LINGUISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Spring 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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For many of us, 2022 was a year of transition, adjustment, and hope. We began to slowly emerge from the shadows of COVID, see family and friends, go to concerts and ballgames, and travel for work and pleasure. This was true of the Linguistics Department as well. We welcomed our first in-person Frances Ingemann Lecture speaker in three years, Dr. Edith Kaan, in the Spring. The graduation reception at the end of Spring — also the first in three years — was attended by around 80 people, our largest ever. The welcome picnic in the Fall was filled with laughter, and there were cornhole, volleyball, and of course, soccer! The department holiday party made a come-back in December, and we had a real potluck, with foods representing all corners of the world! The labs in the department gradually reopened and started conducting in-person experiments again. Faculty and students started travelling to conferences and for research again. Students have returned to the classroom, but the remote-learning technologies have continued to provide flexibility and increase accessibility. All of these have made a difference in helping us feel that we belong to a community that shares a common goal of learning and discovery.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of exciting things that our faculty and students did in 2022. Research-wise, our faculty continued to win external grants. In 2022, Professor John Gluckman was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to investigate syntactic properties of relative clauses in Bantu languages. This grant was made possible by his multi-year work with KU students and Bantu language

speakers in the KC area, often done under COVID restrictions. Teaching-wise, the department continued to be successful with enrollment and further increased student credit hour production from 2021 to 2022. But we were also able to offer a number of smaller courses, such as seminars for graduate students and courses that geared towards service learning and community engagement. I particularly want to mention an independent study course co-taught by Professors Phil Duncan and Allard Jongman in Spring 2022 that gave students the experience of analyzing archival recordings of the Kiksht language in order to develop learning materials for the tribal community in Oregon. Although the course only enrolled five students, it made a big impact on student learning and also produced community-engaged scholarship that we highly value.
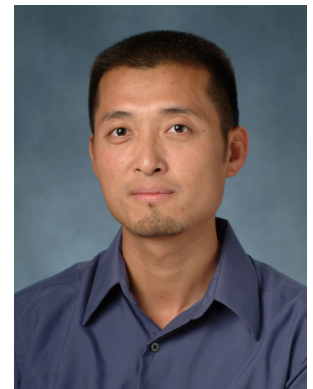
The department underwent some staffing changes in 2022. Professors Annie Tremblay and Kate Coughlin took on new posts at University of Texas, El Paso; they were tasked with building a bilingualism program at UTEP. Our long-time Department Manager Corinna Johnson took a grant coordinator position at KU, a remote position that provides her with more flexibility with her family. We're sad to see them leave, but we're happy for the exciting new opportunities for them and wish them luck in their future endeavors. With the help and support from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, we were able to bring in two new faculty members — Visiting Assistant Professor Jieun Lee and Associate Teaching Professor Steve Politzer-Ahles. Professor Lee received her Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee in 2022, and her research interests include second language acquisition, psycholinguistics, and speech perception and production. Professor Politzer-Ahles is a KU alum — he received his Ph.D. in our department in 2013 and returned to KU after working as a postdoc at NYU Abu Dhabi and University of Oxford and a faculty member at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His research focuses on psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics, especially the processing of phonological, semantic, and pragmatic information. We also welcomed Kelly Bellmyer as our new Department Manager, who brought with her over 20 years of administrative experience. We are excited to have them join the department! Finally, Professor Joan Sereno was chosen to be the Director of the Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences Division at the National Science Foundation and is currently on leave from the department. This is an honor that reflects Professor Sereno's stature and leadership in the field and an honor for the department as well.

After a campus-wide initiative, the Linguistics Department website was overhauled in 2022. We encourage you to go online and see our new site (https://linguistics.ku.edu). We cannot do what we do without the support of KU, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and you —our alumni! Your generous support has helped fund student research, conference travel, and scholarships, and it helped bring top researchers in the world to give talks at KU, either in person or virtually. Please continue to support us in any way you can as we look forward to a more connected future!

Jie Zhang
Department Chair

FACULTY NEWS

Prof. Philip T. Duncan is thrilled to have had the opportunity to participate in several collaborative and community-engaged projects in 2022. With support from Humanities Kansas and Centro Hispano, Prof. Duncan worked with Gina Policarpo, Eutropia Rodriguez, and Tamara Falicov to publish the (in progress) website Mè'phàà náá Kansas, an online resource celebrating the Me'phaa language. Gina Policarp and Prof. Duncan hosted the first ever Me'phaa language table at the annual St. John's Fiesta Mexicana, and they look forward to hosting a second such event in 2023. With Jakeli Swimmer, Prof. Duncan helped create an illustrated version of "A Quarrel of the Wishram" in the Kiksht language. Prof. Duncan published a paper about Kiksht free relative clauses in the *International Journal of American Linguistics*, co-authored (with Harold Torrence, Travis Major, & Jason Kandybowicz) a book chapter in *The Open Handbook for Linguistic Data Management* and presented work at the Workshop on the Typology of Ideophones and the Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar.

Professor Phil Duncan and Eugenia Policarp at St. John's Mexican Fiesta.

Prof. Robert Fiorentino and his student and faculty collaborators presented findings from studies on language acquisition and processing at conferences including the 12th International Workshop on Language Production, ExLing 2022 Paris: 13th International Conference of Experimental Linguistics, the 47th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, and the 2022 Hispanic Linguistics Symposium. Prof. Fiorentino and collaborators also published papers in *Second Language Research* and in Proceedings of 13th International Conference of Experimental Linguistics. 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.

Prof. Alison Gabriele continued research related to a grant from the National Science Foundation 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, which is a collaborative effort with Prof. Fiorentino and colleagues at the Basque Center for Brain and Language in Spain, is currently in the midst of data collection, which is now in full swing again following a delay due to the pandemic. Preliminary findings will be presented at the Human Sentence Processing Conference at the University of Pittsburgh in March 2023. Prof. Gabriele published papers with colleagues in the journals *Second Language Research* and *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*. She also wrote a chapter on psycholinguistic research methods with KU alumna Lauren Covey for a book on *Research Methods in Second Language Acquisition* to be published by Wiley-Blackwell. Prof. Gabriele was interviewed for a book that was published this year called *Talking about Second Language Acquisition* which was recently published by Palgrave McMillan. Along with colleagues and graduate students, her collaborative research was presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development, the Human Sentence Processing conference, the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium, and the Workshop on L3 Acquisition. She gave an invited virtual talk in the colloquy series at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Prof. Gabriele is now Associate Chair in the department.

