The Linguistics Program at Wayne State continues to flourish not only in numbers, but also in reputation, as both our alumni and faculty do us proud with truly remarkable achievements. Just in the past two years, three of our alumni received Ph.D. degrees and secured tenure-track jobs in the field of Linguistics! This is in addition to Nicola Work’s tenure-track position in French at The University of Dayton, OH, reported on in the previous newsletter. Many other alumni hold important positions in business, government and education. Since 2010, five of our undergraduate students have been invited to join Phi Beta Kappa, an impressive number for this rare honor. Our faculty and students are not only researching the world around them, but many are also actively engaged in changing it for the better, both at home and on an international scale. Particularly notable recent example among faculty is Prof. Walter Edwards’ involvement in the drafting of a language policies charter for the Caribbean. Among the students, three of our alumni with tenure-track positions, Dr. Andrea Berez, Dr. Michelle Forbes and Dr. Sarah Murray, have made the documentation and preservation of minority and/or endangered languages the centerpiece of their careers. You will find the specifics under Faculty and Alumni news. This is the second issue of our newsletter. When our first issue launched two years ago, we were so glad to hear back from our alumni, some from a very long time ago. Please keep us posted about where you are and what you are doing—we really do want to know. We are also immensely grateful to our alumni Tom Wolff (M.A. 2002) and Zoran Minderović (M.A. 1977) for their generous monetary donations to the Program.

The Linguistics Program has itself made a donation in books and journals to a Linguistics department in Haiti, Faculté de Linguistique Appliquée, which was devastated by the recent earthquake and which is literally trying to rebuild itself from scratch. The donation was facilitated by the long-time friend of the Linguistics Program at Wayne, a native of Haiti, and an MIT Professor of Linguistics, Prof. Michel DeGraff.

Join us for all of our events, but especially on September 30, for the Linguistics Open House, which will take place in conjunction with the colloquium talk by Dr. Alan Berretta, neurolinguist from MSU. We will have catered food! Linguistics events are always fulfilling occasions, featuring thought-provoking discussions, festive refreshments, and very fine company.
Three WSU Linguistics professors met in Asia to present papers

Professors Geoff Nathan, Martha Ratliff and Margaret Winters met in Osaka, Japan, where they presented papers at the 20th International Conference on Historical Linguistics, at the National Museum of Ethnology, July 25-30, 2011. Ratliff’s presentation was entitled “Interrogative pronouns in isolating languages.” It established that interrogatives are often highly unstable compounds in these languages, adding support to the contention that interrogative pronouns should not be included in the set of 100 or 200 core vocabulary items used for linguistic reconstruction and the demonstration of genetic relatedness between languages. Nathan and Winters’ joint paper was entitled “Prediction and Language Change.” Nathan and Winters also attended the International Conference on Cognitive Linguistics earlier in July in Xi’an, China. Winters’ paper was entitled “Syntax: Symbolic or autonomous?” and Nathan’s paper was entitled “Usage-based and natural models.”

Prof. Walter Edwards participates in the drafting of a historic language rights charter

Prof. Walter Edwards was privileged to participate along with several prominent creole scholars in drafting a historic charter of language rights for speakers of Caribbean creoles and other non-standard varieties. The mission of the charter and all programs inspired by it is to help reverse the prejudices against vernacular languages in the Caribbean. The leader of this enterprise was Professor Hubert Devonish of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, one of Edwards’ former students. Edwards’ contribution to the charter project was to chair the “Language and Culture” Electronic Working Group, which drafted a part of the charter document. The Charter was presented to a conference of Caribbean linguists, educators and political leaders, including ministers of Education, in January of 2011. These participants became signatories of the document, thereby pledging to work towards securing these rights for the Caribbean vernacular speakers.

October 28 was declared “International Creole Day.” Walter Edwards agreed to give a talk on October 26 to honor this day. The talk will be part of the Humanities Center’s Brown Bag series, but jointly sponsored by the Linguistics Program and the Humanities Center.

In May 2011, Dr. Haiyong Liu received tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. The Linguistics Program celebrated the occasion at Liu’s favorite Chinese restaurant away from home, in Canton, Michigan (Liu is at the head of table in the picture). Liu is also a WSU alumnus! He received his MA degree in Linguistics from WSU in 1998, and then went on to receive his Ph.D. degree in Linguistics from UCLA in 2004, the year when he also returned to Wayne State as Assistant Professor. In 2008 Liu published his first book: Bu-Yu, the Complex-Predicate Structures in Mandarin Chinese, Lincom Europa.

Liu conducts research in three areas: Chinese syntax, acquisition of Chinese, and Chinese language pedagogy. Currently, in syntax, he is working on the following topics: the emerging ba-gei structure in Mandarin Chinese.

