



## The First Edition

After more than 40 years of its existence, Department of Linguistics faculty and staff present for the first time a department newsletter. Our aim is to provide you with updates about the faculty, staff, students, research, events, and alumni in the Department of Linguistics at CU. When we began to consider the publication of a newsletter, it came to our attention that the Department of Linguistics can boast of over 700 alums and that we, as a department, need to keep in touch with all of you. As you read the premiere edition of the Linguistics newsletter, let us know if you have suggestions about information or articles that you would like to see covered in the next edition. And most importantly, let us know about you. If you would like to take a moment, let us know what you are doing and how your Linguistics degree has affected your career by sending an e-mail to Cynthia Clark at [cynthia.clark@colorado.edu](mailto:cynthia.clark@colorado.edu) or by completing the form on the back of the newsletter and mailing it to the Department of Linguistics.

## Words from the Chair

Dear Friends,

We present to you our first newsletter with two goals: to update you on the current state of the Department and to take first steps in the creation of a community of Linguistics graduates and friends. It is a somewhat special year for the Department. We just celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment. We will try to keep these newsletters coming, so that the next issue appears well before the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Department!

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This newsletter and archived editions will be available on the Department website at [www.colorado.edu/linguistics](http://www.colorado.edu/linguistics). We hope to publish updates online in between the printed publications. We look forward to hearing from you and look forward to the next publication.



### Zygmunt Frajzyngier

Many things have happened in those 40 years. Among the people who were present at the birth of the Department were Alan Taylor and Luigi Romero, who have retired. David Rood is still active working on Lakhota and Wichita and teaching the next generation of linguists. Frede Jensen passed away last year. Among the people who joined the Department after its establishment were Alan Bell and Lise Menn both of whom retired a few years ago. Bill Bright passed away three years ago.

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The program has expanded considerably in size and in the breadth of its offerings. We have over 80 graduate students and over 120 undergraduate majors. We have established a combined BA/MA program whereby students can complete the two degrees in five years. We have replaced our certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language by an MA for TESOL Professionals.

The core areas of linguistics, viz. phonetics, phonology, syntax, and semantics, were expanded by the addition of conversational analysis (Barbara Fox), construction grammar (Laura Michaelis-Cummings), computational linguistics (Martha Palmer), and sociolinguistics (Kira Hall). We have added Rebecca Scarborough to continue work on phonetics and Bhuvana Narasimhan to work in the area of language acquisition. Both of these scholars have established well equipped labs for research and training. Andy Cowell, whom we share with the French and Italian Department, is working on Arapaho. Erin Shay, our own graduate, is a Research Assistant Professor working on Chadic languages. If you want to know what each of us has done recently, see the "Faculty Notes" section of this newsletter or visit individual websites of each of the faculty which can be accessed from the Departmental website at [www.colorado.edu/linguistics](http://www.colorado.edu/linguistics). Cynthia Clark, Graduate Program Assistant, and Paula Dufour, Program Assistant, assure the smooth functioning of the Department.

Our faculty contributes to current linguistic research by numerous published books and papers authored by each. Their contributions are substantial as evidenced by many national and international awards, research grants, and invited talks. The faculty has received University awards in research, teaching, and service. The Department of Linguistics hosts many visiting scholars each academic year.

We are particularly proud of the successes of our graduates who teach at universities in South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and the United States. Many of our graduates have jobs in

in industry and government.

Our current students actively participate in the life of the profession, earning grants of their own and presenting papers at national and international conferences. We have created a Student Research Grant, with the initial endowment of \$20,000, to assist students in the conduct of fieldwork and in the presentation of papers at conferences.

In 2011, the Department will host, for the first time ever, the LSA Summer Institute. It will be a good occasion to visit and participate in linguistic discussions. Current Information about the LSA Summer Institute can be found at <http://verbs.colorado.edu/LSA2011>. Watch for additional information about the Institute on the departmental website.

We are fully aware that we do not know about many of you and we would be happy to hear from you and share your successes and questions with other friends. Faculty and students often travel to conferences in the US and abroad. If you would like to get in touch with any of us while we are in your town, drop us a line. And finally, if you live in Colorado or if you are passing through, drop by and let's have a chat.

