There’s already a cool breeze blowing in from the lake and the excited buzz from students and faculty returning to campus in September has grown quieter as we settle into the 2022-2023 academic year. Like everyone, I enjoy the beauty of the Northwestern campus and Lake Michigan in the summer months, but the change of season brings the delight of reconnecting with faculty, students and staff as we plan the Linguistics courses, research projects and special events for the coming year. Every academic year brings new opportunities to push the boundaries of our knowledge and the discipline of Linguistics through our research, teaching and mentoring relations, and this year is no exception. Let me share some of the highlights here!

(Continued on page 2)
We welcome many new members of the Linguistics Department this year. Eszter Ronai is our newest faculty member, joining as a College Fellow this academic year, and transitioning to her role as Assistant Professor in 2023-2024. Eszter comes to us from the University of Chicago, where she recently completed her PhD in Linguistics with specialization in pragmatics. We are also very excited to have Ann Bradlow back in her full-time faculty role after seven years as Associate Dean in Weinberg College, though we are aware that she is already very much missed by her colleagues there. She is taking a long-overdue research leave this year and will be back to teaching and advising in Fall 2023. Our administrative staff has grown with the addition of Jennifer Michals as our full-time Business Coordinator. Stop by the newly refurbished department office in room 101 of the Linguistics House and say Hi! to Jen M. and Program Assistant Talant Abdykairov. I am especially grateful to them both for their support as we transitioned to a new administrative team over the past nine months.

We are also fortunate to have seven new graduate students who make up a lively and diverse first-year cohort. Please stop by their offices in Swift Hall room M101 and give a warm welcome to Qingcheng Zeng, Emma Wilkinson, Nneoma Udeze, Rebakah Stanhope, Lynna Neri, Austin Keen and Raef Khan!

Our undergraduate cohort is also growing, thanks in no small part to the dedicated efforts of Erin Leddon, Associate Professor of Instruction and Director of Undergraduate Studies. I join Erin in welcoming many new majors and minors in our expanding curriculum of undergraduate courses, and in introducing Celia Crompton and Allison MacDonald in their role as the new co-chairs of the Northwestern University Linguistics Student Association (NULSA).

It is a special pleasure to share news of the many recent outstanding achievements of our faculty, staff and students. Ann Bradlow was named Vice President-Elect of the Acoustical Society of America, Matt Goldrick was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, and Jennifer Cole was appointed to the Advisory Committee for the National Science Foundation's Directorate for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences. On the administrative front, Talant Abdykairov received the Dean's Excellence Award recognizing an outstanding member of the Weinberg College staff. In research, graduate students Maria Gavino and Dan Turner received NSF Dissertation Improvement Grants, bringing to five the number of such awards to current students in the department. After a productive research leave last year, Matt Goldrick has received a new grant from the NSF for his collaborative project on “Enhancing research on speech and deep learning through holistic acoustic analysis”, and a grant from the Northwestern University Buffett Institute for a workshop on accent bias. Last, but not least, I congratulate Caroline Berg-Love on being awarded the Demoz Prize for excellent achievements in linguistics.

The Linguistics Department is proud to host a series of events where we welcome the broader community of folks interested in language science. We have planned an exciting series of Linguistics Colloquium talks, beginning on Oct. 20 with a talk by NU Linguistics alumna, Dr. Tessa Bent. Later in the spring quarter we will co-host the annual Bilingualism Matters distinguished speaker, Dr. Devyani Sharma. With a focus on our undergraduate students, the Linguistics student organization, NULSA, is hosting a series of meetups to explore careers and research related to linguistics, and to socialize with other language enthusiasts. Our first special departmental event of the academic year was the Fall Reception, held in September in person for the first time since the start of the pandemic. After introducing the newest members of the Department, we had a short program recognizing our newly retired colleague, Bob Gundlach. I was joined by faculty colleagues Ann Bradlow, Matt Goldrick, Julia Moore and Erin Leddon in highlighting the many contributions Bob has made to the Linguistics Department and the University, and the lasting impact of his mentoring and support. In honor of all that Bob has given to Linguistics, we are pleased to announce the naming of the Robert Gundlach Conference Room in the Linguistics Department.