Prof. John Gluckman continued to grow his fieldwork with the resettled African community around the KC area. He was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation (A Microvariation Approach to Complementizers and Complementation; $319, 688) to study embedded clauses in Bantu languages. This is a three-year project, and Prof. Gluckman has just started to present some of the preliminary results in invited talks and at conferences. Through KUBantu, KU's Bantu language research group, he has also been able to collaborate with graduate and undergraduate students to document and analyze some of the many Bantu languages spoken in the local area. KUBantu's current topics of interest include complementizers, copulas, and propositional anaphora. You can see some of their recent and upcoming work here: www.jgluckman.com/kubantu. Building on the work in Kansas, Prof. Gluckman is finally looking forward to re-starting his fieldwork in Tanzania this summer, expecting to make a trip to Mwanza in Northern Tanzania. Additionally, Prof. Gluckman has seen one article in print in *Natural Languages and Linguistic Theory* as well as one article accepted (with co-author Aron Finholt) in the *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*. Finally, Prof. Gluckman is looking forward to attending in-person conferences again in 2023, with three presentations already lined up in the US and abroad.

Prof. John Gluckman (right) met with Kinyamulenge speaker Justin Ngirabakunzi in the Kansas City area as part of a new grant-funded program.

Prof. Allard Jongman continued his research on the acoustic and visual correlates of clear speech. In a recent paper in the *International Journal of Speech Technology*, he (with Prof. Joan Sereno and colleagues from Simon Fraser University) introduced a new technique whereby visual features extracted from clear speech are automatically applied to videos of plain speech, and established that these manipulations enhance intelligibility. With graduate student Ruoqian Lucy Cheng and Prof. Sereno, he published a study in *Language and Speech* investigating the production and perception of the merger between [l] and [n] in Fuzhou Min. With Charlie Redmon (Ph.D. 2020), Prof. Jongman published a chapter in *Interfaces of Phonetics*. Prof. Jongman also presented research at the spring meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, with graduate student Ruoqian Lucy Cheng, and with graduate student Sheyenne Fishero and Prof. Sereno. He also attended a weeklong workshop in Banff, Canada, where he not only learned about phonetics and machine learning but also picked up the basics of curling (his research on friction really helped!). Prof. Jongman ended his service as Director of Graduate Studies and KU Faculty Senator and continues as Associate Editor of *Phonetica*.

Professors Jongman and Zhang presenting gifts at 2022 Recognition Reception

Prof. Jieun Lee

Prof. Jieun Lee continued her research on individual differences in within-category acoustic cue sensitivity and second language phonetic training methods. She presented research at the Laboratory Phonology 18 which examines the relationship between second language learners' individual variability in inhibitory control and their success in second language learning. She is excited to conduct collaborative research with graduate student Hyoju Kim on English listeners' perceptual adaption to unfamiliar lexical suprasegmental contrast.

Prof. Andrew McKenzie - Over the past year, Prof. McKenzie has continued his work focusing on theory-driven documentation of the endangered Kiowa language, and continuing his work exploring the role of semantics in 'real-world' situations.

With two other scholars, he published a volume with the Univ. of Chicago Press: The first ever collection of Kiowa texts, which the team analyzed and glossed. Plains Life in Kiowa: Voices from a Tribe in Transition traces the societal shift of the tribe from nomadic Plains hunters to modern scholars, workers... and drivers. It offers the Kiowa perspective on this transition, told by Kiowas in the Kiowa language. It also provides linguists with an annotated corpus of Kiowa speech, and language learners with countless examples of usage and style.

He also co-published a book chapter on Kiowa's intriguing number-marking system in an international handbook on number, and in November gave an invited plenary talk at the Western Conference on Linguistics about how to build a semantic reference grammar.

Over the winter break, his talk was awarded runner-up at the Five-Minute Linguist program at the LSA Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. In it, he described (with squeam-inducing video!) how surgeons in teaching hospitals caused difficulties by using ordinary ambiguous language. This work results from an ongoing collaboration with UMKC's Surgilab.

Always eager to promote UNESCO's International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL), Prof. McKenzie continues his work for LSA's Committee on Endangered Language Preservation. He rounded out the year becoming a member of the advisory board for the Endangered Language Fund's Native Voices Endowment.

Prof. McKenzie is now the Director of Graduate Studies in the department.

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Prof. Utako Minai has continued her research on meaning comprehension and processing, both in children and adult speakers. Prof. Minai and collaborators, including KU faculty and students, had two conference presentations, published two articles in conference proceedings and have two articles currently under review for journal publication. The latest findings from two collaborative studies with Linguistics graduate students and external collaborators (on Japanese-speaking children's felicity judgment of negative sentences, and on the grammaticality judgment of polarity sensitive items in Japanese by adult second language learners) have also been accepted for presentation at upcoming conferences. As the pandemic is approaching its end, Prof. Minai focused on resuming in-lab research on child language with KU students, launching new collaborative studies on children's comprehension of logical words in English, Chinese and Turkish. Her new collaborations also include a project on children's grammaticality judgment of polarity sensitive items in Japanese.

Prof. Stephen Politzer-Ahles (re)joined the linguistics department in Fall 2022 after several years of research and teaching in Abu Dhabi, Oxford, and Hong Kong. He's excited for new research and collaboration opportunities with students and colleagues at KU, and has also been continuing his ongoing work on psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics of tone and other phenomena across several languages. He published papers in *Neuropsychologia* (with Yuyu (Rustle) Zeng, Ph.D. 2022, and Jie Zhang, as well as Xiaocong Chen, Caicai Zhang, and Yiya Chen), in *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* (with Katrina Connell, Ph.D. 2017 and Yao Yao), and in the new journal *Glossa: Psycholinguistics* (with Lei Pan, Jueyao Lin, and Leon Ka Keung Lee). His students and post-docs presented research at conferences including Crosslinguistic Perspectives on Processing and Learning, the International Conference on Phonology and Morphology, International Workshop on Language Production, and the International Symposium on Chinese Spoken Language Processing. Finally, he received a Research-Intensive Course Mini-Grant for LING 435: Psycholinguistics from the KU Center for Teaching Excellence.