With my best wishes,  
Zygmunt

## **Thank you to Alumni and Friends of the Department of Linguistics**

**There is always a need for funds to support academic departments. As we strive for the best opportunities for our students, we depend on the caring and generous nature of alumni and friends like you to meet ever increasing financial needs. If you would like to contribute to the Linguistics Department, please visit [www.cufund.org](http://www.cufund.org) and click on Giving Opportunities, Boulder Campus, College of Arts and Sciences. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.**

## Faculty Notes

**Andrew Cowell** is currently working on a project to document conversation in the Arapaho language. While a great deal of documentation of narratives exists for Native American languages, very little audio-visual documentation of conversation has been done. He is compiling a video data-base, as part of a project funded by Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Documentation Program, with additional support from faculty fellowships awarded by the American Philosophical Society and American Council of Learned Societies.

**Barbara Fox** is working on three projects at the moment, all involving the use of language in everyday conversation. The first, in collaboration with a team of scholars and funded by the National Science Foundation, examines self-repair in 10 typologically, areally, and genetically diverse languages. Self-repair is the process by which a speaker stops an utterance in progress and repeats part of it, or modifies it in some way. Much of a book manuscript has been produced on their findings, and an edited collection of essays on the topic is forthcoming. The second, in collaboration with Sandy Thompson and Elizabeth Couper-Kuhlen, is a book manuscript that offers an interactional re-examination of the notion of 'ellipsis' in English conversation. The third, in collaboration with Cecilia Ford, is a multi-modal exploration of speech-laugh (the production of laugh pulses within words). In this project she is examining the visual, vocal, and sequential practices for constructing 'laughables', as well as examining the use of laughter in managing self and other in dispreferred utterances. A fourth project, in collaboration with **Andy Cowell**, on various conversational practices among speakers of Arapaho, has just been initiated.

**Zygmunt Frajzyngier's** current research deals with

one of the fundamental questions in linguistics: why languages are the way they are. The answer to this question is sought through the following: Discovery and proofs of meaning-development of non-aprioristic, cross-linguistics approach to semantics (several papers published and in press); cross-linguistics study of syntax, understood as a totality of the coding means (one book with Research Professor **Erin Shay** and numerous papers); studies of grammaticalization conceived of as the emergence of grammatical systems (one book and numerous papers); and typological and comparative Afroasiatic and Chadic linguistics, discoveries of forms and functions of hitherto undescribed languages ('descriptive linguistics'), many of them endangered. This work results in documentation of undescribed languages. Current work involves *Grammar of Wandala*. Past work includes grammars of Pero, Mupun, Lele, Hdi (with **Erin Shay**), Mina (with **Eric Johnston** and Adrian Edwards) and Gidar. Some of this work is done in collaboration with graduate students.

**Laura Michaelis-Cummings** is developing a construction-based model of coercion, an interpretive adjustment that people perform when there is a semantic conflict between a word and the grammatical pattern in which it appears. Simple examples from the domain of nouns include expressions like *some pillow* (in which the count noun *pillow* is interpreted as 'pillow substance') and *a water* (in which the mass noun *water* is interpreted as a portion of water). She is currently collaborating with CU Linguistics doctoral student, **Les Sikos**, who she co-advises with CU Psychology Professor **Al Kim**, on a neurophysiological study of the cognitive processes that occur while subjects are

interpreting coerced words in context. The method in use is event-related brain potential (ERP), a scalp-recorded measurement of electrical activity ongoing during interpretive tasks. She hopes to address the twin hypothesis that (a) both right and left hemispheres are engaged during the processing of imaginative language and (b) the degree of right-hemisphere involvement is affected by word and/or construction frequency. The basic intuition behind these hypotheses is that coerced tokens like *a beer* and *some newspaper* are so entrenched as to be indistinguishable from noncoerced tokens like *a glass* and *some water*, while nonstandard tokens like *a ketchup* and *some pillow*, even when appropriately contextualized, are much harder to 'redeem' semantically. She believes that the studies that she is designing are the first to combine ERP techniques and corpus analysis in the exploration of imaginative-language processing.

