

# School of Linguistics & Language Studies e-Newsletter

July 2010

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## Welcome Message

Hello and welcome to the mid-summer edition of the SLaLS electronic newsletter. With a collection of stories, links and event postings, the objective of this publication is to keep everyone in the SLaLS community up to date with the goings-on within the School.

Do you have a SLaLS related event, information about your research, or a topical commentary that you would like to share? Click on the link in the bottom right corner to submit it.

Not a SLaLS member, but interested all the same? You can subscribe to the SLaLS enewsletter by clicking the subscribe button in the top right corner and, of course, you can choose to unsubscribe by clicking the link at the bottom of the window.

## Message from the Director

It has been a smooth transfer into the position of Acting Director- including shadowing Randall around for the past few weeks before actually sitting in THE chair as of June 30. (It was **particularly** smooth when shadowing Randall ☺)



There are many steep learning curves in this job of Director but also many rewarding new aspects of Carleton that I have been learning and will continue to learn. It is surprising how many are new even after many years of teaching here. The experience as Assistant Director several years ago has helped to prepare me for the current role but the Acting Directorship is of course MUCH more complex.

Everyone in the main office has been extremely helpful and informative; I am very grateful for their very patient and thorough assistance, as I am for the computer staff in Paterson Hall.

Gradually, as I learn more and more, their jobs in informing me should become easier. However, that time may not be completely over until June 30 2011!

There is nothing stupendous to report yet in this very very warm July but I will keep everyone informed of events as they occur. And I in turn hope you will keep me informed. I am eager to get to know you all better and to offer assistance when needs arise. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Lynne Young



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## Recent Events

### Grand Opening of the Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience: Language and Brain

The Language and Brain Laboratory opened its doors June 14th with a well-attended reception in the SLaLS graduate student lounge.

A tour of the facilities followed short speeches by Laboratory director, Dr. Masako Hirotoni, and several others:

- Dr. John Osborne, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Carleton University
- Ms. Robbyn McKay, Senior Project Manager, [Canada Foundation for Innovation \(CFI\)](#)
- Mr. Yasir Naqvi, [MPP Ottawa Centre](#)
- Dr. Randall Gess, Director, School of Linguistics and Language Studies, Carleton University

Also on hand was in-kind contributor Mr. Bruce Allan, president of [All Audiology Inc.](#), a distributor of the sound booths used in the facility.

The Language and Brain Laboratory is funded by [Canada Foundation for Innovation \(CFI\)](#), [Ministry of Research and Innovation \(MRI\)](#), and a number of in-kind contributors.

It is located in PA 168 on the ground floor of the south wing of Paterson Hall.

To learn more about the facility, read some recent media coverage:

- [Carleton opens innovative Language and Brain Lab](#) (Carleton University press release)
- [Making \(brain\) Waves](#) (Carleton University Magazine)
- [Watching their Language](#) (CBC News - Ottawa at 6) (story begins at 21:55 minutes)
- [New Carleton lab has language on the brain](#) (Ottawa Citizen)

**Photos by:** Christopher King



**(L-R)** Alan Eckel (President, Eckel Industries of Canada and Eckel USA), Masako Hirotsu, Yasir Naqvi (MPP, Ottawa Centre), and Robbyn McKay (Senior Programs Officer, Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI))



## 15th International Lexical-Functional Grammar Conference at Carleton in 2010

The Fifteenth International Lexical Functional Grammar Conference was held at Carleton on June 18th to June 20th. The first LFG conference was held in Grenoble, France, in 1996. Recent conferences have been held at Cambridge University (2009), the University of Sydney (2008), and Stanford University (2007). There were about 40 attendees from all over the world at LFG 2010, including Australia, France, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. There were twenty refereed talks, six refereed posters, and three invited talks. The invited speakers were Joan Bresnan (Stanford University), Mary Dalrymple (University of Oxford), and Ray Jackendoff (Tufts University). The day before the conference began, we took a group of delegates to the MacKenzie King Estate in Gatineau Park for a walk and lunch. The conference dinner was held at Wilfrid's in the Château Laurier.

The local organizers for the conference were Ash Asudeh and Ida Toivonen. We also had a number of student volunteers who were indispensable and kept things running extremely smoothly. A very big thank you to the students: Crystal Bruce, Jessica Danforth, Michael Hamilton, Jessica Lynch, Emily McMurtry, Stephanie Needham, Shannon Pertl, and Dan Sachs. We also thank Susan Maslin at Conference Services, Lisa Fortin and Lisette Chalifour at Catering, Dean John Osborne for providing financial support for the conference, and Kevin Crosby and Tracey Wright for helping us spend the funds!

