Graduate student international travel for research and language learning

Three of the most recent PhD dissertations were on topics that involved international research and travel: Vladimir Kulikov in Russia, Eri Kurniawan in Indonesia, and Lindsey Quinn-Wriedt in Tanzania. During the past year this international focus has continued as several students traveled internationally as part of their studies. Eli Asikin-Garmager, Kelly Carden, and Douglas Cole received Stanley Awards for International Research from the Stanley Foundation and UI’s International Programs; Paul Morris attended the Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics in Mexico City; and Maria Sumner studied Indonesian in Malang, Indonesia, through a Critical Languages Scholarship. Here the students report on their activities.

Eli Asikin-Garmager

During the summer of 2014, I traveled to Lombok Island in Eastern Indonesia to study the Sasak language. First, I documented the language in natural use by creating a written record of a local folktale. Then, after recording and translating a folktale into Indonesian – the national language – as well as English, an analysis of the spontaneous use of language in the story became the launching point for the remainder of my investigation of the structure of the language. For this I worked with various informants from the area where I was staying with a local family. Fieldwork was generously supported by The Stanley – University of Iowa Foundation Support Organization, as well as graduate student organizations on campus.

Since returning to Iowa City, I have finished writing a descriptive report of the various aspects of Sasak morphosyntax I studied while in Lombok, and I collaborated with a professor from the University of Mataram (Lombok, Indonesia) in order to upload properties and examples of the Sasak language to a website called Syntactic Structures of the World’s Languages (SSWL), an ongoing collaborative project for linguists and the public that allows large scale language comparison. Now, I am currently working under the guidance of my advisor, Professor Davies, as well as Professor Davison and Professor Kempchinsky, on a paper that incorporates Sasak data into the general discussion of Austronesian verbal morphology, a quintessential feature of Indonesian languages. Sasak is decidedly different from neighboring languages in regards to some of this morphology, and I am attempting to incorporate these facts into a theoretical framework that accounts for the variation found in Sasak and other languages of Java Island, Indonesia.

A note from the chair

It’s an exciting time for Linguistics at the University of Iowa.

The past 2+ years have been busy and productive for the faculty and students alike. Since summer 2012, four students have earned their PhD’s, 14 have received their Master’s degrees, and 57 have finished their BA’s in Linguistics, and during the May 2015 commencement, seven more MA’s and 18 BA’s will be conferred. And we are pleased to report that with 14 students, our current first-year graduate class is by far the largest in anyone’s memory. We are all proud of the tremendous success our graduate students have had and continue to have presenting their research at regional, national, and international conferences, and garnering numerous grants and awards supporting their work. Undergrads have received Fulbright and departmental awards, and several have been tapped for the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.
Having this real-life language experience has made the endless data annotation much more interesting. Unfortunately, my real-life experience with aggressive, thieving monkeys has given me a lifelong fear of wildlife.

Kelly Carden

In summer 2014, I traveled to China on a Stanley grant in order to collect data on Mandarin vowels. I collected these data with the ultimate goal of writing a detailed analysis of vowel assimilation in different dialects of Mandarin.

After flying into Beijing, I took a 25 hour train ride to Chengdu, China, where I met with Professor Yang in the International Studies and Foreign Languages department at Sichuan Normal University. Professor Yang gave me a tour of the department, introduced me to professors and students in the department, and invited me to participate in cultural activities (i.e. culinary adventures) during the time that I was there. She also arranged for me to interview and record 20 undergraduate students.

Oh, and the faculty has not been slacking either. We have bid farewell to faculty and have retirements in the offing. At the same time, we have consolidated long-standing ties and added affiliated faculty—Paula Kempchinsky of the Department of Spanish & Portuguese and Bob McMurray of the Department of Psychology in 2014, and Emilie Destruel-Johnson of the Department of French & Italian, Thomas Farmer of the Department of Psychology, and Christine Shea of the Department of Spanish & Portuguese in 2015.

Together with the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders and the Department of Psychology, we have established a new Cognitive Science of Language certificate that students can earn in conjunction with their PhD, adding breadth to their degree and exploring different perspectives in their study of language. The Linguistics Lab in 402 EPB has been completely renovated and upgraded through a grant from the Student Technology Fee program and the hard work and vision of the folks from Instructional Technology Services. The result is a state-of-the-art classroom and lab space which provides opportunities for collaborative learning through classwork and research projects.

You will find details of this and more in these pages. On behalf of the entire Department of Linguistics, I hope you enjoy reading about these innovations and generally catching up with what’s new around here.

“Having this real-life language experience has made the endless data annotation much more interesting. Unfortunately, my real-life experience with aggressive, thieving monkeys has given me a lifelong fear of wildlife.”

