

# School of Linguistics & Language Studies

# e-Newsletter

February 2010

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## Welcome Message

Hello and welcome to the second 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

In order to understand how I spent much of my January, I urge you to read the Dean's blog from this week:

<http://www2.carleton.ca/fass/deans-blog/the-golden-mean/>

My part involved preparing SLaLS' annual budget request, as well as an outline of how our School might handle a 5% cut to our base budget should that become required. As the Dean makes clear in his blog, the only way to make a cut this large is to not replace employees who leave us - something none of us wants to think about. Hopefully the hypothetical cuts will not come to pass.

The current situation makes me very grateful that funding assistance for this year's 40th Anniversary Speaker Series was requested last year, as I think a similar request this year would have been unsuccessful. The second of our series took place on January 22, as described in a separate entry herein. The next talk, by our own former MA student Gerard Van Herk (Memorial University), takes place next Monday, February 8. This will be followed by Paul Kiparsky (Stanford University) on Saturday, March 13 (in the context of our first ever hosting of the longstanding Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto (MOT) Phonology Workshop, being organized by Lev Blumenfeld), John Flowerdew (University of Leeds) on Monday, March 29, and Heidi Byrnes (Georgetown University) on Wednesday, April 7. The series, which kicked off in October with the pre-eminent historian of generative syntax, Fritz Newmeyer, has been a great opportunity to revel in the diversity of work on language that goes on in the School. I hope the great turn-out at the last talk will repeat itself at future ones. It's a great opportunity for all of us to learn from these distinguished visitors.

### Administrivia

- **For Undergraduate courses only**  
Friday, April 2, 2010 is *Good Friday* and the university will be closed. Classes that would normally meet on that Friday will move to Monday, April 5. These classes will meet in their usual Friday room. The last day for Monday classes is March 29th.
- **For Grad courses only**  
Monday, April 5, 2010 is a regular Monday class for grad courses.



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## Events

### Recent

- **Language, literacy and learning in a digital age**  
By Graham Smart

On January 22, Professor James Gee, Mary Lou Fulton Presidential Professor of Literacy Studies at Arizona State University and a leading theorist in discourse studies and education, gave a presentation on the topic, *What Video Games Have to Teach Us about Learning and Literacy*. In the first part of his talk, strolling about the room and working without notes, Professor Gee offered an enthralling account of the politics of language education in the U.S. from the post-WWII years to the present. In the second part of the talk, building on his theme that formal language education for children and adolescents has been greatly deficient, he presented a highly entertaining argument for the potential of video games as a vehicle for cognitive and language development.

[Click here to watch/listen to Professor Gee's presentation.](#)

- **CATL/SALADS Mixer Promotes Interaction between Undergrads, Grads, and Faculty**

by Michael Hamilton

The CATL (Carleton Applied & Theoretical Linguists undergraduate society) & SALADS (graduate Society of Applied Linguistics And Discourse Studies) would like to thank all of those who came to their joint Mixer on Monday January 25th at Oliver's. Special thanks to the students that came out from the CTESL (Certificate in Teaching ESL) program. This was CATL's second Mixer & we look forward to many more in the future! This was the inaugural Mixer for SALADS & we hope that it will be the beginning of many joint efforts between the two societies! As well, we would like to give a special thanks to all of the professors that came out: (in order of appearance) Randall Gess, Jaffer Sheyholislami, Ida Toivonen, Ellen Cray, David Wood, Lev Blumenfeld, and Graham Smart. This event was a great opportunity for a meeting of the minds between applied & theoretical, undergraduate & graduate, and students & faculty. Let's hope that even more students take advantage of this wonderful opportunity in the future!

### **Upcoming & Ongoing**

- **2010 SLaLS Graduate Student Symposium - Call for Posters/Papers**

The graduate student Society for Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies (SALADS) invites proposals for the annual SLaLS Graduate Student Symposium. This year's focus is "Language in Action: The Power of Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies."

**Time:** 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Date:** Friday, February 26th, 2010

**Location:** 402 Southam Hall

**Deadline to submit: February 11th, 2010**

[Click here for more details.](#)

- **Modern Language Film Festival**

Do you like international films? Tuesday night is movie night in SLaLS. On selected Tuesdays during Winter 2010, the Modern Languages Unit is organizing a [Modern Language Film Festival](#) with a film in each of the languages we offer.

