

School of Linguistics & Language Studies

e-Newsletter

December, 2009

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Welcome Message

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Hello and welcome to the first 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

Putting together this first volume of the SLaLS E-Newsletter has been a lot of fun. I always love seeing the array of activity going on here. And I love talking about it.

I love talking about the quality of our language instruction and its centrality to the mission of the University. Defining Dreams' interdisciplinary theme of focus *Global Identities and Globalization* is creating a new interest in modern languages across the campus. What's happening is not unique to Carleton, but it is timely and important, for obvious reasons. "The Role of Foreign Language Departments in Internationalizing the Curriculum" is the issue discussed in the Perspectives section of the latest issue of the Modern Language Journal (the topic is introduced by Associate Editor and Professor of German at Georgetown University, Heidi Byrnes, who will be the last in our 40th anniversary speaker series, on April 7th). I expect the renewed interest in modern languages at Carleton to have some concrete effects - on staffing, on programs, and on facilities - in the coming years.

I love talking about the positive "buzz" around Linguistics that is happening. The "buzz" was referred to by the external reviewers for our Undergraduate Program Review last year. Some of its effects are an 18% increase in majors, a 51% increase in enrolments (both of these in the last year alone!), and a new and active student society, Carleton Applied and Theoretical Linguists (CATL) (gotta love the acronym). And there is surely more to come. The Mysteries of Language course that Mako and Ida are teaching for the first time in Winter has attracted 180 students and quite a bit of media attention. It will be featured in the Winter 2010 edition of Carleton University Magazine. Mako's forthcoming lab, the Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience: Language and Brain, will be a big hit with students and will provide great opportunities for them to engage in research. I expect the "buzz" around Linguistics to have some concrete effects - on staffing, and perhaps on programs (a new MA, perhaps?) - in the coming years.

I love talking about the natural "fit" of Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies with Defining Dreams. *Global Identities and Globalization* is one of four "interdisciplinary themes of focus" and while it may be the most obvious "fit" with us, it is not the only one. The theme of *New Digital Media* is evident in our writing courses that treat blogging and electronic discussion groups, among other forms of electronic writing. Examination of digital media in communication extends to learning and teaching as well and we are working on integrating a new focus on this area, *Digital Pedagogy*, into our undergraduate and graduate curricula. The theme of *Sustainability and the Environment* is reflected in Graham's popular course on precisely this area, as well as in Marie-Odile's work on endangered language documentation, maintenance and revitalization (indigenous languages are an important part of our environment, after all). With respect to the theme of *Health*, we are hoping that our pending PhD program will strengthen the year-old formal relationship with our Adjunct Research Professor Lara Varpio, Assistant Professor and Education Scientist with the U of O Faculty of Medicine's Academy for Innovation in Medical Education (AIME). Her research is grounded in Rhetorical Genre Theory, and we have reason to believe that our collaborative relationship will provide important research funding opportunities for PhD students interested in the area of language and medical education. I expect the "fit" of Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies with Defining Dreams to have a concrete effect - final approval for the PhD program - very soon indeed.

Of course my talking is mostly writing, and I've been doing a lot of it lately, for various reports and requests. I will be happy to see some concrete effects!

Since this is the first volume of the SLaLS E-Newsletter, there is some catching up to do on news, so this issue is a bit longer than we anticipate as the norm. I hope you'll enjoy the read.

Administrivia

- *The proposal for the PhD in Applied Linguistics and Discourse studies goes before the all-important Financial Planning Group on December 2. The proposal for the BA in Spanish should go before the same group some time in Winter term. Both proposals have been approved by the Senate and the Academic Planning, Priorities, and Initiatives Committee.*



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Events

Upcoming & Ongoing

- **Modern Language Film Festival**

Do you like international films? Thursday night is movie night in SLaLS. On selected Thursday nights during the 2009-10 academic year, SLaLS is organizing a [Modern Language Film Festival](#) with a film in each of the languages we offer.

Time: 7 - 9 p.m.

Location: 236 Tory Building

Please note, all films will have English subtitles and admission is FREE!

- **German Literature Review Program on CKCU**

Tune into [CKCU-FM 93.1](#) every Tuesday morning to hear discussions on the topic of German literature with SLaLS adjunct research professors [Dr. Hans Ruprecht](#) and [Dr. Helmut Zobl](#). Their program, Das literarische Echo. Deutschsprachige Literatur im Gespraech: Kritiken und Kontroversen, first aired April 14, 2009.

Time: Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Recent

- **Undergraduate Linguistics Program Information Session**

by Mako Hirovani

More than 20 first and second year students turned out to learn more about SLaLS undergraduate linguistics programs at the fall information session November 5th.

In addition to hearing registration tips, program requirements, and course information from Mako (undergraduate linguistics advisor), Joan (degree programs administrator), and faculty members Lev, Randall, Kumiko, and Ash, students also had an opportunity to listen to informative presentations by David Wood on the CTESL program and Ulrike Tallowitz on important changes to the modern languages program.

