



INTERLOCUTOR 2019

FROM BERKELEY TO BOULDER

A Letter from the Chair

As an Army brat, I moved often during my childhood, starting with a trip from Ft. Eustis, VA (my birthplace) to Ft. Shafter, Honolulu, HI at the age of six weeks. Nevertheless, I consider myself a daughter of California, and in particular a proud beneficiary of the vision that is the University of California system and its first campus, the University of California, Berkeley. I received my BA, MA and PhD from UC Berkeley and since then I have built my academic career at the flagship campus of the University of Colorado, where I rarely fail to be moved by the sight of the Flatirons looming above the 100-year-old building that houses the Linguistics department, Hellems Arts and Sciences. At Berkeley I liked to gaze west too, from Founder's Rock, a mossy volcanic tuft on the eastern rim of campus, which affords a bracing view of San Francisco Bay, the Golden Gate and the Pacific beyond. Legend has it that the trustees of what was then the College of California were standing near this rock in April of 1860, when one saw fit to quote 18th century Irish philosopher Bishop Berkeley: "Westward the course of empire takes its way", thus giving the city of Berkeley its name.

Some hundred years after the university's founders celebrated the expanded American empire, the great UC Berkeley linguist Mary Haas created the Survey of California and Other Indian Languages, to catalog the extraordinary linguistic heritage lost to European conquest (California had 80-90 distinct languages, including the Ohlone language of the Bay Area). Research of this nature is carried on in Colorado by my colleague Andy Cowell, who directs both the Center for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the West in our department and the campus's Center for



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Native and Indigenous Studies, and is one of the foremost experts on the Great Plains language Arapaho. He and his collaborators work today to foster the language's survival. As it happens, Andy also received his PhD from Berkeley. So did my colleague, sociocultural linguist Kira Hall (I like to remind her that I was her peer mentor in the PhD program). My colleagues Rebecca Scarborough, a laboratory phoneticist, Chase Raymond, a scholar of language and social action, and Barbara Fox, an expert in grammar in use, received their PhDs from UCLA. And I am pleased to report that California has now made yet another contribution to our faculty: our Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow, sociolinguist Jeremy Calder, who earned his PhD in linguistics at Stanford, will join our faculty in Fall 2019. His hire was made possible through STAR, a program designed to recruit outstanding scholars with the potential to bring to their academic careers the critical perspective that comes from understanding of the experiences of groups historically underrepresented in higher education. Jeremy's research on pronunciation modeling targets drag performers in the SoMa district of San Francisco. He looks at the multiple factors, including acoustic and visual ones, that collude in the creation of verbal style. His ultimate aim is to illuminate performative agency among people in marginalized communities.

It is a point of pride among CU Linguistics faculty that the California-Colorado trajectory is bidirectional: we have recently sent some outstanding CU linguists west. Georgia Zellou (LING PhD, 2012) is an assistant professor at UC Davis; Lal Zimman (LING PhD, 2012) is an assistant professor at UC Santa Barbara; Will Styler (LING PhD,



2015) is an assistant professor at UC San Diego and Kevin Gould (LING, PhD 2015) is an analytic linguist in the Intent Schema group at Google in Mountain View, CA.

When I think of the values of the West (as opposed to Western values, a term redolent of imperialism), I think of the university mottoes that my students and I examine in my undergraduate Study of Words class. Both the UC motto and the CU motto say something about light. The UC motto is Latin, from the Old Testament: *Fiat lux* ('Let there be light'). The CU motto is more *recherché*. It's Greek, from the New: *Lampsato to phos humon* ('Let your light shine'). I am proud that the most celebrated CU president, George Norlin, was a student of classical languages, like me. His celebrated Norlin Charge is now inscribed high on the wall of the jaw-droppingly beautiful new CASE building on campus, where we will hold the Linguistics Spring 2019 graduation ceremony. Here is what Norlin believed the CU motto represents:

What the university purposes to be, what it must always strive to be, is represented on its seal, which is stamped on your diplomas — a lamp in the hands of youth. If its light shines not in you and from you, how great is its darkness! But if it shines in you today, and in the thousands before you, who can measure its power?

To me, the true values of the West are those embodied by its universities and colleges: pass the lamp, extend the privilege of learning to all, and use the light of knowledge to dispel ignorance, enhance compassion, elevate the public discourse, and help the vulnerable. George Norlin lived those values. In 1922 he defied a demand from the then-Klan-dominated Colorado legislature that he fire all Catholic and Jewish faculty. As a result of his refusal, CU received no state funding for four years. But Norlin somehow kept the lamps lit during that dark time.

How can we in the CU Linguistics community today embody the Norlin Charge? The field itself provides some guidance: linguistics is the study of both our shared human heritage and our diversity—our diverse linguistic practices, our changing usage habits, the identities we build and project through language. We can spearhead efforts to enhance what CU administration calls inclusive excellence by increasing the diversity of our student body and faculty, and better understanding the challenges faced by students from diverse backgrounds, including first-generation students, students with disabilities, LGBTQ students, returning students, immigrant students and international students. We can learn about the people who made lives in the West before the pioneer conquest;