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** 340 Tory Building

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

- **German Literature Review Program on CKCU**

It's a new year and SLaLS adjunct research professors [Dr. Hans Ruprecht](#) and [Dr. Helmut Zobl](#) continue their [CKCU-FM 93.1](#) radio show - Das literarische Echo. Deutschsprachige Literatur im Gespraech: Kritiken und Kontroversen - every Tuesday morning at 9:05 a.m. Tune in to learn more about contemporary literature written in German from Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Upcoming topics include but are not limited to:

- Schiller heute: Rückblick auf die Ereignisse im 'Schiller-Jahr 2009' anlässlich seines 250. Geburtstags
- Oskar Matzerath trommelt weiter: 50 Jahre Die Blechtrommel (1959), von Günter Grass
- Walter Benjamin und Kurt Tucholsky: zwei Lesarten von KafkasDer Prozeß
- Albert Camus (1913-1960): auf den Spuren seiner Wirkung im deutschen Sprachraum
- ...

To learn more about the program, visit the [program website](#) and/or the [program blog](#).



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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.

**Ash Asudeh**

### Special Ph.D. Funding

Ash was one of fifteen recipients (AND ONLY TWO IN FASS) of special one-time Ph.D. funding from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. The funded Ph.D. studentship is valued at \$30,000 per year for four years, with \$5,000/year in funds contributed from Ash's NSERC Discovery Grant and supplemented by \$25,000/year from FGSR.

For further details, please see: [www.carleton.ca/~asudeh/funding.html](http://www.carleton.ca/~asudeh/funding.html)

### 15th International Lexical Functional Grammar Conference

LFG 2010 will be held at Carleton, June 18-20. Recent previous conferences have been held at Cambridge University (2009), University of Sydney (2008), and Stanford University (2007). The local organizers are Ash Asudeh and Ida Toivonen. We would welcome student volunteers!

For further details about LFG 2010, please see: [www.carleton.ca/lfq2010/](http://www.carleton.ca/lfq2010/)

For further details about Lexical Functional Grammar, please see: [www.essex.ac.uk/linguistics/external/LFG/](http://www.essex.ac.uk/linguistics/external/LFG/)

### Recent Publications

These publications are available here: [www.carleton.ca/~asudeh/research/](http://www.carleton.ca/~asudeh/research/)

- Ash Asudeh. 2009. Adjacency and locality: A constraint-based analysis of complementizer-adjacent extraction. In Miriam Butt and Tracy Holloway King, eds., Proceedings of the LFG09 Conference. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications. 106-126.
- Ash Asudeh and Ida Toivonen. 2009. Lexical-Functional Grammar. In Bernd Heine and Heiko Narrog, eds., The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Analysis. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 425-458.
- Christopher Potts, Ash Asudeh, Seth Cable, Yurie Hara, Eric McCready, Luis Alonso-Ovalle, Rajesh Bhatt, Christopher Davis, Angelika Kratzer, Tom Roeper and Martin Walkow. 2009. Expressives and identity conditions. Linguistic Inquiry 40(2): 356-366.

**Robert Gould**

The five-year research project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (Schweizerischer Nationalfonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung) on Language and Identity Policy in Switzerland with which Robert Gould was associated as a member of the External Advisory Board has just reported. It examined statements between 1960 and 2008 in the federal parliament and in some sub-federal legislatures (both cantonal and municipal), and also in party position papers. Its findings concerning the shifts in language policy resulting from the increased importance of English and from immigration into Switzerland have received a great deal of press attention. The summary report and press articles can be obtained from [Robert\\_Gould@carleton.ca](mailto:Robert_Gould@carleton.ca). If colleagues are interested in meeting her, Christina Späti, one of the two principal researchers, will be in Ottawa at the end of March.

**Michael Hamilton**

Michael Hamilton, a student of linguistics, received a SSHRC Institutional Undergraduate Student Research Award. He will continue work with our team on a morphological description of East Cree verbs, and help complete an on-line verb dictionary complete with sound files, and a printed conjugation guide for Cree teachers, speakers, and learners.

