

Linguistics Department

University of Kansas

Spring 2024 Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I'm happy to say that 2023 was a year of growth for the department. Through support from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, we were able to recruit two tenure-track faculty members — Dr. Jeff Holliday and Dr. Lacey Wade. Dr. Holliday earned his Ph.D. from Ohio State University. Prior to KU, he was an Assistant Professor at Korea University after he completed a postdoc at Indiana University. His research focuses on second language acquisition, an area of great need for the department after the departure of Dr. Annie Tremblay. Dr. Holliday is especially interested in how the first language experience of learners of Korean shapes their perception and production of the Korean segmental contrasts. He joined the KU Phonetics and Psycholinguistics Lab. Dr. Wade came to us from her Ph.D. and a Lecturer position at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on sociolinguistics, an area that the department had been interested in developing for a number of years due to strong student and society interest. In particular, Dr. Wade studies how sociophonetic variation informs us about the cognitive structure of language and the mental relationships between linguistic and social knowledge. Dr. Wade is the process of building a brand-new Sociolinguistics Lab. We're very excited about these new additions to the department, and we can't wait to see what new findings and opportunities they will bring. Welcome, Jeff and Lacey!

Our faculty, students, and alumni continued to do amazing work and get accolades, and I want to highlight a few of them here. Dr. Phil Duncan won the Budig Teaching Professor in Social and Behavioral Sciences Award in July for his fantastic contributions to teaching innovation, student advising, and curriculum development in the department, a well-deserved honor. Ph.D. student Henry Pratt won a highly competitive NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant for his work on the representation and processing of vowel contrasts in Brazilian Portuguese and English. At the KU Undergraduate Research Symposia in April and December, over 30 linguistics students from Dr. Stephen Politzer-Ahles's Ling 435 Psycholinguistics, Dr. Jieun Lee's Ling 420 Research in Language Science, and Dr. Phil Duncan's Ling 177 First Year Seminar: Towards Linguistic Justice presented original research on topics ranging from the categorical and gradient perception of stop voicing contrast to the linguistic analysis of transgender TikTok users. Our alumnus Abudweli Ayup (M.A. 2011) won the LSA's

devoting “much of his adult life giving back to the Uyghur community, and particularly, promoting the preservation and continuity of the Uyghur language despite the risks involved.” We're immensely proud of these achievements. They speak to the quality and timeliness of the research that we do and also the devotion of our faculty to student success.

Curriculum-wise, we began offering online versions of Ling 106 Introductory Linguistics and Ling 110 Language and Mind during regular school year in Fall 2023. This allowed us to reach a new group of students to whom these opportunities were not available before. On the graduate side, we were able to offer seminars on phonetics and neurolinguistics, and a new course on statistical modeling in linguistics research is being developed as a regular course by Dr. Stephen Politzer-Ahles. The concerted effort of Linguistics faculty to maintain an updated curriculum and a high standard of teaching has positioned us well in the quickly changing landscape of curriculum requirements due to mandates from the Higher Learning Commission and the Kansas Board of Regents.

In addition to the usual welcome picnic, holiday potluck, and graduation reception, the department had a number of other exciting events to bring everyone together. Our 2023 Frances Ingemann Lecture was delivered in April by Emerita Professor of Linguistics at the University of Oxford, Dr. Aditi Lahiri, who has made tremendous contributions to phonology, phonetics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, and historical linguistics in her distinguished career of 40+ years. Also in April, the department held its inaugural Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Panel, where we invited three leading linguists — Dr. Wesley Leonard, Dr. Rachel Weissler, and Dr. Kelly Berkson (KU alum!) — for a conversation about research practices that respect and support the communities we work with and institutional practices that support marginalized and minoritized groups. In November, the department celebrated the promotion of Dr. Phil Duncan to Associate Teaching Professor together, a joyous occasion where we showed appreciation for the many-faceted contributions of Dr. Duncan to the department, especially in teaching. Please check out our website for pictures of these events!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

A very sad event also happened in 2023. On May 22, 2023, our M.A. student Atheer Alqahtani from Saudi Arabia tragically passed way in an accident at Glacier National Park. A memorial service for Alqahtani was held at the Lawrence Arboretum and a memorial tree was planted at the Arboretum in her honor. We will miss her intellect, her curiosity, and her infectious energy. As always, when tragedy struck, the department rallied and came together. I'm especially proud of our graduate students, who helped Alqahtani's family with logistic arrangements and took care of each other in this difficult time.

I want to end this message with a word of thanks to our alumni and friends who supported us in 2023. I'm particularly grateful to the endowed gift to the department from Dr. Gregory Stump and Dr. Marcia Hurlow. Together, your generous donation has helped fund student research, conference travel, and scholarships, and it helped bring top researchers in the world to give talks at KU. Please continue to support us in any way you can as we look forward to a more collaborative and more equitable future!

Jie Zhang



In Memory of Atheer Alqahtani

In memory of Atheer Alqahtani, the Department of Linguistics picked an Autumn Blaze Maple tree and plaque. It was planted and the marker/plaque installed at the Lawrence Arboretum (5100 W 27th Street, Lawrence, KS 66047).



FACULTY NEWS

Prof. Phil Duncan continued working on several projects with Me'phaa, Kiksht, and Ikpana. Together with Bertille Baron, Hiro Katsuda, and Jason Kandybowicz, Duncan co-published the book *Ikpana Interrogatives*. And, with Valerie (Lamxayat) Switlzer and Henry Zenk, Duncan co-published a book chapter titled "Chinookan family, with special reference to Kiksht and notes on Chinuk Wawa" in *The Languages and Linguistics of Indigenous North America*. Duncan also continued working on a revised publication of Walter Dyk's "A Grammar of Wishram."

Duncan was invited to give a presentation at the Healing through our Native Languages Conference, which was held in Bend, OR, and put on by the Warm Spring Culture and Heritage Department. With Wesley Leonard, Adrienne Tsikewa, and Joseph Dupris, Duncan co-led an LSA minicourse titled "Natives4Linguistics Approaches to Doing Linguistics." Duncan also presented a poster about Kiksht ideophones at the annual meetings of the LSA and a paper on verbal 'have' in Me'phaa at SSILA, and with KU colleagues Peace Benson (Ph.D. student) and Prof. John Gluckman, presented a paper discussing contrastive verb focus in Dzə at SASAL III. Duncan also co-presented work with KU student Kevin Barnes at the Lavendar Languages and Linguistics Conference, and advised Kevin's single-authored presentation there, as well. Both of these were extensions of work from Duncan's first-year seminar "Trans linguistics." Several students from Duncan's fall 2023 FYS also gave presentations at KU's Celebration of First-Year Students (and they did an amazing job!).

Gina Policarpo and Phil also hosted a "Me'phaa language table" for the second year in a row at the annual St. John's Mexican Fiesta, and look forward to doing so again this summer!