Prof. Joan Sereno continued her research on the acoustic changes and visual information that is used in perception and production of native and nonnative utterances. One article (*International Journal of Speech Technology*), with Prof. Allard Jongman and collaborators from Simon Fraser University (Canada), examined the extent to which manipulated exaggerated facial movements can improve the intelligibility of visual speech (*International Journal of Speech Technology*) and another publication (*Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*) examined the acoustic changes in Mandarin tones that occur in clear and plain speaking styles. An additional article (*Language and Speech*), with graduate student Ruoqian Lucy Cheng and Prof. Jongman used both acoustic and perceptual data to provide a detailed account of a sound merger in Fuzhou Min. Prof. Sereno also presented research at the spring meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (Denver, CO), with graduate student Sheyenne Fishero and Prof. Jongman. She also attended a weeklong Workshop (Mathematical Modelling and Machine Learning for Phonetics) at the Banff International Research Station (BIRS) in Banff, Canada. 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). Prof. Sereno also continued as a Chancellors Club Teaching Professor (2017-2022), an award from the KU Endowment Association that recognizes excellence in teaching.

Most significantly, in August, Prof. Sereno started a new position at the National Science Foundation (NSF) as 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. 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 *Journal of Neurolinguistics and Neuropsychologia* in the last year. His collaborations with KU students and alumni on Chinese phonotactics, Chinese spoken word production, Brazilian Portuguese vowel representation, and the perception of fricative resulted in three journal submissions and seven conference presentations. He also gave keynote speeches at the 28th Annual Meeting of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (virtual) and the 34th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (Bloomington, IN) on the experimental studies of Chinese tone. He continues to serve as the Chair of the Linguistics Department and is grateful for the collaborative spirit of the students and faculty of the department as well as the support from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at KU.

Prof. Jie Zhang at 2022 Recognition Reception

Planter statue in front of Blake Hall

GTAs for 2022-2023

Summer 2022

Aron Finholt - LING 320
Corey McCulloch - LING 110
Münir Özturhan - LING 110
Charles (Henry) Pratt - LING 106
Xuan Wang - LING 320

Fall 2022

Andrew Collins - LING 320
Angela Feng - LING 320
Aron Finholt - LING 325
Corey McCulloch - LING 110
Charles (Henry) Pratt - LING 106
Morgan Robertson - LING 106
Xuan Wang - LING 110
Owen Wegner - LING 110
Tzu-hsuan Yang - LING 320

Spring 2023

Andrew Collins - LING 110
Angela Feng - LING 106
Aron Finholt - LING 320
Corey McCulloch - LING 110
Charles (Henry) Pratt - LING 312
Morgan Robertson - LING 106
Xuan Wang - LING 320
Owen Wegner - LING 320
Tzu-hsuan Yang - LING 110

McCulloch, Pratt, and Robertson at Mid-Phon Conference at Washington University in St. Louis, MO in Oct. 2022

Henry Pratt at L3 Workshop 2022: Workshop on Multilingual Language Acquisition, Processing, and Use in London and won the best student-led presentation award.

New Graduate Students

Ph.D. Student

Peace Benson - Nigeria - B.A.from the University of Maiduguri (Maiduguri, Nigeria) and M.A. from Kenyatt University (Nairobi, Kenya).

M.A. Students

Asmaa Alharthi - Saudi Arabia - B.A. from Jazan University (Jazan, Saudi Arabia).

Atheer Alqahtani - Saudia Arabia - B.A. from King Khalid University (Abha, Saudi Arabia).

Asma Alzahrani - Saudi Arabia - B.A. from Jazan University (Jazan, Saudi Arabia)

Cassidy Duckworth - United States - B.A. from Rockhurst University (Kansas City, MO)

Rotspurit Saengthong - Thailand - B.A. from Ubon Ratchathani University (Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand)

Owen Wegner - United States - B.A. from Tabor College (Hillsboro, KS)

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Amer Asiri focuses his research on syntax and semantics, as well as the interface between the two. He is particularly interested in the dialects and languages of Southern Arabia, with a focus on Tihami Arabic. He examined light verbs in Tihami Arabic for his MA project and investigated the distribution and contribution of the specificity marker across different domains in Tihami Arabic, compared to other varieties of Arabic, for his major paper. The minor paper investigates two types of definites in Tihami, which are in complementary distribution with the specificity marker; specifically, it examines how such definites fit into the typology of definiteness. Asiri presented "Double light verbs in Tihami Arabic" at 96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America, Washington D.C at the Linguistics Society of America and "Individual and Situation Specificity in Tihami Arabic" (with John Gluckman) at Triple AFLA 2022, University of Manchester.

Amer Asiri

Andrew Collins presenting at BUCLD Conference at Boston College.

Grand Lake, Colorado Trip with Amaya Madden, Hyoju Kim, Münir Özturhan and Andrew Collins

Andrew Collins spent the past year developing and submitting two manuscripts and presenting his research at multiple conferences. He gave a talk on his Major Paper titled "Examining the role of markedness in agreement in native and non-native Spanish: A look at coordinate noun phrases" at the Boston University Conference on Language Development and the Hispanic Linguistic Symposium (HLS). He also gave a talk on his Minor Paper at HLS titled "Closest Conjunct Agreement in Spanish Coordinates: Interleaving the syntax with the post-syntax". He has also finished data collection for his bilingual aphasia case study. He is presenting his bilingual aphasia project titled "Connecting second language morphological theory to aphasia rehabilitation" at the 2023 Clinical Aphasia Conference. For this abstract, he was selected as a 2023 NIDCD Research Symposium in Clinical Aphasiology fellow from the National Institute of Deafness and Communication Disorders (NIDCD).

He is currently finishing his dissertation proposal in which he examines the neurophysiological and behavioral responses that accompany native speakers and learners' online processing of coordinate agreement in Spanish. This EEG study is an extension of his Major Paper in which he investigates the time-course of establishing agreement dependencies for native speakers and second language learners. He plans to defend his proposal in Spring 2023 and start data collection in the following months.