ALUMS!

Please drop us a line when you have a chance!

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We’d love to touch base with you and hear about your exploits since graduation—and we’d like to share some of those stories in future newsletters so that others can catch up with you, too.
Since Sichuan Normal University is a highly ranked teaching college in China, undergraduate students from all over China study there. For this reason, I was able to work with native speakers of a variety of dialects of Chinese. My focus was on the variety of Southwestern Mandarin spoken in Sichuan province and on the variety of Northern Mandarin spoken in Hebei province and the Beijing area. I was able to record 9 speakers of Southwestern Mandarin and 11 speakers of Northern Mandarin pronouncing 300 lexical items in their native dialects. Because of the help and generosity of my local contacts, I was able to collect a huge amount of data in a very short amount of time. Now that I am back in Iowa, I have been transcribing and annotating these data and taking acoustic measurements.

Besides doing formal interviews with students at Sichuan Normal University, I also had the opportunity to travel around Sichuan province in order to get an impression of the variation in the Southwestern dialect of Mandarin. I spent time in several scenic villages south and west of Chengdu where I was able to talk with the local people and even learned to speak a little bit of the Sichuan dialect. While my recording sessions have provided me with quantitative data to analyze, the time I spent speaking with locals in the villages was invaluable in giving me a feel for the local dialect. Having this real-life language experience has made the endless data annotation much more interesting. Unfortunately, my real-life experience with aggressive, thieving monkeys has given me a lifelong fear of wildlife.

All of the research that was conducted on this trip will be included in my PhD dissertation on the vowels of Northern and Southwestern Mandarin.

TWO BA RECIPIENTS WIN FULBRIGHT GRANTS

Brett Burk and Acacia Roberts, both December 2014 BA recipients, were among seven University of Iowa students awarded grants in the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Brett and Acacia will put their linguistic expertise to good use in the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant program, which places grantees in schools overseas to supplement local English language instruction and to provide a native speaker presence in the classrooms.

Brett will spend the coming year in Taiwan, a country which he has a keen interest in. Acacia, who majored in Linguistics and French, and has avidly studied Arabic, is returning to Morocco, her study abroad host country.

Our heartiest congratulations to both. They are sure to return to the U.S. next year with some amazing stories to tell us all.
Douglas Cole

My Stanley research trip to Laos was a wonderful experience for which I am extremely grateful. The purpose of the trip was to learn about a type of sentence in Lao which contains more than one verb, called serial verb constructions or SVCs. A word-by-word translation of a Lao SVC into English would be *Joy made the rice eat*. I was able to find several diagnostics that clearly show how these sentences are different from sentences with *and* as in *Joy made the rice and ate it*. The information that I gathered on the trip also helps me to make a case for saying that there is more than one type of SVCs. The specific data on SVCs that I have gathered will be used in a formal analysis of the structure, and will serve as the basis of a follow-up experiment investigating how speakers process these types of sentences.

In the classroom, although we always use natural language data to build analyses, the data are finite, and the questions raised are restricted to the assignment requirements. On this Stanley trip I was able to step out into the real world of language research, where the data are infinite, and the questions that they prompt are my own. What I discovered was that language is much messier that I previously had believed. Often, just when I thought I was on the cusp of understanding something about the structures I was interested in, I would be blindsided with an unexpected finding. This trip certainly stretched my abilities, but the lessons I learned were invaluable. While searching to explain one particular type of sentence structure in the Lao language, I was forced to understand many seemingly unrelated aspects of the language, and so my knowledge of Lao has improved. I also became more proficient in the fine art of linguistic fieldwork, something I had previously only practiced in a safe, controlled classroom environment. I had to learn about recruiting consultants, dealing with inconsistencies in meetings as well as inconsistencies in responses, the dangers of leading questions or comments, and the disappointment of spending hours preparing questions that end up going nowhere. I will be the first to admit that I did not do everything perfectly on this trip, but I have already reflected on the adjustments that I will make for next time, everything from how I go about my preparation to how I navigate the waters of cross-cultural communication with government and school officials. This opportunity to do fieldwork overseas has helped me to become a better linguist and researcher as I prepare for my dissertation and what lies beyond.

