Welcome, New Faculty!

Dr. Lara Jones
Dr. Lara Jones (Psychology, Linguistics) has recently joined the Linguistics Program. A new hire for the Psychology Department, Dr. Jones’ research examines the representation, accessibility and integration of noun-noun concept pairs. Contextual mediation of word recognition, or lexical priming, provides important constraints on models of word recognition. Subtypes of lexical priming include associative priming, semantic priming, integrative priming, mediated priming, and relational priming, which entails the ability to infer a plausible relation in the first pair (e.g., a mouse that inhabits a cage). In addition to continuing her research on lexical priming, Dr. Jones plans to investigate the relationship between executive functioning, analogical reasoning, and relational priming. Other research interests have included the role of aptness in metaphor comprehension and factors affecting the disambiguation of polysemous words such as “paper.”

Dr. Felecia Lucht
Dr. Felecia Lucht (CMLLC, Linguistics) completed her Ph.D. in German Linguistics under the supervision of Joseph Salmons at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her research interests include: German-American studies, sociolinguistics, language variation and shift, and language contact.

Dr. Abderrahmane Zouhir
Dr. Abderrahmane Zouhir (CMLLC, Linguistics) earned his doctorate in Linguistics from the University of Fes, Morocco.
New Book Publications

**Numerical Notation**

Dr. Stephen Chrisomalis (Anthropology, Linguistics) has recently completed a new book entitled *Numerical Notation: A Comparative History* (Cambridge, 2010). It is a cross-cultural cognitive analysis of over 100 graphic numeral representation systems used over the past 5500 years. This past summer, Dr. Chrisomalis undertook the first year of observations for his ongoing ethnographic study, "Acquiring a mathematical culture at Math Corps," in which he observed and interviewed middle school students at Wayne State's Math Corps program, using techniques from cognitive anthropology and discourse analysis.

**Phonology: A Cognitive Grammar Introduction**

Dr. Geoff Nathan (English, Linguistics) has recently published *Phonology: A Cognitive Grammar Introduction* (John Benjamins, 2008). The textbook describes the field of phonology to those encountering phonology for the first time and explains a range of historical and contemporary theories.

**Hmong-Mien Language History**

This year, Professor Martha Ratliff (English, Linguistics) completed *Hmong-Mien Language History* (Pacific Linguistics, 2010). This book contains a new reconstruction of the Hmong-Mien “protolanguage,” the hypothetical ancestor of the 30 to 40 languages in this family. She also finished a large study of loanwords in the modern language White Hmong, which appears in a volume of loanword studies compiled by linguists at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig (*Loanwords in the World’s Languages: A Comparative Handbook*, Mouton de Gruyter, 2009). These studies should yield new generalizations about what types of words are least resistant to borrowing, and what borrowing patterns are most common. A second edition of her 1992 book *Meaningful Tone* will be published in 2010 by Northern Illinois University Press.

Welcome, New Faculty

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with the dissertation title “The A/A-bar Distinction and Movement Theory in Standard Arabic: A Minimalist Approach.” In addition, he is currently a doctoral candidate (ABD) in Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with the expected graduation date of December 2009. His dissertation title is “An investigation of Some Major Difficulties Facing U.S. Students in Learning Arabic.” Dr. Zouhir has conducted several research papers in syntax, morphology, applied linguistics, and sociolinguistics, as well as published multiple articles about language policy. The most recent article is entitled “Language Policy and the Factors Influencing it in Some Middle Eastern Countries and Morocco” (*Perspectives on Arabic Linguistics*, Benjamins, 2009).
Richard Braddock award, publications, Keal Fellowship

Professor Ellen Barton (English, Linguistics) recently won the 2009 Richard Braddock award for the best article in the journal *College Composition & Communication* (2008) with the publication “Further Contributions from the Ethical Turn in Composition/Rhetoric: Analyzing Ethics in Interaction.” This article was a discourse analysis of offers to participate in pediatric research. Prof. Barton also published an article in *Written Communication* entitled “Ethical or Unethical Persuasion? The Rhetoric of Offers to Participate in Clinical Trials.” This article was a discourse analysis of the presentation of elements of consent in offers to participate in cancer clinical trials. She also won the 2009 WSU Department of English Keal Fellowship to work on her current project on ethical deliberation.

