

# Northwestern University Department of Linguistics



September 2015

## Celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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The 2015-2016 Academic Year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Department of Linguistics at Northwestern University. Beginning in the fall of 1965 as the Department of African Languages and Linguistics, the department has continually evolved. Over the past several decades, we have been at the vanguard of the shift of our field from its traditional position within the humanities to a closer alignment with the cognitive, brain, and computational sciences.

Our pursuit of an integrated approach to the scientific study of language – utilizing experimental methods, corpus analysis and computational modeling – has bolstered our reputation as one of the top linguistics programs in the country.

We look forward to what the future holds and are incredibly excited to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our department!



Northwestern in 1965



The Department of Linguistics in 2015

## Letter from the Chair

Welcome to our first Departmental newsletter! We are thrilled to have the chance to share with you some of the exciting developments in Northwestern Linguistics over the past year. We hope you enjoy the chance to catch up with what's going on on campus and with our alumni.

The big news for this coming year is that we are celebrating a major birthday - the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Department of Linguistics! We're putting together a series of events to commemorate the achievements of this half-century and to look forward to the next fifty years.



Matthew Goldrick, Department Chair

If you are in the Evanston area, we'd love for you to come join the party. On Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM in the Guild Lounge, we'll kick off a series of events with a birthday celebration (with cake, of course), along with some brief remarks on our Department by former chairs and myself. Please RSVP to [linguistics@northwestern.edu](mailto:linguistics@northwestern.edu) by September 18 so we can plan for refreshments.

If you can't join us in person, we'd love to hear how you're doing! Please drop us a line and we'll be sure to include updates in our next newsletter.

## Matthew Goldrick



## Faculty News



**Klinton Bicknell** joined the department as an Assistant Professor in 2014. His research focuses on real-time language processing, especially in reading and listening. He investigates these topics using computational techniques from machine learning and computational linguistics, as well as empirical methods such as eye-tracking and crowd-sourcing. As a member of the Faculty Search Committee, he successfully recruited and hired the department's newest faculty member. He also became the Admissions Officer for the department in Fall 2014. In 2014, he published 4 papers: 3 articles in top journals and one conference paper. Bicknell gave 3 invited talks and 4 conference presentations.

**Ann Bradlow** has been asked to adopt a new role as the WCAS Associate Dean for Academic Initiatives starting this month, where she will lead efforts to enhance teaching and research in the arts and sciences while developing ways to tackle pressing issues. In 2014, she received an honorable mention in the Women in Cognitive Science mentoring award, and was a finalist in the Acoustical Society of America mentoring award. Also in 2014, Bradlow published papers in various journals, and gave invited presentations at the University of Edinburgh, the University of Maryland, and Emory University. She also gave invited talks at the 28th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, and at the 168th meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in Indianapolis, IN.



**Matthew Goldrick**, who has been with the department since January of 2004, was recently promoted to Professor and appointed Chair of the Department beginning this month. Extra-departmental activities at Northwestern include the Cognitive Science Program committee and The Graduate School's Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring Initiative. Outside Northwestern, he taught at this year's Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, serves as Secretary of the Association for Laboratory Phonology, and is an Associate Editor of the journal *Psychological Science*. His research is currently funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

**Robert Gundlach** joined the department in 1978. He served as Department Chair from 2004 until 2007. He also directs Northwestern's Bobbie and Stanton Cook Family Writing Program and has been the founding director of the writing program since 1977. His essays include "Words and Lives: Language, Literacy, and Culture in Multilingual Chicago," "The Future of Writing Ability," and "Reflections on the Future of Writing Development."



## Faculty News (continued)



**Judith Levi**, Associate Professor Emerita, taught in the Department from 1972 until she took early retirement in 2001; her primary research specialty was language and law, and she served as Department Chair from 1985-1989. Judith was awarded the “Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany” by the President of Germany, Joachim Gauck in July 2015. This award was in recognition of Levi’s “exceptional achievements in promoting reconciliation between the German and Jewish people.” Judith has been working in German-Jewish dialogue and reconciliation since her first trip to Germany in 1998; she has returned 11 more times since then. Her book on her experiences will be published in Germany in spring 2016.