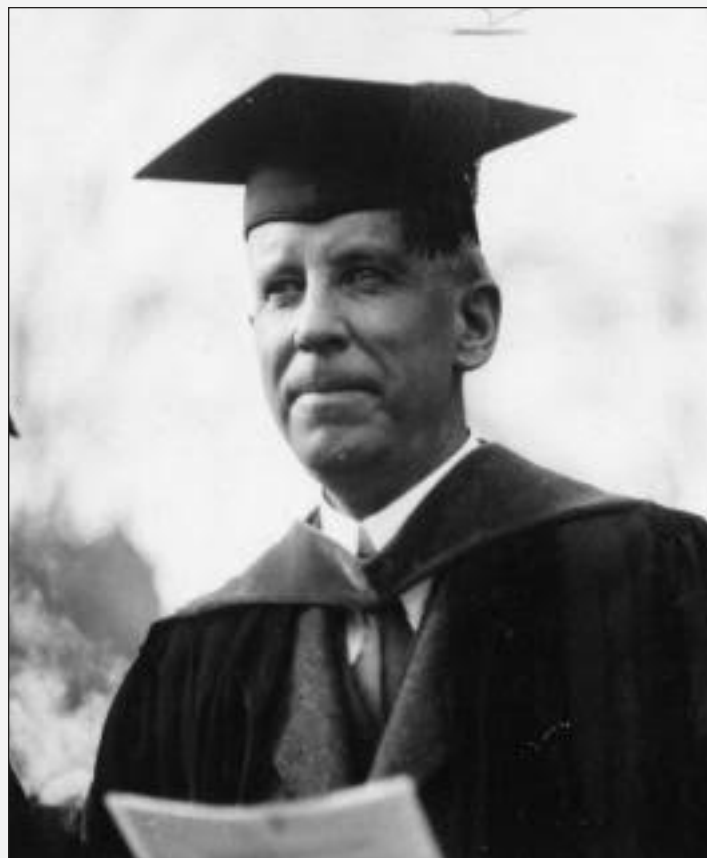
numerous CU staff and faculty members evoke this period in their signature lines, displaying the affiliation *Traditional territories of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute Nations*. We can create better work conditions for our outstanding staff, student employees and instructors. We in Linguistics are fortunate that our Administrative Assistant Cynthia Clark

and our Program Assistant Paula Dufour are known to administration as two of the savviest and most effective staffers on campus. They keep our operation going and keep us real. This spring we honor retiring Senior Instructor Dr. Mia Thomas-Ružić, who created and directed both our professional MA (PMA) program in

teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL), and the BA certificate program in TESOL. The TESOL BA is growing ever more popular with undergrad students across the College, and the TESOL MA program will now reach learners around the world, through a partnership with Continuing Education's online Language Teaching with Technology program. Although Mia's presence in our department will be greatly missed, her legacy will be a lasting



Linguistics is the study of both our shared human heritage and our diversity.





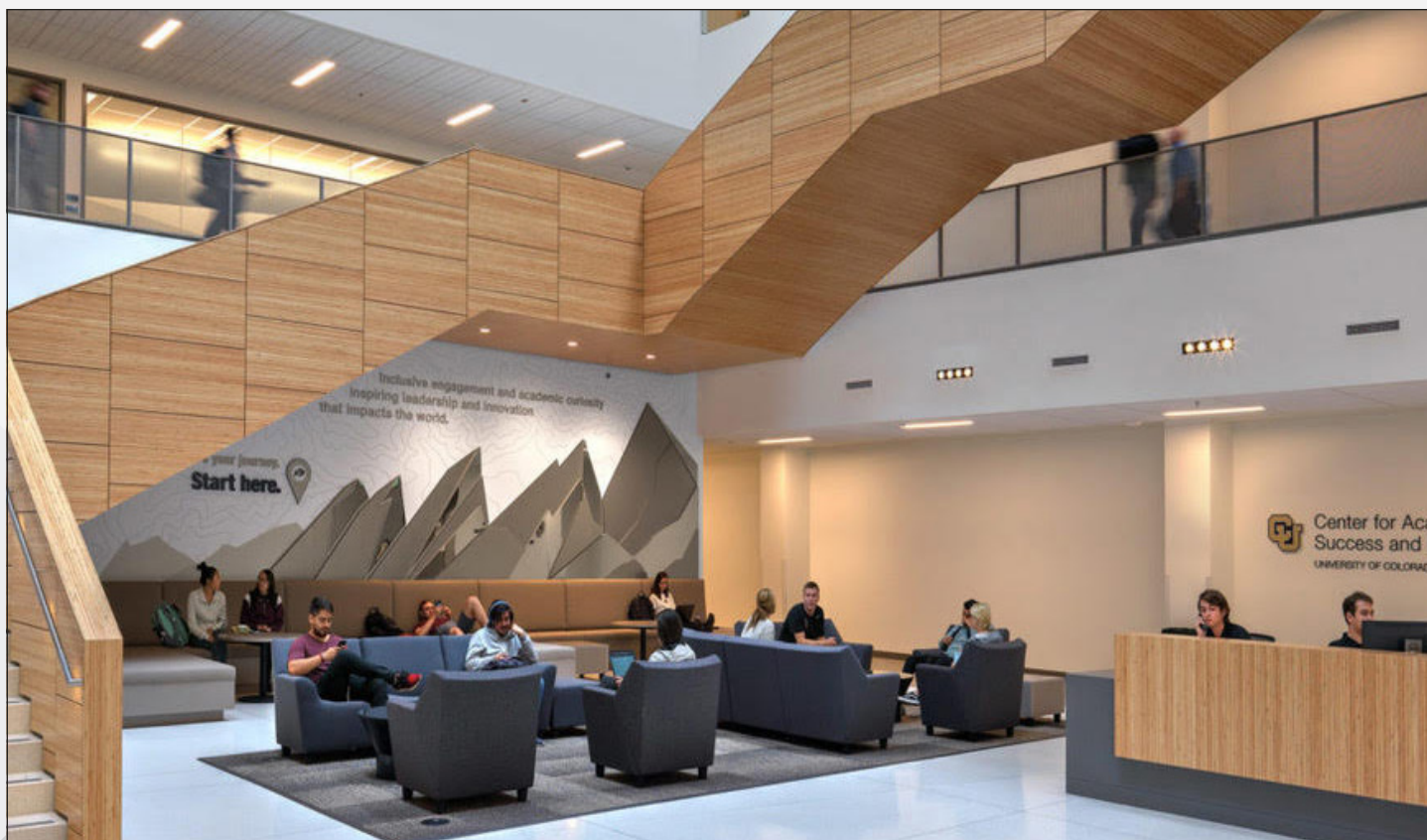
one. In fact, the TESOL BA program will be the centerpiece of a new program of specialized linguistics majors that we hope to roll out in the fall, with the help of our newly constituted Departmental Action Team. Another crucial piece is computational linguistics; our high energy colleagues Martha Palmer

and Mans Hulden are working to create a specialized linguistics major in computational linguistics to dovetail with the new A&S computer science major—a program that holds great promise for those undergraduate Linguistics students seeking to join the industries that are creating new and powerful search tools, automated translation systems and interactive agents.