Paul Morris

The third Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi) was held at the Colegio de México in Mexico City on December 4-5, 2014. I had the great opportunity to present my poster, *Laryngeal Features of Mayan Stops: Evidence from an Acoustic Study of Southern Mam*, which is a Mayan language spoken in Guatemala, at the conference. The conference was attended by some of the foremost experts on Mayan linguistics. Syntax featured heavily in the conference, but great presentations were also offered on phonetics, SLA of phonology, historical syntax based on Mayan hieroglyphs, and prosody. The conference was a wonderful opportunity to hear new developments in Mayan linguistics, re-connect with colleagues, meet other Mayan linguists, and enjoy a few scholastic days in Mexico. The poster can be viewed in the hallway of the Linguistics department on the 5th floor of the EPB. Funding for travel to the conference was provided by GPSG and GSS Travel Grants.
Maria Sumner

I participated in the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) during the summer of 2014 in Malang, Indonesia. CLS is an intensive language immersion program put on by the Department of State, and our focus was Bahasa Indonesia, the official language of the country. Each student also completed a paper and presentation at the end of the semester. I chose to study the slang language and its usage across different geographical locations and ages. I completed my project primarily through conducting interviews with various Indonesians.

Indonesia is a beautiful country full of cultural, geographical, and linguistic diversity. We studied in Malang, which is a university town nestled in a valley of Eastern Java. We also had the chance to explore many other areas in the country. We hiked to the top of a volcano, visited a tea plantation, and toured some of the local industries where they produce chocolate, ceramics, tempeh, and more. All of these trips and daily life activities were conducted completely in Indonesian, and all participants stayed with a homestay family where we had more opportunities to practice the language.

The language program was intensive, and we were in class or studying for about eight hours each day. Alongside our schoolwork, we studied traditional culture such as gamelan, Javanese dance, silat (a martial art) and how to make batik, a traditional cloth. The summer culminated in a group performance of these traditional Indonesian art forms.

STUDENTS STUDY MESKWAKI

Two graduate students have been doing research on the Meskawki language, an endangered Algonquin language spoken in Tama, Iowa, as they describe here.

Ashley Hunnicutt

I visited the Meskwaki settlement in Tama several times in the spring, summer, and fall in order to record phonological data. Not much work has been done with the phonology of the Meskwaki language, and there are no phonetic analyses of the language at all; my aim in collecting data was to conduct a phonetic and phonological analysis of pre-aspiration and vowel devoicing in Meskwaki.

Paul Morris

Since January, 2014, I have been going to the Meskwaki settlement as well as once to Rock Island with my consultants for Eagle Days. The purpose of my trips has been to document and describe the Meskwaki language as it is currently used. Some work has been conducted on the sacred stories used for ceremonial purposes but less has been documented about the language as it is currently used. Meskwaki has a rich morphological marking system and is described as polysynthetic. The nature of my research is to document the everyday language as it is currently used and investigate restrictions on word order to better understand the syntactic structure of the language. This research has been funded in part by an ECGPS Research Grant.
The Department is pleased to announce that Dan Burgdorf, Kristin Ho, Elizabeth Wolf, and Patrick O’Brien have accepted invitations to join Phi Beta Kappa, the prestigious national honor society that celebrates excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. Burgdorf, Ho, and Wolf, who were inducted in the Fall 2016 ceremony, are senior linguistics majors, and all have plans to continue their study of linguistics in graduate programs. O’Brien, who is a junior, participated in the Spring 2015 induction ceremony.

Dan Burgdorf, a double major in linguistics and physics with a minor in chemistry, plans to enter the Ph.D. program in linguistics at Cornell University in the fall of 2015. Dan is particularly interested in polysynthetic Native American languages, especially the Siouan, Iroquoian, and Algonquian families, and in language revitalization.

Kristin Ho will be graduating in May 2015 with a double major in linguistics and Spanish, as well as a minor in theatre arts; as a student in the Department’s five-year BA/MA in linguistics, she’ll be completing her M.A. in May 2016. After graduation, she hopes to teach English in a Spanish-speaking country, or in Hungary, where she has spent time volunteering at an English-language camp.

Elizabeth Wolf, a linguistics major enrolled in the five-year BA/MA program will complete her B.A. in linguistics with a German minor in May 2015. Elizabeth’s interests include psycholinguistics and computational linguistics; upon completion of her M.A., she hopes to have the opportunity to teach English in Germany.

Patrick O’Brien, who is pursuing a double major in linguistics and music, along with a Spanish minor, hopes to begin the five-year B.A./M.A. program in Fall 2016.

The past two years have been very productive ones for the students in the graduate program. They have had very active research programs and they have traveled to present their research results at regional, national, and international conferences. Some of the funding for travel has come from generous donations to the Linguistics development fund.

In addition to presenting at conferences, the students make frequent presentations in the Department’s colloquium series, at the annual Jakobsen Graduate Conference hosted by the Graduate College, and other campus events. Last year the students inaugurated a student-only Saturday ‘retreat’ during which they share their research ideas with one another and get important feedback and suggestions from their peers. They held the second annual event in February 2015.

