LINGUISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
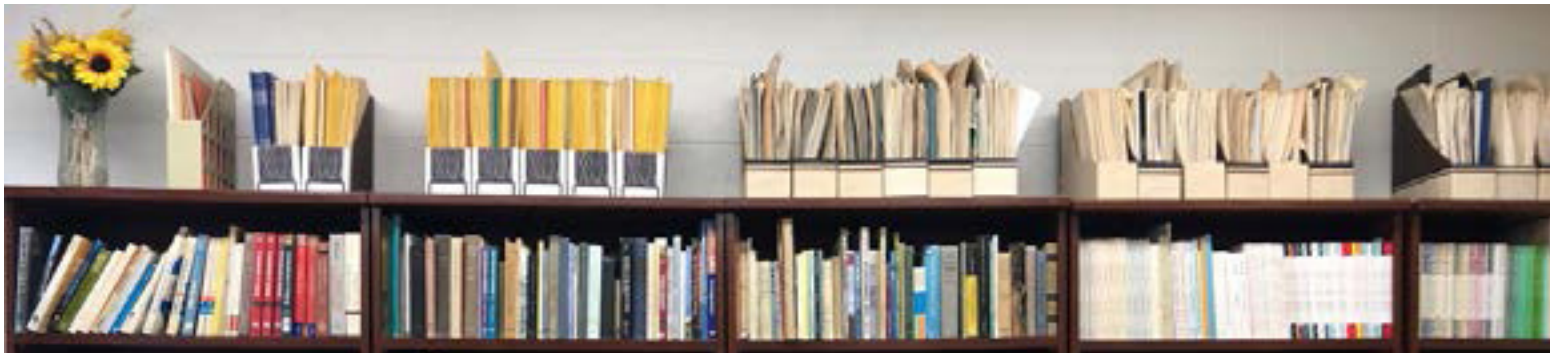
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Department of Linguistics
427 Blake Hall
Phone: 785-864-3450
E-mail: linguistics@ku.edu
Website: www.linguistics.ku.edu
Facebook: Kansas Linguistics
Twitter: Kansas Linguistics

It's an understatement to say that 2021 was a challenging year. The retreat of the coronavirus earlier in the year turned out to be temporary, and members of the KU community continued to navigate through COVID restrictions, unfamiliar modes of instruction, and more importantly, health concerns throughout the year. Students, faculty, and staff of the Linguistics Department showed tremendous courage and resolve in this difficult time and carried on the teaching and research missions of the department despite the challenges. In teaching, both the hybrid instruction in the Spring and the return to in-person instruction in the Fall required constant adjustment for our faculty and GTAs, from learning new technology and restructuring course materials to monitoring the health of the class and adapting to student needs; faculty raised their already incredibly high advising standard to help students achieve their landmarks on time, be they honor's theses, MA research projects, qualifying papers, or dissertations. In research, faculty and students pivoted to online data collection and sometimes entirely different research questions to maintain a high level of productivity; faculty and students also helped each other by sharing expertise they acquired through pivoting in their research. As a result, our enrollment increased by 4.1% from 2020 to 2021 while the College enrollment decreased by 2.3% in the same period; our students produced high-quality, sometimes award-winning research and made timely progress towards their degrees; our faculty continued federally-funded (our faculty are PIs on four active NSF grants totaling over $1.4M), interdisciplinary, and internationally collaborative research against all odds, and their research not only appeared in top journals in their fields, but was also featured in public media such as *National Geograph-*
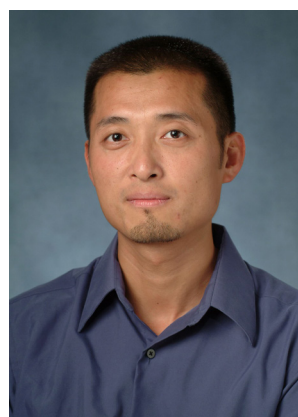
ic (on second language acquisition, by Dr. Alison Gabriele and Dr. Robert Fiorentino) and *Wichita Eagle* (on language ambiguity in the operating room, by Dr. Andrew McKenzie).

I want to take this opportunity to recognize a number of accolades bestowed upon our students and faculty in 2021. Our undergraduate major Emma Scott won a KU Undergraduate Research Award on her research on how second language learners of English use the progressing *-ing*. Ph.D. student Aron Finholt won First Prize in the Student Abstract Award from the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America for his work on the morphology of Mashi, an understudied Bantu language, and his MA Research Project on the use of complementizers in Swahili won an Outstanding Thesis Project Award of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Our Assistant Teaching Professor Dr. Phil Duncan won an Undergraduate Research Mentor Award from KU for his superb advising work with students, especially those from underrepresented groups. Dr. Utako Minai was awarded the 2021 Byron A. Alexander Graduate Mentor Award for her outstanding mentorship of graduate students. Our previous Chair Dr. Joan Sereno was elected as a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) in recognition of her "*contributions to speech learning, perception, and production across individuals and languages*," one of the highest honors from this Society. For a pandemic-ridden year like 2021, it's especially important to recognize the amazing feats that our students and faculty were able to achieve.

Fall 2021 was my first semester as Chair of the Linguistics Department. I'm immensely grateful for the legacy that previous Chairs of the department have created, and I'm excited to work with all the amazing Linguistics faculty and students to maintain and grow this vibrant community of linguistics research and teaching. As a quintessential liberal arts discipline, Linguistics teaches us much more than just fascinating facts about the world's languages and the ingenious ways linguists use to study them. It teaches us critical thinking skills, analytic skills, and an openness to new data and new hypotheses that better situate us in an ever-changing world. Reflecting upon my own experience throughout the pandemic, I'm grateful for the tools that my linguistics training has given me, and I hope they've been helpful to you too. I believe that, especially in a time of crisis, we should invest in liberal arts education, because the value of informed, engaged, and openminded citizens cannot be overstated. So please support us in any way you can as we move forward!

Jie Zhang

FACULTY NEWS

Prof. Caitlin Coughlin continued to work on her collaborative manuscript entitled "An ERP investigation of the role of prediction and individual differences in semantic priming" with collaborators Drs. Lauren Covey, Xiao Yang, Adrienne Johnson, Cynthia Siew, Maite Martinez-Garcia, and Robert Fiorentino. She also further developed materials to teach graduate students to do data manipulation and advanced plotting in the programming language R.