Presentation, language evolution collaboration

Dr. Eugenia Casielles (CMLLC, Linguistics) presented a paper entitled “Vulnerable subjects in language acquisition: Null and non-null subjects” at the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium and Conference on the Acquisition of Spanish and Portuguese as First and Second Languages, which took place in October 2009 at the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. She is also working on language evolution in collaboration with Professor Ljiljana Progovac. They have co-authored a paper entitled “Protosyntax: A thetic (unaccusative) stage,” presented at the International Conference “Ways to Protolanguage,” which took place in Poland, September 2009, and a paper entitled “Thetic vs. categorical statements and the evolution of human language,” presented at the Michigan Linguistics Society in October at the University of Michigan. Dr. Casielles has been invited to give a talk at an International Conference on Language Contact and Bilingualism organized by the University of Wuppertal in Germany in June 2010.

Acquisition of the British National Corpus

Dr. Nicholas Fleisher (English, Linguistics) is overseeing the Program’s acquisition of the British National Corpus. The BNC is a 100-million-word parsed corpus of English texts from a variety of genres. It is a valuable resource for doing quantitative research on all kinds of topics in syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and related subfields. Once acquired and installed, it will be accessible to all faculty and students affiliated with the Linguistics Program. Keep an eye out for updates as the year goes on. There will be an introductory tutorial on how to use the BNC for anyone who is interested once things are up and running.
Paper accepted for publication

Dr. Haiyong Liu (CMLLC, Linguistics) has written a paper, “Expletive Negation in Mandarin cha-dian-mei ‘miss-not-bit’ + V Structure,” which has been accepted for publication by the Journal of Chinese Linguistics (2010). A puzzle that Dr. Liu has wanted to solve since he started studying linguistics as a graduate student at Wayne State is why cha-dian shuai-dao (almost fell) and cha-dian mei shuai-dao (almost not fell) are both interpreted as ‘almost fell’ in Mandarin, regardless of the existence of the negator mei. In this article, he argues that in addition to lexical semantics as discussed in previous literature, syntax, prosody, and word segmentation also contribute to the ambiguity. What’s more, the inherent undesirable (e.g., people seldom say cha-dian-(mei) xihuan: ‘almost liked’ in Mandarin) and negative interpretation of cha-dian and cha-dian-mei (they both mean ‘almost’ that actually negates) serves as another revelation of the language universal that negation and counter-factual expressions frequently go hand-in-hand.

The evolution of syntax, international conferences, Distinguished Faculty Award

In the past three years, Professor Ljiljana Progovac (English, Linguistics) has developed a keen interest in the evolution of human language, in particular, the evolution of syntax. Her research tries to understand how syntax might have evolved gradually, given the well-established biological processes of adaptation and selection. To this end, she has exchanged ideas with other scholars at a variety of professional conferences, including in Leipzig, Germany (2007); New York (ILA 2007); York, England (BALE 2008); Bamberg, Germany (2008); Barcelona, Spain (EvoLang 2008); Novi Sad, Serbia, as keynote speaker (2008); Yale University, as keynote speaker (FASL 2008); Torún, Poland (jointly with Dr. Eugenia Casielles, 2009). Her research and travel have been supported by two grants: the Humanities Center Innovative Projects Grant, and the Distinguished Faculty Fellowship award. Prof. Ljiljana Progovac’s work on evolution has since been published in various venues, including, most recently, in a volume on Language Complexity (Oxford University Press, 2009), in a volume on Recursion in Human Language (Mouton, in press), and in the journal Biolinguistics (2009).

International Conferences on Historical Linguistics

Professor Margaret Winters (CMLLC, Linguistics) and Dr. Geoff Nathan attended the 2009 International Conference on Historical Linguistics in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. They presented their paper, “How Different is Prototype Change?” which they are currently revising for publication. In addition, Prof. Winters has a paper coming out in Language Sciences in the near future and one in the Working Papers of the English Department of the University in Bielsko-Biala (Poland), which she presented as a plenary speaker in the Fall of 2008. She continues to serve as Chair for the Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures Department.

Retired faculty still at work

Professor Aleya Rouchdy is a retired professor who taught Arabic linguistics at Wayne State University from 1970 to 2005. Recently, Prof. Rouchdy started a blog on the Arabic language that will incorporate some sociolinguistics in the near future. Her wish is to interact with students who are interested in learning the language, teaching the language, and studying the interaction of Arabic and English. The blog is dedicated to how Americans use, learn, and teach Arabic and, in addition, how the language has changed in Arab countries cross-culturally. Posts will also include topics such as language contact situations, diglossia, and borrowing in the speech of Arab-Americans. Please see the blog for additional information: http://arabiclanguageinamerica.blogspot.com/
Alumni as Part-Time Instructors
Stephen Pobutsky, Karen Milligan and Laura Payne, all WSU alumni with M.A. degrees in Linguistics, are currently teaching introductory linguistics courses at Wayne State.