Angela Feng is currently working on a master's research project concerning relative clauses in Kibembe, a Bantu language, under the mentorship of Dr. John Gluckman. This project aims to add to the typology of restrictive and nonrestrictive relative clauses and shine a light on the syntactic underpinnings behind cross-linguistic variation. Angela is also working on linguistic annotation of a narrative in Nyala East as part of a broader Bantu research and documentation program headed by Dr. Gluckman.
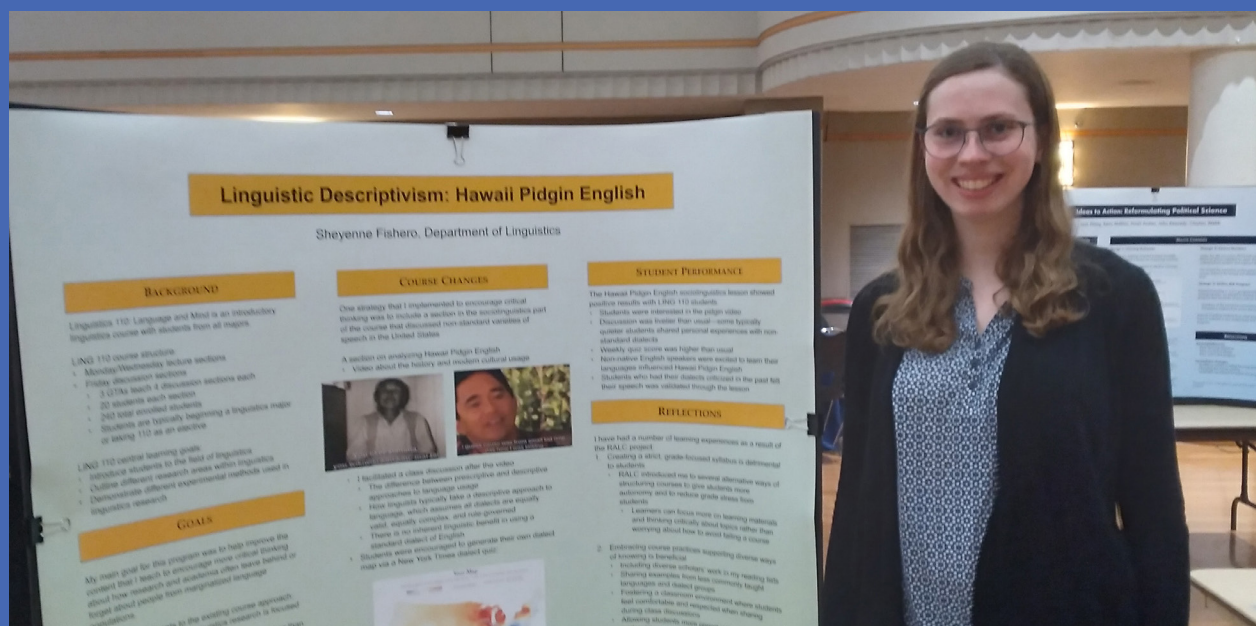

KU Campanile in springtime

Aron Finholt presented some of his recent work on non-verbal predication and copular variation in Eastern Bantu languages at the 53rd Annual Conference on African Linguistics, and the 97th Annual Meeting of the LSA, and will present at the 41st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics and the 54th Annual Conference on African Linguistics in late Spring 2023. He and Dr. John Gluckman recently had their co-authored paper, "A Corpus Study of Swahili's Dual Complementizers", accepted for publication by the *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*. Aron also completed his major qualifying paper entitled "Copulas, Possession, and the Temporary-Permanent Distinction in Mashi: Evidence for decompositional HAVE", and has submitted his minor qualifying paper, " Verbal Tonology and the Conjoint-Disjoint Alternation in Kinyarwanda and Kinyamulenge". He is actively involved in a large documentation project led by his advisor, Dr. John Gluckman, and is currently conducting fieldwork on a cluster of Great Lakes Bantu languages including Mashi, Kihavu, Kinyamulenge, and Kifuliiru. Aron is currently preparing to defend his dissertation proposal later this spring, and will be heading to East Africa to collect field data in the summer. For more information, please visit https://www.aronfinholt.com/.

Sheyenne Fishero received a 2022 Summer Research Scholarship from the Office of Graduate Studies at the University of Kansas and a Graduate Student Research Scholarship from the Department of Linguistics at the University of Kansas to complete her dissertation research on the role of F0 and speaking rate in competing speech perception. She measured how F0, speaking rate, and language differences between target and masker speech influenced native English listeners' ability to perceive a target speech signal played within two-talker masker babble. She will be presenting this work at the 184th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in Chicago this May. Sheyenne is also on the Social Media Committee of the Linguistics Graduate Student Association and has co-created the weekly Linguistics Spotlight series on the department's social media accounts with Aron Finholt.
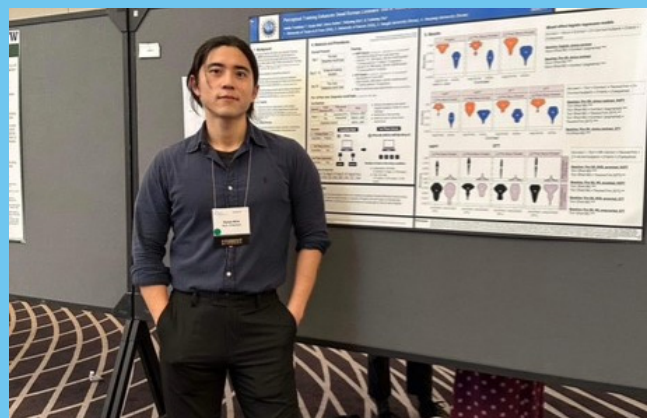

Sheyenne Fishero with Joan Sereno at Acoustical Society of America Conference in May 2022.
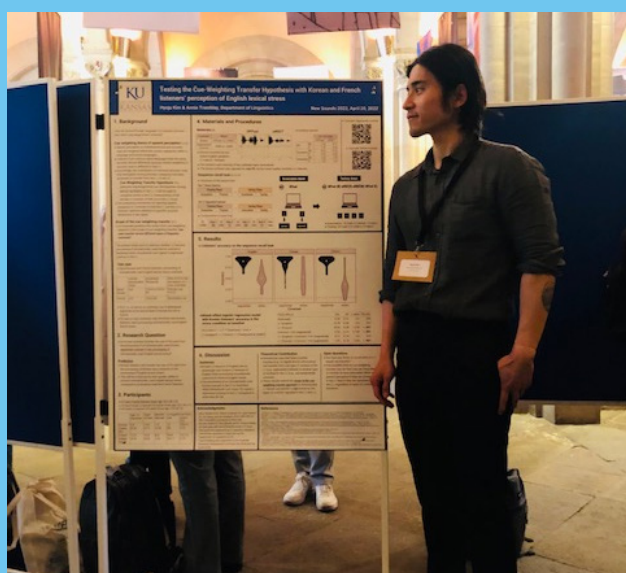

Sheyenne Fishero at poster presentation at the CTE Celebration of Teaching event in May 2022

Hyoju Kim published a peer-reviewed journal article, co-authored with Dr. Annie Tremblay, in *Frontiers in Communication* titled "Intonational Cues to Segmental Contrasts in the Native Language Facilitate the Processing of Intonational Cues to Lexical Stress in the Second Language." He also published a peer-reviewed manuscript titled "Is a native teacher better than a nonnative teacher in English pronunciation teaching?" in the *OASIS Summary* archive.