Prof. Robert Fiorentino and his student and faculty collaborators presented findings from studies on language acquisition and processing at the 48th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, and the 2023 Human Sentence Processing conference, and published papers in the journals *Language and Speech* and *Second Language Research*. KU alumnus José Alemán Bañón, Fiorentino, and Prof. Alison Gabriele also published a book chapter, "The Neurolinguistics of the Second Language Syntactic System" in *The Routledge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition and Neurolinguistics*. Fiorentino continued 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. Gabriele and collaborators, utilizing a Fall 2023 sabbatical to work on data analysis and the dissemination of findings from the project.

Prof. Alison Gabriele continued her research on second language acquisition and processing. Data collection continued for a grant from the National Science Foundation (Co-PI: Prof. Robert Fiorentino) 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. Gabriele published two book chapters with colleagues this year, one on psycholinguistics methods in second language acquisition in *Research Methods in Second Language Acquisition* (edited by Susan Gass and Alison Mackey) and one on second language syntax in the *Routledge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition and Neurolinguistics* (edited by Kara Morgan-Short and Janet Van Hell). Along with colleagues and graduate students, her collaborative research was presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development and the Human Sentence Processing conference at the University of Pittsburgh. Gabriele is Associate Chair of the department.

FACULTY NEWS

Prof. John Gluckman had a busy year of travel, conference presentations, student advising, and research. In May, Prof. Gluckman spent nearly four weeks in Mwanza, Tanzania conducting fieldwork on Bantu languages, funded by his grant from the National Science Foundation (A Microvariation Approach to Complementizers and Complementation). During this time, Gluckman collaborated with speakers of various languages, including Kisubi, Kihangaza, Kiha, and Kishubi. Some of the results of this work were presented at conferences at the University of Leiden, University of Connecticut, and most recently at the 98th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in New York. Back home at KU, Gluckman continues to work with graduate and undergraduate students on African-language projects, primarily through his Bantu linguistics lab KUBantu: www.jgluckman.com/kubantu.

Gluckman also saw one of his graduate students, Aron Finholt, accept a prestigious five-year post-doc-toral position at the University of Potsdam. Their co-authored paper “A corpus study of Swahili’s dual complementizer system” appeared in the *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*. In the coming year, Gluckman is looking forward to returning to Mwanza for more fieldwork, to attending more international conferences, and seeing two of his doctoral students complete their Ph.D.s.

Prof. Jeff Holliday joined the department in Fall 2023. While getting settled in at KU, Holliday continued in his collaboration with colleagues in Korea (including KU alumna Hyunjung Lee) studying sound change and regional variation in Korean stops. Holliday also collected data for a new project on the cross-linguistic perception of nasal coarticulation, in collaboration with colleagues at UC Davis. Holliday was also busy helping to organize the 19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology, to be held at the end of June in Seoul, Korea, and gave an invited talk at the University of Oregon on the L2 production of Korean stops. In his spare time, Holliday has been putting together plans for a new project on perceptual development in L2 learners, which he is excited to start working on in 2024!

Prof. Allard Jongman continued his research on the acoustic and visual correlates of clear speech, publishing four papers with Prof. Joan Sereno, Dr. Yuyu Zeng (Ph.D. 2022), and colleagues from Simon Fraser University (SFU). These papers, published in *International Journal of Speech Technology*, *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, and *Frontiers in Communication*, all document the importance of visual information in the production and perception of both vowels and tones to both native speakers and second-language learners. A comprehensive investigation of the factors that impact the extent to which nonnative listeners may have an advantage at understanding nonnative speech of talkers with the same L1 due to shared interlanguage knowledge (the Interlanguage Speech Intelligibility Benefit) appeared in the *Journal of Phonetics*, coauthored with graduate student Dr. Sheyenne Fishero (Ph.D. 2023) and Prof. Sereno.

Jongman combined forces with Prof. Antônio Simões (Spanish and Portuguese) and wrote two entries (each in both English and Portuguese) in the on-line Brazilian bilingual encyclopedia *The Speech Sciences*. Jongman also published two chapters in *Interfaces of Phonetics* (DeGruyter), one with Prof. Charlie Redmon (Ph.D. 2020), and one with current doctoral student Morgan Robertson. Jongman presented an invited talk in a Special Session “Clear Speech(es) Across People, Places, and Time” at the spring meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, with Prof. Sereno and Prof. Wang (SFU). Jongman continues as Associate Editor of *Phonetica*.

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Prof. Jieun Lee collaborated with Hyoju Kim (Ph.D. 2023) and Tzu-Hsuan Yang (Ph.D. student) on research exploring individual differences in perceptual adaptation and cue-weighting across various speech contrasts. Lee presented collaborative research projects at the 184th meeting of the ASA. The projects examined the utilization of the Visual Analogue Scaling task as a pre-instructional assessment for tailoring the L2 phonetic training paradigm, as well as the exploration of “perceived” talker variability in high-variability perceptual learning. Additionally, Lee presented her work at HISPhonCog 2023, focusing on English listeners’ perceptual adaptation to unfamiliar suprasegmental contrast and the relationship between within-category cue sensitivity in L1 perception L2 phonological contrast learning, targeting Korean learners of English.

Prof. Andrew McKenzie continued his research in semantics across a range of domains in linguistic theory and application. With the Surgilab team at UMKC, McKenzie published an article in the Journal of Surgical Education. McKenzie also published a pair of book chapters. In the De Gruyter anthology *The Languages and Linguistics of Indigenous North America: A Comprehensive Guide*, he discusses methods by which languages use to express discourse cohesion across sentences. In the Routledge volume *Xenolinguistics: Toward a Science of Extraterrestrial Language*, McKenzie lays out some of the core questions that would guide semantic fieldwork with extraterrestrials, and what that can tell us about human semantics. In April, McKenzie gave a plenary talk at WSCLA 25 in Montreal: “Polysynthesis and the Division of Labor in Grammar,” claiming that the ‘curious’ phenomenon of polysynthesis is actually just one method of efficient grammar-building. McKenzie has continued to branch out this year in collaborative efforts on the linguistics of Kiowa names, the role of implicit instruction in surgery, making games for linguistics teaching, bringing archived materials on Kiowa to the public, and exploring how surgeons find new ways orient themselves in robotic surgery.