**Antonino Mazza****Recent Publications and News**

Mazza, A. (2009). "Rozmowa z Jerzym Kosińskim: Życie jest procesem wydawniczym." In [Miesięcznik Odra](#), (Wrocław, Poland), X, 2009, pp.67-71. (This interview by A. Mazza with the late American Polish writer, Jerzy Kosinski, had first appeared in English in the Toronto-based, The Idler magazine, with the title Big S self.)

May 17, 2009. Antonino Mazza attended the International Book Fair in Torino, Italy, where together with author Mario Fortunato, playwright Tony Nardi and anthropologist Vito Teti, he participated in a panel on Migrant literature, on the theme Calabria. Identità fuori luogo.

A review of the book, Mazza/Pasolini, The First Paradise, Odetta... Thee Hellbox Press (Kingston), "[Paradise is a book in your hands](#)", by Wayne Grady, appeared in The Whig Standard, Kingston, May 16, 2009.

**Jaffer Sheyholislami****Conference Presentation(s):**

- **Language and Nation-building in Kurdistan-Iraq**  
On November 24, 2009, Jaffer presented a paper entitled "Language and Nation-building in Kurdistan-Iraq" at the [North American] Middle Eastern Association conference held in Boston, Massachusetts. A draft of the paper can be downloaded from the [Kurdish Academy of Language website](#).
- **Kurdish and New Media: Legitimizing and Maintaining a Minority Language Digitally**  
Back in September Jaffer presented another paper entitled "Kurdish and New Media: Legitimizing and Maintaining a Minority Language Digitally" at the International Conference, Language in the (New) Media: Technologies and Ideologies; University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

**Book Review(s):**

- **Minority Language Media: Concepts, Critiques and Case Studies**  
In December 2009, Jaffer's review of the book "Minority Language Media: Concepts, Critiques and Case Studies," a Multilingual Matters publication edited by Mike Cormack and Niamh Hourigan, appeared in the Canadian Journal of Communication, Vol 34 (2009) 757-767.

*Minority languages have been oppressed, denied, and neglected for a long time, and their decline is accelerating. Whereas estimates show that half of the world's languages disappeared from 1450 to 1950, half of the remaining 6000 to 7000 languages could disappear in this century alone. Some observers include globalization and new media technologies among the factors contributing to this extinction. Some others, however, see new media, such as satellite television and the Internet, as the salvation of minority languages.*

*This book is a solid and major contribution to our understanding of the complex relationship between media, language maintenance, and language development. Although the book mainly focuses on Western Europe, its eclectic range of topics could resonate with minority language situations around the world. The book serves the editors' ambitious project...*

Read more

**Profile: Ulrike Tallowitz**

By Peggy Hartwick

Ulrike Tallowitz is the Assistant Director, Modern Languages in SLaLS. Ulrike successfully defended her PhD two years ago through the Department of Language Education at UBC. Originally from Germany, Ulrike spent 6 years at UBC as a German foreign language instructor and the 10 preceding years at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México where, in addition to teaching German, teacher education, and seminars in language pedagogy and sociolinguistics, she chaired the Applied Linguistics Program during some of this time. Ulrike's range of experience helps foster a healthy and growing program in Modern Languages at Carleton.

My first encounter with Ulrike was last spring at the CAAL/ACLA Conference when I attended her talk. Her talk (and PhD topic) focused on reading strategies employed by learners while negotiating and navigating foreign language websites. As a language teacher myself, I never considered how complex reading internet

pages in a foreign language could be, even for this internet savvy generation. But, according to Ulrike's research, with appropriate tasks and the support from the teacher, surfing foreign language websites can be very motivating and rewarding for students.

In conjunction with her research, Ulrike has developed a new German Reading course which has been very successful with graduate students here at Carleton. Additionally, she has been very supportive of the implementation of "Tell me More" software in first year Italian courses; an initiative she considers complementary to the communicative language classroom. Currently Ulrike is teaching German where she sees the potential for a new advanced course (above the current GERM 4110) which could be offered to students who have studied in Germany.

