

School of Linguistics & Language Studies

e-Newsletter

April 2010

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Welcome Message

Hello and welcome to the third 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

The end of Winter term means that the end of the academic year is right around the corner, and I can't help but reflect on my first term in the service role as Director of SLaLS. I recall the autumn before coming here, when my evening hobby was researching the School in order to present a strong application file and eventually to interview well. I felt as if I knew the School pretty well before arriving to take up my new life in Canada. I knew that this was a dynamic School with dedicated teachers and scholars, and with a truly impressive range of work on language, from the theoretical to the practical, from the cognitive to the sociocultural - a range rarely seen in a single administrative unit. I liked that then, and I like that now. Take a look at the contents of this newsletter and you'll have some idea of why.

My goal as Director has been very simply to ensure that each corner of the School is able to excel at what it does. In order to facilitate this, we have put in place Assistant Directors for both degree programs, as well as Undergraduate Advisors for each. Undergraduate enrolments have held steady in Applied Linguistics & Discourse Studies, and in Linguistics they have skyrocketed. The MA program in ALDS is as strong and healthy as ever, with the PhD program ready for final OCGS approval and implementation for Fall 2011. We also have a much needed Assistant Director for Modern Languages. The languages programs must figure centrally in the President's strategic, interdisciplinary theme of focus, "globalization and global identities", and they are poised for slow but steady growth in the years to come. Were it not for the economic downturn we may well have a BA program in Spanish in place for this coming Fall. As it is, the program has received approval at all academic levels and only needs the final green light from the Financial Planning Group before one or two hires can be made in Spanish Linguistics and/or Spanish Applied Linguistics & Discourse Studies. This summer we are offering a course in Pashto for the first time, and next year (Fall/Winter) we hope to offer both Swahili and Brazilian Portuguese. In the language learning labs, we have reason to hope that collaboration between technical staff and language instructors will continue to grow, further enhancing the role of technology in our students' learning experiences and further underscoring the importance of technology in supporting the pedagogical mission of our programs. The ESLA and CCDP programs continue to deliver cutting edge curricular content to the students they serve, and their instructors continue to innovate in ways that will enrich the entire university community. These scholars of teaching in practice (as I like to think of them, and their Modern Languages counterparts) are thoroughly engaged intellectually in what they do, and committed without compromise to the success of their students. Helping us all to do what we do best is our committed staff, without which we would all be lost at sea. I'll never forget the CUPE 2424 labour action only weeks into my first year at SLaLS, and beginning on the first day of classes! More importantly, I'll never forget their professional return to work two weeks later (give or take), truly concerned with the well-being of the School (and also their new Director!). I knew before coming that the staff team was something special, and like my experience with the rest of the School, there was no disappointment.

A cursory glance towards the future suffices to bring home the realization that the School will undergo many changes between now and June 30, 2016, the end of my second term. My goal as Director for the second term will be much the same, to help all corners of the School to excel at what they do. I will also be very conscious in hiring (a lot of that will likely go on!) in selecting individuals with a healthy respect for the diversity of activity that goes on under the umbrella of SLaLS and, where possible, to select individuals whose scholarly activity can benefit more than one area of the School. Given the nature of our School, it should not be difficult to accomplish this while maintaining the highest possible expectations in terms of scholarly profile.



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Recent Events

• **Speaker Series: Professor Jim Martin**

Professor Jim Martin offered the keynote address - "Genre: A social semiotic perspective" - at the Colloquium on Genre Studies, 16 February, 2010.

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

• **Speaker Series: Professor John Flowerdew**

Professor John Flowerdew read from his paper "Reconciling Contrasting Approaches to Applied Genre Analysis: The whole can be more than the sum of the parts", 29 March, 2010.

• **Speaker Series: Professor Heidi Byrnes**

In her presentation, "Designing articulated collegiate Foreign Language curricula: From structural to meaning-oriented, textual approaches," Professor Byrnes emphasized the importance of articulated curricula in L2 programs which both spans the entire undergraduate sequence and fosters the development of advanced levels of L2 proficiency, 7 April, 2010.