Prof. Utako Minai continued her research on the acquisition of language meaning, extending her research program to include a range of new languages of research. Minai was awarded a sabbatical leave for Fall 2023, during which she traveled to Japan and conducted a new collaborative project on the comprehension and grammaticality judgment of polarity sensitive items by Japanese-acquiring preschool-age children, with funding support from the KU Center for East Asian Studies and the KU Office of the International Affairs. Preliminary results from this study will be presented at the 16th Meeting of the International Association for the Study of Child Language in Summer, 2024. During her stay in Tokyo, Minai also delivered an invited lecture at Ochanomizu University. In addition, Minai attended a number of conferences and professional meetings. Her work on children’s comprehension of negative sentences in Japanese was presented at the Society for Research in Child Development 2023 Biennial Meeting and at the 48th Boston University Conference on Language Development (with Ayumi Nobuki). Minai also made a presentation (with Amaya Madden) at the 30th Japanese/Korean Linguistics, regarding native speakers’ and adult learners’ comprehension of polarity sensitive items in Japanese; this work also appeared as an article in *Japanese/Korean Linguistics 30*. Minai also published an article in *Journal of Child Language*, in which she reported a collaborative study on the processing of quantifier meaning by children, adolescents, and adults. Minai has continued working on collaborative projects with her students, including studies on children’s quantifier comprehension in Turkish (with Münir Özturhan, current Ph.D. student) and on children’s comprehension of ambiguous questions in Mandarin Chinese (with Xuan Wang, current Ph.D. student).

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Prof. Stephen Politzer-Ahles continued his ongoing research with previous students and collaborators in Hong Kong, as well as beginning exciting new research collaborations at KU. Politzer-Ahles published a paper in *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience* (with Jen Lewendon and James Britton) that explores the properties of a poorly understood ERP component, the Phonological Mapping Negativity. Politzer-Ahles also began new research with KU students using the Ganong and long-lag priming paradigms. In addition, Politzer-Ahles joined other faculty in KU's Teaching Scholarship Collaborative in conducting a survey of over 1000 students exploring what factors influence students' decisions to attend or not attend classes, the results of which were presented [on a train](#) at the annual conference of the International Society of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Prof. Joan Sereno continued her research on the perception and production of native and nonnative utterances, examining acoustic changes, tonal variability, and visual information in the signal. In an article in the *Journal of Phonetics*, Sheyenne Fishero (Ph.D. 2023), with Sereno and Prof. Jongman, examined the Interlanguage Speech Intelligibility Benefit (ISIB), which is a perceptual advantage for nonnative listeners in understanding nonnative speech of talkers with the same first language. Fishero, Sereno and Jongman (2023) found that listener proficiency and speaker

proficiency as well as specific phoneme characteristics contribute significantly to the extent of the observed effects. In another study (HELIYON), I Nyoman Aryawibawa (Ph.D. 2010) and IN Udayana and IN Sedeng (colleagues from Udayama University in Indonesia), with Sereno, investigated distinct intonational contours in Indonesian, focusing on how a 4-way contrastive tonal system can be used to accurately and uniquely identify pragmatic meaning in Indonesian. In an article in *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, Yuyu (Rustle) Zeng (Ph.D. 2022), with Sereno and Prof. Jongman, as well as Prof. Wang and Dr. Leung (both at Simon Fraser University) investigated clear speech effects (altered speech productions in adverse listening conditions using an hyperarticulated speech style) on the perception of Mandarin lexical tone, a suprasegmental property, finding distinct tonal modification for both native and nonnative listeners contributing to intelligibility gains. Three additional articles (1 article in *Frontiers in Communication* and 2 articles in *International Journal of Speech Technology*), with Prof. Allard Jongman and collaborators from Simon Fraser University (Canada) and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway), examined the extent to which facial cues can be used to cue speech contrasts as well as how manipulated exaggerated facial movements can improve the intelligibility of visual speech. Prof. Sereno attended a number of conferences



Picture (left to right): Joan Sereno, Pedro Mateo Pedro (Ph.D., 2020), Travis Major (M.A., 2014), and Harrold Torrence (KU faculty alumni) at LSA meeting in New York City.

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during the year, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) (March, Washington DC), the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) (May Chicago IL), Society for Neuroscience (SfN) (November, Washington DC), Psychonomics (November, San Francisco CA), and the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) (January, New York City NY). Prof. Sereno extended her term as Council Delegate for the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) - section on Linguistics & Language Science (2020-2024) and also renewed her service on the Technical Committee on Speech Communication (2023-2026) for the Acoustical Society of America (ASA). Most significantly, Sereno continued her position at the National Science Foundation (NSF) as Division Director of its Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences Division (BCS). Sereno oversees more than a dozen NSF research programs spanning multiple areas of study including the psychological, cognitive, anthropological and geographical sciences. Prof. Sereno serves as Division Director through NSF's rotator program, which recruits U.S. scientists, engineers, and educators for limited-term leadership positions for up to four years.

Prof. Lacey Wade is thrilled to have started as a new Assistant Professor in the Linguistics Department this fall. Wade is currently building up the new KU Sociolinguistics Lab and is working on getting her research on local Kansas speech off the ground. Wade is in the process of developing a project investigating the interaction of perception, production, and social knowledge in linguistic variation and change in Lawrence and surrounding communities. In December, Wade published a paper in *Glossa: Psycholinguistics* with colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania, which shows that the amount of experience a speaker has with a particular dialect influences the types of cues they utilize when converging toward a feature of that dialect. She also presented a paper on "Rapid and introspective processing of sociolinguistic associations of (ING) in context" with Xin Gao (Penn student) at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 51* at Queen's College NY, to appear in *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics*. Another working paper with three of her

former Penn undergraduate students (Lena Abirou, Aly Kerrigan, Jay Michell) is also soon to appear in *PWPL*: "Novel and changing social evaluations of all-lower-case and exclamation points." Wade has a number of collaborative projects underway, including a project on syntactic priming of double object constructions by various small clause structures (with Bill Haddican, Marcel den Dikken, and Meredith Tamminga), another experimentally investigating English stress placement with different patterns of suffixation (with Canaan Breiss and David Embick), and a third examining patterns of nasal mergers in Taiwanese Mandarin (with Sang-Im Lee Kim and Meredith Tamminga). Wade looks forward to offering new sociolinguistics courses in the coming year and forming new collaborations at the intersection of social meaning, linguistic variation, and cognition.

Prof. Jie Zhang continued his NSF-funded research on the neural mechanisms for the production of tonal alternation. In 2023, the focus of the grant shifted from Mandarin to Taiwanese Southern Min, and he collaborated with colleagues in the Academia Sinica of Taiwan as well as Hong Kong and KU to collect and analyze EEG data on the production of Taiwanese tone patterns. Zhang gave a keynote speech at the 2023 Annual Meeting on Phonology based on the Mandarin results from the grant. Zhang published two articles with Mingxing Li (Ph.D., 2022) and Shuxiao Gong (Ph.D., 2022) in *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America and Language and Speech*. Zhang also published a proceedings paper based on his keynote speech at the 34th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics. Zhang continued to serve as the Chair of the Linguistics Department and was happy to see a growth of the department with the hiring of two tenure-track faculty members in second language acquisition (Holliday) and sociolinguistics (Wade).