**Bhavana Narasimhan's** research focuses on how language develops in children. She is particularly interested in children's early form-function-meaning mappings – how they begin to understand the meanings of predicates and acquire the semantic and pragmatic factors that influence the realization of predicate arguments (e.g. the order in which they are produced, the kinds of case-marking they receive). She also investigates aspects of adult language, in particular, how languages differ in the way that meaning is encoded in words and constructions, and whether these language-specific differences influence the way people think. Since she is interested in what is universal versus language-specific, she works collaboratively with other researchers to compare data from adults and children speaking different languages, including Hindi, Tamil, English, German, Dutch, and Tzeltal. She uses both experimental and observational methods, in lab settings, homes, schools, and even holiday campsites and theme parks. She has conducted fieldwork with adults and children in India, using elicited production and similarity

judgment tasks, and has collected two longitudinal corpora of caregiver-child interactions in Hindi and Tamil in Hyderabad and Delhi (archived at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics).

**Martha Palmer** is interested in getting computers to automatically process languages such as English, Chinese, Arabic, and Hindi. In particular, her research focuses on trying to capture the meanings of words in representations that the computer can use to build up meanings of complex sentences. These representations can in turn be used to improve the computer's ability to perform question answering, information retrieval, and machine translation. Current approaches for creating these representations rely on techniques for applying supervised machine learning algorithms, which rely on vast amounts of annotated training data. Therefore, she and her students are engaged in providing data with word sense tags and semantic role labels for English, Chinese, Arabic, and Hindi. Her students are also working on using the Machine Learning algorithms to develop automatic sense taggers and semantic role labellers, and to extract bilingual lexicons from parallel corpora. The availability of this data has lately encouraged her to expand into psycholinguistic experiments and corpus linguistic studies focused on assessing how closely or distantly related different word sense are. She is also applying annotation methods to biomedical journal articles to assist in automatically extracting scientific information from them, as well as clinical reports from doctor-patient meetings.

**David Rood** is currently working on two very open-ended projects. The first is the completion of transfer of Wichita data from handwritten notes to a digital database. Parallel to this, he is trying to annotate videotapes of Wichita group discussions held in 2002 and 2003 to prepare the tapes for permanent archiving and internet accessibility at the Max Planck Institute in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. One outcome of the study that goes along with the

data entry will be a detailed description of the phonology of the person/tense/mode/conjugation class prefixes, of which there are more than 1500. The other project is the continuation and follow-up of a project to document Lakota conversation. In addition to supporting three Lakota students in the graduate program, he is supervising the annotation of several hours of videotaped conversation, again for archiving in Nijmegen. Professor Rood says that "Perhaps the most interesting discovery so far has to do with turn-taking practices in conversation. A Lakota speaker does not interrupt any other speaker, so there is very little of the give-and-take exchange typical of English conversation." An additional outcome from this work will be a paper discussing "twenty-first century Lakota", i.e. some of the differences between the way people speak today compared with 50 or 100 years ago.

**Erin Shay** conducts research on syntax, grammaticalization, linguistic typology, and comparative linguistics with a focus on Chadic languages and other languages of the Afroasiatic phylum. Her research and writing has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Jane and Charles Butcher Foundation, and the University of Colorado. She is currently working on a complete descriptive grammar of the Chadic language, Giziga, spoken in Northern Cameroon. Previous work includes a number of papers and a descriptive grammar of East Dangla, spoken in the Republic of Chad. She is also co-author and co-editor, with **Zygmunt Frajzyngier** of a number of papers and volumes involving Chadic languages and a broader range of linguistic topics, including an upcoming volume on the typology of the entire Afroasiatic phylum. Erin Shay is not regularly on campus but is available to serve on graduate committees and to teach independent study.