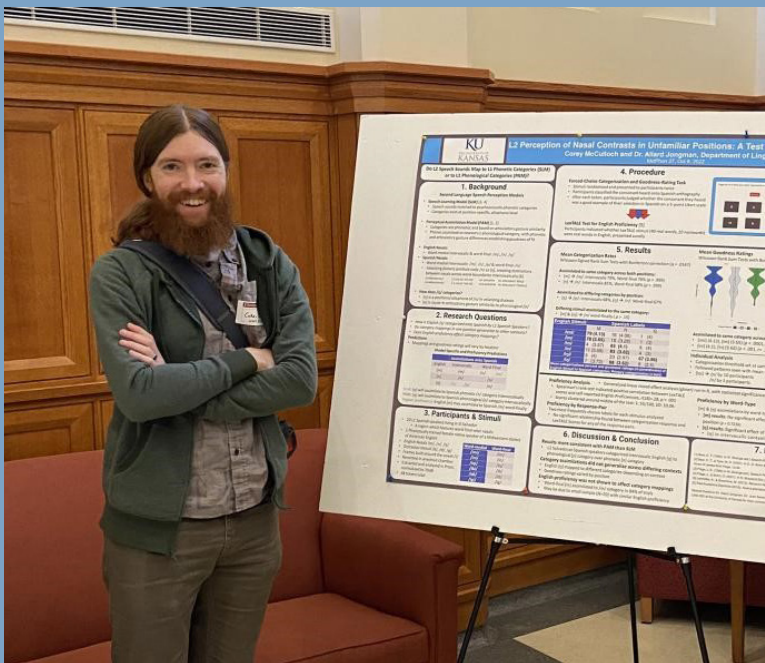Hyoju Kim at the 183rd Meeting of ASA, Nashville, Tennessee

Hyoju Kim at New Sounds in Barcelona, Spain

Hyoju gave two poster presentations, including a presentation titled "Testing the Cue-Weighting Transfer Hypothesis with Korean and French listeners' perception of English Lexical Stress" with Dr. Tremblay at New Sounds 2022 (Barcelona, Spain) and a presentation titled "Perceptual Training Enhances Seoul Korean Listeners' Use of Vowel Quality and Pitch Cues to English Lexical Stress" with Dr. Tremblay, Keira Dobbs, Dr. Sahyang Kim, and Dr. Taehong Cho at the 183rd Meeting of Acoustical Society of America (Nashville, Tennessee).

Hyoju is working on his doctoral dissertation project. His dissertation investigates the time course of acoustic cue integration in the processing of the Korean stop contrasts by native Korean listeners and English L2 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 L2 learners weight and integrate fine-grained acoustic information in spoken word recognition. He defended his dissertation proposal and finished collecting native Korean listeners' data last summer. He aims to finish collecting L2 data early in Spring 2023 and defend his dissertation on May 2023.

Corey McCulloch defended his master's research project titled "L2 learners' perception of non-native nasals in unfamiliar positions: a test of SLM and PAM" under Dr. Jongman, which he presented as a poster at MidPhon 27. The project investigated how different English nasals were assimilated onto Spanish categories by L1 Spanish speakers living in El Salvador, finding differences in assimilation patterns depending on the word-position in which the nasal occurred. He is currently working on extending this project for his Major Paper, as well as working on his Minor Paper investigating whether the presence of L1 allophones in free variation aid or hinder the acquisition of novel L2 phonemes, focusing on how the English /ʃ/- /tʃ/ contrast is produced and perceived by different Spanish dialects from Central America.

Corey McCulloch presented a poster at the MidPhon 27 Conference in October 2022 at Washington University in St. Louis.

Ayumi Nobuki has been collecting data for her Major Paper, the felicity judgment of negative sentences in Japanese-speaking pre-school children (supervised by Dr. Utako Minai and collaborating with Megumi Ishikawa from University of Tokyo, Japan), which examines whether Japanese-speaking children are aware of the role of the contrastive topic particle -wa in negation and the informativeness of negative sentences. This project is supported by the Okubo Graduate Research Award from the Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) at KU, and she is disseminating the preliminary results of this project in the poster presentation at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) 2023 Biennial Meeting in March 2023. In her Minor Paper, supervised by Dr. Alison Gabriele, she is working on the second language acquisition of the scope-marking strategy in Japanese wh-questions by native English speakers. Ayumi is also working towards another child language acquisition study on the comprehension of universal quantifiers in English-speaking children, which is a collaborative project with Dr. Minai, Allison Monteleone, Münir Özturhan, Xuan Wang, and Lindsay Williams.

Münir Özturhan successfully defended his master's research project titled "Sensitivity to animacy information in processing subject-verb agreement dependencies in Turkish" under the supervision of Dr. Alison Gabriele and Dr. Robert Fiorentino in Fall 2022. He is currently extending his master's research project to a major paper to investigate how first language (L1) transfer and L2 proficiency modulate the processing of such dependencies in Turkish. He has also started working on a minor paper project examining the comprehension of the universal quantifier in Turkish by younger Turkish children under the supervision of Dr. Utako Minai. He is also part of the Psycholinguistics Research Laboratory at Boğaziçi University, where they explore how native speakers and L2 learners of Turkish process negative polarity items in complex sentences. In Fall 2022, he started working as a graduate research assistant in Dr. Gabriele and Dr. Fiorentino's National Science Foundation funded project examining the relationship between first and second language variability using Event Related Potentials (ERPs). He will have a poster presentation (Referential ambiguity in native and nonnative processing: Evidence from ERPs) at the 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

Charles "Henry" Pratt recently finished his Major Paper project, which used a grammaticality judgment task to examine the acquisition of difficult verbal properties in counterfactual conditionals in L2 and L3 Brazilian Portuguese. The findings indicated that knowledge of Spanish facilitated the acquisition of more Spanish-like properties in Brazilian Portuguese for both L1 Spanish and L1 English speakers. However, for L3 participants within their first year acquiring Brazilian Portuguese, Spanish natives showed transfer effects for more properties than the English natives. For his dissertation, Henry is building from his Minor Paper by testing the predictions of the Featurally-Underspecified Lexicon (FUL) Model, which is rooted in underspecification theory and claims that phonological features play a crucial role in speech processing. Specifically, he is looking at the role of height and tenseness features by making a typological comparison between Brazilian Portuguese and English. To test whether Brazilian Portuguese mid vowels contrast in height or tenseness features, Henry will conduct a series of experiments that consider the roles of phonological form, semantic activation, morphological alternation, and acoustic perception in spoken word recognition. This will be complemented by two experiments which consider height vs. tenseness contrasts in English to see whether there is evidence for the use of tenseness features in lexical access.