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Andrew Collins spent the past year working with Professors Gabriele and Fiorentino on their NSF project, finishing his dissertation, and preparing manuscripts for submission. Collins recently returned from a month-long trip as a visiting researcher to Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (University of the Basque Country) in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain. Collins was invited to give a talk at the Gogo Elebiduna (Bilingual Mind) research group, and he worked in Dr. Mikel Santesteban's electroencephalography (EEG) lab on his dissertation study titled "Examining native and non-native establishment of dependencies in the online processing of coordinate phrase agreement in Spanish: An event-related potentials study". There, Collins recorded neuroimaging data from native Spanish speakers as they processed agreement with coordinate nouns. Collins is currently in the process of collecting EEG data from English-speaking learners of Spanish at KU and expects to defend in the Summer.

Collins has also continued his work on post-stroke aphasia. His journal article uniting different areas of language research titled "Bringing together second language acquisition and aphasiology to understand language (re-)learning" was recently published in the *Journal of Monolingual and Bilingual Speech*. Collins expects to soon publish his manuscript on his bilingual aphasia morphosyntax case study that was presented at the Clinical Aphasia Conference this past Summer.



"A photo of an ortzadar ('rainbow' in Basque) over Vitoria-Gasteiz following Storm Ciarán."



Corey McCulloch

Corey McCulloch completed his Minor Paper, Allophonic splits of L2 phones in free variation, and presented the results at the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium 2023 in Provo, Utah. The project examined whether the presence of a L2 phone as an allophone in free variation in the L1 aids or inhibits its perception and production in the L2, utilizing the perception and production of the English /f/ - /tʃ/ contrast by speakers of Panamanian and Costa Rican Spanish. McCulloch is currently starting data collection for his Major Paper, which is an extension of his MARP and looks at whether L2 phones may assimilate to different L1 categories depending on their position within a word, examining the perception of English nasals by speakers of Salvadoran Spanish. He is also developing his dissertation proposal, which he is hoping to defend in May of 2024.

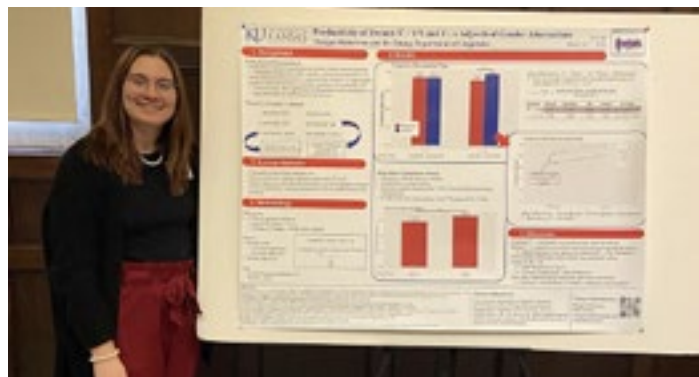
GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Ayumi Nobuki finished her Major Paper project on the felicity judgment of negative sentences in Japanese-speaking pre-school children (supervised by Prof. Utako Minai and collaborated with Megumi Ishikawa from Tsuda University, Japan), which examines whether Japanese-speaking children are aware of the role of the contrastive topic particle *-wa* in negative sentences. Nobuki presented the study at the 48th Boston University Conference on Language Development in November 2023. Nobuki is going to extend the study to her doctoral dissertation project, for which she will have a data collection at kindergartens in Japan this coming summer and is also planning to test school age children using Zoom. Nobuki is also collecting the data for her Minor Paper project (supervised by Prof. Alison Gabriele), which is on the second language acquisition of the scope-marking strategy in Japanese *wh*-questions by native English speakers. Nobuki is also part of another ongoing child language acquisition project led by Minai, which examines the comprehension of universal quantifiers in English-speaking children, and has been working on the data collection with other project members.

ous research projects within the department (such as “Long-term morphological priming without form similarity” led by Prof. Stephen Politzer-Ahles, and “Semantics and pragmatics in children’s meaning comprehension” under the guidance of Prof. Utako Minai. While Özturhan concluded his role as a graduate research assistant in Prof. Gabriele and Prof. Fiorentino’s National Science Foundation-funded project examining the relationship between first and second language variability using Event Related Potentials (ERPs) by the end of December 2023, Özturhan continues to contribute to the project through data analysis. This semester, Özturhan is one of the Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) for LING110: Language & Mind.



Münir Özturhan has completed data collection for his Major Paper project, which examines the role of semantic features in subject-verb agreement in L2 Turkish, and has begun disseminating the research findings. For example, Özturhan presented a stage talk titled “Sensitivity to animacy information in 3rd person plural agreement in L2 Turkish” at the 48th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD) in November 2023, for which he received the Paula Menyuk Award, given to top-rated abstracts at the conference. Additionally, Özturhan will present a poster titled “The role of animacy in subject-verb agreement in L2 Turkish: Examining Feature Reassembly” at the upcoming 17th Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition (GASLA) Conference in May 2024. Concurrently, Özturhan is preparing to submit the manuscript of his Major Paper for publication by the end of this semester and is collecting data for his Minor Paper project, exploring the comprehension of Turkish quantifiers by monolingual Turkish children.



Picture: Morgan Robertson presenting a poster at the Penn Linguistics Conference

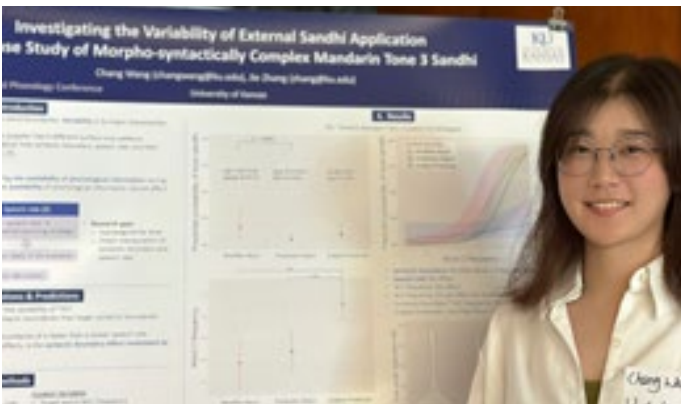
Morgan Robertson recently completed her Minor Paper project, which examined the productivity of an unnatural phonological alternation in French adjectives. The results showed that the phonetically unmotivated nasal *V ~ VN* alternation was underlearned from the lexicon compared to a more natural *f ~ v* alternation. Robertson plans to present her work on this project at the upcoming Penn Linguistics Conference. Robertson’s Major Paper project is well underway. This project examines clear speech productions of French speakers. Specifically, Robertson is interested in the phonetic-acoustic adjustments speakers make in general clear speech as compared to contrast-specific clear speech. The complete analysis and results of this work will be presented at the 186th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in Ottawa, Canada in May. Finally, Robertson is also

In addition, Özturhan actively participates in vari-

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

working on developing her Dissertation Proposal, which will cover native and non-native French clear speech productions. Robertson is particularly interested in examining L2 clear-speech productions of sounds that span a wide range of L2-to-L1 mappings. Additionally, this project will investigate the intelligibility benefit that native and non-native listeners receive from both native and non-native clear speech. She aims to defend her Dissertation Proposal by May 2024 and begin collecting data in Summer 2024.