What follows is a catalogue of graduate students’ conference presentations:

**Eli Asikin-Garmager**


2015. “Speech rate effects on the production of Hindi stop consonant cues,” 17th Annual Jakobsen Graduate Conference, University of Iowa.

**Kelly Carden**


**Douglas Cole**


Karee Garvin


Leigh Hunnicutt


Leigh Hunnicutt & Paul Morris


Sang-Kyun (Danny) Kang


Andrew Lewis


GRADUATE STUDENTS RECEIVE RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION FUNDING

Several students in the Department’s PhD program are recent recipients of competitive research and dissertation funding awards from the Graduate College and International Programs.

Douglas Cole has been awarded a Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship by the Graduate College, which will free him from teaching duties during the Spring 2016 semester as he works on his dissertation Lao serial verb constructions and their impact on event cognition. Doug has also received two other honors from the Graduate College: a Summer Post-Comprehensive Research Award for summer 2015 and a T. Anne Cleary International Research Fellowship, which will help fund his fieldwork in Laos during the Fall 2015 semester.

Kelly Carden has received a Graduate College Post-Comprehensives Research Award for the Fall 2015 semester. The award provides semester-long support so that Kelly can focus on writing his dissertation Vowel-consonant harmony in two dialects of Mandarin.

Eli Asikin-Garmager is the recipient of a T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship as well as a Summer Post-Comprehensive Research Award for summer 2015 from the Graduate College. Eli will travel to Indonesia to collect data for his dissertation The impact of context on grammatical production and processing in the Sasak language. Eli has also received a T. Anne Cleary International Research Fellowship for the Spring 2016 semester, which he will spend in Indonesia conducting the experiments that will be an important component of his dissertation.

Ari Natarina has received a Stanley Award for International Research from International Programs. Ari will travel to Indonesia during summer 2015 to conduct research on The morphology of the Balinese language.
Paul Morris
2014. “Misleading through linguistic differences: Misunderstanding between Náhuatl and Spanish during the conquest and colonization of Mexico,” Craft Critique Culture Conference, University of Iowa.
2014. “Laryngeal features of Mayan stops: Evidence from an acoustic study of Southern Mam,” 3rd Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi III), El Colegio de México in Mexico City.
2014. “Phonetic and phonological variation in Northern and Southern Mam: Dialects of a Mayan language,” 43rd New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV 43), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Robert Morris

Ari Natarina

Hero Patrianto
2015. “Translation of grammatical metaphor forms as a difficulty indicator between translating science and humanities texts from English into Indonesian,” 17th Annual Jakobsen Graduate Conference, University of Iowa.

In addition to departmental support, Eli Asikin-Garmager, Douglas Cole, and Paul Morris have received funding from the Graduate Student Senate and the Graduate and Professional Student Government (formerly the Executive Council of Graduate and Professional Students) for traveling to conferences and conducting research.

The team works with one of the consultants for the documentation project of the Baduy people of Indonesia, headed by Bill Davies. One of the team members is Eri Kurniawan (standing), a 2013 PhD in the Department.
**Recent PhD Recipients**

2012. Vladimir Kulikov, *Voicing and voice assimilation in Russian stops*. Kulikov’s dissertation is an investigation of acoustic cues for the voicing contrast in stops in Russian for speaking rate and phonetic environment effects. Kulikov’s results are: voicing in voiced stops is affected by speaking rate manipulation; stops in Russian retain underlying voicing contrast in presonorant position and voice assimilation occurs only in obstruent clusters; and phonological processes of voice assimilation and final devoicing do not result in complete neutralization. The results of the study present a challenge to the widely-held assumption that phonological processes precede phonetic processes at the phonology-phonetics interface. It is shown that the underlying contrast leaves traces on assimilated and devoiced stops. The results also show that no effect of the second consonant is obtained on voicing in preceding stops in in obstruent-sonorant-obstruent clusters, thus no "phonological sonorant transparency to voice assimilation" is found in Russian. Kulikov was the recipient of a Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowship as well as a T. Anne Cleary International Research Fellowship from the Graduate College. Kulikov is currently an Assistant Professor of Linguistics in the Department of English Literature and Linguistics at Qatar University, Qatar.