**Gregory Ward** has been a member of the Department of Linguistics since 1986 (promoted to Associate Professor in 1991 and to Professor in 1997), serving as Department Chair from 1999-2004. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the Program in Gender & Sexuality Studies, and last year he joined the Department of Philosophy (with a courtesy appointment). His current research activity includes a pragmatic investigation of the various uses of the English demonstrative system in addition to a number of empirical studies focusing on context-sensitive meaning. This past year resulted in 4 publications and 5 conference presentations, plus a number of keynote addresses at various universities/conferences across the country. He maintains the world’s largest and most comprehensive online collection of materials on gay and lesbian language. Gregory was invited to offer a course at the 2015 LSA Linguistic Institute (his eighth LSA Institute) held at the University of Chicago. In 2012, he was the recipient of the E. LeRoy Hall Award for Excellence in Teaching in WCAS, and this past year he was named a Hewlett Fellow for his role in curricular development.



**Alexis Wellwood** joined the department in September 2014. Since then, she has published articles in the journals *Linguistics and Philosophy* and *Language Learning and Development*, given invited talks at the University of Chicago, McGill University, and the University of Utah, and established the Northwestern Child Language Development Laboratory. In addition, in spring and summer 2015 she mentored two successful recipients of WCAS Summer Undergraduate Research Grants.

**Masaya Yoshida** has achieved 18 peer reviewed publications and 18 oral presentations at important conferences in the field. He has given 33 invited colloquium talks and lectures. His research mainly concerns theoretical syntax and real-time sentence processing. In the current project, which has been supported by National Science Foundation, he is investigating the internal structure of various ellipsis constructions.



## English Language Learners Program

Northwestern University brings students and scholars from around the world to engage in research, graduate study, teaching, and intellectual exchange. Our programs provide English language training and testing for international graduate students and scholars, in order to help them improve their ability to communicate in the classroom and beyond.

### Staff



Julia Moore first joined the Department as a doctoral student in 1994. In 2001, she became the Director of what is now English Language Programs, a partnership between Linguistics and The Graduate School, which includes Northwestern's language testing, orientation programs, and language services for international students and scholars. Each summer she directs the International Summer Institute, a five-week intensive language program for new international PhD and MFA students. She also spends time in the summers co-teaching Linguistics 300: Second Language Pedagogy, which trains rising second year linguistics graduate students to teach and tutor in TESOL.



Erin Leddon joined the department as Associate Director of English Language Programs in 2011. She teaches courses for English language learners, and coordinates programming for incoming international PhD students (Integrated Academic Skills, InterCultural Explorers). In addition to her duties with the English Language Programs, she also teaches undergraduate courses in Linguistics and currently serves as Director of Undergraduate Studies for the department. Her research focuses on language learning across the lifespan.



Kathleen Geraghty is a Speech Language Pathologist who joined the English Language Programs as an instructor in September. Kathleen will provide SLP services, instruction, and consultation in Accent Modification and English. She previously taught ESL in the International Summer Institute and at the Buffett Center. Kathleen has provided ESL services to students and visiting scholars in Kellogg, Feinberg Medical School, and Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. Research collaborations include publications with the Project on Child Development, the Aphasia Lab, and the CollabLab at Northwestern. Kathleen completed her MS in Speech Language Pathology at Northwestern in 2014 and her MS in Developmental Linguistics at University of Edinburgh in 2007.

## Graduate Student News

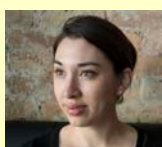


**Lauren Ackermann** presented two oral presentations and one poster at the *89th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America* in Portland in 2015. In 2014, she had an oral and two poster presentations at *Architecture and Mechanisms of Language Processing* in Edinburgh and also contributed to three poster presentations at the *27th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. She also contributed to the proceedings paper "The processing of backwards sluicing" published in the *Proceedings of NELS 43*.

**Peter Baumann** published "Conversational implicatures in anaphora resolution: Alternative constructions and referring expressions" in *Psycholinguistic Approaches to Meaning and Understanding Across Languages* in 2014. He also had work published in the proceedings for the *Ninth International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation*, the *36th* and *37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.



**Michael Blasingame** received a Graduate Research Grant from Northwestern University to support his dissertation research in 2015. He also contributed to the paper "Navigating conflicting phonotactic constraints in bilingual speech perception" published in *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*. In 2014, he presented "Gradient phonotactic grammars in bilingual speech perception" at the *88th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America* in Minneapolis.

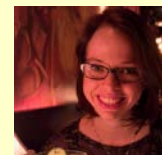


**Angela Cooper** published "Interdependent processing and encoding of speech and concurrent background noise" in *Attention, Perception & Psychophysics*. She presented two papers at the *18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* as well as a paper at the *Society for Music Perception and Cognition* in August 2015. In 2014, she presented papers at *The 55th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, *Architecture and Mechanisms of Language Processing* and the *167th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*. She also received a Northwestern University Graduate Research Grant to conduct research with L2 listeners in the Netherlands in the fall of 2015.