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 Faculty News

Continued from page 2

which might signal that Chinese is drifting from an SVO language to an SOV language, the adjectival intensifier hen whose distribution sheds light on the nature of Chinese stative verbs, and the derivation of the so-called A-not-A questions whose formation exhibits many idiosyncrasies. In pedagogy, Liu is finishing a paper on non-verbal communication in the classroom, aiming to draw language teachers’ attention to this important but largely neglected tool for classroom management, as well as an essential linguistic element of the target language. Another co-authored paper is on the effects of technology in language and culture classrooms on student emotional responses to the class. During his upcoming sabbatical leave in Winter 2012, Liu will focus on a book project on the employment of linguistic theory in the improvement of language teaching.

Dr. Felecia Lucht receives summer grant for her book project

Dr. Felecia Lucht was awarded a 2011 University Research Grant for her book project “Life after Language Death: Variation, Shift, and Change in a German-American Community.” Lucht’s work documents language use in a German-American community in Wisconsin, traces the shift from German to English, as well as examines language change within the varieties of German

and English spoken in the area. One of her objectives for the summer is to examine the contents of a regional German-language newspaper read widely from the mid-1800s to 1900s in the community under study to find articles which discuss language-related issues and help create a community portrait of language attitudes, while further adding details to the timeline of language shift that is emerging from the data.

Prof. Aleya Rouchdy experiences history in the making in Egypt

During the Egyptian Revolution of January 25, 2011, Prof. Aleya Rouchdy was in Egypt and she turned her blog into a tool to inform people about the Revolution. Today’s Internet and media technology were instrumental in keeping the protesters connected and informed during this historic time. The young people used Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to rally support. When the government tried to shut down the Internet and cut the use of cell phones, Rouchdy and her husband used a landline to update their blogs through a trusted friend. Her words and her messages continued to be transmitted through the blog.

The Egyptian Revolution presents an excellent example of the power of words, which gave voice to the protesters in Egypt. Words began to spread like wildfire, leading to a defining moment in Egyptian history. Prof. Rouchdy has agreed to give a Colloquium talk on the topic on Friday, Nov. 4.

Prof. Margaret Winters publishes a co-edited volume

Prof. Margaret Winters is co-editor of a new book: Winters, Margaret E., Heli Tissari, and Kathryn Allan (eds.) 2010. Historical Cognitive Linguistics, Berlin: De Gruyer. The volume explores the ways in which language change is studied within the framework of Cognitive Linguistics, a semantics-based theory of language production and perception. The eleven chapters explore two kinds of changes: first, those which involve mental prototypes or ‘best instances’ of particular concepts and extensions of these prototypes, and second, those which relate to conceptual networks, for example via metaphor or metonymy. More specifically, the papers address syntactic and lexical change, as well as the evolution of language and changes in the expression—usually metaphoric—of emotions. In presenting a wide range of current work of this kind, the volume demonstrates the value of cross-fertilization between historical and cognitive linguistics, and is intended to open the way for further related research.
Alumni and Student News

Andrea Berez defends dissertation at Santa Barbara and accepts a tenure-track job at the University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa

Dr. Andrea Berez (M.A. 2006) defended her dissertation at UC Santa Barbara in June of 2011, and, after receiving three job offers, accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in Language Documentation and Conservation in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa. Her dissertation titled “Directional Reference, Discourse, and Landscape in Ahtna” is based on ten months of fieldwork on the Ahtna language in the Copper River Valley of Alaska, which also led to two paper publications and three invited talks, including one in Australia, one at USC, Los Angeles, and an upcoming one in Boulder.

Moreover, Berez has published a co-edited book in 2010: Berez, A., J. Mulder and D. Rosenblum, Fieldwork and Linguistic Analysis in Indigenous Languages of the Americas, University of Hawai‘i Press. The volume is a collection of articles on the role that field-based research plays in the linguistic analysis of indigenous American languages. The articles encompass both theoretical and functional considerations, highlighting how the collection of data within the speaker community informs theory, and vice-versa. Here is a link to a description of the book: http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/ldc/sp02/. Berez plans to continue fieldwork in Alaska and will be starting new fieldwork in Papua New Guinea next year.

James Kirchner: An artist and a linguist

James Kirchner (M.A. 1995) started Wayne's M.A. in linguistics program with an unusual background: his undergraduate degree was a B.F.A. in painting (see the self-portrait of James). He not only got through the Linguistics program, but he graduated having written an outstanding essay on Czech phonology. His excellent work made the program anxious to recruit more art students in the future! After several years of teaching linguistics as an adjunct, Kirchner now works as a full-time translator (Czech, Slovak, German and French into English) and a part-time adult ESL instructor. He is vice president of the Michigan Translators/Interpreters Network (mitin.org), which is the Michigan chapter of the American Translators Association. The organization assists those who want to enter the translation profession or develop their skills. Kirchner gives annual seminars for MiTiN on translation technology, and at its October 2011 conference, in Novi, he will give a presentation on prosody and phonotactics to help interpreters decode other people's accents better.