It is wonderful to have so many highlights to celebrate among the achievements of our enterprising faculty, students and staff over the past year. Yet it would be a mistake not to also pause and consider the positive impact of many “smaller” accomplishments that happen every day in our classrooms and offices, and which make the intellectually vibrant and collegial department that we call our academic home. I hope to see you here, in a Linguistics classroom, lab or event, soon!  

- Jennifer
**Q & A**

**Question:** What are your research interests or area of specialty?

**Answer:** Most of my work is in psycholinguistics and experimental pragmatics, but I'm also interested in semantic and syntactic phenomena.

**Question:** What sparked those interests?

**Answer:** During the normal course of communication, we (seem to) effortlessly handle form-meaning mismatches and cases of natural language meaning that go beyond the literal. Yet there are many interesting open questions about how such meanings are processed and what factors govern their calculation.

**Question:** What are you most excited about for your new position at Northwestern?

**Answer:** I am especially excited to join a department where there is a lot of experimental expertise and interest in doing collaborative work.

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**ESZTER RONAI**

**AY 2022 - 2023**

**LINGUISTICS COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE**

Colloquium talks are held from 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm in Chambers Hall. Zoom link available. Email: linguistics@northwestern.edu

- October 28, 2022 with Tessa Bent
- January 20, 2023 with Vera Gribanova
- February 24, 2023 with Jason Bishop
- March 10, 2023 with Sharese King
- April 14, 2022 with Mark Amengual
- May 12, 2023 with Florian Schwarz
- May 26, 2023 with Junyi Jessy Li
On September 27, 2022 colleagues and students shared memories and gratitude for Robert Gundlach.

From 1977 until 2019, Professor Gundlach was the founding director of Northwestern's Bobbie and Stanton Cook Family Writing Program. He continued as a faculty associate of the program until 2022. He was also a professor in the Department of Linguistics, where he served as department chair from 2004 until 2007. Throughout his career, he taught extensively in both the Cook Family Writing Program and the Department of Linguistics. In recognition of his teaching, he was named Martin J. and Patricia Koldyke Outstanding Teaching Professor in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences for 1998-2000. He was also named several times to Northwestern's Associated Student Government Faculty Honor Roll, most recently in 2018-19.

source: NU Writing Program
CONGRATS TO GRADUATING CLASS
SPRING 2022

Caroline Berg-Love
Ora John D'Angelo
Mackenzie Gentz
Ashley Gomernn
Gabrille Olson
Adrian Porras
Iliana Schmidt
Abeje Schnake
Lawrence Suba
Sarah Tani
Abigail Zuercher
Charles Micheal Senko

AY 21-22
DEMOZ PRIZE WINNER
Caroline Berg-Love

Congratulations to Caroline Berg-Love for winning the 2022 Abraham Demoz Prize! Caroline was chosen as this year’s winner for active participation in Linguistics courses, faculty-led research, independent work on ambiguity resolution, and many contributions to Northwestern University Linguistics Student Association (NULSA).

NULSA, the Linguistics student group, hosted a language-themed game night on March 8, 2022. This fall, “Exploring the Linguistics Major and Minor” was held on October 19, 2022. Celia Crompton, one of the NULSA Co-Presidents, led the event, and had students share ideas about their favorite courses, research involvement, and other advice for prospective students.