Prof. Philip Duncan continued work with Kiksht, Ikpana, and Me'phaa. With former KU Linguistics undergraduates Pearl Nelson-Greene and Isaac Johnson, Prof. Duncan presented at the Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas annual meeting on Kiksht ideophones. Pearl, Isaac, and Phil's preliminary analysis on this was also published in Coyote Papers. Further related to work with Kiksht, Prof. Duncan and Henry B. Zenk presented a paper on the origins of the name Willamette at the annual meeting of the American Names Society. Prof. Duncan is also working on a project with Jakeli Swimmer (MA student in KU's Indigenous Studies Program), who was commissioned to do illustrations for a Kiksht text. Prof. DUncan and former KU Linguistics professor Jason Kandybowicz (CUNY) presented new work on Ikpana relative clauses at the Annual Conference on African Linguistics. They also published a paper with colleagues Bertille Baron Obi (Georgetown) and Hironori Katsuda (UCLA) on Ikpana interrogative clauses in the Journal of African Languages and Linguistics, and made progress on a book the four are co-authoring. Prof. Duncan is also part of an exciting new community-based project focused on Me'phaa in Kansas, together with Tamara Falicov, Gina Policarpo, and Eutropia Rodriguez, in collaboration with Centro Hispano. The group expects to release an initial version of an online Me'phaa dictionary in 2022.

Prof. Robert Fiorentino and his student and faculty collaborators presented findings from studies on language processing in adult native speakers and on learners at conferences including the Acquisition and Processing of Reference and Anaphora Resolution (APRAR 2021) conference and the North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL 33). Prof. Fiorentino also presented his research in an invited presentation at the University of Florida. Prof. Fiorentino and collaborators also published articles in Frontiers in Psychology, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory and Cognition, and Second Language Research. Prof. Fiorentino continues research on a National Science Foundation funded project, Examining native language variability and its effects on second language processing: An event-related potentials investigation of referential dependencies with Prof. Alison Gabriele and collaborators, and on a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant awarded to Xiao Yang, Examining the linguistic cues that guide prediction in the processing of Mandarin relative clauses: An ERP study with Co-Principal Investigators Prof. Gabriele and Prof. Minai.

Prof. Alison Gabriele continued research related to a grant from the National Science Foundation ($438,380) which examines the extent to which variability in the native language and second language are related, testing Spanish-speaking learners of English in Spain and English-speaking learners of Spanish in the U.S. The project is a large-scale collaborative effort between researchers in the U.S. (Alison Gabriele and Robert Fiorentino, University of Kansas; Lesa Hoffman, University of Iowa; Julie Van Dyle, Haskins Laboratories) and in Europe (José Alemán Bañón, Stockholm University; Manuel Carreiras and Simona Mancini, Basque Center on Cognition, Brain, and Language). The project, which currently supports one graduate student, is currently in the midst of data collection, which is fortunately still been possible in Spain despite the pandemic, and we are happy to report that data collection will begin again at KU in the Spring 2022 semester. Prof. Gabriele published papers in the journals Second Language Research and the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition. Along with colleagues and graduate students, she presented research at the Boston University Conference on Language Development and the Acquisition and Processing of Reference and Anaphora Resolution workshop. With Tingting Wang, she gave invited virtual talks at colloquies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and York University (U.K.). Prof. Gabriele also served on the university Academic Policies and Procedures committee.

Prof. John Gluckman had a busy 2021 despite continued disruptions to his fieldwork in Africa. He presented his work (virtually) at Bantu8 in Essex, UK, and with Aron Finholt at ACAL 51/52 at the University of Florida and TripleA 8 at the National University of Singapore. Prof. Gluckman saw articles in print in Natural Language Semantics, Syntax, Journal of Linguistics, and Linguistic Variation, and he has an article in press in Natural Language & Linguistic Theory. In his research, Prof. Gluckman continues to be interested in all things related to embedded clauses, including their syntax, semantics, and morphology. He continues to explore these issues through fieldwork on the Bantu languages of East Africa. In collaboration with graduate and undergraduate students, Prof. Gluckman expanded the languages he is able to study, working with the resettled population of Africans in and around Kansas City. He was excited to found KUBantu (www.jgluckman.com/kubantu), a collaborative research environment for the documentation and analysis of Bantu languages. The KUBantu team has current projects related to predication, complementizers, and causal clauses in various languages of the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is looking forward to continuing these student collaborations and is excited to see what new discoveries the group makes in 2022.

Prof. Allard Jongman continued his research on the acoustic and visual correlates of clear speech. He published a paper in The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America on the acoustic differences between clearly and casually produced lexical tones (with Prof. Joan Sereno and colleagues from Simon Fraser University). With graduate student Hyoju Kim, he published a study in Language and Speech comparing Korean stop consonants produced by Seoul Korean speakers and Gyeonsang Korean speakers who had either lived a short or a long time in Seoul. Dr. Jongman also presented research at the fall meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, with graduate student Ruoqian Lucy Cheng, and at the Interfaces of Phonetics conference with Charles Redmon (Ph.D. 2020). Professor Jongman continued his service as Director of Graduate Studies, Faculty Senator, and Associate Editor of Phonetica.

Prof. Andrew McKenzie took advantage of a sabbatical semester in 2021 and continued his grant work documenting and analyzing the Kiowa language of Oklahoma. He also published an article Natural Language & Linguistic Theory on how meaning is built in noun incorporation. He continued his collaboration on ambiguous language in the OR with the Surgilab team at UMKC Medical. They published an article in the Journal of Surgical Education. He also collaborated with graduating Ph.D. Jonah Bates on an article published in the Journal of Historical Syntax showing how the number features of pronouns change over time. In April he presented a plenary talk at WCCFL 39, one of the major theoretical conferences, and was invited to meet with the Syntax-Semantics circle at Berkeley. His research on surgical language featured in several local media pieces, in outlets like the Wichita Eagle and the Kansas Reflector, and he shared his expertise in the fall with the Houston Chronicle in an article about what terms people use to describe spaceship crews for private companies rather than space agencies. As the year ended, he rounded out his term on the executive committee for the Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA), helping it navigate the effects of the COVID crisis on its annual conference and expanding its emphasis on ethical research in partnership with indigenous communities.