2013. Eri Kurniawan, *Sundanese complementation*. Kurniawan’s dissertation explores the structure of complex sentences in Sundanese, a language of Indonesia, which contains a variety of subordinate conjunctions that introduce complement clauses and also a nominalizing strategy for expressing sentential complements. Kurniawan demonstrates that Sundanese grammar includes structures found in more familiar languages (such as English), including Raising, Control, and Prolepsis. He also demonstrates that despite the absence of case, verb agreement, and tense, finiteness plays an important role in the grammar of Sundanese. Kurniawan’s doctoral research was funded in part by the NSF through a Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant as well as a T. Anne Cleary International Research Fellowship from the Graduate College. Kurniawan is currently an Assistant Professor of Linguistics in the Department of English Literature and Linguistics at Qatar University, Qatar.

2014. Sang-Kyun (Danny) Kang, *The Acquisition of English Glides by Native Speakers of Korean*. Kang’s dissertation is an investigation of the acoustics of the glides w and j in both Korean and English, of the phonotactics of glide-vowel sequences in the two languages, and of the acquisition of English homorganic glide+vowel sequences (such as wu and ji) by L1 speakers of Korean. Kang shows that there are substantial differences in the acoustic realizations of the glides in Korean and English—but that L1 Korean learners of English at all proficiency levels are successful at producing target-like glides in non-homorganic English glide+vowel sequences. He also finds that target-like production of English homorganic glide+vowel sequences is challenging for Korean learners of English, with a number of different repair strategies, including glide deletion and vowel shift, being employed. Kang uses Optimality Theory to model the interlanguage grammars of Korean learners of English, showing how different levels of proficiency and different repair strategies can be accounted for by changes in the ranking of individual constraints. Kang’s dissertation research was partially supported by a Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Summer Research Award. He is currently teaching English on the faculty of Woo-Song University in Daegu, South Korea.

**Recent MA Recipients**

In May 2013, Master’s in Linguistics degrees were conferred upon William Denny, Samantha Diggman, Ivana Djurovic, Jessica Hall, Ashley Hunnicut, Paul Morris, and Ari Natarina.

In May 2014, Feng Chen, Garrett Larson, Sarah Lowen, Karen Miller, Emily Wagner, and Caleb Widmer received Master’s in Linguistics degrees.

In May 2015, Master’s in Linguistics degrees will be conferred upon Emma House, Yun-Ting Huang, Katherine Jensen, Sergio Leiva Cardona, Carly Sommerlot, Maria Sumner, and Weilu Wang.
On Thursday, April 9, the Department hosted its annual mixer and information session for linguistics majors and minors. This year's program featured a number of presentations highlighting opportunities for teaching and research overseas, opportunities for research involvement in cognitive science, and planning for graduate study in linguistics and allied fields. Karen Wachsmuth, who heads the University of Iowa's Office of International Programs Fulbright program, gave information and answered student questions about research opportunities and the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant grant program, which provides recent BA recipients the opportunity to live overseas and teach English. She was followed by a former Fulbright ETA grant recipient, Sarah Lowen, who received her BA in Linguistics from the University of Iowa in 2009; Sarah talked with students about her experiences as a Fulbright recipient teaching English in Korea. Bob McMurray, of the departments of Psychology, Communication Sciences & Disorders, and Linguistics, touted the benefits of pursuing training in cognitive science, including undergraduate research in these disciplines as well as neuroscience. Finally, the Linguistics faculty talked with students about the Department's joint BA/MA degree program, and provided tips and suggestions for preparing for the graduate school application process.
Jill Beckman

For several years, Professor Beckman has been exploring laryngeal phonology and phonetics, with a particular focus on the relationship between changes in speaking rate and changes in the acoustic cues, such as Voice Onset Time, that are used to realize voicing and aspiration. "Empirical evidence for laryngeal features: Aspirating vs. true voice languages", a recent paper co-authored with Michael Jessen and Catherine Ringen that explores voicing and aspiration from a cross-linguistic perspective, appeared in Journal of Linguistics in 2013. Also in 2013, Beckman presented preliminary work on the effects of speech tempo on English Voice Onset at the 21st Manchester Phonology Meeting. She continued research in this vein in 2014, presenting papers at both the Linguistic Society of America meeting in Minneapolis, and at the 22nd Manchester Phonology Meeting, comparing the impact of speech tempo on Voice Onset Time in German and English. This work will be published as a book chapter in Primitives of Phonological Structure, from Oxford University Press. Following up on this work, Beckman is currently investigating the interplay among stress, word position, and speaking tempo in English and Portuguese; she is also beginning a project comparing the realization of voicing and aspiration cues in clear/careful speech and casual or conversational speech.