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

* available online after April 15, 2010

Upcoming & Ongoing Events

• **Pashto Courses**



SLaLS is excited to offer Summer courses in introductory Pashto, an official and national language of Afghanistan and northern Pakistan. The course will be taught by Aman Khan. Aman has taught Pashto at the University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania and is currently working with Simon & Schuster to design courses and course material for Pashto. He is also currently a graduate student in Applied Linguistics & Discourse Studies here at Carleton. Registration for Pashto will open May 3, 2010. Courses are listed in our "[Less Commonly Taught Languages](#)" category and will run pending sufficient enrollment:

- Introduction to a Language I (May 10, 2010 - Jun 21, 2010)
- Introduction to a Language II (Jul 05, 2010 - Aug 16, 2010)

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

Dates: June 18-20, 2010

This year's [Lexical-Functional Grammar Conference 2010](#) will be hosted at Carleton University.

SLaLS' Ida Toivonen and Ash Asudeh are the local organizers.

The conference aims to promote interaction and collaboration among researchers interested in non-derivational approaches to grammar, where grammar is seen as the interaction of (perhaps violable) constraints from multiple levels of structuring, including those of syntactic categories, grammatical relations, semantics and discourse.

The 2009 conference was held at Cambridge University.

• **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

Marie-Odile Junker Wins Killam Research Fellowship

Congratulations to Marie-Odile for being one of only eight outstanding Canadian researchers to receive the prestigious Killam Research Fellowship. This is truly an exceptional achievement.

The Fellowship is worth \$70,000 a year for two years and will enable Marie-Odile to research the word formations used for Cree and Innu, two Eastern Canada Aboriginal languages, with particular emphasis on understanding traditional ecological knowledge and human cognition. The work will be used to produce online specialized topical dictionaries in these two endangered languages as well as contribute to the advancement of knowledge in linguistics.

Related links:

- [Paths of the Healers Website](#)
- [East Cree Project](#)
- [Dean Osborne's Blog](#)
- [Carleton News Release](#)
- [FASS News Feed](#)
- [Government of Canada News Release](#)
- [Canada Council Press Release](#)

Ash Asudeh and Janna Fox win 2010 FASS Research Awards

Congratulations to SLaLS faculty members Ash Asudeh (Linguistics) and Janna Fox (Applied Linguistics & Discourse Studies) who have been awarded two of the 2010 FASS Research Awards. Only up to four of these awards are made each year, so this is a wonderful reflection on the quality, importance, and variety of research going on in SLaLS. Ash is working on a book project under contract with Oxford University Press on the logic of resumptive pronouns, and Janna is working on the development of a diagnostic approach to meeting specific needs of entering university students depending on their particular skills profiles with respect to academic English.

Ida Toivonen wins SSHRC Grant

Congratulations go out to Ida Toivonen who received a SSHRC Standard Research Grant valued at almost \$80,000 over three years to explore "Linguistic microvariation in Scandinavian: The Åland dialect of Swedish."

MOT Conference

By Lev Blumenfeld

On March 12-14, Carleton hosted the annual [Montréal - Ottawa - Toronto Phonology workshop](#) (MOT), the first time this even has been held at Carleton. The conference featured three days of talks by faculty and students from the University of Toronto, McGill, Concordia, McMaster, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, University of Ottawa, The Ohio State University, and Carleton. The presentations covered an impressive range of topics in a diverse set of theoretical frameworks. The invited speaker was Paul Kiparsky (Stanford), whose talk was held in conjunction with the 40th anniversary speaker series at SLaLS.

Language and the Brain Featured on Cover of Carleton University Magazine



Check out the feature article on Mako Hirotni, Ida Toivonen and the Language and Brain Lab in the March issue of [Carleton University Magazine](#)!

Visit from Aoyama Gakuin University

By Yoko Azuma Prikryl

A cultural exchange session for students from the Japanese language program and students from Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo was held on March 17th. Seventeen students were accompanied by two professors from Aoyama Gakuin University. SLaLS Director Randall Gess welcomed the participants and opened the session. Carleton University President Roseann O'Reilly Runte gave her welcoming remarks recalling the Japanese Imperial Visit in the same room last year. After presentations given by representatives from students of both universities, Carleton students showed their Japanese guests around the campus communicating in target languages. Future possibilities of student exchanges were discussed by faculty members. The event was co-

hosted by the Embassy of Japan and Carleton University.

Launch of Path of the Elders

[Path of the Healers](#), an online interactive website for learning Cree, was launched March 24, 2010.

Marie-Odile Junker worked with Douglas C. Ellis to build an audio library of the oral stories in Swampy and Moose Cree which he collected between 1955 and 1965. The stories are available on line and will be integrated in the game.