For anyone who's curious, the conference website is still up at: <http://www.carleton.ca/lfg2010/>

## Gone in a Swirl of Cajun Dust:

Nothing says "welcome to your sabbatical" more than a good evening of wings, libations, and conversation at St. Louis Wings on Elgin Street.



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## Upcoming & Ongoing

### Ki-Swahili Courses

**Areas where Ki-Swahili is spoken:**  
(*Maeneo penye wasemaji wa Kiswahili*)

For anyone with an interest in African languages and/or an interest in working in east central Africa, SLaLS is excited to offer courses Ki-Swahili this Fall/Winter.

Ki-Swahili is one of a number of Bantu languages spoken in areas of East and Central Africa. The language is a national or official language of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of the Congo and an official working language of the African Union.

Ki-Swahili is African in origin but has been influenced over centuries by contact with Arabic, Farsi, German, Portuguese, English, and French. Five to ten million people speak Ki-Swahili as their native language but many more - as many as 100 million - people speak it as a lingua franca.

The 2006 Census reports 27,795 Ki-Swahili speakers living in Canada. Of this group, 2,025 (7%) live in Ottawa.



- Coastal areas where Ki-Swahili or Comorian is the indigenous language
- Ki-Swahili is an official or national language
- Ki-Swahili is used as a trade language and extends some distance further to the northwest

Source: [Wikipedia](#)

## German Literature Review Program on CKCU

Das literarische Echo. Deutschsprachige Literatur im Gespräch: Kritiken und Kontroversen continues through the summer.

Tuesday mornings at 9:05 a.m. on [CKCU 93.1](#)

[Program Website](#)



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## Faculty News

### Teaching at TEMBO

By Virginia Taylor

Karibu sana! Jambo! Hibare! These are just a few of the Kiswahili expressions still echoing in my head after returning this past week from a volunteer teaching opportunity in Longido, Tanzania in the heart of Maasai culture. Under the auspices of Project TEMBO, a small grassroots humanitarian organization based in Ottawa, I was actively involved in a pilot project to design and deliver a 3-week English camp for young girls ages 13-15. While access to secondary education is a significant barrier for young girls in the community, academic success is

further compounded by the fact that the language of instruction shifts from Kiswahili in primary school to English only in secondary school.



While some of the basics elements of the program were in place before we arrived (facilities booked, registration, etc.), we had much to do over the course of our first four days on the ground. Just some of the things we had to consider included:

- Availability of blankets, mosquito nets, and sheets to accommodate 35 girls in the dormitory where they would be sleeping 2 to a bed, 4 to a room;
- Identifying women in the community who would become our matrons and supervise the girls 24 hours a day;
- Finding pots large enough to cook ugali or rice for 35 girls - and someone to bring the required firewood on a daily basis;
- Toiletries so that the girls would have the essential personal items for 3 weeks - not to mention sufficient pails for cleaning their dishes, having a bath and doing their laundry (same bucket works for everything)
- Water - a resource that is in short supply in the community
- Rules - and the need to establish a position that rewards positive behaviour in a country where corporal punishment still seems to be the norm; and
- Arranging for a truck to transport all of the food items and supplies to the teaching site - an easy walk if you are not carrying 25 kg. of rice on your head

Our teaching days started early thanks to the many roosters in the village, but getting up early allowed us ample time to enjoy a bucket shower and a breakfast of chapattis. Walking to the teaching site in the morning was never lonely as one was often accompanied by women and donkeys loaded down with water buckets, or small Maasai boys taking their herd of goats to the fields. While the girls were initially very shy and quiet, they soon gained the required confidence to engage in basic conversation and talked to us about their dreams of becoming engineers or pilots, asked questions about my life in Canada, or showed us some of their traditional games. The girls really enjoyed our weekly community walks at which time they made use of cameras donated to the program to document everyday life including the local health clinic, living in a boma, and the importance of religion in the community. Equally significant was the enthusiasm demonstrated by the girls as they wrote stories in their journals about their observations.