Prof. Utako Minai has continued her research on meaning comprehension and processing, both in children and adult speakers. She and her collaborators have focused on disseminating findings during the cessation of in-person testing due to the pandemic, generating six conference presentations, two articles to appear in conference proceedings, and two articles currently under review for journal publication. The studies being disseminated include collaborative work with her Ph.D. supervisees, Tingting Wang (co-supervised by Prof. Gabriele, regarding pronominal reference resolution in adult speakers' first and second language) and Ayumi Nobuki (regarding adult speakers' comprehension of negation in Japanese). Prof. Minai has also developed new projects on the acquisition and processing of Japanese, including a project on Japanese-acquiring children's comprehension of negation with her supervisee Ayumi Nobuki, a project on second language learners' comprehension of negative polarity items in Japanese with her supervisee Amaya Madden, and a project on the comprehension of psycho-mimetics in L1 and L2 Japanese with Prof. Yuka Naito-Billen (Dept. of East Asian Languages and Cultures). Prof. Minai was also awarded the 2021 Byron A. Alexander Graduate Mentor Award for the outstanding mentorship she has provided to graduate students.

Prof. Joan Sereno completed her 5-year term as Chair of the Department of Linguistics (June 2021) and she finished the Fall semester as Associate Chair (Fall 2021). Prof. Sereno also continued her research examining perceptual consequences of second language speech as well as the acoustic changes and visual contributions in native and nonnative utterances with 3 recent articles. One article, with Prof. Allard Jongman and collaborators from Simon Fraser University (Canada), examined acoustic cues in Mandarin tone minimal pairs in both clear and plain speaking styles (Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, in press). A second article (academically re-connected with Yu-Fu Chien (Ph.D. 2016) and Hanbo Yan (Ph.D., 2016)) examined phonological alternations (Journal of Psycholinguistic Research (2021). A third article, collaborating with Wael Zuraiq (Ph.D. 2005), examined the acoustic cues used by Arabic speakers in the production of English lexical stress (Second Language Speech Learning, Cambridge University Press, 2021). Prof. Sereno also continued her research collaboration with I Nyoman Aryawibawa (Ph.D., 2010) and colleagues at Udayana University in Indonesia. Sereno is a Council Delegate for the AAAS - section on Linguistics & Language Science (2020-2023) and serves on the Technical Committee on Speech Communication (2020-2023) for the Acoustical Society of America. Prof. Sereno also continues as a Chancellors Club Teaching Professor (2017-2022), an award from the KU Endowment Association that recognizes excellence in teaching. And lastly, Prof. Sereno was selected as a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) in recognition of her "contributions to speech learning, perception, and production across individuals and languages".

Prof. Annie Tremblay continued to work on her NSF-funded project entitled "Enhancing the perception and recognition of spoken words in a second language: A cue-weighting approach." This project examines the effect of perceptual training methods on the perception, encoding, and processing of lexical stress in English by speakers of Dutch, Spanish, Mandarin, and Gyeongsang and Seoul Korean. The project seeks to elucidate whether the cue-weighting theory of speech perception can provide a strong theoretical framework for understanding the listening difficulties that second-language learners encounter with lexical stress, and for developing training stimuli and methods to enhance the perceptual learning of lexical stress. This research is done in collaboration with Dr. Mirjam Broersma (Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands), Dr. Joan Carles Mora (University of Barcelona, Spain), Dr. Taehong Cho (Hayang University, South Korea), and Dr. Sahyang Kim (Hongik University, South Korea). Prof. Tremblay also published research articles in Bilingualism: Language and Cognition, the Journal of Acoustical Society of America, and the Journal of Phonetics, and she published a book chapter R. Wayland (Ed.), Second language speech learning: Theoretical and empirical progress. Last but not least, Prof. Tremblay took on the role of Associate Editor for the scholarly journal Bilingualism: Language and Cognition.

Prof. Jie Zhang continued his NSF-funded research with colleagues in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and at KU to investigate the production and perception processing of words involving tonal alternation in dialects of Chinese. Two articles from the project with multiple authors appeared in Frontiers in Psychology and Journal of Neurolinguistics in the last year. His collaborations with KU students and alumni on Chinese phonotactics and Shanghai tone processing resulted in publications in Phonology and Laboratory Phonology. He also published an article on the representation of tone sandhi words (written in Chinese) in a Chinese linguistics journal (Contemporary Linguistics). He was the Associate Chair of the Linguistics Department in Spring 2021 and started his five-year term as Chair in Fall 2021.

2021 Colloquy

Date	Speaker	Presentation Topic
Feb 25, 2021	Ivano Caponigro University of California, San Diego	Mesoamerican Insights on Headless Relative Clauses and the Syntax/Semantics Interface
March 4, 2021	Olga Dmitrieva Purdue University	First Language Speech in the Context of Second Language Acquisition and Use
Apr 1, 2021 Ingemann lecture	Heidi Harley University of Arizona	Relative Nominals and Event Nominals in Hiaki
April 15, 2021	Alan Yu University of Chicago	Individual Differences in Categorization Gradience: Evidence from Eye Movement and Neurophysiological Measurements
Sept 16, 2021	Tyler Heston University of Kansas	Fataluku Prosody: Trochaic Rhythm with an Unexpected Melogy
Sept 30, 2021	Jeff Green Brigham Young University	Reference Resolution and Prediction in Sentence Processing
Oct 14 2021	Megan Figueroa University of Arizona	Language Development, Linguistic Racism, and Social Power: What is "Quality" Input?
Oct 28, 2021	Kiwako Ito University of Newcastle	Prosody for Communication: Toward a Holistic Approach
Nov 11, 2021	Jesse Harris University of California, Los Angeles	Parsing and Prosodic Mismatch: The View from Pupillometry
Dec 9, 2021	Lisa Davidson New York University	Glottalized Segments and Creaky Prosody: How Glottal Elements are Realized

Graduate Student News & Research

Ruoqian (Lucy) Cheng defended her dissertation proposal about the role of cue weighting and contextual information in speech perception by younger and older normal-hearing adults. This dissertation project has been recommended for a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award, and is supported by KU Linguistics Graduate Student Research Scholarship. She presented the preliminary results of her dissertation at the 181st meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in Seattle. Meanwhile, she completed her minor qualifying paper about the variability of tone 4 sandhi in colloquial Beijing and presented the findings at Acoustics in Focus. In Spring 2021, she received a Linguistics Achievement Award. In Summer 2021, she participated in the Linguist Career Launch hosted by the Linguistic Society of America.