**Maria (Mia) Thomas-Ruzic** has wide interests in second/foreign language methodologies and media, language teacher education, and discourse analysis as a way to investigate relationships among language use and social interaction and organization. In particular, she is interested in participant structuring, and in the ways in which activities mediate language in informal and formal learning contexts. Incorporating these interests in teacher education, she and her students use discourse as a tool to explore teaching practices. Mia has presented and published in the area of teaching, writing, reading, and speaking. Recently she coordinated exchange experiences for students and teachers in Colorado and Mexico; she is on the summer teaching faculty at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla; and is active in teacher mentoring and a supervision project there. Closer to home, Mia is involved in a national teacher development project with Denver school district partners, and is part of a team looking at using discourse analysis to study professional learning activities. She works with community partners and providers of English as a Second Language (ESL) who in turn provide graduate students with teaching and co-teaching opportunities that Mia supports through a coaching and mentoring approach.

The work of **Kira Hall** and **Rebecca Scarborough** will be highlighted in future editions.

### **LINGUISTICS EVENTS SCHEDULE**

Upcoming events in the Department of Linguistics, including Linguistics Circle Talks, are listed on the website at [www.colorado.edu/linguistics/talks](http://www.colorado.edu/linguistics/talks).

Linguistics Circle Talks will be held on alternate Wednesdays in Hellems 237 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. this fall.

## Alumni Notes

**Immanuel Barshi** (MA 1992, Ph.D. 1997) is working at NASA Ames Research Center and is living in Santa Cruz, California.

**Debra Biasca** (MA 1993, Ph.D. 1999) is currently working in a half-time position in the Department of Physics, at CU, where she teaches scientific writing courses to undergraduate and graduate students. She is operating a freelance writing and editorial consulting business working on diverse projects that range from software and hardware product user manuals to a veterinary textbook on small animal ultrasound techniques to a dissertation on nanotechnology. She says that her skills as a linguist have made these opportunities available to her.

**María Herminda Caeiro Abeijón** (MA 1994), has been living on a beautiful island, Lanzarote, near Africa for ten years. She reports that there are only two seasons on the island –spring and summer–and that she enjoys the beach the whole year. She is a state ESL secondary school teacher. She says that she has lovely memories of her years in Boulder and of the Linguistics Department.

**Leslie C. Evans** (BA Minor 2008) is teaching high school social studies at Institute for Teach America in the Mississippi Delta region for the next three years.

**Mallory Goetz** (BA 2009) is living in Westminster and is teaching Language Arts at Smiley Middle School in Denver and hopes to teach Linguistic concepts to her students.

**Simone Groene-Sackett** (BA 2006) is beginning graduate school at the University of Illinois–Urbana Champagne to work on a master’s degree in library and information science (MLIS) with a special focus on community informatics. For the past two years she worked at the Denver Public Library and as the managing editor for *illiterate magazine*, a local art lit and culture magazine.

**Adam Hodges** (MA 2003, Ph.D. 2008) married **Sarah Vieweg** (MA 2007) on July 4, 2009. He accepted a position as a lecturer in sociolinguistics at Stanford University this year teaching Language and Politics and Language in Society. Sarah is currently working on a Ph.D. in ATLAS at CU researching the sociological aspects of technology.

**Apollo Hogan** (BA 1996) received a Ph.D. from the University of California–Berkeley in Mathematics in 2005. He lives in Manhattan, New York and works in mathematical finance.

**Korey Jackson** (BA Minor 2003) is finishing a Ph.D. in English Language and Literature at the University of Michigan. Her dissertation project is entitled “Disciplining Linguistics: The Literature and Science of Language in America, 1803–1898” and deals with the history of US linguistics and its impacts on a variety of dialect and multilingual literatures throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She credits her linguistic education as being instrumental in her decision to pursue a Ph.D. and in directing the scope of her research. She thanks Professors Frajzyngier, Michaelis, and Rood for “fostering a scholarly environment that promoted both a firm linguistics foundation and innovative research”.

**Eunil Kim** (Ph.D. 1992) has been teaching at Pukyong National University in Pusan, South Korea since 1993 where he is a professor of English Linguistics. He is also the editor of “Journal of Language Sciences” and “The New Korean Journal of English Language and Literature”.

**Karen Kinoshita Cadavona** (BA 1991) after receiving an MA in Second Language Studies from the University of Hawaii in 2001 is teaching English Language Learners at a public high school in Beaverton Oregon. She is married and has a young daughter.