What Ulrike likes most about the Modern Languages program is the high level of professionalism of all language instructors and their openness to discuss pedagogical questions within the group. Furthermore, she sees great opportunities in SLaLS for cooperation between modern language teachers, and faculty in both Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. She sees the planned implementation of ALDS 3803 (Practicum in Language Study) - a course which integrates both theory and description of language learning with practical work in language classes - as an excellent example of such cooperation. Ulrike thinks that this type of collaboration is what makes our school really unique.

**Next issue: Peggy talks to Daniel Siddiqi**

**Ida Toivonen**

Ida sends us a note to say:

- I will teach at the Saami Documentation and Revitalization Winter School in Bodø, Norway, in March.
- Ash and I also have a paper in The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Analysis that just appeared:

Ash Asudeh and Ida Toivonen. 2009. Lexical-Functional Grammar. In Bernd Heine and Heiko Narrog, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Analysis*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 425-458.

- I also have a co-authored journal article that should be out any day now:

Patrik Bye, Elin Sagulin and Ida Toivonen. In press. Phonetic duration, phonological quantity and prosodic structure in Inari Saami. *Phonetica*.

- Finally, Mako and I are having a lot of fun teaching "The Mysteries of Language" for the first time.

*[Editor's note: And the students appear to be enjoying it too!]*

Hi Mako,

I wasn't really sure what a linguistics course entailed, taking your courses on the advice of a psychology professor, and I am pleased I did so. I am discovering that linguistics is indeed a fascinating subject. I am learning that the title of this course "The Mysteries of Language" is perfectly named since the wonders of language are unfolding as if I were uncovering some mysterious plot in a suspenseful novel. Thank you for helping me discover a new intriguing and captivating subject.

Thank you.

Tracy Thomson



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## Student Voices

### **2010 SLaLS Graduate Student Symposium**

On behalf of the graduate student Society for Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies (SALADS) we would like to invite you to the annual Graduate Student Symposium. This year's Symposium "Language in Action: The Power of Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies" is scheduled for **2:30 to 5:30pm on Friday, February 26th, 2010, in room 402 SA.**

The symposium will be opened by Professor Randall Gess, SLaLS Director, and will include a plenary address by Professor Graham Smart and poster presentations.

We invite both students and faculty to submit proposals for poster presentations based on course papers,

research essays, theses, and on faculty members' ongoing or recently published research. Proposal submissions must include the name of the presenter, title of the poster and a short abstract (200 words) of the poster presentation.

**The deadline to submit proposals is February 11th, 2010.**

Please submit your proposals electronically at [mweinste@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:mweinste@connect.carleton.ca). Notifications of acceptance will be sent out shortly after the submission deadline.

Poster presentation involves a poster based on the presenter's own work. No oral presentation is expected; however, it is expected that presenters will be available to answer questions about their posters. Support in poster design is available to graduate students.

This is a great opportunity to share our work, generate ideas, learn from each other, and gain academic skills useful for students, teachers, and researchers alike.

If there are any questions or concerns about the process of proposal submission or displaying a poster, please feel free to contact Max Weinstein at [mweinste@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:mweinste@connect.carleton.ca)

Sincerely,

*The SALADS Symposium Organizing Committee.*



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## News from the Labs

*by Mike Barker*

I am sure many language instructors will be happy to hear that the project to repair the console in PA 101 is underway. The work is slated for early to mid February and will see the installation of a functioning projector and an upgrade of the console's control system.

The labs are seeing good use this semester with a number of Spanish classes exploring the use of audio recording exchanges between students and teachers. As well, the Tell Me More pilot project continues with our four first year Italian courses with results from our questionnaire research expected this summer.

A note for professors whose students need to work on computers outside class time. Please let your students know that PA 101 is available daily as an open lab when it is not booked for language classes. Students are advised to check the door of the lab for availability and should bear in mind that scheduled classes (as well as last minute ad hoc bookings) have priority.

For those interested in learning more about the use of computers in language education, you may want to visit my blog where I have been archiving CALL related news and initiatives using the free blogger tool:

[www.pa132.blogspot.com](http://www.pa132.blogspot.com)



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