**Thomas Denby** contributed to the paper "Learning non-native phonotactic constraints over the web" presented at the *18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* in Glasgow in August 2015. He also presented "Speaker-- Vs. Listener--Based Explanations For Dispersion Effects In Sound Change" at *Sound Change in Interacting Human Systems: 3rd Biennial Workshop on Sound Change* in Berkeley, California in 2014.

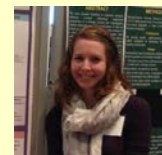
**Angela Fink** published "Pervasive benefits of preparation in language switching" in *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review* in 2015. Additionally, her paper "The influence of word retrieval and planning on phonetic variation: Implications for exemplar models" is scheduled to appear in *Linguistics Vanguard*. In 2014, she received an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant. She also presented her poster on "Does Exhausting Executive Control Impair Speech Production? Evidence from Lexical Competition" at *The 55th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society* in Long Beach, California.



**Michael Frazier** contributed to presentations at the *89th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America* in Portland in 2015. He contributed to the paper "Parasitic Gaps licensed by elided syntactic structure", published in *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* in 2014. He also contributed to papers presented at the *Architecture and Mechanisms of Language Processing* and the *27th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing* in 2014 and published "Argument-structure overrides local attachment in Tagalog argument-possessor ambiguities" in the *Proceedings of NELS 43*.



**Erin Gustafson** presented "French speech segmentation in liaison contexts by native and non-native listeners" at *The 55th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society* in Long Beach in 2014.



**Kathleen Hall** received a Cognitive Science Graduate Fellowship from Northwestern University in 2015.

**Julie Matsubara** presented "Hearsay evidentiality in Japanese: -sooda, -rashii, and matrix-clause hearsay" at the Graduate Workshop of the American Midwest and Prairies in October 2014. She also received an internship (tuition waver) to attend the Linguistic Summer Institute 2015 at the University of Chicago.



**David Potter** presented "On the structural ambiguity of gapping" at the *89th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America* in Portland in 2015. In 2014, he contributed to papers presented at *Architecture and Mechanisms of Language Processing* in Edinburgh and the *27th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing* in Columbus.



## Incoming Graduate Students



### Yunyan Duan

*China*  
*BS (Statistics), BS (Psychology), Peking University*

"I have been involved in a project using eye-tracking to study how native Chinese speakers comprehend sentences with phonological and syntactic violations. At Northwestern University, I am interested in pursuing research in computational psycholinguistics."



The House of The Department of Linguistics



### Haley Farkas

*Detroit, Michigan*  
*BA (Linguistics, specialization in Cognitive Science), Michigan State University*

"I have mainly been involved in research projects about children's literacy and language development. My current research interests are semantics and child language acquisition."



### Jordan Hosier

*Champaign, IL*  
*BA (International Studies, double minor Math and Spanish), Illinois Wesleyan University*

"I was the Research Assistant to the head of the Hispanic Studies department, Professor Christina Isabelli, focusing on second language acquisition in various learning contexts. More specifically, she sought to identify the processes of forming social networks abroad and how they function as contexts for language learning. I am currently interested in the use of natural language processing models and statistical tools in the investigation of human language use and acquisition."

### Ethan Meyer

*Fowler, Indiana*  
*BA (Linguistics and Spanish), Purdue University*  
*MA (Linguistics), Purdue University*

"I worked with Elena Benedicto in Purdue's Indigenous and Endangered Language Lab (IELLAB) on the Asangpas Project, as a way to provide pedagogical materials for the Sumu-Mayangna language community (RAAN, Nicaragua) in their native language. My MA thesis project was an experiment designed to provide a modern syntactic analysis of Shanghainese by attempting to predict the relative ordering of discourse particles in a controlled context."

### Wei Song

*China*  
*BA (English), Henan University*  
*MA (Linguistics), University of Minnesota*

"The research projects that I have been involved in are mostly concerned with theoretical syntax. At Northwestern University, I plan to conduct research in syntax, semantics, and their interfaces, and am also looking forward to learning about experimental linguistics."