My chairship appears to have aligned with a period of unprecedented faculty growth in our department. This spring we will hire an assistant professor specializing in linguistic typology—a field that targets both the common

properties and the structural diversity of the world's languages. Recent work in typology and language evolution has dimmed the hopes of those who wish to see language as the product of an innately specified universal grammar. These works suggest instead that language is a cultural product, collectively constructed across individuals, populations and successive generations of users. Bishop Berkeley had something to say about cultural transmission, pointing out that “a ray of imagination or of wisdom may enlighten the universe, and glow into remotest centuries”. You can help us continue to shine a light on language, to enlighten students and to illuminate the public discourse about language. Please see our website's Donate tab for eight key initiatives in which your gift can advance the research and teaching missions of CU Linguistics. Let's keep the lights on!

Laura Michaelis
Boulder, CO
December 10, 2018





FACULTY UPDATES



Bhuvana Narasimhan

Bhuvana Narasimhan, together with graduate student Norielle Adricula and undergraduate students Eileen Ford and Mara Strother working in the Language, Development, and Cognition Lab, investigated the development of space-number mappings in preschool children. The project, funded by a grant from the Spencer Foundation, aims to find out whether preschoolers who have no training in mathematics nevertheless conceptualize numerical magnitudes using vertical space. Over the summer, the team collected data from over 80 children in the lab, preschools, the local library and a children's museum using child-friendly paper-and-pencil tasks as well as reaction time tasks on an iPad. The findings from this research will expand our understanding of spatial and numerical language and cognition in children, which will have implications for early mathematical instruction.



Andrew Cowell

Andy Cowell published an anthology of Gros Ventre oral narratives in 2017, with Terry Brockie of the Gros Ventre Tribe. The volume, entitled *Aaniiih/Gros Ventre Stories*, was published with University of Regina Press, Canada, and won the 2018 Saskatchewan Book Awards Indigenous Peoples Publishing Award. In 2018 he published an ethnographic study with University of Arizona Press entitled *Naming the World: Language and Power among the Northern Arapaho*, which focuses on language shift in the Arapaho community and its influence on Arapaho culture and society. A recent article is "Dementia and Grammar in a Polysynthetic Language" in the flagship journal *Language*, with Gail Ramsberger and Lise Menn of CU, which examines the effects of dementia on Arapaho language production. The article is the first to examine this problem for an agglutinating, polysynthetic language, structurally very different from the major European languages usually the focus of such work. Another recent article, in *Anthropological Linguistics*, with Allan Taylor of CU and Terry Brockie, is "Gros Ventre Ethnogeography and Place Names: A Diachronic Perspective," which examines how Gros Ventre relationships to the land, including naming places, has changed as the tribe shifted from nomadic to a reservation life-style.



Kira Hall

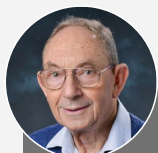
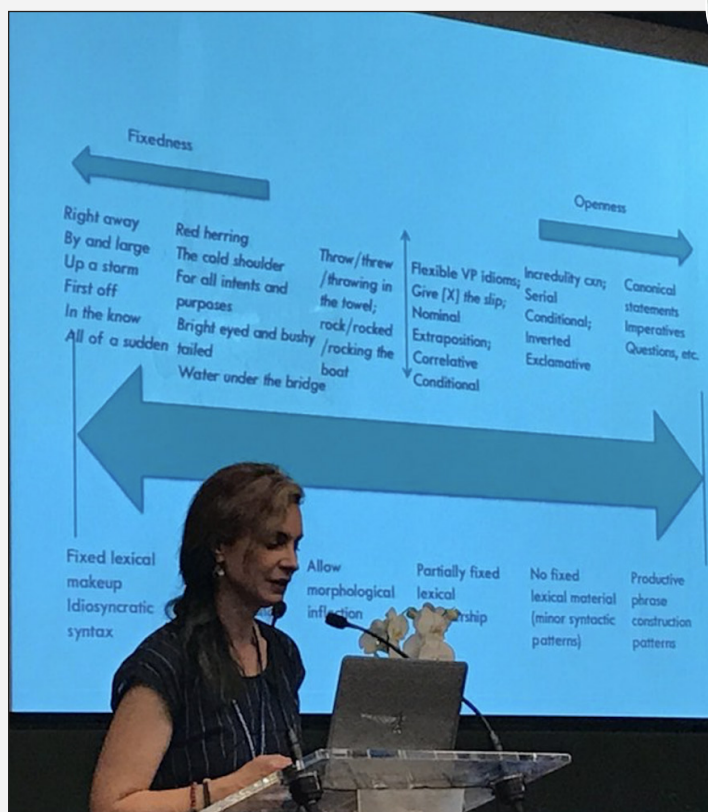
Kira Hall was recently elected to the President-Elect position of the Society for Linguistic Anthropology, the flagship organization within the American Anthropological Association for the study of language and social life. She will begin her two-year term as President in November 2019. Her work with the Literacy Practicum, a community-based learning program that pairs CU undergraduates with language and literacy learners of all ages in the Boulder area, was awarded large development grants from both CU Outreach and CU Engage. Her forthcoming publications include the edited volume

Language and Sexuality with Oxford University Press, a special issue on "Language and Normativity" in the journal *Language in Society* that includes her own article on the use of multilingual ethnic jokes among the urban middle classes in northern India, and an article coauthored with PhD student Ayden Parish on the semiotics of agency for the new Cambridge Encyclopedia of Linguistic Anthropology. A project initiated by Prof. Hall entitled "Undergraduate Research Blogs in Linguistics" received an ASSETT Award of Excellence in 2018 and can be viewed on the Linguistics Department website.



Laura Michaelis

Laura Michaelis continues to study the interaction between words and grammatical constructions. In July 2017 she gave a plenary talk at The Twenty-Fourth Annual Conference on Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar, held in conjunction with the LSA Linguistic Institute at the University of Kentucky, Lexington. In November 2017 she gave a keynote talk entitled "Tense Inflection as Construction: What we Learn about the Meanings of Tenses from Coercion Effects" at the Morphology Days conference held at the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium. In July 2018 she was a keynote speaker at the Tenth International Conference on Construction Grammar held at Sorbonne Nouvelle University-Paris 3. In addition to co-authoring several journal articles, including a paper on cardinal numbers with Adele Goldberg in the journal *Cognitive Science* in 2017, she has a forthcoming textbook on Sign-Based Construction Grammar, called *Syntactic Constructions of English*. The textbook, to be published by Cambridge University Press, is co-authored with Jong Bok Kim of Kyung Hee University, himself a specialist in Construction Grammar. With CU colleagues, she is a co-organizer of the CUNY Human Sentence Processing conference, to be held in Boulder in March 2019.