Andrew Collins defended his master's Research Project titled "Examining markedness in the agreement of coordinated noun phrases in Spanish" under Dr. Gabriele and Dr. Fiorentino. He has continued as the lead Graduate Research Assistant on their National Science Foundation funded event-related potentials (ERP) investigation examining the relationship between first and second language variability. While currently analyzing data for his major paper, he has recently finished his minor paper with Dr. Gluckman titled "Closest conjunct agreement in Spanish coordinates: Interleaving the syntax with the post-syntax". Additionally, he has recently finished writing a paper with Dr. Nichol Castro comparing the mechanisms underlying second language learning and first language re-learning with neurogenic language disorders such as aphasia following a stroke.

Aron Finholt, as part of a broader fieldwork project with John Gluckman and the Bantu research group at the University of Kansas (KUBantu), investigates a variety of syntactic, semantic, and phonological phenomena associated with the Lacustrine Bantu languages spoken in East Africa. Within this larger fieldwork project, much of his current work is split between three subprojects. The first of these subprojects explores variation in predication strategies across Bantu. Recent work on this project includes an analysis of possessive predication in Mashi, and a more general comparison of predication strategies in Mashi, Kihavu, and other Lacustrine languages. In addition, he is also working on a project concerning the semantic contribution of complementizers in Bantu. Some of his recent work related to this project includes a corpus analysis of Swahili complementizer choice, an investigation of reason and result-clauses in Kinyamulenge, and an analysis of the Mashi complementizer system. Finally, Aron is currently engaged with a project focused on the documentation and comparison of verbal tone in Eastern Bantu. Specifically working on a direct comparison of verbal tonology patterns in Kinyarwanda and related Kinyamulenge, though he intends to expand the project in the coming months.

Sheyenne Fishero received a Research Scholarship from the department for her minor paper investigating nonnative listeners' perception of post-focus compression as a cue to focus. A prosodic restoration task was conducted comparing the ability of native Mandarin learners of English and native English listeners to use post-focus compression as a cue to focus in English. Sheyenne Fishero finished her major paper titled, "The Perception and Production of Mandarin-Accented English: The Effect of Degree of Accentedness on ISIB-L and ISIB-T" and began her dissertation research on competing speech perception. She also took part in KU's Revolutionizing Academia Learning Community, where she learned how to implement DEI practices in her teaching.

Shuxiao (Donald) Gong published a paper in Phonology titled 'Modelling Mandarin speakers' phonotactic knowledge'. He also presented his minor paper project on Mandarin lexical decision on the 33rd North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics. Currently he is working on his dissertation project using artificial grammar learning paradigm to examine similarity avoidance effect in phonological acquisition.

Hyoju Kim published three papers, including a paper co-authored with Dr. Annie Tremblay, in the Journal of Phonetics titled "Korean listeners' processing of suprasegmental lexical contrasts in Korean and English: A cue-based transfer approach"; a paper co-authored with Dr. Allard Jongman, in Language and Speech titled, "The Influence of Inter-Dialect Contact on the Korean Three-Way Laryngeal Distinction: An Acoustic Comparison among Seoul Korean Speakers and Gyeongsang Speakers with Limited and Extended Residence in Seoul"; and a paper co-authored with Dr. Annie Tremblay, Dr. Miriam Broersma, Dr. Seulgi Shin, Yuyu Zeng, and Jinmyung Lee, in the Journal of Acoustical Society of America. He gave an invited talk titled "L2 listeners' processing of suprasegmental lexical contrasts in English: A cue-based transfer approach" at Seoul National University Workshop on Empirical & Laboratory Linguistics (SWELL 2020). Additionally, he led a workshop on building statistic models using R and R studio, which was organized by the Linguistics Graduate Student Association.

Hyoju is working on his doctoral dissertation proposal in which he investigates the time course of acoustic cue integration in the processing of the Korean stop contrasts by native Korean listeners and English second language learners of Korean, using cue-weighting speech perception and visual-world eye-tracking paradigms. As such, his dissertation seeks to characterize and explain how native listeners and second language learners weight and integrate fine-grained acoustic information in spoken word recognition. He plans to defend his dissertation proposal in Spring 2022 and collect data starting from Summer 2022.

Jinmyung Lee defended her dissertation proposal and received a Frances Ingemann Achievement Scholarship for timely completion of her oral comprehensive exam. Jinmyung also completed her Graduate Certificate in Second Language Studies. Lastly, she was one of the authors of "Dutch listeners' perception of English lexical stress: A cue-weighting approach" published in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, Tremblay, A., Broersma, M., Zeng, Y., Kim, H., Lee, J., & Shin. S., (2021).

Ayumi Nobuki presented two posters co-authored with Dr. Utako Minai. 'Pragmatic Felicity of Negation in Japanese' at The SRCD 2021 Virtual Biennial Meeting in April 2021, and 'The Role of the Contrastive Topic -wa in the Felicity Judgment of Negation in Japanese' at The 29th Japanese/ Korean Linguistics Conference in October 2021. Ayumi completed her master's research project and has been focusing on the felicity judgment of negative sentences in Japanese. In her MARP experiment she tested adult native speakers of Japanese. The findings were that Japanese (adult) speakers are sensitive to the role of contrastive topic -wa particle and informativeness of sentences manipulated by visual contexts and that they are able to use both of those linguistic and pragmatic factors in determining the felicity of negative sentences. She is extending her study to Japanese-acquiring pre-school children for her major paper and preparing an online experiment.

Münir Özturhan presented a virtual poster titled "The use of structural and non-structural information in L2 processing of reflexives" at the 3rd International Symposium on Bilingual and L2 Processing in Adults and Children (ISBPAC) in June 2021. He also presented another virtual poster on the same topic titled "Processing structural and non-structural information in L2 resolution of reflexives" at The XV International Symposium of Psycholinguistics (ISP). Moreover, he presented his previous research on the use of eye-tracking methodology on L2 learners' grammaticality sensitivity at The XV International Symposium of Psycholinguistics (ISP) and The 15th Language at the University of Essex Postgraduate Conference (LangUE) as poster presentations. Lastly, he presented a talk titled "Language support program for migrant children: Evidence from Syrian bilingual children in a Turkish context" at the Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium (BMRS21) in October 2021.