William Davies

Professor Davies spent the first 6 months of 2014 as a Senior Fulbright Researcher in Indonesia working with a research team from Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (Bandung) on a project digitally documenting the language and folklore of the Baduy. The Baduy are small group of ethnic Sundanese who live in the forest of Banden Province in western Java, having removed themselves from general Sundanese society some 500 years ago to resist the foreign influence and modernization. The research team collected narratives, basic sentence patterns and began compiling a dictionary. Davies also gave lectures at several universities in Bandung, Cirebon, Jakarta, Jambi and Bali. During the month of July, he was a Provost’s Visiting Scholar at the University of South Carolina, where he participated in team-teaching a workshop in the digital humanities, during which he presented his digital project on Madurese folk tales and guided students in the development of their own projects. He continues his research on the morphology and syntax of Madurese and languages of Indonesia. His paper “Describing Madurese crossed control” appeared in the volume Argument realisations and related constructions in Austronesian languages published by Asia-Pacific Linguistics. A paper co-authored with Eri Kur-
She has presented recent papers on the syntax of Hindi-Urdu, ‘Syntactic structure and modality in Hindi-Urdu’ at the 2013 LSA meeting, ‘Varieties of control in South Asian languages: a paradoxical situation for UG.’ at Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages 3 meeting at, U.S.C., 2013, and ‘Reversible and non-reversible dative subjects: a structural account’ at the Formal Analyses of South Asian Languages-4 meeting at Rutgers. 2014. A paper on a new approach to reversing dative subjects has been accepted for the South Asian Language Analysis meeting at Lancaster U, spring 2015, and tentatively planned for a conference in Paris in November 2015.

**Elena Gavruseva**

Professor Gavruseva has been working on several research projects over the past two years. One area of research deals with the semantics of modality in child language acquisition: what modal meanings are 2- to 3-year old children able to express and what syntactic form do they take? She presented two papers on this topic, one titled "Unlocking the modality effect in child English" (the Child Language Seminar (CLS), University of Manchester, UK, June 24-25, 2013) and the other titled "The role of modality in the semantics of children’s root infinitives: a cross-linguistic perspective" (the 37th Annual Penn Linguistics Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, March 22-24, 2013). This topic and associated questions were subsequently extended to child bilingual acquisition and developed into a paper titled "Tense, Aspect and Modal Shift in child L2 English" (presented at the workshop titled 'Expression of temporality by L2 learners of French and English', University of Montpellier, France, in May 2014). This paper will appear as a chapter in the book that grew out of this workshop.

Gavruseva is currently working on two large-scale studies that investigate how adult second language learners acquire the semantics of English articles. Both projects involve collaborations with graduate students in the Department of Linguistics.

**Catherine Ringen**

Professor Ringen continues to investigate VOT in several languages. In 2014 she worked on two projects on VOT with Pétur Helgason, one is an empirical investigation of voice assimilation in Swedish, the second involves expansion and revision of a paper entitled, “The role of [spread glottis] is Grimm’s Law,” which was presented at the 21st Manchester Phonology meeting, in 2013. The results of some of her earlier VOT research were published in 2013 in three papers. Two of these were published in the *Journal of Phonetics,* one coauthored with Pétur Helgason and Kari Suomi, entitled “Swedish quantity: Central Standard Swedish and Fenno-Swedish,” and one coauthored with Wim van Dommelen, entitled “Quantity and laryngeal contrasts in Norwegian.” A third paper, co-authored with Jill Beckman and Michael Jessen, entitled “Empirical evidence for laryngeal features: Aspirating vs. true voice languages,” appeared in the *Journal of Linguistics.* At the end of 2014 Catherine Ringen stepped down as co-editor of the Nordic Journal of Linguistics, a position she has held since 2001.

**Jerzy Rubach**

In the years 2013-2014, Professor Rubach did research in two areas: yers in Slavic languages and the grammar of Kurpian. Yers are the perennial Slavic vowels that show a highly complex pattern of interaction with other vowels (yer vocalization) and with zero (yer deletion). The main result of Rubach’s current work is that, counter to Gouskova (2012), yers cannot be analyzed in terms of exception features and lexical indexing. This result was published as the article “Exceptional Segments in Polish”, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 31 (2013), 1139-1162. The issue was developed further in the paper “Polish Yers Revisited” given at the conference Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics 23, University of California Berkeley, May 2-4, 2014, where Rubach was invited as a keynote speaker. Rubach continued his work on Kurpian, a minority language or dialect of Polish spoken in northern Poland. Kurpian is on the verge of extinction, but Kurpians are determined to revive their language. A major step toward this goal was made in 2010 when Rubach worked out and published a writing system for Kurpian. Since then a few hundred pages have been published by Kurpians in Kurpian. Kurpian turned out to have an interesting phonological system. While much remains to be done, the first results are promising. They were published as two articles: “Soft Labial Conspiracy in Kurpian”, *Journal of Linguistics* 50 (2014), 185-230 and “Final Tensing in Kurpian”, *Studies in Polish Linguistics* 9 (2014), 45-65. Rubach’s current research, supported by a grant from The National Science Center in Poland, focuses on working out a descriptive grammar of Kurpian that could serve, on the one hand, Kurpians in their efforts to revitalize their language and, on the other hand, linguists in their debate about the adequacy of various phonological theories. While this is a long term project, it already produced some results, particularly in the area of verb conjugation. These results were shared with the Kurpian community at annual Kurpian Culture Conferences held in Ostrołęka, the administrative capital of Kurpia, where in 2013 -2014 Rubach was invited three times as a keynote speaker.
Alice Davison to Retire