Zygmunt Frajzyngier

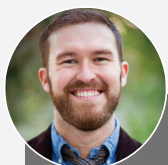
Zygmunt Frajzyngier was a visiting Professor at the City University of Hong Kong in 2016, and the School of Education, Far Eastern Federal University in Ussurijsk, in 2017 and 2018. In 2018 he received CU's College Scholar Award. Frajzyngier was a keynote speaker at Seminario de Complejidad Sintáctica, Sonora University, Hermosillo, Mexico in 2017 and 2018, and at the conference Body Part Terms in Linguistic Usage: A Comparative and Typological Perspective, University of Warsaw. Along with CU MA student Michael Avina, he spoke at the 2018 conference Rethinking the Origins: The Departure of Ancient Egyptian as a Branch from the Afroasiatic Family, Brown University. In 2017-2018, Frajzyngier gave invited talks at Pukyong University, Busan, South Korea, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea, the Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok, the school of Education, Far Eastern Federal University, Ussurijsk, Russia, and at the City University of Hong Kong. He also gave an invited talk at Groupe Linguistique d'Études Chamito-Sémitiques, Paris.





Barbara Fox

Barbara Fox is still enjoying life in the department. In 2013 she started a project on requests at local businesses, and she continues to find remarkable grammatical and interactional practices in those contexts, most especially at the shoe repair shop. Some recently published studies (with Trine Heine-mann) from the shoe shop include Telescoping responses to requests: unpacking progressivity, and Issues in action formation: requests and the problem with x. She has also recently joined a team of CU Boulder scholars to work on interactions between a blind child and her sighted mom; our first publication, Scaffolding Embodied Access for Categorization in Interactions between a Blind Child and her Mother, appeared in January. In June 2017 she was part of a wonderful team that taught a week-long workshop on Conversation Analysis in Boulder, and in July 2018 she and Chase Raymond led a workshop on Grammar and Interaction at the International Conference on Conversation Analysis. A book she co-authored with Sandra Thompson and Elizabeth Couper-Kuhlen won 'best book' award at that same conference.



Chase Raymond

Chase Raymond is in his third year as a member of our department. He specializes in conversation analysis and interactional linguistics, particularly the intersections between grammar, identity, and social relations. In addition to presenting at several professional conferences and publishing articles in outlets like the Journal of Sociolinguistics (on contact between dialects of Spanish in the U.S.), the Journal of Pragmatics (on a practice for indexing contrasts in interaction), and Social Psychology Quarterly (on time reference, with Anne White, UC-Davis), Chase has offered a range of intensive training workshops for language and social interaction researchers over the past two years. In the summer of 2017, he and Prof. Barbara Fox (along with Jeff Robinson [Portland State University], John Heritage [UCLA], Paul Drew [Loughborough University], and Marja-Leena Sorjonen [University of Helsinki]) organized and hosted a weeklong Summer School for Advanced Conversation Analysis at CU-Boulder, which was attended by 40 faculty members and post-doctoral students from across the globe. Barbara and Chase also

taught an intensive pre-conference workshop on 'Grammar in Interaction' at the quadrennial International Conference on Conversation Analysis (ICCA), held at Loughborough University in the summer of 2018. Chase gave another workshop at the same conference, on 'Epistemics', with John Heritage. Chase made two trips to Germany in 2018 as well—to the Universities of Potsdam and Hamburg—to train faculty and graduate students in conversation-analytic research methods. His time at the University of Potsdam earned him an invitation to be an Associate Member of the Center for Interactional Linguistics there, which he hopes will facilitate additional visits and collaborative research projects with German colleagues in the future. This upcoming summer will include two trips to China—first to offer a second workshop in Shanxi (having offered a first one there back in 2015), and second for the biannual meeting of the International Pragmatics Association (IPrA), where he will be presenting joint-work on both repair (with Steve Clayman, UCLA) and non-referentiality (with Anne White).



Martha Palmer

Martha Palmer wrapped up her year as Interim Chair of Linguistics by being a Visiting Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, participating in the SynSem: From Form to Meaning – Integrating Linguistics and Computing project, May 14 – June 14, 2018. This included being a Co-Organizer of The Meaning Representation and Inference Working Meeting, sponsored by the Center for Advanced Study and held in Oslo, Norway, May 28-30, 2018. Her work in meaning representations in Norway was directly related to a new 3-year NSF grant, Towards Uniform Meaning Representations, that she received, along with colleagues Jim Martin and Andy Cowell, which is aimed at cross-lingual semantic representations. Arapaho and Norwegian are two of the languages that will be examined closely, along with English, Chinese, Arabic and Hindi.



Rebecca Scarborough

Rebecca Scarborough has been continuing work investigating the phonetic aspects of what constitutes hyperarticulation in various language contexts. Along with graduate students in the CU phonetics lab, former graduate students, and colleagues at other universities, they have been exploring especially word-specific hyperarticulation effects (e.g., conditioned by word confusability and phonological neighborhood density) and hyperarticulation in languages with different dimensions of contrasts (e.g., French, with its nasal vowels). Some of this work was presented in the summer at the biannual Conference on Laboratory Phonology in Lisbon, where there were at least three CU linguists. Professor Scarborough has continued serving as Graduate Advisor in the Linguistics Department. And she was elected this year to a three-year term on the Executive Committee of the Linguistics Society of America, where she hopes to advocate for the field, and especially for Linguistics graduate students, at the national level.





AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

CHANCELLOR'S RECOGNITION AWARD

During each commencement ceremony, the university honors undergraduate students who have earned all A's during their college career. At the winter 2016 ceremony, only one student qualified for the award: Adelin Leslie Bayless, a major in the Department of Linguistics. At the Departmental Graduate Recognition Ceremony, she was presented with a University Medal to signify her accomplishments. She received a BA in Linguistics, with distinction. She is from Niwot, Colorado.



