



eNewsletter
School of Linguistics & Language Studies

November 2010

Welcome Message

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 below 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. If you choose to unsubscribe, please email your request to slalsenews@carleton.ca.



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Upcoming & Ongoing

■ Modern Language Film Festival - Fall 2010

Thursday night is movie night. That's right. Take out your daytimer and pencil in the last Thursday of the month to watch a film in one of the target languages taught by the SLaLS Modern Languages unit.



おくりびと, *Okuribito (Departures)*

Japan, 2008
dir. Yojiro Takita.



Thursday, 25 November

7:30 p.m.
210 Tory Building

Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film at the 81st Oscars in 2009. Daigo Kobayashi (Masahiro Motoki), a cellist in an orchestra in Tokyo, loses his job because of the dissolution of the orchestra. After quitting as a professional cellist he decides to sell his cello (which had cost him 18 million yen), and to move back to his old hometown, Sakata, Yamagata, with his wife (with whom he had chosen not to discuss the cost of his instrument). She passively but sweetly accepts both his deception and his wish to sell the cello and move.

■ Documentary Film Competition for Communication Courses

Helen Triantafellou and Lisa Meyer are teaching a communication course for multimedia students in the School of Information Technology, Faculty of Engineering (IMD3003). The students are engaged in a community service learning (CSL) project in which they are producing documentary films for [Transition Ottawa](#) (an organization which promotes sustainable living). These films will be shown in a film competition at Carleton University:



Thursday, 25 November

7:30-10:30 p.m.
302 Azrieli Theatre

We hope to see you there.

To learn more, read and visit the links in the event announcement below:



[Transition Ottawa / Carleton Multimedia Design Students Film Competition!](#)

14 Creative short films to inspire transitioned action

These short films focus on aspects of transitioned lifestyles: energy, food, recycling, transport and simple living.

They are fun, informative, set to music, and offer solutions for saving money while helping the environment and personal health. Find out how to make your own beer and get free of Facebook addiction. Audience members get to vote on each film's message and appeal using a clicker.

The panel of judges includes David Chernushenko who produced the film "[Powerful](#)," Kaia Nightingale, co-founder of [Transition Ottawa](#) , and Angela Teske, from the [Ecowellness Centre](#) youth learning programs.

■ Taking learning outside the classroom.

For the past few months, members of Estelle Lalande's ESLA 1300 class have been volunteering with different charities in the Ottawa community in order to satisfy part of their language portfolio requirements.

According to Estelle, the "communication skills" component of the portfolio encourages students to pursue opportunities for listening and speaking above and beyond the more traditional reading and writing emphasis of many EAP classes.

With support from the Student Experience Office, Estelle has developed a range of volunteering opportunities for her students:

- Moving furniture and changing window displays from Halloween to Christmas at Ottawa Neighbourhood Services.
- Selling calendars and 50/50 tickets in the Fieldhouse for the United Way.
- Dressing up as ghosts and underworld demons on Halloween to canvass door to door for food donations for the [Ottawa Food Bank](#) as part of the [Trick or Eat campaign](#).
- And giving out snowsuits for children as part of the Ottawa Snowsuit Fund.

"The Snowsuit Fund event was hugely successful," Estelle said. "This was really a good listening and speaking practice. Because they were behind the counter they were serving people. People would come to them with a paper saying I'm picking up two snowsuits size 8 and size 6 so they had to talk to these people and then go find the snowsuits and then they had to sell them. They're \$10 each. So there's a lot of interaction there and they really liked it. It was busy busy crazy. The place was full."

The most recent event was also successful, serving food and cleaning up for the "In from the Cold" event at the Parkdale United Church soup kitchen.

"It was eye-opening for students in many ways as some of the people they were serving were homeless and they were told that this meal was probably the only hot meal that these people would get for a whole week."

In addition to the networking connections, initiative, and staff support provided by the Student

Experience Office, Estelle also likes that a representative from the SEO will go on events with students and then follow up afterwards with group reflection and discussion.

Estelle builds on this discussion in her classes by having students write their own reflections on their participation and tell other students in the class about their event.

The final event of the season will be the Ottawa Mission on 27 November.

■ German Literature Review Program on CKCU

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

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

[Program Website](#)



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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.

