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Congratulations to our 2015 graduates!

Please keep in touch! Check our annual page http://ling.bu.edu/ and send us your news.

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We would really like to hear from you. Thanks!

BUCLD celebrated its 40th anniversary

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http://www.bu.edu/bucld/

Lila Gleitman (University of Pennsylvania), the keynote speaker of the first BUCLD meeting, reprised her role this year. There was also a celebratory session looking at where we’ve come from and where the field is going.

BUCLD is run each year by students in the Linguistics Program, with the guidance of faculty advisors, currently Profs. Paul Hagstrom and Sudha Arunachalam. The Conference has become one of the best known conferences on language development in the world, drawing over 500 people from all over the U.S. and internationally. It includes about 150 papers in such areas as theoretical approaches to language acquisition, second language acquisition, language disorders, and other topics related to language development. The conference is currently supported in part by grants provided by the National Science Foundation. This year, we are also grateful for supplemental funding from the Office of the Vice President and Associate Provost for Research.

BULA:
http://bula.bu.edu

Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/BULinguistics

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2015-16 Colloquium Series

- Rupal Patel, VocalID & Northeastern University
  “Crowdsourcing voice collection to power unique vocal identities”

- Maziar Toosarvandani, University of California, Santa Cruz
  “How imperfect is the imperfective aspect? Durative gemination in Northern Paiute and Crosslinguistic Variation in Aspectual Semantics”

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  “Language dynamism and the notion of ‘native speaker’”

- Raffaella Zanutti, Yale University
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- Dominique Sportiche, University of California, Los Angeles
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- Marcos Rohena-Madrazo, Middlebury College
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  “The acquisition of obstructive place in children, revisited”

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New Workshop on Quantitative Research Methods

This fall, Professors Daniel Erker and Jon Barnes launched a workshop on quantitative methods in linguistics, in which they have been leading hands-on demonstrations of a range of techniques and topics. These include 1) creating, organizing, and managing linguistic data, 2) visualizing data through graphics and images, and 3) conducting significance tests and building regression models. All of the demonstrations are done using R, a free software environment for statistical computing and graphics. The workshop, which assumed no prior background in statistics or computer programming, was open to all Linguistics graduate students, undergraduates in the honors program, and interested faculty. This is proving to be well-attended and extremely valuable to those participating. Profs. Erker and Barnes are considering developing this into a regular course in the future.

NSF grant: “Facilitating Remote Participation at International Scientific Conferences”

Thanks to NSF funding, Prof. Jon Barnes and his colleagues plan to pilot, at the upcoming Speech Prosody 2016 conference at Boston University, a suite of solutions that will enable members of the scientific community to participate in conference activities as fully from remote locations as from the host location itself. Data will be collected concerning the usability and attractiveness of each technology, and will be used to devise a future budget model whereby such remote participation strategies can one day become self-funding. Specifically, this project will implement remote participation solutions for the following scenarios: 1) discussion and Q&A during oral sessions; 2) remote presentation of posters; 3) active attendance and interaction during poster sessions, and 4) “passive” attendance at oral and poster sessions, both in real time, and after the fact via digital archives of the proceedings. Solutions include streaming video, stationary iPads at posters, and mobile telepresence robots. A dynamic post-conference proceedings package featuring video archiving and asynchronous discussion forums will promote sustained interaction after the conference.

New Faculty Member: Charles Chang

Prof. Charles Chang joins the Linguistics faculty. Prof. Chang’s research addresses topics in phonetics, phonology, language acquisition, and language attrition. Specific interests include the early stages of second language phonological acquisition, interactions between the first and second languages in the bilingual mind, bases of crosslinguistic phonological similarity, language transfer, heritage language phonology, and contact-induced sound change.

NSF award for doctoral dissertation research

Alejna Brugos received NSF funding to support her doctoral dissertation research. Under the direction of Prof. Jon Barnes, she recently completed her dissertation on “The Interaction of Pitch and Timing in the Perception of Prosodic Grouping.”
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Major conference to be held at BU this spring: Speech Prosody 2016

From May 31 through June 6, 2016, BU will host the biennial meeting of the International Conference on Speech Prosody. This is the only recurring international conference focused on prosody as the organizing principle for the social, psychological, linguistic, and technical aspects of spoken language. This year’s conference will be organized by Prof. Jon Barnes together with colleagues at Simmons College and MIT. See http://sites.bu.edu/speechprosody2016/ and https://www.facebook.com/NSFgrant: “Facilitating Remote Participation at International Scientific Conferences”

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Prof. Chang has developed some exciting new courses, offered in AY 15-16 and 16-17:

* CAS LX 541 Phonological Development
* CAS LX 542 Second Language Acquisition
* CAS LX 545 Bilingualism
* CAS LX 546 Incomplete Acquisition and Language Attrition

See http://charleschang.net/ for more information about him and his research.
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BU CAS Linguisitics Program
261 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

directorlacey@bu.edu
http://ling.bu.edu

BU CAS Linguisitics Program administration:
Director of the Linguistics Program: Prof. Carol Neidle
Director of Graduate Studies, and Associate Director of the program: Prof. Jon Barnes
Director of Undergraduate Studies: Prof. Paul Hagstrom

For details, see http://ling.bu.edu/events/bu.

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Good news tidbits:

- Prof. Neil Myler, now in his second year with us, was awarded the NYU Dean’s Outstanding Dissertation Award in Social Sciences for 2014-15 for his 2014 dissertation: Building and Interpreting Possession Sentences. Prof. Myler also served as the keynote speaker for Harvard Ling’s 2015 (undergraduate) Colloquium.

- Prof. Danny Erker received a well-deserved CAS Templeton Award for Excellence in Student Advising in May 2015. His research has also received some coverage in the media recently (e.g., the article in the Boston Globe (9/27/15): “How ‘ums’ and ‘ers’ are changing Boston Spanish”).

- Prof. Sudha Arunachalam received a prestigious 2015 Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation Fellowship Award. This has provided funding to enable her to travel to South Korea to examine differences in language acquisition across cultures.

- Byron Ahn, Visiting Assistant Professor of Linguistics at BU in 2014-15, is now a Visiting Assistant Professor of Linguistics at Swarthmore College.

Linguistics Program administration:
Director of the Linguistics Program: Prof. Carol Neidle
Director of Graduate Studies, and Associate Director of the program: Prof. Jon Barnes
Director of Undergraduate Studies: Prof. Paul Hagstrom

The Linguistics Program has just been reorganized. It is now an autonomous program (no longer based in the Department of Romance Studies), and it subsumes the former graduate “Program in Applied Linguistics.” What this means is that we now offer the MA and PhD in Applied Linguistics (although we are not currently accepting new PhD students), as well as an undergraduate minor in Linguistics and the following degrees:

- BA in Linguistics
- BA in Linguistics & Philosophy
- BA in French & Linguistics
- BA in Italian & Linguistics
- BA in Japanese & Linguistics
- BA in Spanish & Linguistics

A proposal for a new intercollegiate joint major between CAS and SAR in Linguistics & Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences is currently under review, and we hope to start offering the new program next year.

If you have any questions about any of our offerings or events, don’t hesitate to contact us (see the information about the faculty and administration of the program below and on the next page) or have a look at our website: http://ling.bu.edu (although the website is still undergoing reconstruction to reflect the reorganization). We’re also on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BULinguistics/