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Greetings from the Linguistics Department! I’m always surprised at how quickly time passes at the start of the academic year. One moment we are enjoying warm weather as we prepare for our return to campus and the start of classes, and then suddenly we are midway through Fall Quarter, with autumn fading and the end of the term on the near horizon. Indeed, the pace is rapid in the quarter system, but let’s pause here for a moment to recognize some of the recent changes and events in our department, starting with our students. We celebrated the accomplishments of our 13 undergraduate majors and 4 graduate students who completed their B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in the 2022-2023 academic year. Our students enliven our classrooms, labs, and offices with their curiosity about language and linguistics and their passion for research, and we appreciate all they contribute to making our department a tangibly vibrant and fun environment for everyone. We bid a bittersweet goodbye to these graduates and to Dr. Jeremy Steffman, a postdoctoral researcher in my lab since 2021, who has now joined the faculty in Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh.

As difficult as it is to say goodbye to our students and postdocs, we also enjoy the pleasure of welcoming new people to our department. We have two new graduate students, Anges Vu and Jingyi Wu, and you can read about their backgrounds and interests in the student highlights section later in this Newsletter. In January we greeted postdoctoral researcher Dr. Seung-Eun Kim, who is working with Matt Goldrick and Ann Bradlow, and over the summer we welcomed Ruth Bagley as a Research Staff working with Rob Voigt, and two new affiliate faculty members from the English Language Program, Tamara Wysocki and Mark Temenak. Our welcome extends to our administrative office with our new Business Coordinator, Charlene Mitchell, who joined us this month.
In highlighting the accomplishments of our students and postdocs, I must also acknowledge the exciting accomplishments of the faculty who support and guide them. First, we applaud Annette D’Onofrio on her promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. Annette was also honored with a Weinberg College Distinguished Teaching Award. Congratulations, Annette! We also proudly recognize Ann Bradlow’s election as Vice-President of the Acoustical Society of America. For news about faculty research, I encourage you to follow links on the Department website to faculty and lab webpages, where you can learn about the grants, publications, and exciting research projects underway. To spark your curiosity, I highlight several new grant-supported projects here. Matt Goldrick (Principal Investigator) and Ann Bradlow (co-PI) are collaborating on a new NSF-funded project on *Enhancing research on speech and deep learning through holistic acoustic analysis*. Rob Voigt won funding from the Tides Advocacy/Community Justice Action Fund for work on the *Impact of race in media representations of gun violence*. Rob Voigt and Jennifer Cole (that’s me!) are co-PIs on a large NIH-funded project led by Northwestern’s Molly Losh (Communication Sciences and Disorders) on *A family-genetic study of language in autism*. And bringing our students back into the spotlight, two projects under Annette D’Onofrio’s supervision, with Chantal De Leon and Jennifer Dibbern, were awarded coveted NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants for research in sociolinguistics.

If you are in the neighborhood, please stop by and visit us in the Linguistics Department house at 2016 Sheridan. We would be happy to show off the lovely, restored front porch, and the new Multimodal Interaction Lab in Swift Hall. I look forward to meeting you!

-Jennifer Cole

Follow [this link](#) to the Linguistics Research Technology Newsletter for updates on the wonderful resources in the Linguistics Laboratories, and to hear first hand from some of our graduate students about their innovative projects taking place in our labs!
2023-2024 Colloquium Schedule

Fall Quarter
October 27th, 2023:
Florian Schwarz
UPenn
November 10th, 2023:
Anjalie Field
Johns Hopkins University

Winter Quarter
January 26th, 2023:
Jonathan Brennan
University of Michigan
February 16th, 2023:
Georgia Zellou
UC Davis

Spring Quarter
April 12th, 2023:
Kathryn Franich
Harvard University
April 26th, 2023:
Lal Zimman
UC Santa Barbara
May 24th, 2023:
Meg Cychosz
UCLA
Joy Fu

How did you first become interested in linguistics?
I have been fascinated by accents and language variations since elementary school. In middle school, I learned that this “hobby” of mine was actually systematically studied by sociolinguists. I started to read extensively about linguistics and decided to major in it in high school.

Can you briefly describe any research projects in linguistics that you’ve been involved with?
I did my first research project in linguistics in high school, where I studied the use of the Shanghai dialect in Shanghai Opera. At Northwestern, under the guidance of Prof. Yoshida, I have been investigating grammatical illusions in Mandarin and English locative constructions. I am excited to continue my work on the Chicagoland Language Project with Prof. D’Onofrio this summer.

How have you been involved in the Linguistics Department outside of your coursework?
I have worked for Prof. D’Onofrio’s Chicagoland Language Project and am a member of Prof. Yoshida’s Syntax Club. This year, I helped organize NACLO at Northwestern.

How do you see your linguistics major fitting into your career plans after graduation?
I’m planning on pursuing a career in law after graduation. My Linguistics coursework has prepared me for both qualitative and quantitative legal research. Through sociolinguistics, I have also had the chance to study social injustices and disparities from a unique perspective.