Rotsuprit (Ford) Saengthong is currently working on his Master's Research Project in syntax, investigating Object Control in Thai under the supervision of Prof. John Gluckman. This study aims to address two theoretical issues concerning the representation of the null (subject) argument and the size of infinitival clauses. In Fall 2024, Saengthong will join the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as a doctoral student.



Picture: Chang Wang at MidPhon 28 Conference

Chang Wang is currently developing her two qualifying papers. Wang is working with Prof. Jie Zhang to explore how speech planning influences the acoustic realization of morphosyntactically complex Mandarin Tone 3 sandhi for the Major Paper. Her Minor Paper investigates how intrinsic segmental properties constrain coarticulation. Wang has collaborated with Yuyu (Rustle) Zeng (Ph.D., 2022) and Prof. Zhang on a project that explores the information flow during Chinese word production by examining the incomplete neutralization of Mandarin Tone 3 sandhi. In the past year, Wang presented a poster entitled "Investigating the Variability of External Sandhi Application – A Case Study of Morpho-syntactically Complex Mandarin Tone 3 Sandhi" at the MidPhon 28 Conference in October 2023 at Purdue University.

Xuan Wang is currently in the third year of the Ph.D. program. Wang has been working on his Major Paper under the supervision of Professors Alison Gabriele and Robert Fiorentino. The study uses EEG to study how second language learners of English comprehend sentences containing reflexives and pronouns. Additionally, Wang is working on his Minor Paper with Prof. Utako Minai on Mandarin-speaking children's comprehension of wh-adjuncts. In Winter 2023, Wang went to China to collect data for his Minor Paper and collected data from 89 kids in a kindergarten in China. His research on Major and Minor Papers was supported by the Frances Ingemann Linguistics Scholarship. In addition to these two studies, Wang also gets involved in a study on English-speaking children's quantifier spreading with Prof. Minai, as well as a priming study with Prof. Stephen Politzer-Ahles. In this past year, Wang participated in several conferences to present his research. Wang presented his work on bilingual children's English morpheme acquisition with colleagues from Utah and New York at Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium (2023), and his research got the best abstract award and a travel grant from UC Davis Symposium on Language Research (2023).

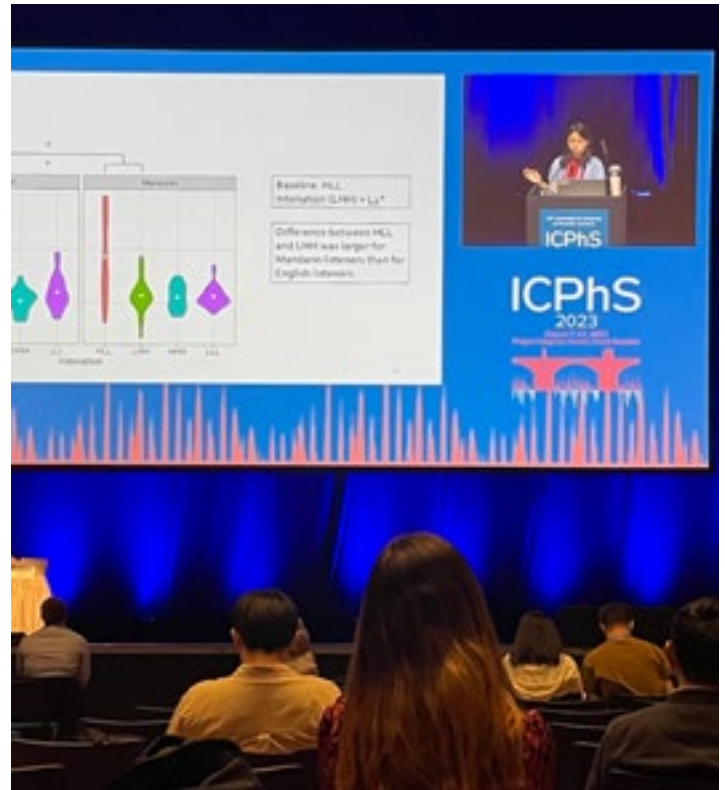


Picture: Farmers statue between Fraser and Blake Hall.

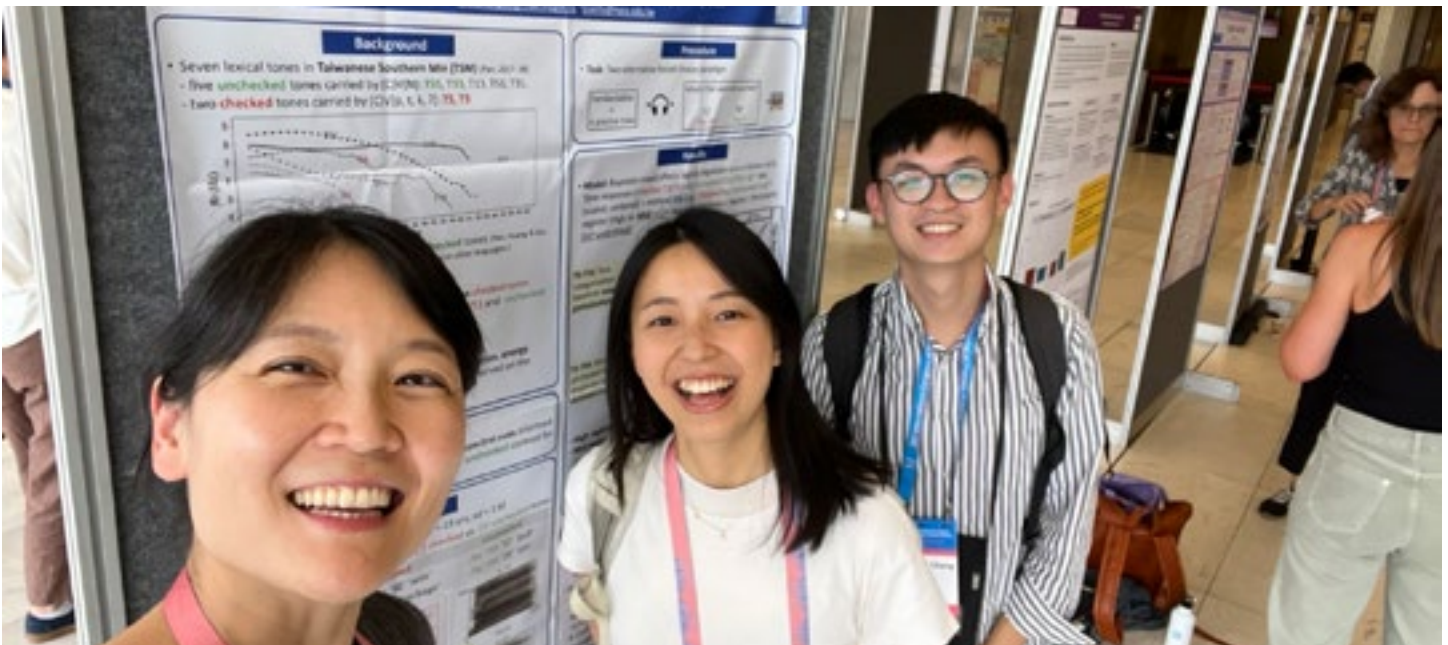
GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Tzu-Hsuan Yang presented a talk titled “Perception of English lexical stress in different intonations by Mandarin listeners” at the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, held in August 2023 in Prague, Czech Republic. Yang will also be presenting three posters at the 19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology (in Seoul, Korea) in June 2024. The titles of the three posters are: “Individual differences in speech perception: Exploring cue weighting, categorization gradiency, and cognitive control”, “English listeners’ perceptual adaptation to unfamiliar lexical stress contrast” (both in collaboration with Dr. Hyoju Kim (Ph.D., 2023), Prof. Jieun Lee, and Phoebe Evans), and “A failure to replicate the Ganong effect for tone continua” (in collaboration with Prof. Stephen Politzer-Ahles).