The next information session will focus on careers in linguistics and related fields and will be held during the first week of April, 2010.



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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? Please take a moment to read the following posts from faculty about their recent (and ongoing) work. As well, please feel free to [send us your contributions](#) for inclusion in the next issue.

Randall Gess

Recent Publications

Gess, Randall. 2009. Reductive sound change and the perception/production interface. *Canadian Journal of Linguistics/Revue canadienne de linguistique* 54: 229-253.

Gess, Randall. 2009. Teaching presentational cleft constructions in French: When to do it and how to do it. *Southern Journal of Linguistics* 33: 1-23.

Robert Gould

Greetings from Latvia!

I just received the request for information for the E-Newsletter. Here are two items concerning conference papers in the last few months.

"European Discourses of Inclusion and Exclusion" in the panel "Marginalisation and Legitimation of Societal Diversity in Political Discourses", Baltic Studies Conference, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania June 12-14 2009.

"The Rhetoric of the Right on Minorities and Migrants: Banality and Fear" in the panel: 'From populist rhetoric to hate speech: The mapping of xenophobic and nationalist discourses re-emerging as a reaction to economic insecurity', at the conference "Inclusion Unaffordable? The Uncertain Fate of Integration Policies and the Demonisation of Minorities and Migrants in Central and Eastern Europe", Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia, Riga, 16th and 17th November, 2009.

Marie Odile Junker

Online Tools



[Path of the Elders](#): I am involved in the audio-library and database design for this project to which we are adapting some tools developed in the [eastcree.org](#) project. We are publishing the C. Douglas Ellis collection of oral stories in the

Western Cree dialect of James Bay (Ontario side). Doug Ellis is an adjunct prof here at SLaLS.

I also held several workshops to develop Computer assisted language learning tools for East Cree and Innu. Our last session of the year will take place November 30 - December 4, 2009 in PA 246. Observers welcome.

Electronic Publications

2009 edition of the [East Cree dictionary](#) (2 Cree dialects, English and French) will be released for Christmas. (as editor in chief)

Prototype edition of the Innu on-line dictionary (result of a 5 year Community University Research Alliance project) published on [innu-aimun.ca](#) site (dictionaries). Full publication expected for March 2010.

With Douglas C. Ellis, we published *Spoken Cree* 18 CDs remastered to accompany the book, [available online](#).

Estelle Lalande (by Peggy Hartwick)

What weighs 5,500 pounds and helps those less fortunate in our community? This is how much food Carleton University students collected during the Ottawa Food Bank's annual "Trick or Treat" campaign.

Some 15 of Estelle Lalande's ESLA students dressed up and volunteered their time along side other volunteers from the Carleton and wider Ottawa community to go door to door collecting non perishable food items. President Runte and MP Dewar were among those supporting the event.

Estelle is bringing the community to her classroom this term. After teaching English in China while on sabbatical last year, Estelle felt compelled to have more speaking and listening opportunities available to her students. To meet this objective, she took the opportunity to integrate Community Service Learning (CSL) into her classroom.

The goal of CSL is to foster civic responsibility and to link classroom content to community needs. Estelle linked this goal to the unit topic of "food safety". The experience has been met favourably by her students who have now experienced working and speaking in an English environment, although volunteering is a new concept for many of them. This project has met some challenges, such as scheduling and finding enough volunteer work for

Conference Presentations

(with undergraduate LaLS students)

41st Algonquian Conference, Concordia University, Montreal, Oct 28-31, 2009:

Discovering the Cree-Innu Languages: Pedagogical Applications for the [Linguistic Atlas](#)
Marie-Odile Junker, **Kelly Logan** & Marguerite Mackenzie

You and I Morphology in East Cree

Michael Hamilton, Marie-Odile Junker & Marguerite MacKenzie

Recent Publications

Junker, Marie-Odile and Terry Stewart (2008) Building search engines for Algonquian languages.

Papers of the 39th Algonquian Conference, eds. Karl S. Hele & Regna Darnell (London: The University of Western Ontario, 2008), pp. 378-411

all 54 of her students, yet she is determined to try again next term.

In addition to working with the [Ottawa Food Bank](#), some of the activities her students have and will participate in are selling food baskets, distributing flyers and unloading groceries for the on campus Food Centre. Great initiative!

Carmen Leblanc

Carmen Leblanc from the Department of French has been cross-appointed to SLaLS. She is teaching a course in Sociolinguistics (LALS 4009 C) in Winter term and had a paper published in the most recent volume of the Canadian Journal of Linguistics/Revue canadienne de linguistique.

Conditional morphology in *si*-clauses: A Canadian French reanalysis. *Canadian Journal of Linguistics/Revue canadienne de linguistique* 54: 317-337.

Welcome, Carmen!