What advice would you have for students considering a linguistics major?
Talk to as many linguistics majors and professors as possible! Take any linguistics class that interests you, as linguistics offers a wide range of branches to explore. There are countless ways to specialize within the field, so follow your interests and passions!
Faculty Announcements

Congratulations to Professor Annette D’Onofrio, who was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure! Professor D’Onofrio was also awarded the Weinberg College distinguished teaching award for the 2022-23 school year.

Professor Matt Goldrick (right) and Julia Moore (center, PhD alum and Director of English Language Programs) organized "Changing How We Listen: Accents Across Borders and Professions," supported by a seed grant from the Buffett Institute to Global Affairs. Dr. Devyani Sharma (Queen Mary University of London, left) the keynote speaker, discussed her work on combatting accent bias in Britain. This was followed by a panel discussion of local clinical practitioners that work with second-language English speakers on modifying accents.

We welcome two new ELP staff members as affiliate faculty in Linguistics:

Mark Temenak, MA, MS, CCC-SLP, joined English Language Programs as a full-time Speech-Language Pathologist and lecturer in July 2023. Mark earned his MS in Speech-Language Pathology from Northwestern’s School of Communication and an MA in Applied Linguistics/TESOL at the University of Illinois-Chicago. His most recent role was bilingual speech-pathologist position serving Spanish-speaking students from early childhood through 12th grade.

Tamra Wysocki-Niimi, PhD, joined English Language Programs as a full-time Language Pedagogy Specialist and lecturer in June. Tamra earned her doctorate in linguistics at the University of Chicago, specializing in acoustic and articulatory phonetics and phonology, with fieldwork in the former Soviet state of Georgia. She taught Georgian at the University of Chicago for 9 years, and most recently was a full-time communication consultant to MBA students in Kellogg School of Management.
Faculty Publications

Eszter Ronai

Ann Bradlow

Jennifer Cole
- Im, S., Cole, J., Baumann, S. 2023. Standing out in context: Prominence in the production and perception of public speech. Laboratory Phonology, 14(1).

Masaya Yoshida

Matt Goldrick

Annette D’Onofrio

Rob Voigt

Gregory Ward
Thank you to all who attended the Linguistics Department’s QP Fest this June at Chambers Hall and congratulations to our presenters!

Presenters

Ziyun Chew: The Corpus of Mexican American Language (COMAL)

Cassie Davenport: Themself or Themselves? Lexical and syntactic information in coreference

Devin Johnson: Processing of English Reflexives Shows Evidence of Structural Prediction

Grace LeFevre: Evaluative expressions in letters of recommendation

Adrian Ray-Avalani: Constructing a linguistic classifier of tone policing

Thomas Sostarics

Best Paper in Speech Communication at the 184th Acoustical Society of America Meeting

Congratulations to Thomas Sostarics, whose presentation Tonal Center of Gravity Predicts Variation in the Interpretation of Rising and Falling Intonation in American English was awarded first place in the Speech Communication category at the Acoustical Society of America’s 184th meeting!

Congratulations to these students on receiving the National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant!

Chantal De Leon, for her project on Integration of social information in sociolinguistic perception

Jennifer Dibbern, for her project on The influence of local social context on speech perception in bilinguals.

Student Announcements

QP Fest 2023 Recap
I am very excited to further expand my linguistic knowledge at Northwestern University. My current research interest is the processing mechanism of conversational implicature, especially scalar implicature. I am also interested in content related to sentence information structure, such as the functions of focus markers in different languages.

I’m super excited to learn from and collaborate with the great faculty and fellow graduate students here at Northwestern! I look forward to exploring bilingual language acquisition, retention, and attrition through the lens of speech perception/production, and in particular, I’m interested in studying heritage speakers of Vietnamese. I hope to incorporate interdisciplinary skills and methodologies from fields like socio- and computational linguistics in my investigations of these topics.
Congratulations to our PhD and MA graduates!

Hyosik Kim  Wesley Orth  
Maria Gavino  Jaime Benheim  
Lisa Cox (M.A.)

Follow [this link](#) to learn more about their research!

Congratulations to our new PhD candidates!
These are students who advanced to PhD candidate status after successfully defending their thesis prospectus.

Chantal De Leon  Thomas Sostarics  Kate Sandberg

Congratulations to our undergraduate class of 2023!

Charlise Casas  Joshua Declan Irvin  
Citlalli Cazales  Edward Lawson Karppi  
Audrey Chisholm  Olivia Iwase Lathrop  
Celia Noelle Crompton  Clayton Lamar Lawhead  
Briana Cara Crowley  Allison Macdonald  
Grace DeAngelis  Sammy Salam Mustafa  
Megan Lori Gendelman  Samantha Isabel Noeth Lewis  
Marisa Gudiño  John Perales  
Elizabeth Eunjung Han  Jamarielle Zhane Ransom-Marks  
Rose Marie Haselhorst  Jill Jackson Rawls

Thank you so much to our donors for their generous gifts which support Linguistics student research! New and continuing donations are appreciated, and can be made [here](#).