Yang is currently analyzing results of her Major Paper, which investigates native Taiwan Mandarin speakers’ phonetic drift as a result of learning English as an L2, and the potential effects of phonetic space on L1 drift. Yang is also developing a project to examine whether native English listeners can adjust their perceptual strategies by relying more on a very weak acoustic dimension (duration) when the primary cues to lexical stress contrast (spectral cues) are absent and the second diagnostic cues (pitch) are not reliable as well.



Picture: Tzu-Hsuan Yang presenting at International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, ICPhS)



Picture: Tzu-Hsuan Yang’s (middle) poster at International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, ICPhS)

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ph.D. Student

Margot Cobat - Universite Jean Moulin Lyon (Bachelor's in English and Japanese); Universite Grenoble-Alpes (Master's in Linguistics); Universite de Bretagne Occidentale



M.A. Students

Jocelyn Brown - United States - B.A. degrees in Linguistics and Psychology with the Mind and Brain undergraduate certificate. (Kansas, United States)

Adai “Oday” Hayajneh - Jordan - M.A. from Southern Arkansas University and B.A. in English Language & Literature from Yarmouk University

GTA's for 2023-2024

Summer 2023

Münir Özturhan - LING 106 (online)
Xuan Wang - LING 110 (online)
Corey McCulloch - LING 320 (online)

Fall 2023

Morgan Robertson - LING 106
Margot Cobat - LING 106
Amaya Madden - LING 106 (online)
Jocelyn Brown - LING 106 & 110 (online)
Chang Wang - LING 110
Corey McCulloch - LING 110
Xuan Wang - LING 110
Samantha Ghali - LING 110 (online)
Cassidy Thornsberry - LING 320
Owen Wegner - LING 320
Karina Saechao - LING 320 (online)
Silvia Sanchez Diaz - LING 320 (online)
C. Henry Pratt - LING 325

Spring 2024

Margot Cobat - LING 106
C. Henry Pratt - LING 106
Jocelyn Brown - LING 106 & 110 (online)
Amaya Madden - LING 106 (online)
Xuan Wang - LING 110
Münir Özturhan - LING 110
Chang Wang - LING 110
Samantha Ghali - LING 320 (online)
Morgan Robertson - LING 312
Corey McCulloch - LING 320
Owen Wegner - LING 320
Cassidy Thornsberry - LING 320 (online)
Kylie Helm - LING 320 (online)

2023 Linguistics Awards

University Honors Program

Keira Dobbs
Nicolas James

Linguistics Department Honors

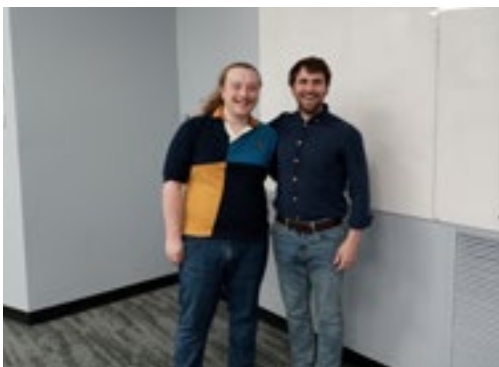
Jack Foster

Carolyn J. Abel Undergraduate Distinguished Senior Major Award

Keira Dobbs
Jack Foster

Distinguished Junior Major Award

Allison Bell
Daphne Wagner



Jack Foster, honors student and 2023 Abel Award Winner



Picture: 2023 Graduate Student Award Winners (left to right) - Madden, Collins, Robertson, Routsong, Pratt)

Dissertation-Year Fellowship

Aron Finholt

Frances Ingemann Excellence in Ph.D.

C. Henry Pratt

Frances Ingemann Excellence in M.A.

Victoria Routsong

Frances Ingemann Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award

Andrew Collins
Amaya Madden

Frances Ingemann Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

Morgan Robertson
Tzu-Hsuan Yang

Frances Ingemann Awards

Research

Xuan Wang, Tzu-Hsuan Yang, Münir Özturhan,
Andrew Collins, Morgan Robertson, Corey
McCulloch, Ayumi Nobuki

Travel

Corey McCulloch, Münir Özturhan, Ayumi Nobuki
and Peace Benson

Congratulations Graduates!

Class of 2023



Picture: Asher Suski at 2023 Recognition Reception



Picture: Jocelyn Brown at 2023 Recognition Reception

Undergraduate Majors

Jocelyn Brown
Keela Bryant
Toma Dimitriu
Christopher Dinneen
Keira Dobbs
Katie Eitzen
Jack Foster
Kat Frenzel
Nicolas James
Olivia Percich
Sydney Pritchard
Salem Sanfilippo Solindas
Asher Suski
Michael Tate

Undergraduate Minors

Makenna Anderson
Avery Boulanger
Kelsie Crable
Megan Daugherty
Jennifer Davies
Abigail Elliott
Colette Laduke
Tucker McCulloch
Grace Miller
Lily Rasmussen
Jacqueline Serati
Amanda Simon



Picture: Michael Tate and Christopher Dinneen and families at 2023 Recognition Reception



Picture: Kat Frenzel and family at 2023 Recognition Reception

Congratulations Graduates!

Masters of Arts

Jonathan Rancudo - “French Non-finite Complementizers” (Advisor: John Gluckman)

Victoria Routsong - “The Social N400: the effect of confederate language comprehension” (Advisor: Robert Fiorentino)

Madeleine Stewart - “Processing Regular Verbal Morphology: An ERP Study” (Advisors: Robert Fiorentino and Alison Gabriele)

Master of Arts of Ph.D. Program

Angela Feng - “Relative clauses in Kibembe” (Advisor: John Gluckman)

Chang Wang - “Investigating the variability of external sandhi application – a case study of morpho-syntactically complex Mandarin Tone 3 sandhi” (Advisor: Jie Zhang)

Xuan Wang - “Second Language Pronominal Processing by Chinese-speaking Learners of English: An ERP Study” (Advisors: Robert Fiorentino and Alison Gabriele)



Picture: Victoria Routsong (M.A. graduate), Xuan Wang (graduate, M.A.) Madeleine Stewart's significant other, and Madeleine Stewart (M.A. graduate) at 2023 Recognition Ceremony.