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Student News

Grad Students Make Conference Presentations

Two of our undergraduate linguistics students co-presented with Professor Marie-Odile Junker at [WSCLA 15](#) (15th Workshop on Structure and Constituency in the Languages of the Americas) held at the University of Ottawa, Feb 5-7:

- **Michael Hamilton**, Marie-Odile Junker (Carleton University) and Marguerite MacKenzie (Memorial University) "Is there 'Pragmatic Skewing' in East Cree?"
- Carrie Dyck (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Marie-Odile Junker and **Kelly Logan** (Carleton University) "Phonetic and Phonological Evidence for a Vowel Merger in East Cree"

Carleton Students Excel in Japanese Speech Contest

The 21st Japanese Language Speech Contest in Ottawa was held at the Embassy of Japan on March 6. Carleton students did very well, taking prizes in both Intermediate and Advanced categories:

- **Lisa Chenier**, 1st prize in Advanced category and a winner of the grand prize.
- **Jaime Graham**, 2nd prize in Advanced category.
- **Andrew Tan**, 2nd prize in Intermediate category.
- **Carman Jes**, Special prize in Advanced category.
- **Owen Ramsay**, Special prize in Intermediate category.

As 1st prize winner, Lisa proceeded to the National Speech Contest held in York University. A video stream of this event is available online by following the Video Streaming link on the [National Japanese Speech Contest \(Canada\) 全カナダ日本語弁論大会](#) website.

First Linguistics Mini Conference

The first linguistics mini conference was truly a great success!

Four honours thesis students successfully presented their theses:

- **Crystal Darby**
English Temporal Prepositions and Time Expressions
Supervisor: Ida Toivonen
- **Kandice Hachey**
The Significance of F0 in Intonation and Focus
Supervisor: Lev Blumenfeld
- **Laura Harder**
Textsetting in Rap Music
Supervisor: Lev Blumenfeld
- **Natalie Phelan**
Old English without Class: A Non-Paradigmatic Approach to Verbal Morphology
Supervisor: Daniel Siddiqi

It was a great turn out and a nice, supportive atmosphere throughout the conference. About 20 students (excluding the presenters) came to the conference and asked many good questions during and even after the conference.

Also, eight faculty members were there. Supervisors, thank you for the great work, supervision, and guidance. Joan, Connie, and Tracey, thank you for your help with all the arrangements and Mike for posting the conference info on the web. All faculty members, especially Carmen, Raj, and Ash, thank you for coming to the event and the valuable comments for the students' work.

It was great...and all goodies were gone (we may need some more in the future...)

Mako

NOTE: And here is a note from [Carmen L. LeBlanc](#), an Assistant Professor in the faculty of French who is also cross-appointed to SLaLS.

Hello Mako,

In response to your request for feedback on the recent mini conference, I was primarily impressed with the design of the studies and the attention paid to details. The results were presented in a structured and professional manner, similar to what we see from students at conferences like CLA ([Canadian Linguistic Association](#)).

Kind regards.

Carmen

Theory Meets Practice in CTESL Poster Session

By Richard Thompson

On October 23rd, this year's undergraduate CTESL students took part in a poster session organized by their practicum (practice teaching) coordinator, Virginia Taylor. The session was held in classroom PA-215, the walls of which were covered with colourful posters highlighting aspects of English language instruction.

Designs included text generously complemented by visuals as well as text alone, artfully arranged on its background. A wide range of ESL levels were covered, from literacy to enhanced language instruction.

Each poster had an information theme that students had chosen based on their teaching internships and focuses that had emerged in them.

Themes included the use of role play or of media such as visuals, music and CUTV (Carleton's television station) in learning tasks and activities. Other displays had a subject focus, such as numbers, proverbs, and humorous or contentious material.

Specific methods and approaches such as cooperative learning were represented; treatment was also given to qualities which all language instructors need to develop, such as the awareness of space and its possibilities for teaching and learning.

In all cases, the students themselves were on hand to explain the elements of their posters to visitors from the SLaLS faculty and staff and Master's candidates in Applied Linguistics. The event gave rise to plenty of discussion about ways to teach English to speakers of other languages and to achieve excellence as ESL instructors.