Henry Pratt at 2022 MidPhon 27 Conference at Washington University in St. Louis.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS (cont.)

Morgan Robertson defended her Master's Research Project titled "Transfer and Proficiency Effects on L2 French Perception of Nasal Vowels: A Gating Study" under the advisement of Dr. Allard Jongman. This investigation into L2 speech perception of French nasal vowels revealed that participant proficiency was a significant predicting factor of the accurate perception of nasal vowels. She presented a poster on her Master's Project at MidPhon27 in October 2022. Continuing in the vein of nasal vowels and French, Morgan is currently working on her minor paper, which is over the productivity of Ṽ~VN adjectival and verbal alternations in French. This project will consist of a wug test for native French speakers, looking specifically at nonce adjectives and verbs. The Ṽ~VN alternation is of interest because it is difficult to account for in standard Optimality Theory. Additionally, Morgan is creating her major paper project, which is going to cover clear speech productions by native French speakers, paying close attention to nasal vowels, rounded vowels, and stop consonants.

Xuan Wang is currently working on his master research project using EEG to investigate pronominal dependencies processing by native and non-native speakers of English, under the supervision of Dr. Gabrielle and Dr. Fiorentino. He is also developing a research proposal with Dr. Minai to investigate whether 4-5-year-old children can use prosody in comprehending ambiguous wh-adjuncts in Mandarin. In addition, he is part of a research team for a first language acquisition project directed by Dr. Minai.

Tzu-Hsuan Yang has recently published a paper titled "The Effect of Lexicality, Frequency, and Markedness on Mandarin Tonal Categorization" in *Frontiers in Psychology* (in collaboration with Shao-Jie Jin and Dr. Yu-An Lu at NYCU, Taiwan). Tzu-Hsuan successfully defended her master's research project titled "Perception of English lexical stress in different intonational contexts by Mandarin listeners", under the supervision of Dr. Annie Tremblay, and presented the results at the 183rd Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America. Tzu-Hsuan has also submitted a paper on the same topic to International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS) 2023.

Tzu-Hsuan is now working with Dr. Allard Jongman on L1 phonetic drift. She is currently developing a project to examine the interaction between L1 drift and clear speech – more specifically, whether Taiwan Mandarin speakers exhibit phonetic drift in the alveopalatal sibilants brought about by their learning English as an L2, and if they do, whether this drift will be diminished when they are asked to produce clear speech.

2022 Linguistics Awards

Frances Ingemann Awards

Achievement: Sheyenne Fishero, Hyoju Kim, Corey McCulloch, Morgan Robertson

Research: Andrew Collins, Corey McCulloch, Münir Özturhan, Amaya Madden, Ayumi Nobuki, Henry Pratt, Morgan Robertson, Chang Wang, Chang Wang, Xuan Wang, Tzu-hsuan Yang

Travel: Amer Asiri, Andrew Collins, Aron Finholt, Ayumi Nobuki, Charles (Henry) Pratt, and Tzu-hsuan Yang

Wendy Herd Awards

Xuan Wang and Tzu-hsuan Yang

Carolyn J. Abel Undergraduate Student Awards
Spring 2022

Distinguished Senior Major - Marilyn Curtis and Emma Scott

Distinguished Junior Major - Jack Foster and Isaac Svihus

Abel Undergraduate Award Winners from left to right: (Foster, Svihus, Scott and Curtis)

Graduation Congratulations!

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of General Studies in Linguistics

Diego Acosta

William Cox

Marilyn Curtis

Richard Godsil

Jensen Gramling

Sean Larson

Nicolas Paukstelis

Allison Rood

Malena Schoeni

Emma Scott

Bethanie Sharp

Nicholas Simpson

Victoria Smith

Megan Spurgeon

Tiara Taylor

Kade Traffas

Quinten Willcox

Marilyn Curtis with Professors Jie Zhang and Robert Fiorentino

Undergraduate Minors in Linguistics

Abigail Driggers

Madalyn Gerant

Molly Hermann

Jenna Lenherr

Emily McAllister

Crystal Ronduelas

Drake Prebyl

Savannah Price

Aaron Story

Dana Sullivan

Sophia Vazzano

Jenna Wilson

Ruijie Zhang

Sarah Zingg

Graduation Congratulations!

Master of Arts in Linguistics

Amaya Madden - "Second language judgments on and metalinguistics knowledge of Japanese negative polarity item licensing conditions", (Advisor: Utako Minai)

Corey McCulloch - " L2 learners' perception of non-native nasals in unfamiliar locations", (Advisor: Allard Jongman)

Morgan Robertson - " L1 English L2 French perception of nasal vowels", (Advisor: Allard Jongman)

Tzu-Hsuan Yang - " Processing of English lexical stress in different intonational contexts", (Advisor: Annie Tremblay)

Yi (Kevin) Zhang - " The role of segmental and suprasegmental information in the adaptation to English-accented Mandarin Chinese", (Advisor: Allard Jongman)

Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics

Shuxiao (Donald) Gong - " The Obligatory Contour Principle Effects in Phonological Learning", (Advisor: Jie Zhang)

Jinmyung Lee - " Testing the transfer of the online /i/-/ɪ/ training effect to Korean L2 learners of English: From speech perception to spoken word recognition", (Advisor: Annie Tremblay)

Tingting Wang - " Examining the Role of Subjecthood and Pronominalization in Reference Resolution in L1 and L2 Processing: An Eye-tracking Study", (Advisors: Alison Gabriele and Utako Minai)

Delaney Wilson - " Examining Morphological Decomposition of Regular and Irregular Verbs and the Role Individual Variation in Second Language Learners", (Advisors: Alison Gabriele and Robert Fiorentino)