2022 Co-President Contact Info:
Celia Crompton (celiacrompton2023@u.northwestern.edu)
Allison MacDonald (allisonmacdonald2023@u.northwestern.edu)
AY 2022-23
GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS
by the numbers

7
NUMBER OF FIRST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

5
NUMBER OF NSF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH IMPROVEMENT GRANTS AWARDED

2
NUMBER OF NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Group photo at Department Fall Welcome on September 27, 2022
FIRST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

2022 - 2023

We are excited to welcome seven students to Linguistics. Read about their learning plans while at Northwestern below.

Austin Keen

I am excited to become part of the community at Northwestern, and I plan to expand my knowledge on sentence processing and theoretical syntax. I am also interested in exploring new methodologies and internet-based experimentation to address the need for new modalities of research to increase diversity in participant recruitment and address accessibility concerns.

Raef Khan

My focus is on how linguistic discrimination manifests itself in different social situations and how social bias is enforced through a linguistic lens. Currently, I am focusing on how advancements in technology are socially biased against linguistic minority communities. I'm excited to work with Dr. Annette D'Onofrio and Dr. Rob Voigt in exploring these issues, and on developing ways in which socio- and computational linguistics can help bring about social equity. Outside of linguistics, I'm looking forward to getting involved with Northwestern's ceramics studio and further developing my throwing skills!

Lynn Neri

I plan to research how social support manifests itself in language across a variety of online health communities under Dr. Rob Voigt! I am excited to learn more about computational linguistics and statistical methods as well as sociolinguistic theory to expand the tools I can bring to my research. Outside of the department, I hope to be active in the Northwestern Lutheran Campus Ministry. I look forward to working with everyone in the department and hearing about everyone's insights and experiences!
At Northwestern, I hope to explore research questions related to prosody, speech perception, and/or phonological acquisition. So far, I have been enjoying attending Prosody & Speech Dynamics Lab and SoundLab meetings. I am also interested in connections and parallels between speech perception and other cognitive processes, and plan to pursue a Certificate in Cognitive Science.

Nneoma Udeze

At Northwestern, I am interested in doing research in pragmatics and semantics using computational models, with the aim of capturing how meaning is constructed literally and contextually. I am also interested in looking at how meaning is misconstrued when used in different contexts and its implications in society.

Emma Wilkinson

I’m looking forward to exploring new fields of study and expanding my linguistic background. It’s wonderful to be surrounded by so many hardworking and supportive linguists. I aim to examine how Asian American and multiethnic people express their ethnic identities through language. I’m excited to get involved with the Chicagoland Language Project and explore the sociolinguistic landscape of the greater Chicago area. Through this, I hope to develop my sociolinguistic interviewing abilities. Additionally, I hope to foster new skills in computational linguistic methodologies.
Qingcheng Zeng

I am really excited to start my PhD at Northwestern University with Dr. Rob Voigt and the Linguistic Mechanisms Lab. I am extremely interested in how NLP technology can advance social goods and how linguistic knowledge could further enhance NLP research. At the intersection of linguistics and computer science, I hope I can do interesting interdisciplinary research with the whole department of linguistics together!
National Science Foundation Awards

Congratulations to these award winners, who have received Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants from the National Science Foundation! These grants are intended to defray the research costs for doctoral dissertation projects designed and carried out by doctoral students.

Jaime Benheim
Maria Gavino
Nicole Mirea
Wes Orth
Dan Turner

Congratulations to these award winners, who have received a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. The purpose of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is to ensure the quality, vitality, and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce of the United States.

Nicole Mirea
Lisa Cox


• Michael Blasingame & Ann R. Bradlow. 2021. Intelligibility of first-language (L1) and second-language (L2) speech by switched-dominance Spanish-English bilinguals. JASA Express Letters DOI: 10.1121/10.0003688


• Sandberg, K., Cole, J. 2022. The Consistent Meaning of Intonational Tunes Across Sentence Type in American English. Proceedings of 1st International Conference on Tone and Intonation, Sonderborg, Denmark


• Cole, J., Steffman, J. 2022. The primacy of the rising/non-rising dichotomy in American English intonational tunes. Proceedings of 1st International Conference on Tone and Intonation, Sonderborg, Denmark