BOREN FELLOWSHIP

Marielle Butters, a Ph.D. candidate in Linguistics, was awarded the Boren Fellowship for the 2018-2019 academic year. The Boren fellowship is a funding opportunity for graduate students to study language components overseas in areas of the world which are vital to US interests. Boren Award recipients agree to work in the federal government for at least one year. She is using the fellowship to travel to Indonesia where she will study the language of Bahasa Indonesian and conduct research for her dissertation, a description of the Suda-
nese language. She has previously worked as an English teacher in Indonesia. In 2018, 341 Boren scholarships were awarded to undergraduate and graduate students to study 33 different languages in 38 countries throughout the world.

FIRST CLASIC MS STUDENT GRADUATES

Adam Wiemerslage is the first student to have completed the MS Computational Linguistics, Analytics, Search and Informatics (CLASIC) degree in spring 2018. The CLASIC degree was introduced fall 2016. The graduate degree is offered jointly by the Departments of Linguistics and Computer Science. The interdisciplinary professional MS is designed to provide students with a solid background in both theoretical linguistics and computer science. Graduates of the program are specialists in the application of computers to the processing of natural languages, such as English, Chinese, Arabic and Urdu. The program is designed to train students for careers in predictive text messaging, search engines, and machine translation.

CRIL REBORN

After a hiatus of more than 6 years, Colorado Research in Linguistics (CRIL) has been relaunched as a peer-reviewed electronic journal hosted by CU Scholar, a service of University Libraries. A student-run working papers periodical, CRIL has been published at the University of Colorado Boulder since 1971. Its purpose is to provide an outlet for new findings and original works by both graduate students and faculty in the Department of Linguistics and allied CU departments. Today's CRIL gives students the opportunity to participate on both sides of the academic publishing business (as content providers and content producers) early in their academic careers and joins world-wide efforts to open access to academic content.

RESEARCH BY CU LING GRADS

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESES

Kendra Buck "Verb Bias and Plausibility in English Sentence Processing", Professor Barbara Fox, Advisor.

Alexandra Damalas "Exploring the Ideological Shift of Japanese Feminine Language: Sentence-Final Particle wa in Sailor Moon", Professor Kira Hall, Advisor.

Amiawatoa Downey "Grammar of Zir", Professor Barbara Fox, Advisor.

Brittney Johnston " 'I am also a Colorado Native': A Perspective of Identity-Work in Conversation", Professor Barbara Fox, Advisor.

Jayne Williamson-Lee "Metaphor to Memory: Effects of Spatiotemporal Metaphors on the Emotional Valence of Autobiographical Memories", Professor Bhuvana Narasimhan, Advisor.

Intense and focused research by undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Linguistics produced undergraduate honors theses, MA theses, and doctoral dissertations, 2016-2018.

MA THESES

Aleese Block, "Acoustic Cues in the Production and Perception of Norwegian Vowel Quantity", Professor Rebecca Scarborough, Advisor.

Yuan Chai, "Prediction Discrimination Accuracy by Assimilation Pattern: How do Mandarin Speakers Discriminate English Vowels?", Professor Rebecca Scarborough, Advisor.

Dara Chase, "Are you fu***ing me? Oppositional Stance Taking and Authority through Profane Assessment", Professor Kira Hall, Advisor.

Olivia Hirschey, "The Emergent Construction of Feminist Identity in Interaction: A Sociocultural Linguistic Approach", Professor Kira Hall, Advisor.

Zachary Rosen, "Disembodied Entities: Linguistic Factors Determining Semantic Role Assignment of Target Domain Referents in Metaphoric Duals", Professors Laura Michaelis and Bhuvana Narasimhan, Advisors.

PHD DISSERTATIONS

Samuel Beer, *Grammatical Contraction in Myang'i: A Descriptive and Comparative Study*, Professor Zygmunt Frajz- yngier, Advisor.

Luciana Marques, *Perception of Nasal and Nasalized Vowels in Brazilian Portuguese*, Professor Rebecca Scarborough, Advisor.

Stefanie Ramos Bierge, *Clause Type and Transitivity in Wixarika (Huichol): A Uto-Aztecan language*, Professor Andrew Cowell, Advisor.



LINGUISTS TO THE RESCUE



Cynthia Clark

In addition to the most recent and popular movie, *The Arrival* (2016), in which a linguist is enlisted to assist in communicating with aliens who have landed on Earth, you may not be aware that characters who are linguists have appeared in several Hollywood films – not just documentaries. Hollywood and the movie industry are apparently cognizant of the contribution that linguists can add to the storyline of a script. Here is a sampling of these.

My Fair Lady (1964) Probably the most well-known film with a linguistics angle and the winner of 8 Oscars. A phonetics professor uses his knowledge to refine the speech of a cockney working girl played by Audrey Hepburn.

Iceman (1984) When a 40,000-year-old man is found frozen in ice, researchers bring him back to life and enlist an eminent linguist from MIT to decode his language. The cast includes Timothy Hutton.

Ghost Warrior (1984) A movie with a similar plot to that of *Iceman*, in which a 400-year-old frozen samurai is discovered who speaks ancient Japanese.

Pontypool (2008) A linguist is recruited to stop a deadly virus that infects certain English words and which is spread by repeating them.

Ball of Fire (1941) A professor, played by Gary Cooper, working on the slang section of a new dictionary meets a nightclub performer who is adept at slang but is also wanted by police.

Atlantis: The Lost Empire (2001) An animated film in which a young linguist finds the lost continent of Atlantis and discovers that its residents have lost the ability to read their own language and then helps them decode it.

Stargate (1994) An outcast linguist is enlisted to decipher what appears to be ancient hieroglyphics but discovers that they were developed by an advanced civilization from another planet. Starring in the film are Kurt Russell and James Spader

Youth Without Youth (2007) In this Francis Ford Coppola film, a 70-old linguist, who is researching the roots of human language, is struck by lightning, becomes 35, explores the mysteries of life and falls in love.

On Top of the Whale (Het dak van de Walvis) (1982)

A team of linguists goes to Patagonia to study the last speakers of an endangered language, which consists of one word that means everything.

Rune (2006) A linguist researching the source of modern language encounters opposition from criminals, art collectors and governments.