## Graduate Alumni News

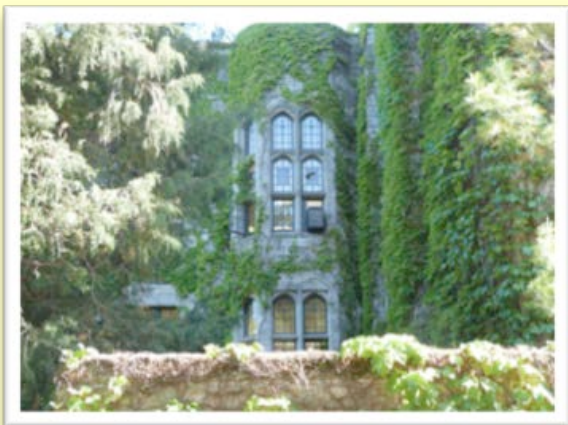
**Ellen Barton** (*M.A. 1983, Ph.D. 1985*) is currently a professor in the Linguistics Program and Department of English at Wayne State University, where she has been since receiving her PhD in 1985.

**Mari Broman Olsen** (*Ph.D. 1994*) has worked in Natural Language Experiences at the Microsoft Language Resources Center for 16 years. She pursued her interest in linguistics after a teacher noted her facility for languages in grade 9.

**Robert Daland** (*Ph.D. 2009*) is an Assistant Professor in the Linguistics Department at the University of California at Los Angeles. Linguistics was the perfect synergy between his interests in math (formal rigor) and the humanities (relation to humanity).

**Meredith Larson** (*Ph.D. 2010*) is currently a Research Analyst for the National Center for Education Research in the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. Her words of advice for potential linguistics graduate students would be "Everything that rises must converge."

**Shahzad Mahootian** (*Ph.D. 1993*) is the Department Coordinator at the Department of Linguistics at Northeastern Illinois University. Her interest in language, culture and bilingualism inspired her to pursue graduate level work in linguistics. One of her fondest memories of her time at Northwestern was Gregory Ward's pragmatics class.



**Craig Sirles** (*Ph.D. 1985*) is emeritus Associate Professor of English at DePaul. His interest in the field began when he served as a German-language linguist in the Army from 1971-73. His words of wisdom to current students are to get some of your work into print!

**Kristen Syrett** (*Ph.D. 2008*) is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Linguistics at Rutgers University, as well as a Director of the Rutgers Laboratory for Developmental Language Studies. Her advice to potential linguistics graduate students is to "Seize every opportunity."

**Kristin Van Engen** (*Ph.D. 2011*) is a post-doc teaching for the Linguistics Program with an official appointment in the Psychology Department at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She decided to pursue graduate level work in linguistics as a result of her love of language, literature and science. Her 2014 paper in the *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research* was recently selected for an Editor's Award.



## Undergraduate Alumni News

**Brett Blake** (M.A. 1989) is a professor at St. John's University, where he is also a Research Fellow in the Vincentian Center for Social Justice and Poverty. His M.A. in applied linguistics opened up many doctorate possibilities. He recently received his 8<sup>th</sup> book contract.

**Evan Bradley** (B.A. 2005) is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Penn State Brandywine. He got his graduate degree in linguistics because it was the perfect combination between language and science. His advice to students is to find an interest in something to which one can apply linguistics.

**Liz Coffey** (B.A. 1997) works as a Senior Implementation Manager for a financial software company. She was heavily influenced by her adviser Rae Moses, who encouraged her to improve her skills while studying abroad.

**Susan Goldstein** (B.A. 1975) is a nonpartisan attorney for the Washington State Legislature. Linguistics introduced her to many subjects through words and the structure of language. The way she learned to look at language and syntax aided her in law school, helping her to become a better writer and understanding the nuances that words create in the law.

**Steve Kleinedler** (B.A. 1989) works as the Executive Editor of the American Heritage Dictionary. His love for language inspired him to major in linguistics.

**John Lee** (B.A. 2010) is currently completing his master's degree in speech-language pathology at Northwestern. He decided to pursue this degree due to his interest in the scientific, psychosocial and neurological bases of language.

**Page Piccinini** (B.A. 2009, M.A. 2009) is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California San Diego in the Linguistics Department. Her advice to current students is to become directly involved in research.

**Allison Rosenberg** (B.A. 2005, M.A. 2005) has been a commercial real estate attorney for 7 years, splitting her career between New York and Tokyo.

