Announcement

We are working on updating our news-sharing for the 21st century and are phasing out the traditional Gosling. We will be launching new initiatives soon to keep you up to date with the happenings in the Linguistics Department, but for now, check out this video to see the latest about what life is like here in Totem Field Studios:
http://www.linguistics.ubc.ca/grad

Contents

From the Head 1
Faculty News 1
Grad Student News 2
Undergraduate News 2
Staff News 2
Department News 3

From the Head

by DOUGLAS PULLEYBLANK

Something I often hear from my colleagues – and I couldn’t agree more! – is that our students are great. Teaching an introductory course in this year’s summer school offerings has brought the point home to me again. Here are a few recent examples from class this week.

After handing out a complex data set from Eton, a Bantu language of Cameroon, a student asked me about a potential typo. Now the only way that you could spot that typo (which indeed it was) was by understanding the pattern being illustrated and realising that the rule in question should have applied in that case. I’m thinking that maybe I should just introduce the occasional typo into a data set and say “spot the typo!”.

In the same class, we were discussing a Bantu language from Tanzania, Kerewe, looking at the interaction of two conflicting processes. One pattern only makes sense by saying that certain high tone - low tone sequences shift to high-high and the second, interacting pattern only makes sense by saying that certain high tone - high tone sequences shift to high-low. This leads to the kind of twisted lingust-thinking that a tone sequence can start as high-high, shift to high-low, then shift back to high-high. So, yes, you say, the observed pattern is high-high, but not without first changing and then backtracking.

Well, from the groans and smiles, it is clear that students can see what is going on, but the really interesting thing is that students then start to probe deeper. Doesn’t this only work, asked one student, if one of the rules applies only once? Why doesn’t the raising pattern propagate? What does this imply, asks another, for the way speakers process tones on-line, when they are actually producing complex verb forms? Isn’t it critical, pointed out the TA (accompanied by head-nodding all over the room), that the processes of tone-raising and lowering apply directionally? ...and so on. In essence, each of these issues students are identifying is a potential topic for a research paper. Yes, great students! I love teaching intro courses.

Faculty News

- Congratulations to Dr. Henry Davis and Dr. Lisa Matthewson who are the recipients of a SSHRC Partnership Grant of $2,495,000 over seven years to do language documentation and revitalization work on BC’s First Nations Languages.
- The Department extends a warm welcome to Dr. Stefan Dollinger, who has been an excellent colleague in the Department of English for several years and is now additionally an associate member of the Department of Linguistics.
We're pleased to announce the release of *Articulatory Phonetics*, by Drs. Bryan Gick, Ian Wilson, and Donald Derrick, published January 11, 2013.

**Grad Student News**

- Anita Szakay (who filed her Ph.D. dissertation in December 2012) has accepted a faculty position at Queen Mary University of London.


- The Department welcomes the following graduate students who will be joining us in September:  
  - Jurij Bozic – MA  
  - Michael Fry – MA  
  - Oksana Tkachman – PhD  
  - Katie Bicevskis – MA  
  - Johannes Heim – PhD

**Undergraduate News**

- Naomi Francis has been awarded the 2013 Governor General's Silver Medal Award in Arts. Naomi completed her BA with a Double Major in Linguistics and Classics. During her undergraduate program, Naomi took the lead on two major research projects in the Interdisciplinary Speech Research Laboratory through Work Study and an Arts Undergraduate Research Assistantship. Both projects were presented and published in professional journals. Coming from a non-technical background, Naomi taught herself everything she needed to know in statistics and other technical aspects of laboratory research - including building new equipment for her experiments - to excel in this work. She was on the executive for SALSA, the Speech and Linguistics Student Association. Though Naomi loves to laugh and to have fun, she also has a competitive streak. She is the kind of person that friends can count on. She demonstrates a quickness of mind, determination, self-motivation and equilibrium – she is always on task, always optimistic, always collegial. Naomi is going to Toronto to do an MA in Linguistics, focusing on the semantics of modality. Congratulations, Naomi!

- Saturday, March 23rd, was UBC’s Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference (MURC). Linguistics was well represented with five presentations: Graham Haber, David Haist, Jamie Russell, Michael Schwan, and Sophie Walters. All five students are under the supervision of Dr. Molly Babel. Special congratulations are due to Michael Schwan, who won third place in the poster competition for his work on Gitxsan, which is a part of the linguistics department’s Gitxsan Research Group, led by Dr. Henry Davis and Dr. Lisa Matthewson.

**Staff News**

- This month Edna Dharmaratne, our Department Administrator, celebrates 25 years with UBC. Edna joined the Department in 1998 and has been a pillar of strength for us all ever since. Edna was the first recipient of the Dean of Arts Staff Award for Service Excellence. This is no surprise to all of us who know Edna. Her commitment, enthusiasm and sense of humour have supported the Department through the years. As our Head, Doug Pulleyblank aptly puts it, “To say that she is a phenomenal resource is to both state the obvious and reduce the scope of her contribution.” Congratulations, Edna, on this very special anniversary!
We are very happy to welcome Wendy Trigg to the Department as our Undergraduate Program Adviser. After completing a Bachelor's degree at Ryerson University and a Master of Arts in Higher Education at UBC, Wendy joined the Faculty of Arts as an advisor in 1992. After briefly leaving the Faculty of Arts to serve as Associate Director of the Bachelor of Commerce Program at the Sauder School of Business (1996-1997), she returned to the Faculty of Arts as Associate Director, Academic Advising from 1997-2000 and then served as Director of Academic Advising Services from 2001-2007. The strength of her background in academic advising and administration will allow both the continuation of existing programs and the development of new initiatives.