Yuyu (Rustle) Zeng - " Spoken word production of Mandarin monosyllabic words: From lexical selection to form encoding", (Advisors: Jie Zhang and Robert Fiorentino)
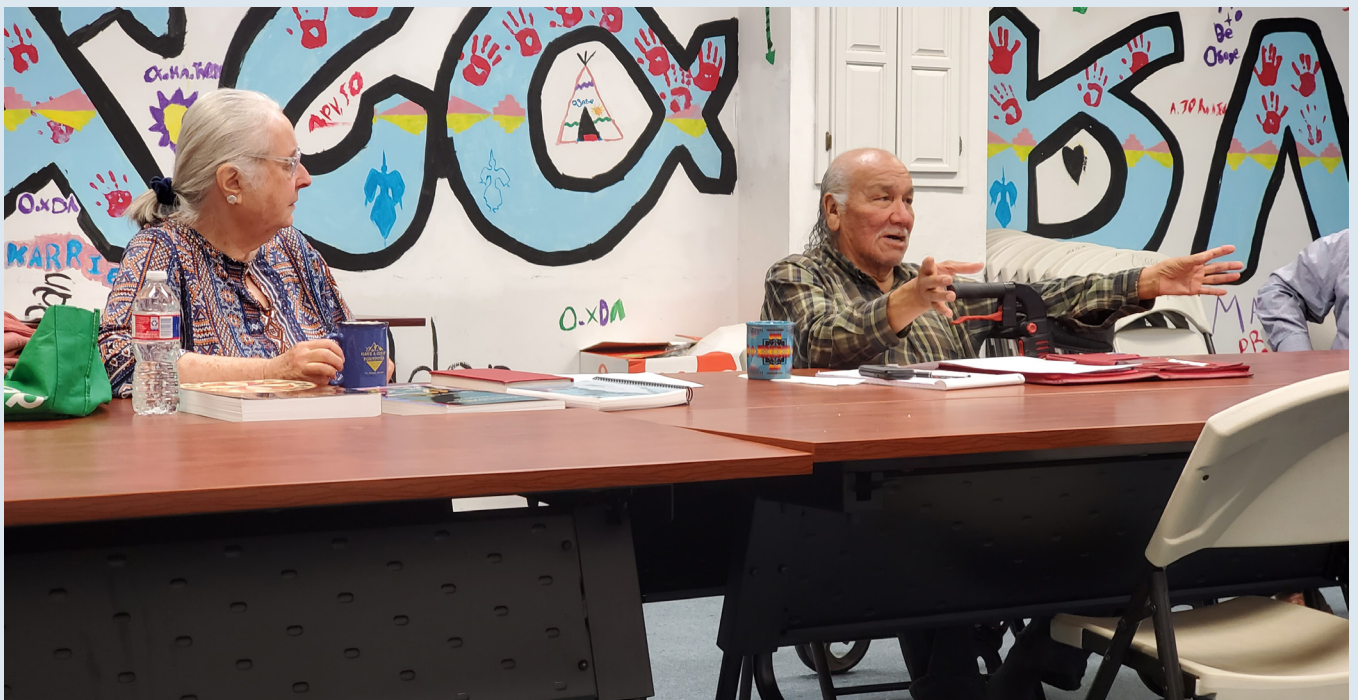

2022 Graduates with Linguistics faculty

Alumni Updates

A peace pole with writing in Osage which is located beside the Methodist Church on 10th and Vermont in Lawrence.

Kathleen D. Shea, MA, Linguistics, U. Kansas, attended a meeting recently of the Osage language program in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, with Sherman Bold Warrior, EdD, Oklahoma State U., who works as a language consultant there. Sherman is a fluent speaker of the Ponca language, which is closely related to Osage, Kansa, Omaha, and Quapaw, and he is involved in language maintenance and revival. Kathleen occasionally helps out on a volunteer basis since she has been studying the Ponca language, spoken near Ponca City Oklahoma, since 1994. Originally from Nebraska, the Poncas and Omahas speak dialects of the same language.

Kathleen D. Shea, MA, Linguistics, U. Kansas, attending a meeting recently of the Osage language program in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, with Sherman Bold Warrior, EdD, Oklahoma State U., who works as a language consultant there.

Alumni Updates

Kerry McCullough (B.A. 2017) graduated from the University of Arizona in August 2022 with a PhD in linguistics. Her dissertation was titled The phonological and orthographic consequences of Irish initial consonant mutation investigates a typologically rare linguistic phenomenon from three different perspectives: how it challenges phonological theory, how it is used by contemporary speakers, and how its written representation affects its acquisition. The publication caps five years of Celtic language research that was first inspired during her final year at the University of Kansas.

Dr. McCullough now works in tech as a user experience researcher at Sentier Strategic Resources, LLC; she routinely applies her research design skills and linguistic knowledge to interesting and diverse problem spaces in industry.

She is currently planning a wedding to a man she met on the basketball courts at KU's recreation center in 2013. They still hoop together 10 years later.

Robert "Rob" Nabor (M.A. 1989) has been in Philadelphia since 1999. He is currently teaching Dutch at the University of Pennsylvania and GenEd courses at Temple University.

Robert "Rob" Nabor

Alumni Updates

Nicholas "Nick" Feroce (Ph.D., 2017) is currently working remotely from Florida as a Research Scientist for Lexia Learning, an ed-tech company focused on developing language and literacy products for K-12 students. Since starting at Lexia in 2021, he has dove into the world of education research and has helped establish the evidence base for a new tool for young English language learners (Lexia English, formerly Rosetta Stone English). In his day-to-day work, he conducts data analyses in R and engages in new research literature (computer-assisted language learning, English language education, and instructed second language acquisition) to illustrate the impact of using ed-tech tools on language and literacy outcomes for young emergent bilinguals. He greatly credits his cross-disciplinary training at KU to his ability to collaborate and disseminate research to both Lexia-internal and external-facing audiences. Aside from work, Nick recently returned to Spain after 7 years where he was able to live his best life callejeando in Seville, as well as visiting former grad-school colleagues and collaborators across different cities.

Griffin "John" Lowry

Nick Feroce

Griffin ("John") Lowry (B.A. 2021) began attending North Carolina State University sociolinguistics master's program in the Fall of 2022. He was given the opportunity to be a teaching assistant for the introductory linguistics course. In March, Griffin will be presenting their project on transphobic hate speech at the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL). Additionally, they will present their sociophonetic research titled "Durational variations in Raleigh and Ocracoke vowel productions: methods for analyzing undershoot" at the Acoustical Society of America meeting in Chicago in May. This spring, Griffin is the teaching assistant for the History of English course. In the future, hopes to research the variable use of the word "Like" in American English, specifically in Raleigh, North Carolina, as well as French and English L2 rhotic productions via ultrasound imaging."

Alumni Updates

James Tandy (B.A., 2017) is finishing his Ph.D. in Linguistics at the University of Texas at Austin. His dissertation is investigating the history of Mayan participles and nominalizations, a project that grew out of his undergraduate honors research at KU with Dr. Clifton Pye. In August 2022, he presented a paper about affix borrowing at the International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL) in Oxford. James is building a corpus of colonial Poqom Mayan manuscripts, which he plans to pursue full time after finishing his dissertation, and presented an overview of this project at the January 2023 meeting of the North American Research Network in Historical Sociolinguistics (NARNiHS). In addition to his research, last year James did freelance work creating a constructed language. He also participated in a live interview about Mayan languages with linguistics YouTuber Colin Gorrie.