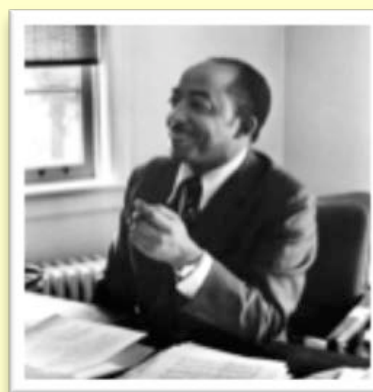
**Vance Schaefer** (B.A. 1986) is the Assistant Professor of TESL and Applied Linguistics in the Department of Modern Languages at the University of Mississippi. He believes studying linguistics along with language(s) opens up a whole new world.

**Daniel Speirs** (B.A. 2002) works for the management-consulting firm Gap International. A course in phonetics his freshman year inspired him to learn more about the field, while developing an appreciation for how much language touches everything and overlaps with our mindset and behavior.

**Sherry Vernon** (B.A. 2015) currently works as a Program Assistant supporting the Weinberg fundraising team within Northwestern's Alumni Relations and Development department. She chose a degree in Linguistics because she has always been very interested in how the mind works: how it processes, stores and receives information.

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## Undergraduate Honors



Professor Abraham Demoz

Each year, the Linguistics Department awards a prize for outstanding undergraduate work in linguistics in memory of Professor Abraham Demoz. The Demoz Prize winners are as follows:

2014-2015: **Casey Colby**

2013-2014: **Corey Nelson**

**Yaseen Mansour**

2012-2013: **Rebekah J. Ward**

**Morgan R. Purrier (Honorable Mention)**

2011-2015: **Jeffrey P. Geiger**

**Alex S. Moe**

2010-2011: **Isaac Rottman**

**Cara Gagliano (Honorable Mention)**

**Tom Hayden (Honorable Mention)**

## Upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Reception

Current and former chairs will highlight moments in the history of the department and their alignment with major movements in the field. Join us for cake and champagne to celebrate this milestone in our department's history!

*Location:* The Guild Lounge in Scott Hall

*Date/Time:* Thursday, September 24, 4:30-7 PM

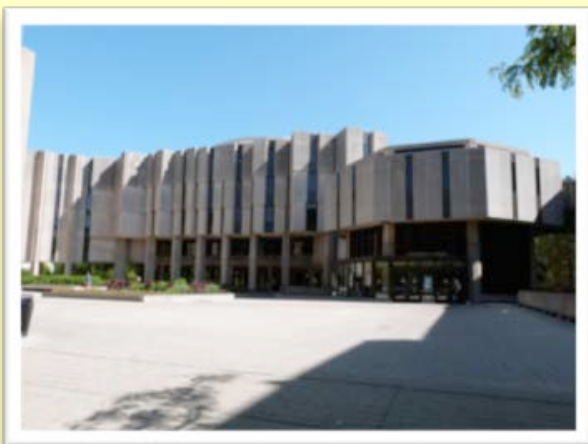
Remarks start at 5:30 PM.

Please RSVP to [linguistics@northwestern.edu](mailto:linguistics@northwestern.edu) before September 18.



Students in 1965

Stay tuned for more events throughout the year to continue celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



Swift Hall



The Lakefill

## Upcoming Undergraduate Events

### Major/Minor Fair

Come learn about all of the opportunities the Department of Linguistics offers! Find out about study abroad, the history of the department and various fields of study.

*Location:* Norris University Center

*Date/Time:* Thursday, September 17, 1:00 PM

### Back to School Mixer

Early in October, professors, undergrads, grad students and alumni are welcome to mingle and enjoy light snacks and beverages while discussing what we all have in common – an interest in linguistics!

### Meet and Mingle

Once a quarter, all linguistics major and minor undergraduate students are welcome to join the Linguistics faculty for a pizza lunch!

*Location:* Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### Life after Linguistics

In Winter Quarter all are invited to join the Linguistics Department for an afternoon with a panel of Northwestern Alumni and hear what linguistics has done for them. From business owners to law students and marketing directors to professors, undergraduate students are invited to discover how linguistics can open doors to the future. Brought to you by the Student Advisory Board and the Linguistics Department of Northwestern University.



## A huge thank you to our donors:

*Catherine Isabel Adams*

*Anne Elizabeth Bertram*

*Cassandra Maria Byrne*

*Cara Lorraine Gagliano*

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*Rebecca Ann Rauff*

*Linda A. Schinke-Llano*

*Shashank Kamlesh Sheth*

*Anne Young Song*

*S. Faithe Thomas*

*Rebekah Joy Ward*

*Christine M. Watras*

*Matthew David Watras*

*Glenn Leonardo Yancy*

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