Münir Özturhan is currently working on his master's research project on the effects of agreement attraction in subject-verb agreement dependencies in Turkish. More specifically, this study will aim to shed light on whether (and how) animacy cue and subjecthood cue will play a role in the processing mechanisms of native speakers of Turkish and those of English learners of Turkish. This project will also look into whether or not there will be similarities or differences between these two groups in terms of the utilization of animacy and subjecthood information as retrieval cues in their processing routines. Also, he has been working on another project examining the effects of morphological, syntactic and semantic information on the processing reflexives in Turkish to show (i) whether morphological information is a cue to structural representations in anaphoric binding and (ii) whether syntactic and semantic cues are weighted differentially, or one is given primacy over the other in online processing. He will be presenting this project as a poster presentation at the 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

Charles (Henry) Pratt is conducting an online study for his major paper through Qualtrics about the acquisition of morphosyntax in L2 and L3 Brazilian Portuguese, looking at different non-native learner groups who speak English and/or Spanish and are subsequently learners of Brazilian Portuguese. Testing acquisition of verb constructions in counterfactual conditional sentences using a grammaticality judgment task. He also tested a control group of 20 native Brazilian Portuguese speakers. For his minor paper, Henry is conducting a study online through Gorilla which tests different phonological analyses of the Brazilian Portuguese vowel system. The task uses a lexical decision task with cross-modal semantic priming (auditory primes and visual targets). Based on which vowel sounds allow for lexical activation of words with other vowel sounds (for example if nonwords are created by substituting the real vowel sound for another), he is looking to see which types of vowel features are specified for Brazilian Portuguese vowel phonemes under the FUL (Featurally-Underspecified Lexicon) Model, which is rooted in underspecification theory. Specifically, he is looking to see whether there is evidence that the B.P. mid vowels contrast in height features or in tenseness features, but are perhaps not specified for all possible features.

Morgan Robertson is currently working towards completing her master's research project. The topic is on L2 speech perception of nasal vowels in French. More specifically, she proposes an investigation into the distribution of nasal vowels for learners of French whose native language is English. Due to the allophonic nature of the nasal vowels in English, it is expected that perception of the contrast in the L2 French will be difficult. This experiment should determine whether or not learners of French are breaking down the Ṽ into an oral vowel nasal consonant sequence (VN) or if they are correctly perceiving the nasal vowel. Additionally, whether or not the suppression of an allophonic rule in the L1 can occur in perception of L2 sequences will also be examined.

Chang Wang is developing a research proposal for her master's project centering on morpho-syntactically complex Mandarin Tone 3 sandhi application based on the Production Planning Hypothesis. She has collaborated with Yuyu (Rustle) Zeng and Dr. Jie Zhang on a project which explores the information flow during Chinese word production by examining the incomplete neutralization of Mandarin Tone 3 sandhi. In 2021, Chang Wang continued to work as a graduate research assistant to investigate the neural basis of Chinese tone sandhi production under the supervision of Dr. Jie Zhang.

Tingting Wang is continuing her dissertation project which examines variability in the use of discourse-level cues by English native speakers and Chinese-speaking English learners. She finished her data collection over the summer using the online visual-world eye-tracking method, and is currently writing up the project. She has presented a poster of the project at the 46th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, and she will soon present at the 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, focusing on part of the results that show the ability of using discourse cues in the L2 is related to use of those cues in the L1, within the same group of learners.

Delaney Wilson successfully defended her dissertation proposal, entitled "Examining morphological decomposition of regular and irregular verbs and the role of individual variation in second language learners." She received a Linguistics Achievement Award for completing her proposal. Additionally, she completed her major qualifying paper, which focused on verb processing in native speakers of English, and her minor qualifying paper, which focused on speech production of second language learners of Arabic. Delaney has begun testing participants for her dissertation and was awarded a Linguistics Graduate Student Fellowship award to aid with her research. Outside of her research, she is teaching Language in Culture and Society and working on applying to jobs.

Tzu-Hsuan Yang gave an oral presentation titled "Perceptually inconspicuous yet articulatorily distinct merger: a case study of Taiwanese Mandarin coda nasals" at LSA 2021 (in collaboration with Dr. Yueh-chin Chang & Dr. Feng-fan Hsieh). She also presented a poster titled "The effect of lexicality, frequency and markedness on Mandarin tonal categorization" at AMP 2021 (in collaboration with Dr. Yu-An Lu and her graduate student Shao-Jie Jin) and will be submitting this project to a journal. Tzu-Hsuan is also working on her master's research project (advised by Dr. Annie Tremblay) which examines the processing of English lexical stress in different intonational contexts by Mandarin L2 learners of English in Taiwan.

Yuyu (Rustle) Zeng finished the first draft of her dissertation, titled "Producing monosyllabic words in Mandarin Chinese: From lexical selection to form encoding" in 2021. The online production experiment developed during this dissertation is expected to be useful for other language researchers in the context of COVID. Her paper, "Electrophysiological Signatures of Perceiving Alternated Tone in Mandarin Chinese: Mismatch Negativity to Underlying Tone Conflict" was published in Frontiers in Psychology. Her co-authored paper, "The neural encoding of productive phonological alternation in speech production: Evidence from Mandarin Tone 3 sandhi", was accepted by the Journal of Neurolinguistics. Her research project, "Hong Kong South Asians' Perception of Cantonese Tones: Effect of L1 Background", was presented at the 25th International Conference on Yue Dialects in Hong Kong. She is now working on revising her dissertation and submitting her major paper for journal article publication.

2021 GTA's

PHD students: Andrew Collins and Delaney Wilson in the Neurolinguistics lab.