At the end of each day, I walked home to a dinner of rice and beans, watched the moon rise over Mt. Kilimanjaro, and listened to the crickets while reading the girls' journals. As I crawled into bed under a mosquito net, I could not help but think about the girls in their dorms - 2 to a bed, 4 to a room - wondering if they were telling ghost stories or reminiscing about the day - maybe in English? I can only hope that the experience for the girls was half as rewarding as my summer vacation was for me.

#### **Related links:**

- [Project TEMBO](#) (Tanzania Education & Micro Business Organization)



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## Student News

### SLaLS Student Awards

A supportive crowd turned out on June 10, 2010 to recognize the exceptional work of five SLaLS students.

#### ★ Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards:

The winners of this year's Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards are:

- **Crystal Darby**, TA for LALS 2603/PSYC 3508  
Instructor: Mako Hirotsani
- **Jaime Graham**, TA for JAPA 1110/JAPA 2110  
Instructor: Mika Yoshimoto
- **Mike Hamilton**, TA for LALS 1001P, LALS 1002P  
Instructors: Mako Hirotsani and Trudy O'Brien



(L-R) Professor Masako Hirotsani, Crystal Darby, Professor Randall Gess



(L-R) Jaime Graham, Professor Randall Gess



(L-R) Mike Hamilton, Professor Randall Gess

#### ★ Best Undergraduate Papers (non-thesis)

And the winners of this year's Best Undergraduate Papers (non-thesis) are:

- **Kelly Logan**, "Stress in Northern East Cree: An OT Analysis"  
Phonology II (Linguistics)  
Supervisor: Lev Blumenfeld
- **Lyra Magloughlin**, "The use of racial imagery in advertising: Perpetuating racist ideologies?"  
Language, Ideology and Power (Applied Language Studies)  
Supervisor: Jaffer Sheyholislami



(L-R) Professor Lev Blumenfeld, Kelly Logan, Professor Randall Gess



(L-R) Professor Jaffer Sheyholislami, Lyra Magloughlin, Professor Randall Gess.

The awards were presented by Randall Gess, Director of SLaLS. Congratulations to all these outstanding students!



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## Inside SLaLS: what are people working on?

Do you want to know more about what's going on in the School? Take a moment to read the following posts from faculty (and students) about their recent (and ongoing) work. As well, please feel free to [send us your contributions](#) for inclusion in the next issue.

### **Natasha Artemeva**

In the past month, I presented two conference talks based on our SSHRC-funded study. The first, "The writing on the board: Genres of teaching undergraduate mathematics in L1, L2, and FL" I presented at the [International Symposium on Second Language Writing](#) in Murcia, Spain. This was as part of a special session "Genres in International Contexts" with Ann Johns, Janna Fox, and Guillaume Gentil. The second I presented at the Canadian Association of Applied Linguistics, part of the Congress 2010, at Concordia in Montreal). During the Congress, I was also interviewed by a Globe and Mail reporter who was interested in our research into genres of teaching in undergraduate mathematics classroom.

In addition to these presentations, my graduate student Kathleen Day and I, together with Dr. Lara Varpio from the University of Ottawa, recently delivered a paper to the Canadian Association for the Study of Discourse and Writing (CASDW) on the topic of vodcasting (video podcasting) and its potential benefits for medical educators.

[Read more.](#)

And finally, in March Janna Fox and I were invited to give a talk at the School of Mathematics and Statistics colloquium to introduce math professors to our research on genres of teaching undergraduate mathematics. Our talk was followed by a very lively discussion. We hope to develop more outreach activities on the basis of the outcomes of our SSHRC-funded research study.

Read more.

- [Carleton Newsroom](#)
- [School of Math & Statistics \(Carleton\)](#)

This theme was also the subject of a recent article about this research (also featuring SLaLS alumna Lin Chen) on local community news website Orléans EMC.

[Read more.](#)

### **Guillaume Gentil**

Gentil, G. (2010, June). *Bilingual Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis: Promises, Challenges, and Avenues*. Invited Plenary at the [6th conference on Intercultural Rhetoric and Discourse](#), Georgia State University, Atlanta.

Gentil, G. and Smith, V. (2010, June). *Toward an Administrative Word List in French and in English*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the [Canadian Association of Applied Linguistics](#), Montréal. (I co-presented with Valerie Smith, who just completed her Master's degree with us).

