genetics*.☺

Ryan Wasserman, Ph.D., enjoyed teaching a revised version of his Philosophy of Mind course this year. Among other things, he and his students discussed the potential connections between language and consciousness, and the question of whether or not chatbots can think.

Wasserman also published a book *Paradoxes of Time Travel* (OUP) that includes a discussion of how to understand tensed statements in backward time travel scenarios.☺

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Sara Helms at
sara.helms@wwu.edu



Alumni Spotlight

After graduating, **Dylan Blossom**, '17, moved to Tucson, AZ, and was a volunteer tutor in an after-school program for refugee youth. He was then hired on at Pima Community College in the Refugee Education Program, instructing a literacy and English class for refugee adults. Blossom had the opportunity to research, design, and implement his own curriculum with a vocational ESL course for refugees aspiring to be hotel housekeepers. He recently relocated to Prescott Valley, and was accepted into graduate school at the University of Southern California where he'll be joining the online Masters of Arts in Teaching - Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages program this September. ☘

Taylor Carrasco-Hermerding, '15, is taking a year off from earning her Ph.D. in Linguistics at the University of Washington. She's living and working in Madrid as a research assistant with Dr. Patricia Kuhl's lab at the UW's Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences (I-LABS). Kuhl's lab is working with *Consejería de Educación e Investigación*

"I do miss my syntax, and Dr. Gynan's structure tree diagrams that told us the story of his kitten."

-Ryan Todd, '97

de la Comunidad de Madrid to examine the efficacy of playful, research-based second language instruction in infancy and early childhood. Carrasco-Hermerding will assist in coordinating and running the tests and analyzing the data. ☘

Rebecca Donaldson, '13, recently graduated from Columbia University's Teachers College in New York City with an M.S. in bilingual

speech-language pathology. This fall, Donaldson will be applying to Ph.D. programs in Clinical Psychology with the goal of exploring the use of mindfulness in treating stuttering. Donaldson is now working in a private practice in Claremont, California as a Speech-language Pathologist. She also works with Thousand Smiles in Ensenada, Mexico, providing parent education and speech therapy to children with repaired cleft palates. Donaldson fell in love with Brazil during her Fulbright Fellowship, and has returned to present a [children's book](#) she wrote in Brazilian Portuguese to treat cleft palate speech. ☘

Continued on next page



Rebecca Donaldson's book, *O Gorila Caio e a Galinha Carla*, was written in Brazilian Portuguese and is designed to treat cleft palate speech.

Alumni Spotlight *continued*

As a student, **Scott Grinsell** (Mr. G), '10, worked with Kristin Denham to develop linguistics lesson plans for high school students. Grinsell is now teaching kindergarten in Seattle. He and Denham will work together again on professional development with other teachers at his school.✿

Evan Ingalls, '14, is currently working in music and theater education with Bellingham Arts Academy for Youth, but took this past year off to travel around the world. "I learned bits and pieces of a whole bunch of languages, and got to observe cool language-related stuff in action," Ingalls said. "Occasionally I think about IPA in regards to singing. More often, I just think about linguistics when I encounter language oddities in my everyday life, because it's fascinating!" ✿

Lucero Manjarrez Mendoza, '18, lives in Yakima, WA. She is working at a warehouse called Zirkle's. Mendoza incorporates linguistics day-to-day by reading up on acoustic phonetics, hearing, the hearing and speech sciences, and other fun, random books. Her goals are to study for the GREs and start looking at programs that interest her.✿

Lauren (Mittelstaedt) Schneider, '14, completed her M.A. in linguistics at Trinity

"I just think about linguistics when I encounter language oddities in my everyday life, because it's fascinating!"

-Evan Ingalls, '14

Western University and has just started her Ph.D. at Simon Fraser University. Schneider is working with Salish and other First Nations languages. Schneider presented her work, "Hul'q'umi'num' Salish Color Terminology" at the 53rd International Conference on Salish and Neighboring Languages, held at the Whatcom Museum in August 2018.✿

Ryan Todd, '97, is currently an SQL Programmer Analyst at Saint Martin's University in Lacey, WA. Todd, who lives with his wife and two golden retrievers, is learning how to play the electric bass and continues to write poetry. "I do miss my syntax, and Dr. Gynan's structure tree diagrams that told us the story of his kitten," Todd said.✿

Carolynn Tulluck, '12, moved to South Korea to work with kindergarten and elementary students in language immersion, magnet schools, and private academies. Now a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Tulluck is pursuing a Master of Education in Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership, EPOL. Her career goal is to implement international programs in high schools and institutions of higher education that would include language programs for immigrants and refugees, community involvement programs, and the goals of building strong, international communities across the country.✿

Share your post-graduation experience with us and you may be featured in our next newsletter
sara.helms@wwu.edu



Retirement Tribute

On May 17, 2018, the Modern and Classical Languages Department and the Linguistics Program celebrated Dr. Shaw N. Gynan, who retired at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year. Dr. Gynan has worked at Western since 1986 and has long been a tireless champion of Linguistics at WWU. Along with Rudi Weiss, Shaw was absolutely essential to the success of the Linguistics Program. In its early years in the 1990s, Shaw really helped get the program off the ground, teaching linguistics courses as overloads and also teaching nearly every linguistics course we offer! Shaw also served as Director of Linguistics from 2008-2010.

A sociolinguist, Shaw's work on bilingualism and language policy is widely recognized, and he has become the pre-eminent scholar of Guaraní, a language of Paraguay.



Shaw Gynan, center, joins his colleagues in having a good laugh at one of Charles Patterson's, far left, stories about working with him. Photo by Hugo Garcia.

Click
here to read
an excerpt from Dr.
Gynan's "Statement
of Scholarship"

Shaw maintains an extremely active scholarly agenda in retirement; he is currently working on an invited article, summarizing his 20 years of research on Paraguayan Guaraní-Spanish bilingual education for the National Bilingualism Commission.



Shaw Gynan's relatives came to celebrate his retirement. From left, his mother, Elizabeth, her partner, Melvin, and Gynan's sister Stephanie. Photo by Hugo Garcia.

Shaw is a model of a teacher-scholar that Western is known for and is an inspiration to many of us. Linguistics at WWU owes much to Dr. Shaw N. Gynan. From the many, many students who have had the good fortune to learn from him, and from the faculty who have been lucky to work alongside him, we'll miss you, Shaw!

Western has established a scholarship in honor of Shaw Gynan. Click on the button below to donate to the Shaw Gynan Scholarship



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.

In the past, the club has offered faculty-led and student-led talks, been involved in linguistics outreach to the University and greater Bellingham community, traveled to various academic conferences, held study groups, and held a quarterly reading group.

Much of the same is in store for the upcoming year. Additionally, the club plans to grow in scope and activity, as it has in the past, and there are several larger projects in the works for its members. In general, they plan to connect more to related departmental clubs on campus, allow for more student involvement, and to delve deeper into interesting topics.

-Ana Usenko
Linguistics Club President



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