Spring 2021
Ruoqian (Lucy) Cheng - LING 312
Romina Duran - LING 110
Aron Finholt - LING 106
Sheyenne Fishero - LING 435
Munir Ozturhan - LING 110
Charles (Henry) Pratt - LING 110
Morgan Robertson - LING 106
Delaney Wilson - LING 320

Fall 2021
Ruoqian (Lucy) Cheng - LING 110
Sheyenne Fishero - LING 110
Munir Ozturhan - LING 110
Charles (Henry) Pratt - LING 106
Morgan Robertson - LING 106
Xuan Wang - LING 320
Delaney Wilson - LING 320
Tzu-Hsuan Yang - LING 320

Summer 2021
Andrew Collins - LING 320
Sheyenne Fishero - LING 110
Charles (Henry) Pratt - LING 106
Delaney Wilson - LING 320
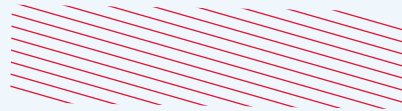
WELCOME NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ph.D. Students

Adam Bramlett – United States – B.A. in Chiinese and M.A. in Second Language Studies from University of Hawaii, Manoa – Research Interests: Second Language Acquisition, Psycholinguistics

Angela Feng – United States – B.A. in Linguistics from Princeton University – Research Interests: Phonology, Syntax, Fieldwork

Xuan Wang – China – B.A. in English from Beijing Language & Culture University, M.A. in Applied Linguistics and Language from University of Barcelone, M.A. in TESOL from University of Bath, and M.A. in Linguistics
from Syracuse University – Research Interests: Psycholinguistics, Language Acquisition

Tzu-Hsuan Yang – Taiwan – B.A. in Foreign Languages and Literatures from National Chiao Tung University and M.A. in Applied Linguistics from Columbia University – Research Interests: Phonetics, Phonology, Second Language Acquisition

M.A. Students

Maddy Kentch – United States - B.A. in Behavioral Neuroscience from University of Kansas – Research Interests: Psycholinguistics, Neurolinguistics

Jonathan Rancudo – United States – B.A. and M.A. in French from University of Arkansas, Fayetteville – Research Interests: Phonology, Morphology, Semantics

Victoria Routsong – United States – B.A. in Psychology from Cornell College – Research Interests: Neurolinguistics, Psycholinguistics

Madeleine Stewart – United States – B.A. in Spanish Linguistics and Psychology from Arizona State University, Tempe – Research Interests: Neurolinguistics

Damian White Lightning – United States – B.A. in Education Foundations from University of Oregon – Research Interests: Native American Language Preservation and Revitalization

2021 LINGUISTICS AWARDS

FRANCES INGEMANN LINGUISTICS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

Linguistics Achievement Award - M.A.: Amer Asiri, Andrew Collins, Aron Finholt, Ayumi Nobuki, Charles (Henry) Pratt

Linguistics Achievement Award - Ph.D.: Ruoqian (Lucy) Cheng, Shuxiao (Donald) Gong, Jinmyung Lee, Delaney Wilson

FRANCES INGEMANN LINGUISTICS RESEARCH FUNDING:

Ruoqian (Lucy) Cheng, Andrew Collins, Sheyenne Fishero, Shuxiao (Donald) Gong, Ayumi Nobuki, Charles (Henry) Pratt, Tingting Wang, Delaney Wilson, Tzu-Hsuan Yang, Yuyu (Rustle) Zeng

CAROLYN J. ABEL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS:

Distinguished Senior Major - Amber Mikkelsen, Katharine Patz
Distinguished Junior Major - Malena Schoeni, Beth Sharp

GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS!

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics

Spring 2021
Isaac Brown
Dawson Chindamo
Sarah Etters
Benjamin Gotto
Reagan Kanter
John Lowry
Amber Mikkelsen - Honors, "Examining the origin of island effects in complex sentence comprehension"
    (Advisors: Robert Fiorentino and John Gluckman)
Leo Niehorster-Cook
Evan Norkey
Chole Noteboom
Katherine Patz - Honors, "Analyzing syntactic structure of question sentences by simultaneous bilingual
    children acquiring English and Japanese" (Advisor: Utako Minai)
Lana Prager - Honors, "Syncope in Potawatomi", (Advisor: Jie Zhang)
Erin Smith

Fall 2021
Will Cox
Jensen Gramling
Victoria Smith

Undergraduate Minors

Spring 2021
Allison Boresow
Annabella Brozek
Susan Frick
Justin Herrig
Madison Kentch
Alexis Medina
Karlie Pieper
Eduardo Ramirez Cuellar
Hannah Sevart
Megan Shulfer
Brettell Urczyk
Haley Victor
Megan Wetherington

Summer 2021
Camden Gregory
Jenna Wilson

Fall 2021
Savannah Price
Sophia Vazzano
Ruijie Zhang

GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS!

Master of Arts in Linguistics

Amer Asiri – "Light Verbs in Tihami Arabic", (Advisor: John Gluckman)

Andrew Collins – "Examining Markedness in the Agreement of Coordinated Noun Phrases in Spanish", (Advisor: Alison Gabriele & Robert Fiorentino)

Romina Duran – "Weak and Strong Definite Distinction in Qom", (Advisor: Andrew McKenzie)

Aron Finholt – "Attitude Reports and Relative Belief: A New Perspective on the Swahili Dual Complementizer System", (Advisor: John Gluckman)

Hao Lin – "Corrective Feedback Type and Structure Salience in Second Language Acquisition", (Advisor: Alison Gabriele)

Ayumi Nobuki – "The Role of the Contrastive Topic -wa in Negation: Empirical Evidence from Felicity Judgment of Negative Sentences in Japanese", (Advisor: Utako Minai)

Alesha Pisciotta – "Online L2 Processing of the Spanish Subjunctive in Adverbial Clauses: A Comparison between Processing Instruction and Meaningful Output-Based Instruction", (Advisor: Alison Gabriele)
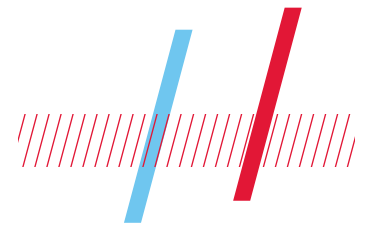
Charles Henry Pratt – "Morphosyntactic Acquisition of Counterfactual Conditionals in L3 Brazilian Portuguese", (Advisor: Alison Gabriele)

Wunan Zhang – "Do listeners store surface or underlying forms of vowel variants? A study on dialectal variants of Mandarin", (Advisor: Annie Tremblay)

Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics

Seulgi Shin – "Phonetic variations driven by prosodic structure and their function in speech production", (Advisor: Annie Tremblay)
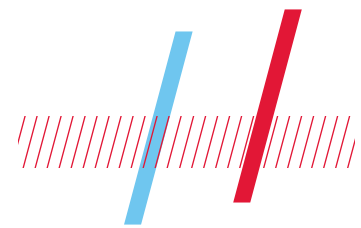
Alumni Updates

Maureen Carroll (B.A. 2010) is a writer, graphic designer, and cat herder. She founded Anamcara Press to bring writers and artists together in collaborations that serve community and the planet. Born on the banks of the Kansas River in historic Lawrence, Kansas, Anamcara Press publishes poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. A proud member of the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), Anamcara Press is a hybrid press publishing fewer than ten titles per year. Our objective is to support authors and artists in their creative endeavors. Our 2022 selections include The Griefmaker by George Gurley, available June 26, 2022, and Murder at the Menger by Kathleen Kaska, Due May 5, 2022. Anamcara Press seeks to publish powerful voices that provoke, surprise, and inspire. Visit us at: https://anamcara-press.com. Check out Maureen's posts on consciousness at www.maureencarroll.com.