Michelle Forbes lands a tenure-track job at Valdosta State University, Georgia

Dr. Michelle Forbes (B.A. 1998) defended her Ph.D. dissertation “Garífuna: The Birth and Rise of an Identity through Contact Language and Contact Culture” at the University of Missouri in April of 2011, and accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Spanish Linguistics and TESOL at Valdosta State University, Georgia. This is the
first time someone has written a chronology of the Garífuna language. She gathered the data for her dissertation in 2009 in Livingston, Guatemala, the last remaining Garífuna village on the Atlantic coast. Forbes conducted interviews with Garífuna speakers by walking from house to house, by approaching people sitting on the curb, in the bars, on the soccer field, or on the playground bleachers, as was the case with Luis, who is next to Michelle in the photograph. The photograph itself was awarded Honorable Mention in the Fulbright photography contest. The Garífuna are very proud that Forbes has written about their language, and the week before she left, they held a ceremony in her honor, presented her with a certificate and thanked her for giving them the gift of the history of their language. In addition to the dissertation, Forbes has an article currently under review with PALARA (Publication of the Afro-Latin/ American Research Association), entitled “Proto-Garífuna: The language of the Kalípona on the eve of the Africans’ arrival in St. Vincent.” For more details, visit Michelle’s research page at www.GarifunaResearch.com.

Sarah Murray lands tenure-track position at Cornell
Dr. Sarah Murray (M.A. 2004) defended her Ph.D. dissertation entitled “Evidentiality and the Structure of Speech Acts” in 2010 at Rutgers, and then secured a tenure-track position at Cornell University the same year. Murray spent her first year at Cornell adjusting to teaching and the other aspects of academic life. She gave two invited presentations in 2011, one on Cheyenne semantics at the Semantics of Underrepresented Languages in the Americas, University of Manchester, England, and another on evidentiality and speech acts at the Evidentials Fest at the Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. Murray’s dissertation “Evidentiality and the Structure of Speech Acts” examines the semantics and pragmatics of evidentiality and illocutionary mood, set within formal theories of meaning and discourse. The empirical focus is the evidential system of Cheyenne (Algonquian: Montana), which is analyzed based on several years of fieldwork by the author. Her analysis of evidentials implies a more articulated theory of assertion and other speech acts. In particular, she argues that all speech acts are structured into three components: presentation of the at-issue proposition, a non-negotiable update that directly restricts the common ground, and a negotiable update that imposes structure on the common ground. You can view Sarah’s dissertation at: http://conf.ling.cornell.edu/sem/Murray_Thesis-Rutgers-2010.pdf.

Linguistics students invited to join Phi Beta Kappa
Since 2010, five of our undergraduate students have been invited to join Phi Beta Kappa, the country’s oldest and most prestigious honorary society. Only 10% of colleges and universities are granted chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, and no more than 10% of the students in each graduating class may be invited to join. It is an honor based on demonstrated breadth and depth of achievement in the liberal arts.

Congratulations to all five!

Kimberly Ann Cortes (2010)
Scott James Lantz (2010)
Kelly Juliana Schaefer (2010)
Amelia Arnette Hill (2011)
Zein Kalaj (2011)

Tom Wolff pursues his love of language and travel in spare time
Tom Wolff (M.A. 2002) continues to work in insurance as the claim manager for the Michigan Municipal League. He also continues to be drawn to different cultures and languages. Tom travels frequently in his spare time, and recently visited Turkey. He has also taken classes at the Alliance Francaise during the past few years, and since last summer, he has also joined a French group which meets in downtown Royal Oak every other Wednesday night. Here is a picture of Tom in Haghia Sophia!
Linguistics Faculty & Friends at Dinner Party
The Linguistics Program has launched a successful Syntax/Semantics Reading Group, which gathers together faculty and students in order to read and discuss recent publications in linguistics. It is a lot of fun! Our new moderator is Dr. Haiyong Liu. Last year the Group was awarded a grant from the Humanities Center, which made it possible to bring to campus semanticist Chris Barker of New York University. Whether you are an active student or a former student, come check us out.

Fall 2011/Winter 2012 Events Schedule

Save the dates and be there!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Sept. 30, 3:00</td>
<td>Colloquium talk by Alan Beretta, Michigan State University; Linguistics Open House follows at 4:30; there will be catered food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Oct. 26</td>
<td>Creole Day Talk by Walter Edwards, WSU, Humanities Center and Linguistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Nov. 4, 3:00</td>
<td>Colloquium Talk by Aleya Rouchdy, WSU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec. 2, 3:00</td>
<td>Colloquium Talk by Andries Coetzee, University of Michigan</td>
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<tr>
<td>February, TBA</td>
<td>Colloquium talk by Shelly Jo Kraft, WSU, Communication Sciences and Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>March, TBA</td>
<td>Colloquium Talk by Geoff Nathan, WSU</td>
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<tr>
<td>April, TBA</td>
<td>Student Research Colloquium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Gift Options: (Your gift is tax deductible)

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- $250
- $500
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Please charge my gift to:  
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Please make checks payable to Wayne State University Linguistics Program
Send to: Ljiljana Progovac, Director, Linguistics Program | Department of English | 5057 Woodward | Detroit, MI 48202

220799

www.clas.wayne.edu/linguistics
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.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year of Graduation</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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Your current position (title and employer) ____________

Your news ____________________________

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