M.A. Essay Defense and Article Publication
Abdullah Alfaifi has just defended his M.A. essay on his native Arabic dialect of Jabal Faifa (Jizan province/Saudi Arabia). In addition, his paper on the topic, “First notes on the dialect of Jabal Faifa,” written jointly with German linguist Dr. Peter Behnstedt, is scheduled to be published in the spring of 2010 in the journal Zeitschrift für Arabische Linguistik (Journal of Arabic Linguistics). They write mainly about Jabal Faifa, even though they consider it in the context of many other Arabic dialects. The article ends with “to be continued,” since the plan is to co-author at least one more article on the topic.

Alumna Ph.D. Candidate at UC Santa Barbara; Research Grants
Andrea Berez (M.A. 2006) is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Linguistics Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her recent research focuses on intonation in Ahtna, an Athabaskan language spoken in Alaska’s Copper River valley, and her upcoming dissertation looks at how Ahtna’s rich grammar of path and location is realized in discourse about overland travel. Andrea has been taking yearly research trips to Alaska since 2004. She completed three months of dissertation fieldwork in 2009 and will return for six months in early 2010. Her work has been funded by several grants from the American Philosophical Society, the Jacobs Research Fund and, most recently, from the University of California Pacific Rim Research program. A version of Andrea’s Wayne State M.A. thesis will be published in the International Journal of American Linguistics in 2010, and she recently presented her research in Australia, Hawai’i, and Sweden. She returned to Michigan during the summer of 2009 as a visiting scholar at the Institute for Language and Information Technology at Eastern Michigan University. More information about Andrea’s work can be found on her website at http://www.uweb.ucsb.edu/~aberez/index.html.

Alumnus Puts Linguistics on YouTube
Ari Hoptman, former undergraduate linguistics major at Wayne State, has created a video in three parts on “Verner’s Law” (a Germanic sound change), and has also created a linguistic analysis of Barry Manilow’s rendition of “Copacabana.” From the first YouTube link, see links to the rest under “Related Videos.” See link below: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aal9VSPkf5s.

M.A. Candidate Presents at Michigan Linguistics Society
Stephanie McLear (M.A. 2009) presented at the Michigan Linguistics Society meeting which was held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, on October 31, 2009. Her paper, based on her M.A. essay, was entitled “Double genitives and the animacy hierarchy.”

Alumna Wins ELF Grant and is Completing Dissertation at Rutgers
Sarah Murray (M.A. 2004) has won a prestigious Endangered Language Fund award to support her fieldwork project on Cheyenne discourse. Cheyenne is an endangered language spoken by 1,600 people in Montana and Oklahoma. For the past four summers, Sarah has traveled to Montana for fieldwork with speakers of Cheyenne, with each of these field trips externally funded. Sarah is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Linguistics with a Certificate in Cognitive Science at Rutgers University in New Jersey (for more information, see: http://www.endangeredlanguagefund.org).

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This year, Sarah is completing her dissertation, “Dynamics of Evidentiality and Mood in Cheyenne,” which investigates the semantics and pragmatics of Cheyenne evidentials and their interaction with illocutionary mood. The dissertation, based primarily on original fieldwork, both provides an in-depth description of the Cheyenne evidential system and proposes a novel analysis that can be extended to evidentials and related phenomena in other languages. Sarah’s interest in both evidentials and fieldwork began at Wayne State University. She was first introduced to fieldwork in a field methods class with Dr. Laura Buszard-Welcher and to the topic of evidentiality in a typology class with Dr. Martha Ratliff.

Recently, Sarah published the core of two dissertation chapters in the proceedings from Semantics and Linguistic Theory XIX, hosted by Ohio State University, and from Semantics of Under-represented Languages in the Americas V, co-hosted by Harvard and MIT. She has also presented related work at Mind and Culture, an interdisciplinary workshop at the University of Siena, and will present at a symposium, Findings from Targeted Work on Endangered Languages: 13 Years of the Endangered Language Fund’s Projects, at the upcoming LSA meeting in Baltimore.

Two WSU Students Present Papers at LSA Meeting

Two WSU students presented papers at the Summer 2008 meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in Columbus, Ohio. Neisha Niccolini, undergraduate linguistics major, presented a paper entitled “Nasal assimilation in the speech of Detroit working-class AAVE speakers.” Susan Smith, M.A. student in linguistics, jointly with Bethany Townsend of EMU, presented a poster on the “Multi-tree” database of language family relationships.