Sam Hopkins (B.A. 2005) is Operations Manager at MycoMed Technologies, a Johns Hopkins spinout company specializing in the early detection of pneumonia. The company is progressing toward FDA clearance for its first product, which identifies invasive fungal infections in the lungs of immune compromised individuals, specifically cancer and transplant patients. Sam has continued his work in music from KU's student-run radio station KJHK and nurturing Lawrence music scene to produce new releases as half of the electronic music duo South of Boundary and drummer in punk rock band Sink. He also wrote a children's book, My Daddy Knows, which is available directly from the author, and he continues his study of foreign languages and Baltimore's linguistic quirks with many happy memories and tools from Prof. Donald Watkins's Comparative and Historical Linguistics course and fieldwork in the Volga German community of Hays, KS with Prof. Arienne Dwyer.
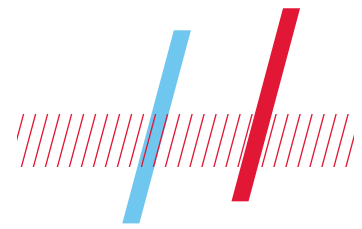
Alumni Updates

Phillip Kroh (B.A. 2015 and M.A. 2018) spent three years as a "professional student" in a political science Ph.D. program at KU. Personal growth during this time made him realize that he is too much of an idealist for politics, and other more significant but too long to write about factors led him to seminary. After a couple years building his own Christianity from scratch with help and influence from friends and years of grad school, Phillip has joined the United Church of Christ denomination with the intention to be ordained for a personal style of "evangelism" that he describes as being a spiritual sidekick and resource in other peoples' journeys, however they experience and describe it, be it philosophically religious or secular, Christian or other. To aid not persuade. Phillip is 1.5 years into a 4-year Master of Divinity program at Phillips Theological Seminary where he continues to grow and be challenged. While he doesn't use most his linguistics knowledge in daily life, he does bring language critiques to seminary and the interesting inherited approaches to heavily translated and re-scribed religious writings that are often unreflective and unaware of what we currently claim to understand about language and language change.

Natasha La Force (B.A. 2013) In line with the majority of college educated Americans of my generation, I spent several years working in a restaurant after graduation. On more than one occasion I heard the classic line "So when are you going to use your degree?". I felt judged, I wanted a job that was more aligned with my interests, but those don't exactly fall out of the sky. And even when you seek them out, you're not necessarily the one they hire. But I learned a lot of valuable life lessons in that restaurant and it's there that I came into daily contact with native Spanish speakers for the first time in my life. I became intrigued and then determined to learn Spanish. Over the next few years I filled notebook after notebook with vocab words, I watched as much media as possible, and I travelled to Mexico several times. I knew I wanted to find a profession that would allow me to continue to improve my Spanish and that would allow me to serve my community as well. My inikigai was to become a healthcare interpreter. After years of hard work, I am now a Certified Medical Interpreter in a primary care facility in Kansas City, Kansas. I am proud of where I am and who I am. To the college students today--your life trajectory post-graduation may not go completely as planned, but don't give up on yourself, even if what you want to do is daunting or seems impossible. I went from speaking no more than a few words of Spanish to an interpreter in a few years. Anything can be done if you want it badly enough!
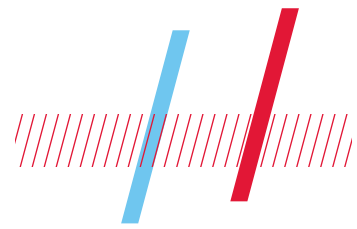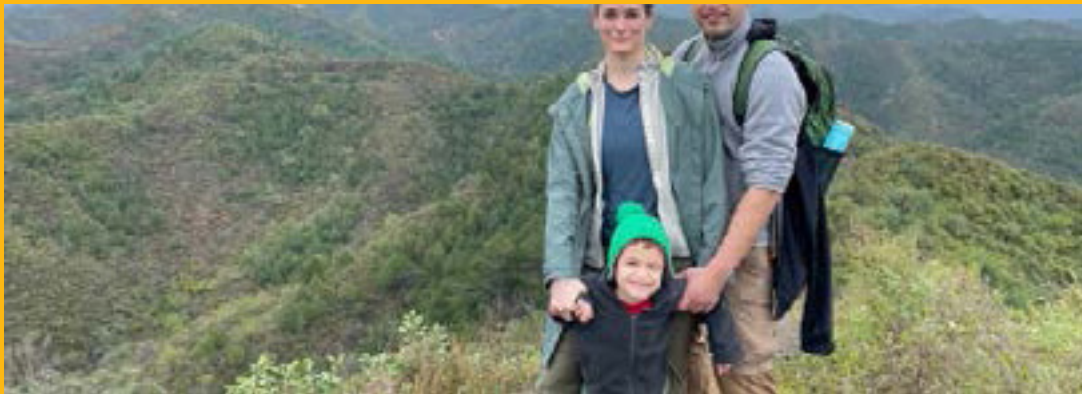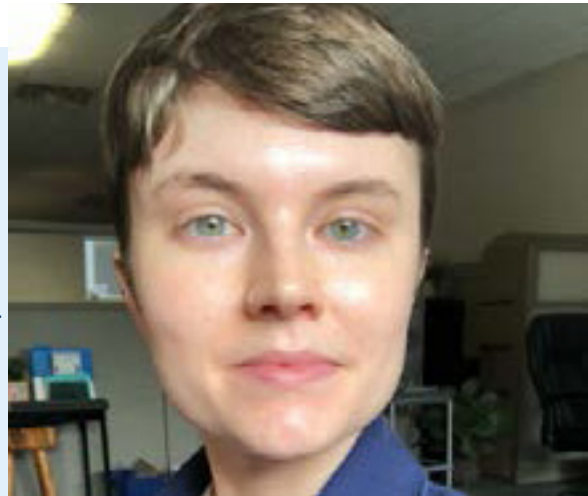
Alumni Updates

Hazara Leon (B.A. 2017) recently returned from Jeju, South Korea in March of 2021 after doing two years of teaching on a beautiful island with the program EPIK. She is now working at Washburn University as an admissions counselor. She's recently admitted to the KU Higher Education Administration program and is looking forward to continuing her education in hopes of creating cultural awareness and promoting global inclusion and diversity in global education.