A Year in CATL

By Mike Hamilton

This year the undergraduate linguistics society was resurrected as CATL (Carleton Applied & Theoretical Linguists) with the goal of building a sense of camaraderie amongst linguistics students & bringing together Applied & Theoretical students, faculty & ideas. We held a very successful speaker series which hosted many Carleton professors discussing their current research and career path, including Ash Asudeh, Lev Blumenfeld, Natasha Artemeva, Graham Smart, Randall Gess, David Wood, Jaffer Sheyholislami, and Kumiko Murasugi. We also held two excellent student-faculty mixers and had a well supported bake sale! We ended the year off with our most successful event to date; a Free Pizza Party & Pot luck in the amphitheatre outside Patterson Hall. We would like to give a big thanks all of the students and faculty who supported CATL this year! We have a core group of excellent students who are ready to continue the legacy & we encourage all students who are interested to check out the next set of CATL event in Fall 2010! Congratulations to all of this year's graduating students & good luck to all students who will be returning next year!!!

A Year in SALADS

By Max Weinstein

After a year off, the SLaLS program once again had graduate students society in 2010. Formerly known as ALGSA, the Society of Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies (SALADS), hosted several social events, and the 5th annual Graduate Student Symposium. The symposium included a plenary presentation by Dr. Graham Smart, and 12 posters relating to the theme of "Language in Action: The Power of Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies". It was a great opportunity for students and faculty to present their course work and research, and get feedback from others in the SLaLS community.

We hope to continue the tradition of the symposium next year, and look forward to planning more social and academic events. Thanks to all those who participated in this years events and committees, and the faculty and support staff in SLaLS department.



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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

Ash will give the following talk - *Evidence for Parallel Composition from Resumptive Pronouns* - as part of the regular [speaker series in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy](#) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Friday, April 16 at 3:30 p.m.

Randall Gess

Randall presented at the 40th anniversary [Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages](#) (LSRL), at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, on March 26. The paper was entitled, "Why Historical French is Problematic for Evolutionary Phonology". The University of Washington last hosted the LSRL on its 25th anniversary in 1995, and Randall assisted in the organization of that event as a graduate student - how time flies!

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.

Jaffer Sheyholislami

Jaffer Sheyholislami was invited to speak at the [Trace Foundation](#) Lecture Series, "Minority Language in Today's Global Society: Perspectives on Language Standardization" (March 26-27, New York City). Since 1993, the Trace Foundation has been promoting culture and development in Tibet where language standardization has proven to be a very complex and challenging task for language planners. Jaffer presented his current research on language planning in Iraqi Kurdistan where language planners are facing some similar but at the same time different challenges in their attempt to select a variety as the standard and official language of that region. Other speakers came from Australia, Bulgaria, China, and Tibet. Previous speakers at the Foundation's lecture series on language have included renowned researchers such as Joshua Fishman, and Tove Skutnabb-Kangas.

Profile: Dan Siddiqi

By Peggy Hartwick

I would usually see him in the corridor; surrounded by students; deeply engaged in some extension of a classroom discussion spilling out into the hallway. "Who is that guy anyway?", I kept asking myself.

Well, I finally got around to asking.

Dan Siddiqi is a new professor in SLaLS and, with a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona with specialties in morphology, syntax, and English grammar. His main passion is the field of Formal Morphological Theory.

Dan's dissertation, *Minimize Exponence: Economy effects on the morphosyntactic component of the grammar*, investigates the structure of the verbal complex and negotiates the strengths and weaknesses of the theoretical framework of Distributed Morphology. This publication, in addition to finding its way onto the reading lists of several prominent graduate programs (including UC Berkeley and University of Ottawa), has also morphed (pun intended) into a book, *Syntax within the Word*, which was published in 2009.

Prior to coming to linguistics, Dan earned an M.F.A. in English Literature and Creative Writing and, prior to coming to Carleton, was on the faculty of two English departments-- experiences he credits with establishing his current pedagogical practices and beliefs.

Dan's passion for his subject matter and for teaching is evident; Dan has a huge student following. When I asked him how he makes morphological theory so interesting, he said he encourages his students to think about the "why" and insists that there is no "right or wrong" answers.

What's next for Dan? Well, he is interested in a meta-theorist point of view and is seeking a SSHRC grant to help initiate an annual meta-theoretical Linguistics conference.

When I asked Dan what he would like his colleagues to know about him he said "I want them to know that I'm a nice guy and cool to hang out with."

Graham Smart

Conference Presentation

"The Climate-Change Debate in Asia and North America: Historical, Socio-Cultural, and Ideological Influences on Collective Argument." [Conference of the American Association of Applied Linguistics. Atlanta](#), Georgia. March 2010.

Guest Lecture

"Post-Copenhagen: The Climate-Change Debate in Asia and North America." Guest lecture. University of Ottawa Law School. February 18, 2010.



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