**Holly Krech Thomas** (MA 1998, Ph.D. 2004) is an assistant professor in the Communications Department at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn. She lives in Manhattan with her two children and her

husband who recently graduated from Episcopal seminary school.

**Anne Laesecke** (BA 2008) joined the Peace Corps as a TEFL volunteer after graduation. Now she is teaching English and conducting training sessions for English teachers in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in Ukraine. She is working to establish an English Media Resource Center to “provide better tools for the students and teachers here.”

**Erna Maj** (BA 2005) is teaching ESL at CU for the Facilities Management Department. She continues to perform linguistic freelance work: translation, editing, proofreading, software verification, intercultural training, and language instruction in English as a second language and Danish as a foreign language.

**Julie Manchester** (MA 2006), after graduation, moved to Crested Butte, Colorado for 18 months to be a “ski bum”. Since October 2008, she has been teaching English for a private language academy, Global Village English Centres, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Denise Glover Montoya** (BA 2007) had been living in Groton, Connecticut and working at WordCo Indexing as an associate indexer. She and her husband moved to Yokosuka, Japan last August.

**Elizabeth O’Dowd** (MA 1992, Ph.D. 1994) is a professor and director of Applied Linguistics at Saint Michael’s College, a small liberal arts college in northern Vermont which has a well-known MATESOL program. She is also the director of the K-12 ESL Endorsement program.

**Scott Parks** (BA minor 2003) is currently working in business development in the solid waste management industry in Idaho.

**Kristine Stenzel** (MA 2002, Ph.D. 2004) has been living in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil since 2002 and is a professor in the Linguistics Department of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. She works on description, analysis, and documentation of indigenous languages of the Amazon, specifically languages in the Eastern Tukanoan family in northwestern Amazonia. She is working on a 3 year documentation project with the Kotiria (Wanano) and Wakhana (Piratapuyo) populations funded by ELDP/SOAS U. of London.

## GRADUATES 2009–2010

### BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

Isabel Blanco	Joanna Lester
Tiffany Ching	David Lewin
Justin Dick	Robert Linnet
Tyler Ehrlich	Chynna McCall
Spencer Essey	Genevieve Clark Nelson
Bib–Zuhra Faizi	Hannah O’Brien
<i>With Distinction</i>	<i>magna cum laude</i>
William Gleeson	<i>With Distinction</i>
Janelle Gorski	Sarah Parisi
Matthew Goss	April Pedersen
<i>summa cum laude</i>	<i>With Distinction</i>
Jessica Haden	Jamie Rozaklis
Sarah Happoldt	Kayla Ruybal
Ian Howard	JP Sammoury
Ann Johnson	Emily Sawyer
Scott Kalinge	Grayson Scherer
Kori Kulp	Jillian Strole
Carlene Lamiroy	Kaley Sutton
Jiyeon Lee	Shannon Unger
	Jennifer Watanabe

### CONCURRENT BACHELOR/MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

Katherine Adams	Kathryn Conger
Jared Barber	Kevin Crooks
<i>summa cum laude</i>	
<i>With Distinction</i>	

### MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

Julia Bonn	Anwen Fredriksen
Matthew Cecil	Lindsey Gatewood
Soyoung Chung	Timothy O’Gorman
William Corvey	Jessie Rember
Peter De Haas	Emily Smith
Anne Dinsmore	Charles Thode
Perryn Donaldson	Stephen Vihel
Elena Freeman	Christa Wilson

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

Susan Brown	Chad Nilep
Kevin Cohen	Saeko Ogihara
Vicky Lai	Jeff Stebbins

**OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF THEM!**



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 Department of Linguistics  
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*Visit us at:*

[www.colorado.edu/linguistics](http://www.colorado.edu/linguistics)

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**Contact us – we would love to hear from you.**

**Alumni Updates**

Please assist us in keeping our files current by sending the form below to:  
 Department of Linguistics, Attn: Alumni Updates, 295 UCB, Boulder CO  
 80309 or by e-mail at [linguist@colorado.edu](mailto:linguist@colorado.edu).

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree and year** \_\_\_\_\_

**Employment** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other News** \_\_\_\_\_