As the end of the 2014-15 academic year, Prof. Alice Davison will have a new title, Associate Professor Emerita, as she retires after 27 years on the Department faculty. Alice joined the Department in 1988, a recognized scholar of South Asian linguistics, focusing on Hindi-Urdu. She came to Iowa immediately on the heels of a year as a visitor on the University of Wisconsin linguistics faculty, having spent the prior year as a Senior Research Fellow at the American Institute of Indian Studies in Varanasi, India.

Best known now for her work on the syntax and morphology of Hindi-Urdu, Alice received her PhD from the University of Chicago in 1973, writing her dissertation on Performative verbs, felicity and adverbs, and earlier publications were work on syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and readability, among other topics. Alice has given countless conference and invited presentations of her scholarly work in India, as well as other international, national, regional and local venues. Alice has also taught and conducted research at the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages in Hyderabad, the University of Konstanz, the University of Illinois and SUNY Stony Brook, and held the prestigious National Science Foundation Visiting Professorship for Women at Cornell University during the 1989-90 academic year.

Much closer to home, Alice has taught the full range of syntax courses in both the undergraduate and graduate programs, and semantics, morphology, linguistic typology, and many others. When teaching Language & Formal Reasoning, she added media (such as Monty Python’s “Dead Parrot” routine) and found other ways to make the problems for the course intriguing. She enjoyed the typology courses, both the graduate Language Universals and Linguistic Typology and the undergraduate Languages of the World class; in those courses she was able to expose students to a data from a wide variety of languages.

Naturally Alice taught one or two undergraduate and graduate syntax classes each year. She has been a fixture in Advanced Syntactic Theory, a course in which many of our advanced graduate students get a start on their syntax PhD comprehensive papers. In that class and other graduate-level syntax classes, Alice has enjoyed the opportunity to make Adger’s Minimalism intelligible and interesting to both the students who progressed well and those who struggled a bit, who she endeavored to spend some extra time with. Students valued Alice’s ability to not only help them see how the details of the theory work out, but also where there are gaps and problems in the theory. Students also speak appreciatively of the careful, detailed, and encouraging comments she has given on these papers and their dissertations. It certainly was never unusual to walk by her open office door and see Alice deep in conversation, consulting with students on their research projects.

It should come as little surprise then that Alice counts among the rewards of her time here teaching the advanced syntax class and working with students on their research. Whether it was course papers, directing PhD comprehensive papers, or serving on PhD dissertation committees, she valued the opportunity to learn about other languages and research pertaining to them while participating in the development of the students’ research.

Outside of the classroom, Alice served as Director of Graduate Studies from 2010-13, and has been a perennial member of the MA Comprehensive Exam committee, chairing the committee eight times in a 21-year span. Many of the syntax exam problems that plagued students during that time were Alice’s brainchild. These provided more occasions for her to delve into the workings of languages with structures unlike those in English. Alice is a member of the South Asia Studies Program, most years being able to bring a linguist to campus for the colloquium series. As a member of the Syntax Reading Group, she regularly met with Paula Kempchinsky, Elena Gavruseva, and others to discuss recent journal articles.

Outside the University, Alice has been president of the Iowa City Early Keyboard Society, which offers free concerts for historic instruments like the harpsichord. In retirement, she will continue to live in Iowa City, active in the group.