Goldrick, M., Shrem, Y., Kilbourn-Ceron, O., Baus, C., & Keshet, J.2021. Using automated acoustic analysis to explore the link between planning and articulation in second-language speech production. Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience. 36, 824-839


• Smolensky, P., McCoy, R. T., Fernandez, R., Goldrick, M., & Gao, J. 2022. Neurocompositional computing: From the central paradox of cognition to a new generation of AI systems. AI Magazine, 43, 308-322
• Kilbourn-Ceron, O., & Goldrick, M. 2022. The dynamics of word production. In A. Papafragou, J. C. Trueswell, & L. R. Gleitman (Eds.) The Oxford handbook of the mental lexicon, (pp. 537-551)

• Goldrick, M., Shrem, Y., Kilbourn-Ceron, O., Baus, C., & Keshet, J. 2021. Using automated acoustic analysis to explore the link between planning and articulation in second-language speech production. Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience. 36, 824-839
• Denby, T., & Goldrick, M. 2021. The voice of experience: Causal inference in phonotactic adaptation. Laboratory Phonology, 12, 5.
• Kilbourn-Ceron, O., Goldrick, M. 2021. Variable pronunciations reveal dynamic intra-speaker variation in speech planning. Psychonomic Bulletin and Review, 28, 1365-1380

- W Orth, M Yoshida, S Sloggett. 2021. Negative polarity item (NPI) illusion is a quantification phenomenon. Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition 47 (6), 906
- J Choe, M Yoshida, J Cole, J Choe, M Yoshida, J Cole. 2022. The role of prosodic focus in the reanalysis of garden path sentences: Depth of semantic processing impedes the revision of an erroneous local analysis. Glossa Psycholinguistics 1 (1)
Located in Swift Hall (2029 Sheridan Road) the Multimodal Interaction Lab is the newest of the Linguistics Department labs. Located in Swift Hall, this lab was newly constructed in 2022, and technical instrumentation is currently underway.

The Multimodal Interaction Lab is a physical lab space designed to allow for the naturalistic recording of conversations and interactions for research, including sociolinguistic interviews and experimental setups requiring a larger space than a recording booth. The recording room itself is about the size of a living room (14' 3" by 11' 3") with sound-attenuated walls, and designed with home-style decor to give the feeling of a conversation in a normal living room rather than a sterile laboratory setting.

The recording room is equipped with three hidden cameras that capture both standard RGB images as well as depth images, and experimental participants are outfitted with wireless lavalier microphones for high-fidelity, speaker-separable audio recordings. The lab is also equipped with physiological monitoring equipment such as Empatica E4 wristbands to measure heart rate and galvanic skin response for studies requiring such data. A computer outside the recording room receives and processes the streaming audiovisual data from experiments, which is stored on a large network attached storage (NAS) device.

Check out the Linguistics Research Technology newsletter here.
Talant Abdykairov from Linguistics won the Dean’s Excellent award, which honors an outstanding staff member for exemplary communication, service focus, efficiency, and leadership. Additionally, they consistently demonstrate an outward focus and represent their department, the College, and the University in a positive manner.

Thanks for all you do Talant!

ALUMNI/AE SPOTLIGHT SERIES
We are introducing a new feature to this newsletter and want to hear from you!

The Alumni/ae Spotlight Series is an opportunity to connect and check-in with alumni/ae since they have graduated from Northwestern University and highlight the work they are doing in their respective fields and careers. If you would like to be considered or would like to suggest another alumnus/a to be featured, please email linguistics@northwestern.edu with your updates, awards, and accomplishments.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!
THANK YOU
TO OUR 2021 – 2022 DONORS

We are grateful to everyone who has donated to the department over the years. Please consider joining other friends and alumni who have shown their support by making a gift to our fund. We greatly appreciate your contributions to the success of our programs!

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