■ Robert Gould

Edited Book Published:

The book, based on research results from a three-year study of parliamentary and media debates in Latvia, analyses the discourses of Latvian politicians and the media about nation, citizenship, cultural diversity, history and the nation-state. This is the first large-scale study of political debates in a Baltic State from the perspective of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Separate chapters, by researchers from Canada, Latvia, Lithuania and the UK, analyse the intersections between national identity construction, national mythmaking, concepts of citizenship, journalistic action, press ownership and questions of control of political and media discourses. All of these have impact on the fundamental questions of the relationship between individuals and the state. The authors conclude that even after the accession to the European Union in 2004, political pressures in Latvia, as also frequently on the political Right in other EU countries, promote ethnic membership as the guiding factor of state-building.

[Shrinking Citizenship : Discursive Practices that Limit Democratic Participation in Latvian Politics](#)

Edited by Maria Golubeva and Robert Gould
Amsterdam/New York, NY, 2010, 197 pp.

■ Natasha Artemeva

I'm spending a few months of my sabbatical at Rice University in Houston, TX. On November 9 I will give a talk, [Teaching Seminar: Teaching Undergraduate Mathematics through Writing, Talk, and Movement](#), based on our current research project (Artemeva, Fox, and Pare).



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Faculty News

■ Natasha and Janna Popular with Journal Readers

A recent article by Artemeva and Fox published in the Journal of Business and Technical Communication is listed as #17 in the [list of 50 most often read articles](#) in September 2010.

Natasha Artemeva and Janna Fox, "Awareness Versus Production: Probing Students' Antecedent Genre Knowledge," *Journal of Business and Technical Communication*, October 2010 24: 476-515, first published on June 11, 2010 doi:10.1177/1050651910371302

Selected JBTC articles appear on-line in advance of a printed version which allows readers to access them before the journal issue is published.



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Student News

■ Graduate Students Symposium a Success

By Max Weinstein

On Oct 29th SALADS hosted the 6th annual Graduate Students Symposium. The event was very successful with great posters and an excellent keynote presentation by Dr. Jaffer Sheyholislami. We were also fortunate to have several former graduates of the masters program, [Christine Doe](#) and Erin Bidlake, return to present posters on their Ph.D. research as well as professors and many first and second year masters students who displayed thesis, research paper and course work. Great job by all the presenters who took time during their busy semester to present and put together such high quality posters.

Thanks to everyone who came out and made the event a success.

Sincerely,

SALADS symposium committee

Max Weinstein, Martha Godon, Melissa McLeod, Andrzej Szeib, Evgeniya Minakova



Imad shows his poster as others look on



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News from the Library

■ Language Logger Heads

Hi All,

This is not really library related, but it is just a very interesting video called [LanguageLoggerHeads](#) that I came across on the *Language Log* blog. In it, Ben Zimmer (the new language guy at the New York Times) and John McWhorter have wide-ranging discussion on a myriad of language topics. Here's the blurb by Zimmer:

"Bloggingheads, home of the "diavlog," is now featuring a discussion that I had with fellow Language Logger John McWhorter about a whole range of linguistic issues, from lexical chunking to pop-Whorfianism to Obama's Indonesian skills to the language of Mad Men. Something for everyone!"

It is about an hour long, but I found it very interesting to listen to!

Judy

■ Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics

Until Nov. 30 we have a free trial of the online version of the Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics. To connect: <http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=e1000806~S9>

Publisher's description:

The EALL is a comprehensive encyclopedia covering all relevant aspects of the study of Arabic and dealing with all levels of the language (pre-Classical Arabic, Classical Arabic, Modern Standard Arabic, Arabic vernaculars, mixed varieties of Arabic), both synchronically and diachronically. It has been published in five volumes with a total of two million words, distributed over approximately 500 entries. The treatment includes both the external and the internal history of the language, as well as the structural analysis of the different varieties of the language, the interaction between varieties in mixed levels (such as Middle Arabic), the linguistic contacts between Arabic and other languages, and the place of Arabic within larger language groups.

Please send any feedback on this trial to judy_senecal@carleton.ca



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School of Linguistics and Language Studies
1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5B6 Canada
(613) 520-7400

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