Despite the official retirement, we won’t have to worry about losing contact with Alice. She will stay in Iowa City and plans to remain active in the Keyboard Society and continue her research and writing. What’s more, next fall she will reprise her Advanced Syntactic Theory class and will continue to serve on PhD committees, which undoubtedly mean we will walk by her open office door and see her deep in conversation, consulting with students on their research projects.
In Spring 2014, there were two recipients of the Outstanding Undergraduate Linguistics Award, Jennifer Brooke and Emma House. Jennifer completed a double major in Linguistics (TESL Emphasis) and Music, graduating with highest distinction and with honors in Linguistics in May 2014. Her honors thesis, an acoustic examination of Voice Onset Time in Australian English, utilized data that Jennifer collected during a winter trip to Australia during her junior year. Following graduation, Jennifer entered the MA program in TESOL at Michigan State University. Emma House, the second recipient of last year’s award, also completed her major in Linguistics with TESL Emphasis in May 2014, graduating with highest distinction. As a student in the five-year BA/MA program, Emma is in the final stages of completing her MA in Linguistics at the University of Iowa, and will graduate in May 2015.

The 2013 recipient of the Undergraduate Award, Jane Hommerding, graduated in May 2013, with highest distinction, with BA’s in Linguistics and Japanese. In July 2013, Jane accepted a position with the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme, where she is currently a Coordinator for International Relations, living and working in Saitama, Japan.

Recent developments in fields focused on language have highlighted the increasing importance of students developing an appreciation of and respect for the various disciplines, of gaining the ability to draw insights from diverse fields to inform their own research, and of communicating and collaborating with other researchers, thus challenging the disciplinary boundaries in the creation of knowledge.

Indeed, within linguistics, there has been a marked increase in the use of experimental methods and advanced technologies to provide evidence for analytic and theoretical claims, including (1) computational modeling of language production and learning, (2) a variety of quantitative methods to investigate real-time language comprehension and language learning, such as eye tracking, artificial language studies, and reaction time, (3) quantitative offline measures such as elicited production, sentence picture matching, truth-value judgment and others. This is evident in the programs of scholarly linguistic conferences, publications in the leading journals, the research being supported through various funding agencies, and emphases of various linguistics programs throughout the U.S. and internationally. Work in the program will expose Linguistics students to more of these emerging methods and research paradigms and promote an environment of cross-disciplinary collaboration.

The Certificate program capitalizes on the large cohort of faculty engaged in research on language at the University. The roster of 21 faculty members include all of the Linguistics faculty as well as faculty in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Psychology, the Neuroscience program, and Spanish and Portuguese, and it is likely that members of other units will be included in the future. As part of the program, students must take the two foundational seminars, Cognitive Science of Language Proseminar I & II, and three other courses from two participating departments outside of the student’s primary department. Additionally, students’ PhD comprehensive examination and dissertation committees must include at least one member from one of the other participating departments.

The Program is off to a strong start, with 14 students enrolled in the first year. The Cognitive Science of Language Proseminar I was offered for the first time in Fall 2014, team taught by Bob McMurray and Thomas Farmer from Psychology and Bill Davies. Fifteen students enrolled in the course, including seven from Linguistics. The seminar examined sentence-level and discourse-level language phenomena (including semantics and pragmatics) from the perspective of Communication Sciences & Disorders, Psychology, and Linguistics. The second seminar, to be offered in the Fall 2015 semester, will focus on phonological, lexical, and morphological issues.
Lab and Classroom Facility Update

In Fall 2014, the Department inaugurated its newly updated lab and instructional facility in 402 EPB. Thanks to a very generous Instructional Improvement Grant from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, we have increased the number of student workstations from 16 to 20, upgrading to a dynamic floor plan featuring four seating islands tailored for group work and easy instructor interaction. Thanks to these updates, 402 EPB is also now equipped with an instructor’s workstation, data projector, document camera, stereo sound, and video displays in both the front and rear of the classroom. With these improvements, the Department is able to offer more classes that integrate internet access to phonetic and language acquisition databases, as well as enabling entire classes to have real-time training in the use of a variety of software packages for data analysis. The renovated facility also greatly enhances the ability of students and faculty to run experiments and gather data for both individual and collaborative research projects.

The design and implementation of the lab would not have been possible without the creative thinking and dedication of many people. Members of the College of Liberal Arts & Science Technology Services Group took the proposal to the next level, suggesting many innovative features and functions that greatly enhance students’ and instructors’ ability to engage in collaborative learning. On the project team were Lance Bolton (the College’s IT Director), Janet Erickson (IT Project Coordinator), Jenifer Steil (IT Manager), Isaac Podolefsky (Project Manager), and Dianne Jones (Computer Consultant for the English-Philosophy Building). In recognition of his exceptional work on the project, Isaac received the Mary Louise Kelley Staff Excellence Award. Internally, with Dianne’s assistance, Katie McCullough, the administrative assistant for the Department, and Barb Pooley, building coordinator for EPB, were instrumental in crafting the initial proposal and implementing the project.

We in the Department are very fortunate to have such a facility available to us, and we continue to explore the new possibilities it opens for student and faculty research and teaching.
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