Congratulations Graduates!

Doctor of Philosophy

Sheyenne Fishero - “The Interaction of Target and Masker Speech in Competing Speech Perception” (Advisors: Allard Jongman and Joan Sereno)

Hyoju Kim - “Tracking the Time Course of Phonetic Cue Integration in the Perception of Korean Stop Contrasts by Korean and English Listeners” (Advisor: Annie Tremblay)



Picture: Hyoju Kim (Ph.D. graduate 2023), Sheyenne Fishero (Ph.D. graduate 2023) and Prof. Jie Zhang at Graduation 2023

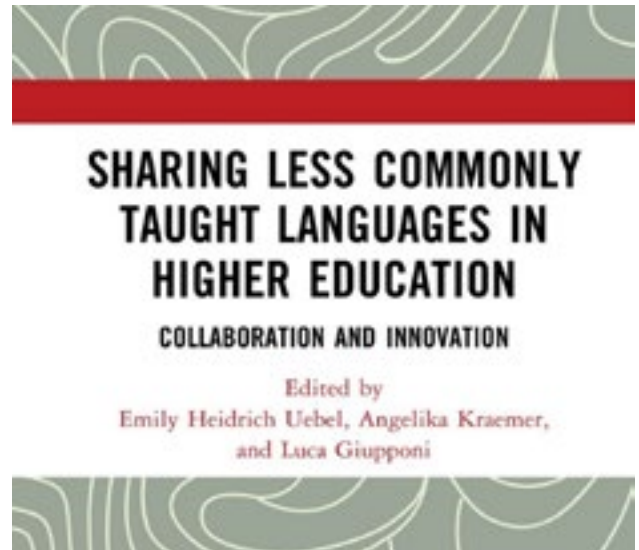
Alumni Updates

Yolanda Raffo-Dewar (Ph.D., 1972) and **Darrell D. Dewar** (M.A.1973) Former fellow KU Linguistics students Yolanda Dewar (1972, First KU Ph.D. in Linguistics) turned 80 years old in 2023. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary by spending a month traveling in parts of France they had not been to, and in NW Italy visiting several of Yolanda's cousins. Yolanda was originally from Argentina and arrived in KU in 1966, via a Fulbright travel grant, Institute of International Education grant, KU Tuition grant, and a generous Sigma Kappa Sorority homestay. They are considering attending the KU Gold Medal Reunion on May 9-10.

John Brewer (M.A., 1986) is a retired technical writer with 6 grandchildren, 5 of whom live in Lawrence. Brewer has been taking classes in Italian for about 10 years and is fluent enough to read Harry Potter in Italian. Brewer also accompanies the Lawrence UU Congregation choir on the piano.



Picture: John Brewer and his grandson



Emily Tummons (M.A. 2010) continues her work as Kaqchikel Maya instructor at the University of Kansas. In December 2023, her book chapter, "Sharing the Teaching of Kaqchikel Maya Across Universities," was published in the edited volume, *Sharing Less Commonly Taught Languages in Higher Education: Collaboration and Innovation* (Routledge).

Dr. Melissa Stamer (M.A., 2006 and Ph.D., 2010) graduated from the University of Kansas with a Masters in Linguistics in 2006 and a Ph.D. in Foreign Language Education in 2010. For the next 12 years, Stamer pursued a career in education as an ESL lecturer and an assistant professor at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA. In 2022, Stamer pivoted to user experience research at Microsoft, where she has grown as an industry researcher and moved products forward. Stamer started out in Employee Experience, working with the team to further a web design language. Stamer then moved to a data product team working on a data governance application through various types of studies. Currently, Stamer works as a technology researcher in cybersecurity in a new product space, conducting foundational and strategic research.

Alumni Updates

Maureen (Micki) Carroll (B.A., 2009) Linguistics major turned publisher, Editor Maureen Carroll of Anamcara Press publishes select works of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, and brings writers and artists together in collaborative books and projects. We are especially proud of our non-profit projects that serve community and children's art education. Anamcara press publishes writers with powerful voices. A small, scrappy press, we select only a few authors to publish each year. We offer an annual award, The Amity Literary Prize. Amity means friendship, and the name of our press, "Anamcara," comes from Irish tradition and means "soul friend." When we read a book and it touches our soul such that those lines stay with us for the rest of our lives, the book's author becomes our soul friend. We may never meet them in this life, but their words and their expressions have changed us permanently. It is in the spirit of this kinship between author and reader, which transcends time and distance, that we confer the Amity Literary Prize.

Anamcara Press produces a biannual literary journal, The Write Bridge. As weavers of words, authors understand how words weave the world. Words provide a vision and a way forward. In each edition of The Write Bridge readers are encouraged to "mind the gap" as writers explore topics that broaden our thinking. In a 1936 Esquire article entitled "The Crack Up," author F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote "Before I go on with this short history, let me make a general observation—the test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in the mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function. One should, for example, be able to see that things are hopeless and yet be determined to make them otherwise. This philosophy fitted on to my early adult life, when I saw the improbable, the implausible, often the "impossible," come true." The Write Bridge pushes at the boundaries, presenting authors and readers with two concepts to explore, as in Grief and Comfort, the themes for the Summer 2024 Write Bridge Journal edition. Submissions open through May 31, 2024.



Picture: Maureen (Micki) Carroll

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District 2 News & Events @ <https://kacdistrict2.weebly.com/>

Alumni Updates

Kristi Bond (M.A., 2011 and Ph.D., 2013) is the Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and International Studies at Harding University, where she has worked for 13 years. Bond is currently teaching overseas in our Latin America study abroad program in Buenos Aires, Patagonia and multiple locations in Peru. Bond also leads a service team to Ecuador or Peru every year (this year both!)



Picture: Kristi Bond and her daughter

Maureen Roul (B.A., 1979) After retiring from a federal career that included 20 years as a translator and several more as a technical writer and editor, Roul is currently working as a tutor in the University of Maryland's undergraduate writing center. There she gets to delve into the mechanics of language and why certain things work better than others. Roul even gets to use her language background occasionally, when she gets a student who speaks French or Russian. She's also active in community theater as a performer and hair & makeup designer.

Gavin Bruce (B.A., 1997) earned an MA in translation and interpretation from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in 2001. Bruce has worked as a technical translator for about 20 years, mostly for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Since 2022, Bruce has been an Editor at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna.