WSU Graduate at USC

After earning her B.A. in Linguistics at Wayne State University in May 2008, Ann Sawyer packed up and pointed her car toward Los Angeles and the University of Southern California. Now enjoying her second year as a grad student in the Linguistics Department at USC, she is beginning preparations for two screening projects that she will present and defend in the spring and fall of next year. The first screening project will be in the area of phonetics and will focus on normalization, an area of interest first sparked when Ann had the opportunity to work on a language acquisition project under the direction of Dr. Jean Andruski at WSU. Outside of actual classwork, Ann is involved with a group of students who are organizing a conference on formal linguistics to be held in February 2010 and has joined the Writing Program at USC, where she is an Assistant Lecturer teaching Writing 140 (the required, dreaded freshman comp.)

Alumna Studying Sociolinguistics at Stanford University

Laura Smith (B.A. 2007) is a third year Ph.D. student in Linguistics at Stanford University. Being a sociolinguist, her primary academic focus is considering how both real and perceived speech variants may affect and reinforce a person’s treatment and placement in society. Her research interests, then, include such topics as the perception and formation of the idealized “standard speech” by speakers of minority and non-native varieties of English, as well as the performance of ethnic identity (or “linguistic blackface”) in the media. Laura’s current research additionally examines the syntactic structure of modern AAVE, most notably its relativization patterns as contrasted with those of Appalachian English, Jamaican Creole, Guyanese Creole, and other ethnic Anglophonic varieties.

According to Laura, studying at Wayne State prepared her to address these research areas in providing not only the academic foundation upon which to build, but also an environment in which to consider the real-world implications of dialect usage. Studying in Detroit (and Wayne State, in particular) affords the luxury of pursuing a higher education in a balanced fashion – of being in the world while studying about the world – and this integrated approach is not one to be taken for granted. To recreate this approach elsewhere, she is presently involved with PEGS (Publicly Engaged Graduate Students) at Stanford and working in connection with the Boys and Girls Club of San Francisco, applying her linguistics training.
to assist inner city middle school and high school students in literacy and writing. Studying linguistics, then, has led her from an undergraduate degree at Wayne State to a Ph.D. program at Stanford. From there, Laura is hoping "it’ll take her to the application of knowledge, from the classroom to the communities where it can be of some good."

Two Alumni Marry and Move to Dayton, OH, for a Tenure-Track job
Nicola Work came to WSU as an exchange student from Germany in the fall of 1998. She and her husband, Richard Work, met in the Introduction to Linguistic Theory course in 1999 while discussing German linguistics. Richard received his B.A. in English and Spanish and an M.A. in Spanish from WSU while Nicola received her M.A. in Linguistics in May 2000. She received her Ph.D. degree in Modern Languages (French major, Spanish Minor) in December 2009. The Works have relocated to Dayton, OH, where Nicola accepted a job as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in French in August 2009 at The University of Dayton, OH. The University of Dayton is a private Marianist (Catholic) university with approximately 10,000 students.

On April 18, 2008, Nicola and Richard welcomed their son Kian Gerrick Work. They are raising Kian bilingually in German and English, and hope he will learn Spanish and French when he is older.

2010 Events
(Please see the Linguistics Program website for further details.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 12, 2010, 3:00-4:30pm</td>
<td>Colloquium presentation by Dr. Felecia Lucht, CMLLC, Wayne State University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2, 2010, 3:00pm-4:30pm</td>
<td>Colloquium presentation by Dr. Abderrahmane Zouhir, CMLLC, Wayne State University, “The Impact of Globalization on Moroccan Linguistic Diversity and Education.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9, 2010, 3:00pm-5:00pm</td>
<td>Linguistics Student Colloquium. The following students to present their current research projects: Stephanie McLear (MA Linguistics), Devon Witherell (M.A. Psychology), and Nicola Work (M.A. Linguistics, Ph.D. CMLLC.)</td>
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Alumni News and Information for Future Newsletters

We're interested in what you're doing now. Please take a moment to complete the following information and return it to us via fax, e-mail or US mail to:

Linguistics Program
5057 Woodward
Detroit, MI 48202

Phone: (313) 577-7553
Fax: (313) 577-0404
e-mail: progovac@wayne.edu

Name ________________________________

Year of Graduation ____________________

Degree ________________________________

Your current position (title and employer) ___________

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Your news ________________________________

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