Gentil, G. (2010, May). Parallel genres across languages: Insights for multilingual writing pedagogy. Paper presented in a Special Session by Ann Johns (Organizer), *Genre pedagogy in international contexts*, at the 2010 [Symposium on Second Language Writing](#), Universidad de Murcia, Spain.



Photo by [Paul Kei Matsuda](#).

### **Randall Gess**

I presented at [WEFLA 2010](#) in Holguin, Cuba, on April 21 - a paper entitled "Kreyol in Cuba / Kreyol nan Kiba".

### **Robert Gould**

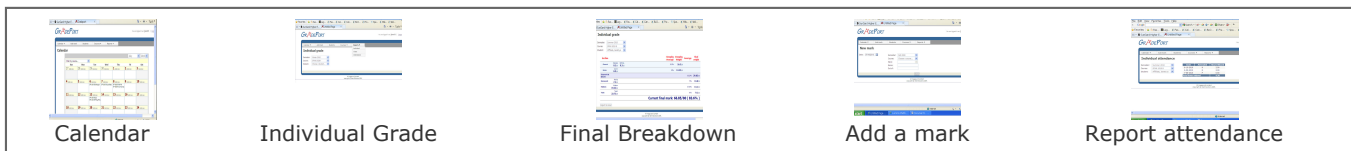
"The Rhetoric of the Right on Migrants and Minorities: Banality and Fear", in *Inclusion Unaffordable: The Uncertain Fate of Integration Policies in Europe* ed. Maria Golubeva, PROVIDUS: Riga, 2010, 39-48.

Chair and invited participant in the panel « Le couple franco-allemand: noces de diamant ou chronique d'un divorce annoncé? » in the colloquium « Les idées fondatrices du projet européen, sont-elles dépassées? » at the Centre d'excellence sur l'Union européenne des universités de Montreal et McGill, 6 May 2010.

### **Janett Martinez**

I worked through the summer 09 on a project to have a customized software design and I was able to implement it in the course year 2009-2010. This new assessment tool (Office on Web) was aimed at building a database of the students by the different SPAN courses, to monitor students' activities during the course, to generate reports on the student's breakdown of marks, view individual student's performance during the course, calculate frequent and final grades using formulas, and more importantly to minimize errors.

#### **Screenshots:**



It worked perfectly for tracking purposes and to get accurate reports and it has been recently upgraded with some improvement features.

### **Jaffer Sheyholislami**

As part of the Congress 2010 at Concordia, I presented a paper entitled "Re-Semiotized Media Discourse: The Case of 'I'm Canadian'" at the [Canadian Association for the Study of Discourse and Writing](#) conference. My project is an SFL informed critical multimodal discourse analysis of the infamous beer commercial "I am Canadian". The aim is to demonstrate how language and other semiosis are employed by popular media to construct Canadian national identity.

This summer I also participated virtually in the International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies, Barcelona (Spain), 5th-7th July, 2010. The paper which I presented online is entitled "Facilitating Dialogic Learning: Class Blogs on WebCT" and it is published in the Proceedings of EDULEARN10 Conference. 5th-7th July 2010, Barcelona, Spain. ISBN:978-84-613-9386-2.

### **Graham Smart**

Keynote address at the conference of the Canadian Association of Discourse and Writing: "Opening up the



'opaque box' of climate-change argumentation: Overcoming discursive barriers to understanding and constructive dialogue." 2010 **Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences**, Concordia University, May 2010.

Paper given at the conference of the Canadian Communication Association: "Representations of Science in Climate-Change Argumentation." 2010 **Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences**, Concordia University, June 2010.

Invited paper given in the Department of English, City University of Hong Kong: "A discourse-analytical study of collective argumentation in the climate-change debate: Asian and North American perspectives". April 2010. (co-authored with Aditi Bhatia).

Taught a five-week intensive graduate course in the School of Foreign Languages at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, in Wuhan, China, during May/June. The course was "Research and Theory in Academic Writing." The university has given Graham the ongoing status of "Visiting Professor."

### **David Wood**

David will spend Sept - May in Kyoto at Kyoto Sangyo University working with Prof. Kazuhiko Namba on two research projects concerning teaching formulaic language to L2 learners.

Wood, D. (2010). *Formulaic language and second language speech fluency: Background, evidence, and classroom applications*. London/New York: Continuum International Publishing Group.

Wood, D. (Ed.). (2010). *Perspectives on formulaic Language: Acquisition and Communication*. London/New York: Continuum International Publishing Group.



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