Department News

New Research Lab

The Speech in Context Lab is a new research lab funded by the Canadian Foundation for Innovations that studies how language is perceived, processed and produced. These topics interface with the particularly tricky puzzle of how language is cognitively represented. Most of our work examines spoken communication, and we define context rather broadly. Learn more about us at our website: http://speechincontext.arts.ubc.ca/.

The Arts Tri-Mentoring Program

by Wendy Trigg

The wrap-up event for the Tri-Mentoring program took place on March 27, 2013 at the Centre for Student Involvement in Brock Hall. A delicious buffet dinner was followed by presentations to students and mentors honouring their successful completion of the program.

The Arts Tri-Mentoring Program introduces students to the professional world by establishing relationships with industry and faculty mentors who are UBC alumni with a junior (1st/2nd year) and a senior (3rd/4th year) student. Matches are based on academic and career goals and students and alumni mentors meet once a month over a 4-month period. Tri-Mentoring is a valuable way for alumni to contribute back to the University by supporting undergraduate students in gaining networking skills and knowledge of professions related to their academic programs. Recruitment for alumni mentors takes place in August of each year. If you would like to volunteer as a mentor, please contact Bonita Perko, Alumni Relations Coordinator, at bonita.perko@ubc.ca or call 604-827-3618. Student application forms for the Tri-Mentoring program will be available at information sessions in September (dates T.B.A.) and online at http://students.arts.ubc.ca/tri-mentoring.html.

Conferences

The annual meeting of the Canadian Linguistic Association was held at the University of Victoria, June 1-3. There was a strong showing from UBC, including students, postdocs, alumni and faculty. At last count, there were 33 UBC presentations! More information about the conference is available on the web: http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/claacl/prog2013.html.

Graduation May 2013

Congratulations to the Class of 2013 who received their degree on May 22nd at the Chan Centre!
Trimentors: Regina Wenk (SPSC Major, 3rd Yr.), Lucia Rozaria Da Silva (Ph.D. Student & Mentor), Diane Jones, BA’75, M.Ed.’83, Mentor), Michelle Chen (SPSC Major, 2nd Yr.), Erica Tabuena (SPSC Major, 3rd Yr.)

**Doctor of Philosophy, Linguistics**
Murray Schellenberg, Ryan Waldie, Anita Szakay, Noriko Yamane

**Master of Arts, Linguistics**
Stacey Menzies

**Honours, Linguistics**
Juan Caicedo, Valerie Marshal, Michael Schwan (Minor Asian Language & Culture), Dayanqi Si

**Major, Linguistics**
Colin Brown, Charissa Bryant (Minor Spanish), Jiawei Chu, Xana Daley (Minor Visual Arts), Agness Dome, Laurel Dougans, Marina Fomine (Minor English, Language Emphasis), Naomi Francis (Major Classics), Graham Haber (Minor Scandinavian Studies), Kai Ip (Minor Spanish), Peggy Li, Julie Morphet, Katelyn Radford, Lydia Ruenzell (Major First Nations Studies), Jana Sayson, Fraser Sewall, Megan Smiley, Kimberly Tietjen, Ho Tong (Major Psychology), Sophie Walters (Major Spanish)

**Honours, Speech Sciences**
Jessica Law (Minor Psychology), Jacob Rowe (Major Psychology), Anahita Ruston (Minor French), Kaitlin Sanders

**Major, Speech Sciences**
Anita Chen, Winnie Eng, Regina Granados, David Haist, Anna Klenin, Jason Kwan, Kimberly Lam (Major Psychology), Charlotte Li, Nora Perry, Jennifer Premischook, Giovanna Romei, Fiona Slade, Sherry Tan (Major Psychology), Joyce Tull, Charlotte Veerman, Brittany Wong

**Diploma in Linguistics**
Clara Liu, Genevieve Roberts

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Graduation

Front row: Valerie Marshall, Julie Morphet, and Dayanqi Si
Back row: Agnes Dome, David Haist, Graham Haber, Sophie Walters, Megan Smiley, Michael Schwan, and Fraser Sewall
Upcoming Events

Sept. 3 - Imagine UBC  A day full of orientation events across campus for new and continuing students. Events happening in Linguistics will be posted on the Department website in August. There are no undergraduate classes scheduled on Sept. 3 to allow all students to participate in Faculty and Department events.

Sept. 18 - Opening of the West Coast National Event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission  The TRC provides a forum for all community members to learn about the history of the Residential School system in Canada and to provide statements to the Commission about how the Residential School system has affected them on an individual, family and community level. All members of the UBC community are encouraged to attend this event at the Pacific Coliseum. Undergraduate classes are cancelled on Sept. 18 to allow faculty, staff and students to attend for this reason.

Date & details TBA - Language-of-the-Year Event, Department of Linguistics, UBC