Interpreter (2005) UN interpreter speaks a rare language created by an African linguist in London, which is a combination of Shona and Swahili. Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn are cast members.

Windtalkers (2002) The Navajo language is used as a secret code to securely communicate militarily during World War II. True story starring Nicolas Cage.

Camouflage (Barwy Ochronne) (1977) A group of students spend a summer at a university camp studying linguistics which erupts into controversy.

Linguistics (2016) A thriller in which a linguistics genius encounters a child who claims to have been abducted.

But if documentaries are your cinema of choice, here are a few for you to consider.

The Grammar of Happiness (2012) A documentary film in which Dan Everett, a linguist working with the Amazonian people group the Pirahã, is assigned to translate the Book of Mark into their puzzling language.

The Carolina Brogue (2009) A portrait of the “hoi toide” dialect and culture of communities on the coast of North Carolina.

Breaking the Maya Code (2008) Traces the quest to decipher the complex language of the ancient Maya.

Ciao Babylon (2017) Outlines the preservation efforts of Dan Kaufman, who established the Endangered Language Alliance, and follow endeavors to preserve the Romanish language.

So pull up a chair in front of the fireplace, grab a cup of cocoa, and a bowl of popcorn and enjoy what linguists have offered to the field of entertainment.

ALUMNI UPDATES

I live in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada. I'm the MA Linguistics Program Director at Trinity Western University (TWU) and an Associate Professor of Linguistics at the Canada Institute of Linguistics (CanIL), on the TWU campus. I teach an undergraduate/graduate course in Advanced Grammar, a graduate course on Topics in Morphology and Syntax, and a graduate course giving a Survey of Linguistic Theories. For fun, I also teach courses in French phonetics and pronunciation, French grammar, and introductory and intermediate French. I am a member of SIL and Wycliffe Bible Translators and serve as the language development coordinator for SIL's work in Makary Kotoko (Chadic, Cameroon). A highlight for 2018 was getting to go to Australia for a workshop at the Language and Culture Research Centre at James Cook University, Cairns.

Sean Allison

Ph.D. 2012



I'm now a second-year Ph.D. student in linguistics department at University of California, San Diego.

Yuan Chai

MA 2017

I am working as a Linguist (more like language data manager) contracted to Facebook in Seattle.

Audrey Farber

MA 2016



I am a visiting assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Virginia. My currently boring UVA website is <https://anthropology.virginia.edu/faculty/profile/sjb7xf>. I'm hoping to have a new website up in the next month.

Sam Beer

MA 2013, Ph.D. 2017

I'm now working on meaning representation for Google Assistant as an analytical linguist at Google in Mountain View.

Kevin Gould

MA, Ph.D. 2016

I'm a researcher at Rosetta Stone, Inc. in Boulder.

David Harper

Ph.D. 2014

I'm currently a criminal defense investigator with the Office of the State Public Defender. I'm defending indigent people's rights which has been very rewarding, and I believe that my degrees have been indispensable although not "obviously" applicable.

Matthew Haugen

BA. MA 2017

I love living in Denver with my husband and daughter. I have been working as a project manager at SDL, a localization company, in Superior, CO for about 3 years. I enjoy working with teams across the globe and with a variety of languages.

Mary Kirchman Range

MA 2013



I'm managing a team of linguists and data scientists working on Alexa at Amazon HQ in Seattle. I started my Amazon career doing big data analysis on another team, but quickly realized that I missed working with language, so I transferred to the Alexa Brain organization. This organization is working on increasing Alexa's conversational capabilities, including anaphor resolution, context and discourse modeling, and system routing for natural language queries. Our team supports the machine learning efforts of the org and provides the linguistics expertise for language modeling and language expansion. I'm currently hiring computational and technically-inclined linguists with expertise in German, Japanese, or Portuguese...please reach out if you're interested! Seattle is a beautiful city that we've only just begun to explore. There's lots to do, great food, interesting people, and excellent opportunities for outdoor adventures, including sailing! We're looking forward to getting out on the water more as we settle in to our new home.

Kate Phelps Ridgeway

MA 2013, Ph.D. 2016

I'm now a tenure-track Assistant Teaching Professor at the University of California, San Diego, specializing in computational and quantitative approaches to speech and language, as well as enhancing the department's pedagogical training and focus.

Will Styler

BA, MA 2008; Ph.D. 2015





I have been living in Bellingham, Washington for the last year and a half with my sister and I recently began a great, new job with Seattle Goodwill Industries. I am a full-time ESOL Instructor at the Bellingham Goodwill Job Training and Education Center. Our focus is on helping adult learners remove the barriers that prevent them from finding good, sustainable jobs. I teach 3 ESL classes and a Citizenship Test Prep class. We have students from China, Mexico, Iran, Korea, Africa, Vietnam, Ukraine and more. I am a member of WAESOL here and will be attending a conference next week south of Seattle. I am so excited to be a part of this well-known, non-profit organization and look forward to using various teaching techniques in my classrooms. Bellingham is a very beautiful place with lots of blooming trees, water and mountains nearby. I do miss the abundant Colorado sunshine though! I still have my 18-year-old three-legged cat which I love with all my heart. And I recently began acrylic painting as a hobby. I watch painting tutorials on YouTube and have surprised myself with the results of my efforts.

Monica Rodriguez

MA 2016

I am an Assistant Professor of Linguistics at UC Davis. I'm also currently serving as co-director of the 2019 Linguistic Institute, to be held at UC Davis."

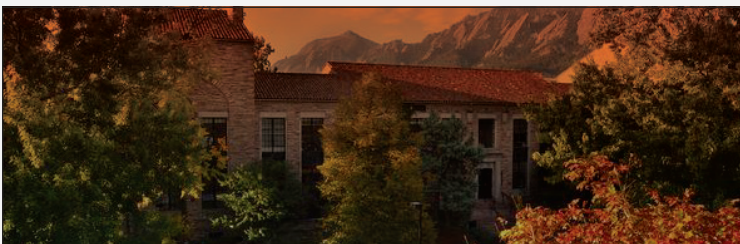
Georgia Zellou

Ph.D. 2012

After graduating from CU in '96 (BA Linguistics) I worked at the Daily Camera, then moved to Southern California where I became the editor of the Redlands Daily Facts (a sister paper to the Camera). In September of 2013 I went to Boulder because I was scheduled to receive the first ever Digital First Media Journalist of the Year award in a ceremony in Denver, and was able to contribute to coverage of the biblical flood. I left the paper in 2016 and in 2017 I began service on the Redlands City Council, appointed after a longtime council member died unexpectedly. I was elected to hold the seat in the recent election Since my graduation my children, now 24 and 26, have moved to Boulder, and my husband ('94 MA Education) and I fly out as often as we can to catch home games #GoBuffs.