Argenis Arturo Zapata-Becerra (M.A., 1985 and Ph.D. Education, ESL, 2001) To start with, Zapata-Becerra retired from college activities back in January 2010. Eleven years later, in August 2021, Zapata-Becerra landed a teaching job at an international school in Venezuela (Centro Educativo Internacional Anzoátegui) where they follow the American K-12 curriculum. Since then, he has been teaching social studies and ESL to teenagers. Quite a new experience for him. Fortunately, Zapata-Becerra learned a lot about World History and World Geography. Likewise, Zapata-Becerra has been able adapt his college linguistic experience to the ESL classes. Everything has gone fine so far.



Picture: Dr. Argenis Arturo Zapata-Becerra

Alumni Updates



Picture: Jonah Bates

Jonah Bates (Ph.D., 2020) has been teaching science at Van Horn High School in Independence, MO, east of Kansas City since graduating from KU in summer 2020. Bates also served as Science Department Head and STEM Academy Leader for the last two years. In 2022, Bates won the \$1000 Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholarship, supporting the 3D-printing of anatomically accurate animal skeletal models for his Zoology course. Then in 2023, Bates won the NEA Foundation Student Success Grant for \$4,736 to support acquisition and curriculum integration of diverse human anatomical models. Bates continues to research structural reanalysis in diachronic linguistic change. Bates had two papers published in 2021: “A Plural to Singular Reanalysis Cycle” in *Journal of Historical Syntax*, co-authored by KU’s Prof. Andrew McKenzie, and *Toward a typology of change in Person Marker reference in Folia Linguistica (Historica)*. Bates still focuses mainly on Mayan languages and specifically

on fieldwork in Wastek Mayan from San Luis Potosi, Mexico. This February, Bates was happy to get back into presenting his research after a hiatus to get settled in his new job, presenting *Unraveling the Wastek Imperfective* at the Mayanist FAMLi VII conference at UNAM in Mexico City. Bates gives guest lectures on linguistics and Mayan history to high schoolers whenever possible!

Lynne Oyler (B. A. 2019) is currently in the midst of her second year as the World Languages teacher at Mill Creek Middle School in Lenexa, Kansas. She received her Master of Arts in Teaching Modern Languages degree in 2020 (unfortunately from Kansas State University) and is licensed to teach both French and Spanish in grades K-12. As the World Languages teacher, Oyler teaches a different course for each grade level. She has a 9-week course for 6th graders in which they explore 7 different languages: Latin, French, Spanish, German, Mandarin, Japanese, and American Sign Language. She also teaches a 9-week course for 7th graders where they study the basics of Spanish for a month before switching and doing the same in French. The 8th graders are able to choose between either a semester-long or year-long Spanish class. Oyler greatly enjoys sharing her love of languages with her students; there’s nothing better than hearing a student say they want to be a linguist when they grow up!

Oyler is grateful for the knowledge her linguistics degree from KU gave her - middle schoolers have a lot of good questions she wouldn’t be able to answer without it! Students have especially enjoyed the website *Seeing Speech* (although some react with “Oh, yuck!” when they first see the clips), being tricked by Ms. Oyler while studying about the Nacirema people, and hearing how different sounds can be across languages while learning about both whistling and clicking languages.

Alumni Updates



Picture: Pedro Mateo Pedro

Pedro Mateo Pedro (Ph.D., 2010) is an Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the University of Toronto, Canada. Pedro is working on the revitalization of Itzaj, an endangered Mayan language of Guatemala, in collaboration with the Itzaj community and students at the University of Toronto. Pedro is implementing a teaching method and a pedagogical grammar of the Oxlajuj Aj immersion program (Maxwell and Little 2006). With his collaborators, he recently finished a pedagogical grammar of Itzaj that will be published by the Ministry of Education of Guatemala. With José Alfredo Chayax Tesucún and Otoniel Rosendo Zacal Chayax (Itzaj speakers), and Laura Griffin (graduate student at the University of Toronto), he will start with a digital version of the program.

In the summer of 2023, Pedro co-taught with his academic advisor Clifton Pye (KU retired faculty), the course “Documenting the acquisition of Indigenous languages.” at the LSA Summer Institute (University of Massachusetts Amherst). Pedro is collaborating with Suzi Lima (University of Toronto) in the project mass-count nouns in nine Mayan languages.

Pedro has given talks at conferences and as guest speaker to share his work on the revitalization and acquisition of Mayan languages. His recent paper is on the acquisition of directionals in Q’anjob’al.

Rachel Sandle (B.A., 2017) is a child and family therapist at Bert Nash Mental Health Center. In 2019, Sandle began working as a suicide crisis counselor for HeadQuarters Kansas, Lawrence’s crisis call center. Sandle completed a master’s degree from KU’s Social Welfare program in 2023 with a focus on clinical social work. Sandle is also an avid writer; her poetry has been published online and in print. In her free time, Sandle enjoys drawing, riding her motorcycle, and writing letters to penpals. Sandle lives in Lawrence with her cat, Hamlet.



Picture: Rachel Sandle

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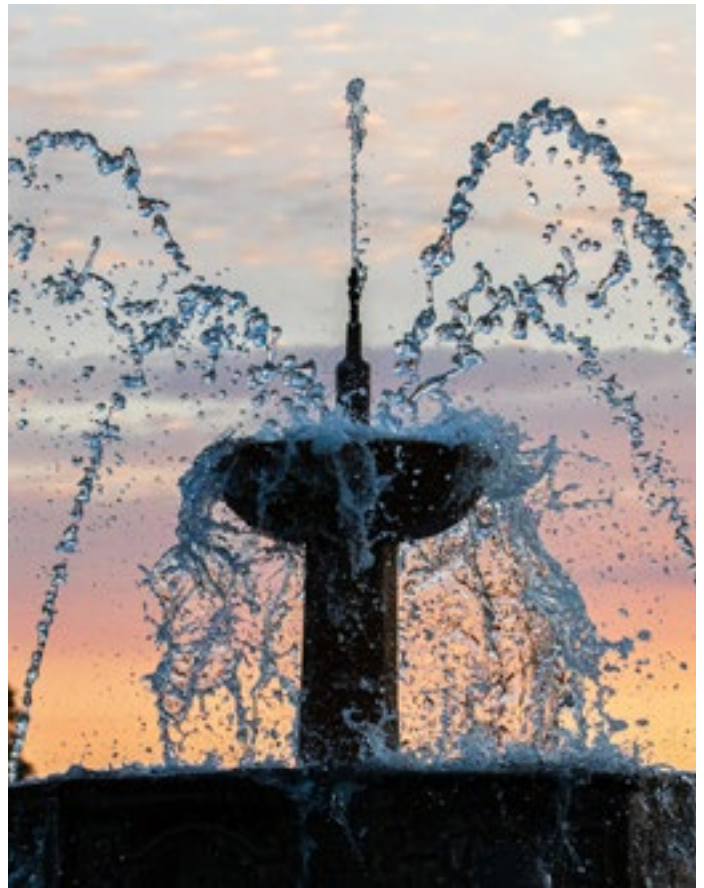
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Picture: Fountain at KU during sunset.