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.

- **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.

- **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 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!

Thank you for your continuing support to the Linguistics Department!

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