Toni Momberger

BA 1996



I'm working on an NSF funded documentation project in Brazil with Kris Stenzel [MA 2002, Ph.D. 2014], another alum. My daughter is almost 3 and I live in the NYC area with my wife, Rianne, another CU alum, who has a great Tenure-track position at Baruch College.

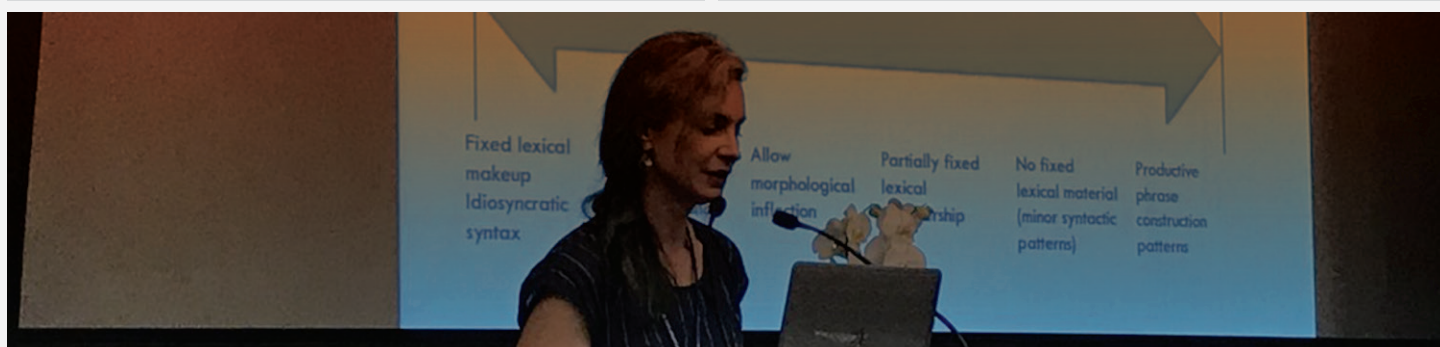
Nick Williams

MA 2011, Ph.D. 2016

I have a new position in Admissions- I'm the Associate Director of Graduate and Undergraduate Processing at the University of Colorado Boulder. I've worked in the Admissions office for 15 years now and continue to volunteer for the Carnegie Branch of the Boulder Public Library transcribing oral histories.

Jessica Oppen

MA 2011



Since graduating from CU in 2001, I spent the next 4 years working as a staff member in the CU-Library system. In 2005, my wife and I, (Marcie Bourgerie Kulkin EPOB 2004) moved "back home" to Rhode Island. At that point, I started working in the Library system at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University. We were officially married in 2007, bought a house in 2008 and had a son in 2009. I got my MLIS from University of Rhode Island in 2011 and I continue to work in the Library system at MCPHS University. Life is great being a Dad. I am a drummer although I do not play professionally anymore. Language still fascinates me. Other hobbies of mine include automotive history, native American ruins of the Southwest, and religious debates. Lastly, I really miss the beautiful scenery of Colorado. Sometime in the next few years we plan on taking our son to the 4-Corner region to see some of the more famous ruin sites like Chaco, Mesa Verde and Canyon De Chelly. We love our cat, Moon! My son would never forgive me if I didn't add our cat to my bio.

Marc Kulkin

BA 2011



I am currently working as an Assistant Language Teacher in Sanuki City, Kagawa Prefecture, Japan via the JET Program. My job includes assisting in English classes in two elementary schools and one junior high school, working at local English related events (conversation groups, speech contest, holiday workshops), and acting as a cultural ambassador between the U.S. and Japan. Aside from work, I have also had many priceless cultural experiences since I arrived in late July. I have met geishas in Kyoto, watched traditional puppet theater, and will be working as a Shinto shrine maiden this coming New Years. I'm enjoying my job very much. If anyone has any questions regarding the JET Program or my experience so far, they can feel free to contact me at jkirchner1206@gmail.com.

Jillian Kirchner

BA, MA 2018

I am an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and the Cognitive Science program at the University of Arizona. I am also the director of the Cognitive Neuroscience of Language lab. We use behavioral and brain-based measures to examine issues related to figurative language, emotion and language, and language and thought.

Vicky Lai

Ph.D. 2009



For the last twenty years I've been working in theatre. I tour managed a couple different Broadway shows. I returned to my home town and worked at The Denver Center for the Performing Arts as the Registrar for the MFA school there. Ten years ago, I moved to Las Vegas and managed different shows for Cirque du Soleil, and also Jersey Boys during its residency at The Paris Hotel and Casino. Most recently, I've been working in the Operations Department at The Smith Center - Las Vegas' world-class Performing Arts Center. I also have my own small business scanning photo collections for families, individuals and corporations. My digitizing includes photos, photo albums, slides and film/video.

Kathryn Amberg

BA 1986

Since graduating in 2015, I reinstated my Lithuanian citizenship and focused on learning how to make sourdough bread and all sorts of baked goods. I'm moving to Europe with my husband on March 12th. We are traveling, exploring, and WWOOFing (Willing Workers On Organic Farms) all over Europe for 6-8 months before settling down and opening up a bakery/B&B (country TBD). I'm hoping to pick up some languages while traveling, especially while living and working on some farms, and am looking forward to the linguistic adventures I will encounter!

Melissa Smithson Zanowick
BA 2015

I taught linguistics in the English Department at Metro State University of Denver from 1991-2011. I am currently Professor Emerita of linguistics and Director of the Ch'orti Project in the Anthropology Department at Metro State University of Denver. The Ch'orti' Project is working to preserve the Ch'orti' (Mayan) language and provides linguistics/anthropology students and faculty a chance to contribute to the effort.