Trudy O'Brien

Between October 1st and 3rd 2009 I attended the TESL Canada conference in Banff, where I presented on the collaborative projects that Margaret Kersten and I started 3 years ago. Basically, her ESLA students and my linguistics students (first, FYSM 1202 and then 3903) in courses on cross-cultural communication collaborated on email surveys which the students themselves jointly created, compiled, analyzed, and reported on.

Students shared background preparation by reading the same or similar articles about concepts in cross-cultural communication (like high/low contexts, power distance, communication strategies, etc.) and responding in a variety of ways for their own courses, but also sharing some writing tasks between the groups. In addition, in the last round, my 3903 students reformulated and edited ESL writing, but also had their own summaries analyzed and critiqued by ESLA students.

Overall, students learned a great deal about each other's cultures as well as about the process of linguistic and intercultural negotiation. My presentation in Banff on the extended project work was very well received, as was Margaret's when she presented at Chapel Hill, North Carolina last year on the initial pilot study. We hope to share the information about the project with those in SLaLS who might be able to develop a joint project of their own.

Graham Smart

Graham recently returned from the SIGET V Conference in Caxias du Sol, Brazil where he presented a conference paper co-authored with Jennifer Gilbert:

"Writers Developing 'Genre Capability' in the World of Banking: The Perspectives and Praxis of the Writing Coach," *SIGET V Conference. Caxias du Sol, Brazil. August 2009.*

David Wood

Recent Publications

Wood, D. (2009). [Preparing ESP learners for workplace placement.](#) *ELT Journal*, 63 (4), 323-331.

Wood, D. (2009). [Effects of focused instruction of formulaic sequences on fluent expression in second language narratives: A case study.](#) *Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 12 (1), 39-57.

Awards

Winner, [National Capital Educators Award](#), May 2009.

News from CTESL

A new .5 credit course [LALS 4209](#) Teaching Foreign Languages has been added. It includes an optional EFL practicum at CEDEI in Cuenca, Ecuador, in May of 2010.

Lots of enthusiasm among students for this course and the practicum.

Thesis Supervision & External Examinations

Michelle Wardman MA thesis *Reflecting On the TESOL Practicum: A Case Study* passed with distinction Sept. 2009. David Wood, Thesis Supervisor.

External examiner PhD dissertation Thinan Nakaprisat Brock University *Identifying Language Needs of ESL Students in a Canadian University Based English Language Program.* Nov. 2009.



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Student Voices

About CATL [kætl] - the Carleton Applied & Theoretical Linguists Academic Society

by Michael Hamilton

This year saw the resurrecting of the linguistics academic society in the form of CATL - the Carleton Applied & Theoretical Linguists Academic Society.

The drive for this Society came about from the faculty and students who volunteered at the Canadian Linguistics Association's annual conference at Carleton this past summer.

From the beginning of the semester there was a high level of support from the small but enthusiastic linguistics student body. Our main purpose is to create a sense of community amongst linguistics students, as well as facilitate the mixing of applied & theoretical students, faculty and ideas. This society has a core group of 30 members and we meet Mondays in Uni-Centre 280 from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.



We have hosted a mixer between students and faculty at Oliver's, a bake sale in Paterson Hall & have had a guest speaker series featuring Carleton professors discussing their personal research. So far we have heard from Ash Asudeh, Lev Blumenfeld, Natasha Artemeva, and Graham Smart.

We are looking forward to repeating all of these events in the winter term and especially getting more faculty members to discuss their work. Anybody wishing to join or receive information updates is welcome to contact CATL at CATLsociety@gmail.com.

Student Conference Presentations

Two Linguistics undergraduates presented their work at [Ottawa's Conference for Linguistics Undergraduates](#) on November 21, 2009.

- **Crystal Darby** "Don't Tell Me What I Can and Can't Do: A Syntactic Analysis of a Specific Construction."
- **Michael Hamilton** "Theme Signs in East Cree Transitive Animate Verbs."



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News from the Labs

by *Mike Barker*

For those of you using the computer labs, you will notice a number of changes, in particular in PA 133.

For starters, rewiring of Paterson Hall is now complete. This means you will experience an increased speed on the network both at login and while working online.

Second, FASS Computing has installed a new image on the Apple computers in PA 133. An image is the collection of software applications installed on a computer. This image allows users to boot up these computers in either Mac or Windows depending on what they need to do.

The system is set up to default to the Windows login but if you restart it you will see a 30 second window at the start of the login process that will allow you to choose between Windows and Mac operating systems.

Third, I have started a blog using a free blogging tool called blogger.com. Looking for tips on incorporating computer technology into your class? Check it out:

<http://www.pa132.blogspot.com>

And last but not least, FASS Computing has hired an additional staff member, Scott Brown, to maintain both PA 101 and PA133. Scott started in mid October. We also have a work study student, Hilal Cicek, who is staffing the desk in 132.



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