David Mora-Marín (B.A. 1996) is Professor of Linguistics at the University of North Carolina (2004–present). During 2021, he published several papers on Mayan historical linguistics: "Reconstructing Possession Morphology in Mayan Languages" (International Journal of American Linguistics); "The Historical Reconstruction of Greater Tzeltalan (Mayan) Vowel Assimilation and Vowel Raising Patterns" (Transactions of the Philological Society), co-authored with Melissa Frazier; and "The Regularizing, Analogical Effect of Metathesis in Modern Ch'ol (Mayan)" (Revue canadienne de linguistique/Canadian Journal of Linguistics). In 2020, his main publication dealt with Olmec writing: "The Cascajal Block: New Line Drawing, Distributional Analysis, Orthographic Patterns" (Ancient Mesoamerica). He has also presented several papers between 2019 and 2021 on the historical sociolinguistics of Mayan writing at annual meetings and research incubators (two in-person, three remote) organized by the North American Research Network in Historical Sociolinguistics. Since July of 2020 he has been enjoying posting "Notes" on Mesoamerican linguistics and epigraphy on his blog (https://davidmm.web.unc.edu/notes-on-mesoamerican-linguistics-and-epigraphy/). He began writing a book on Mayan orthographic conventions in early 2020, and hopes to finish it in 2022.
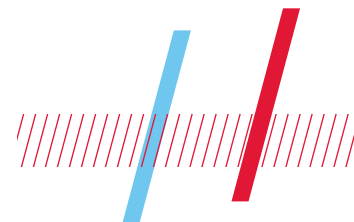
Alumni Updates

Rachel Sandle (B.A. 2017) began volunteering as a crisis counselor at the Kansas Suicide Prevention Headquarters (KSPHQ) in August of 2019 and went on to become a staff counselor later that year. They continue to work at KSPHQ as a supervisor. In addition to their counseling work, they are currently pursuing a master's degree in clinical social work and interning as a caseworker at Johnson County Mental Health Center. Rachel will complete their clinical studies in the 2022–2023 academic year. Rachel is also a published poet. Their poems have appeared in print and online in Into the Void, Occulum Journal, What Are Birds?, Bad Pony Magazine, and others. Rachel still credits their attention to sound and segment in their poetry to their past phonetics and phonology coursework.

Alex Straus and Sonja Straus (née Combest) (both B.A. 2008) are finishing a two-year assignment in Beijing, China. Alex serves as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. Sonja also works for the American Embassy in Beijing, reporting on science and technology. Their son, Noah, is 5 years old and his Mandarin has picked up some pretty delightful Erhua. The Straus Family will be returning to the U.S. in the summer of 2022 to learn Russian before continuing on to Kyrgyzstan in late 2023. Noah's favorite Kyrgyz word so far is жок [ˈd͡ʒok] "no".

Alumni Updates

James Tandy (B.A. 2017) is currently a Ph.D. candidate in linguistics at the University of Texas, Austin. He is writing his dissertation about the history of Mayan derivational morphology, a project that grew out of his undergraduate research with Dr. Clifton Pye at KU. In October and November 2021, he presented two conference talks about Mayan language contact at New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV) and Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi). In fall 2021, he taught Intro. to Linguistics for the first time as instructor of record. During one class period his students constructed a language from the ground up! James is continuing to learn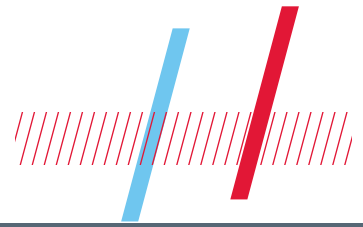 Poqomchi' Maya as a language learner and has found that this helps him keep perspective in the weeds of research. James also got married this year, and now he and his wife Angela are living in Austin. In their spare time, they enjoy nature hikes, music, and playing with their rabbit Roscoe (who has shown up in homework problems for James's class!)

Emily Tummons (M.A. 2010) recently crossed the 10-year mark of teaching indigenous languages in the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (CLACS) here at KU. In partnership with native speakers, she teaches Kaqchikel Maya, Yucatec Maya, and Bolivian Quechua. She is pictured here with native Kaqchikel-speaking colleague and friend, Magda Sotz Mux, in Tecpán, Guatemala.

Emily was also recently selected as a 2022--2023 Mellon DEI Teaching Scholar. And her chapter, "Beyond the Boundaries: Sharing the Teaching of Mayan Languages Across Universities," was accepted for inclusion in a book edited by a team from Michigan State University, Sharing Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTLs) in Higher Education: Collaboration and Innovation. The book is set to be published in Spring 2023.

Alumni Updates

Xiao Yang (Ph.D. 2020) Language Data Researcher, Amazon; continues to advance her career by leading several projects using Python and analytics skills she learned during her PhD years. She is also wrapping up a follow-up study based on her dissertation and finishing the journal article write-up with Dr. Robert Fiorentino. In her spare time, Xiao has volunteered at several mentoring events to help fellow linguists explore industry career paths and has adopted a senior Corgi as her adventure buddy to explore New England.

Thank you
to our 2021 Donors!

Why support Linguistic studies at KU?

By giving to Linguistics, you contribute to the continued development of Linguistic academic activities, outreach, lectures, seminars and research programs at KU and throughout the region.

Your donations will also aid in supporting student scholarships, faculty research, teaching awards, service awards, and overall improvement of the department.

To support Linguistics, please send your donation, clearly marked for the Department of Linguistics, to the following address:

Gift Processing Department
KU Endowment
PO Box 928
Lawrence, KS 66044-0928
or click
GIVE NOW
and select LINGUISTICS as the destination of your donation.

Thank you for your support!

Kelly Harper Berkson

John-Patrick H. Doherty

Nicholas C. Eastwood-Tallmon

Marcia L. Hurlow

Yingjie Li

Keely McCulla

Ronald P. Schaefer

James M. Scofield

Kathleen D. Shea

Gregory T. Stump

Candice Tang & Mingxing Li

Thomas M. Worker-Braddock

Xiao Yang