Robin Quizar
Ph.D. 1979



I graduated from the PhD program in 1994 (Barbara Fox was my advisor). Since then I've worked at Saint Michael's College, Vermont as a professor of Applied Linguistics, where I also directed the MATESOL and other TESOL programs since 2010. I retired as Professor Emerita in June but continue to teach as a part-time instructor and am currently working on a book in academic writing. My most recently published article: (2017) Tackling text types through grammar. Writing and Pedagogy Vol 9.2 2017 331-352. Equinox.

Elizabeth O'Dowd
MA 1992, Ph.D. 1994



I am the founding Director of the Western Carolina University Cherokee Language Program. As I developed 21 credit hours in Cherokee language course work, I moved the program from full grant funding to hard money, guaranteeing the future of the program. I am currently the Education Curriculum Developer for Kituwah Preservation and Education Program of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. In my position, I work closely with New Kituwah Cherokee Language Immersion Academy teachers to develop content in Cherokee language for the classrooms. My work is documented in the Emmy Award-winning documentary First Language: The Race to Save Cherokee, and I was an executive producer on the documentary. More recently, I have begun work with the Fort Mohave Indian Tribe as a consultant linguist. My current research interest is language attainment assessment for indigenous languages.

Hartwell Francis

Ph.D. 2006

I have recently joined IIT Delhi's Humanities and Social Sciences department as Assistant Professor in Linguistics. I am based in New Delhi, India.

Ashwini Vaidya

Ph.D. 2015



GRADUATES 2016-2018

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

Benjamin Allen
Breanna Bailey with distinction, summa cum laude
Bryan Banta
Adelin Bayless with distinction
Heather Besch
Anne Birkeland with distinction
Larissa Brewster
Kendra Buck with distinction, summa cum laude
Michelle Cheung
Qihang Chen
Bianca Chow
Christopher Clubb
Alexandra Damalas, magna cum laude
Amiawatoa Downey, summa cum laude
Megan Foley
Barbara Fosu
Krista Gjellum
Eric Gonzalez
Carly Hagan
Daniele Harcourt
Asley Heidtmann
Ilena Johnson with distinction
Brittney Johnston with distinction, summa cum laude
Lek Hui Kee
Bu Sun Kim with distinction
Stela Knezevic
Patrick LeJeune
Kathleen Marshall
Juliana McCausland
Nathaniel McCoy
Clayton McJunkins
Cassidy Mertz
Genevieve Nelson
Brielle Nickoloff
Dallas Normile
Meredith Radtke
Rangely Roberts
Stacey Robinson
Faye Rosenshein
Maria Sandoval with distinction
Rosellen Sell
Jordan Shierstone
Sally Simpson with distinction, magna cum laude
Kelly Stewart
Matthew Stewart
Michael Stiles
Emily Stockton
Kaley Sutton
Samuel Toillion with distinction
Page Tyman
Tetsumichi Umada
Andrew Vadnaïs
Jessica Veronin
Jayne Williamson-Lee summa cum laude
Meng Wu with distinction
YuHan Zhou

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

Nora Alorainy
Marcus Avelar
Ainura Bakyt
Anna Baldock
Aleese Block
Bryony Brooks
Yuan Chai
Hayley Coniglio
Michael Gillis
Jacqueline Hendrickson
Olivia Hirschev
Amelia Humphrey
Velda Khoo
Jamal Khlifat
Carolyn Klier
Maureen Kosse
Amm Yi Liang
Evan Lloyd
Elizabeth Marasco
Luciana Marques
Megan Meyer
Stefanie Ramos-Bierge
Zachary Rosen
Bradley Shrum
Jesus Villalpando
Sepideh Vosoughian
Pamela Wright
Lin Yuan

CONCURRENT BA/MA

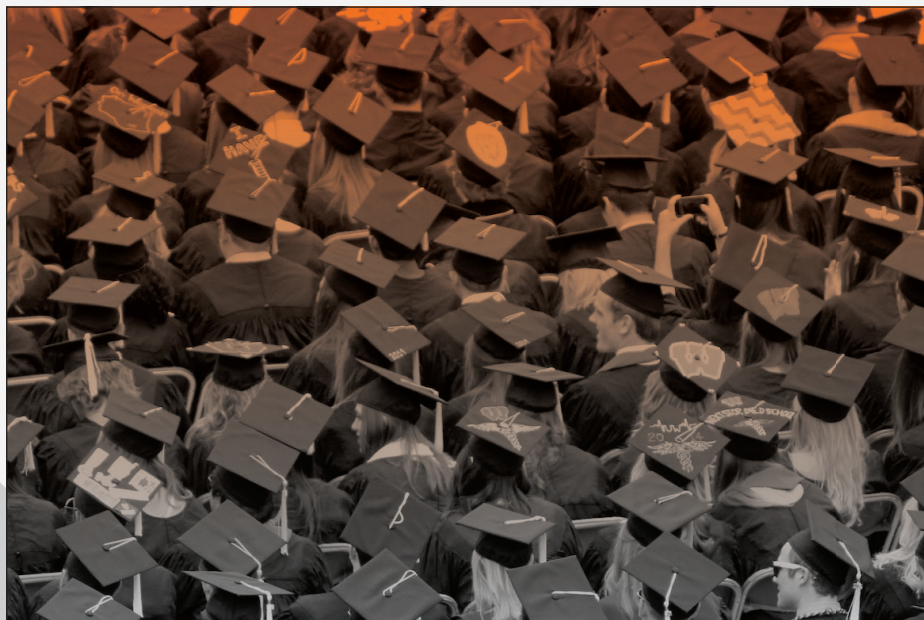
Dara Chase
Nathaniel Curtis with distinction
Matthew Haugen
Leo Kim
Jillian Kirchner with distinction
Emma Lischwe with distinction

MASTER OF SCIENCE CLASIC

Adam Wiemerslage

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Samuel Beer
Luciana Marques
Stefanie Ramos Bierge





Department of Linguistics

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

CONTACT US

We would love to hear from you!

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LINGUISTICS EVENTS

Upcoming events in the Department of Linguistics, including Linguistics Circle Talks, are listed on the website at www.colorado.edu/linguistics/news.