James and his wife Angela live in Austin with their rabbit Roscoe and cat Leonard. In their spare time, they enjoy music, bike rides, and taking nature hikes with the cat!

James Tandy

Masashi Harada (M.A., 2017) received his Ph.D. in Linguistics from McGill University in 2022. Harada became a visiting assistant professor in Japanese at the Department of Chinese and Japanese at Grinnell College in Fall 2022. He recently received an offer of a tenure-track assistant professor in Japanese from Williams College in 2022.
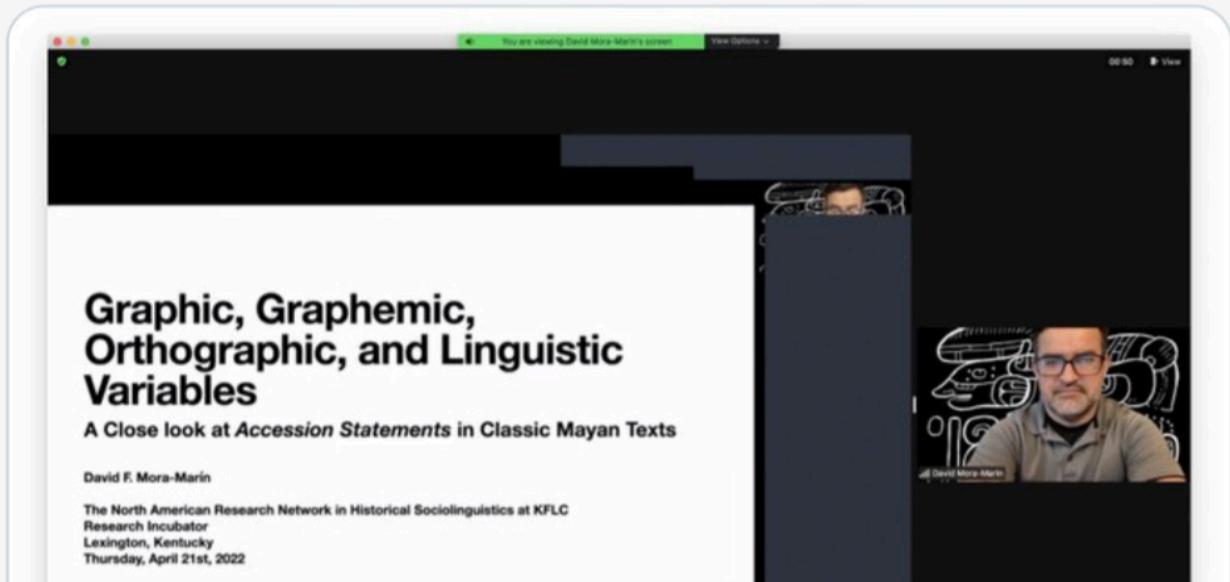
Alumni Updates

NARNiHS @NARNiHS · Apr 21, 2022

From the Mesoamerican rainforests to Day 1 of the #NARNiHS Research Incubator, David Mora-Marín's (U of NC-Chapel Hill) Mayan epigraphic data challenged our assumptions on the #historicalsociolinguistics of scribal variation. This is a jungle you DO want to get lost in!!

Graphic, Graphemic, Orthographic, and Linguistic Variables

A Close look at *Accession Statements* in Classic Mayan Texts

David F. Mora-Marín

The North American Research Network in Historical Sociolinguistics at KFLC
Research Incubator
Lexington, Kentucky
Thursday, April 21st, 2022

David Mora-Marín (B.A. 1996) is Professor of Linguistics at the University of North Carolina (2004–present). During 2022, he supervised Amy Reynold, who completed her dissertation on the Consonant Cluster Reduction of English spoken by Karen-speaking residents of the Chapel Hill and Carrboro area, and three MA students who completed their theses.

He published several papers on Mayan historical linguistics. He was sole author of "Evidence, New and Old, Against the Late *k(') > ch(') "Areal Shift" Hypothesis" (Festschrift for Lyle Campbell, Edinburgh University Press), in which he presented new linguistic and epigraphic evidence supporting an early date for the *k > ch shift characteristic of Ch'olan-Tzeltalan and other Mayan subgroups. He was fifth author of "South-to-North Migration Preceded the Advent of Intensive Farming in the Maya Region" (Nature Communications 13:1530), in which he introduced evidence for the origin of a widely diffused (Mayan, Lenkan, Misumalpan, Xinkan) term for 'maize', ʔayma, in the Chibchan language family.

He also presented several papers (e.g. SSILA, NARNiHS, V Seminario Internacional de Epigrafía Maya en Guatemala); started a working group with several colleagues on the undeciphered Copador-style writing system of Honduras and El Salvador, whose distribution matches the former distribution of Lenkan languages; and posted a few more "Notes" on Mesoamerican linguistics and epigraphy on his blog (https://davidmm.web.unc.edu/notes-on-mesoamerican-linguistics-and-epigraphy/).

Regrettably, he did not finish his book on Mayan orthographic conventions, but came close, with only two chapters remaining.

Alumni Updates

Simon Skinner (B.A. 2006) is currently a Speech-Language Pathologist at Free State High School, where he is also the assistant varsity soccer coach for both the boys and girls. In 2006-2007, Simon worked as an assistant language teacher (ALT) for the JET Program in Kitakyushu-shi, Japan. After returning home to Lawrence, he earned his master's degree in speech-language pathology at KU's Inter-campus Program in Communication Disorders in 2010. For 8 years, Simon worked as an SLP in skilled nursing facilities and hospitals in Northeast Kansas until joining the staff at Free State High School in Lawrence in the fall of 2018. In his free time, Simon enjoys volunteering for the Sister Cities Lawrence organization, traveling to play in adult kickball tournaments, playing volleyball and soccer, hiking, skiing, and traveling around the country/world with his wife, Betsy.

Simon Skinner

Xiao Yang (PhD 2020) has transitioned to a Data Scientist with Amazon Alexa in 2022, after being a Language Data Researcher for two years with the same team. She is excited to use machine learning techniques to help improve voice AI user experience. She also actively engages with academia via conducting peer reviews and making progress on her manuscript based on her dissertation, working with Dr. Fiorentino. In her spare time, Xiao has picked up ice skating and enjoys exploring small towns around Boston.

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Nicholas V. Feroce

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