

Congratulations to recipients of Linguistics UROP awards for Summer 2017 !

Margaret Adham

“Possessives in contact”



This project will survey the literature on the morphosyntax of possessed noun phrases, with special emphasis on the effects of linguistic contact on such structures, ultimately producing a substantial written literature review. It will then apply findings from the literature to a specific case-study, namely the possibly Quechua-influenced double possessives found in the Spanish speech of some mono- and bilingual speakers living in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Margaret will investigate the correlation between speaker output, language proficiency, and social/ethnic self-identification with respect to such structures. The data for the case-study will be drawn from a pilot study on Quechua-Spanish contact in progress at BU, led by Profs. Myler and Erker. (with Prof. Myler)

James Sbordone

“Using QR codes to situate Northern Pomo language learning in a community museum”



This project continues work on documenting and revitalizing Northern Pomo, a dormant indigenous language of California. The current focus for this project is implementation of a system for situating indigenous language learning in the context of a community heritage museum. After having received positive feedback from the community, I will be expanding the installation. I will also be working on developing an iOS application for learning Northern Pomo using flashcards. (with Prof. O'Connor)

Sharmaine Sun

“Language use and perceptions of Asian Bostonians”



This sociophonetic research project has two components: (1) examining features of English and heritage languages spoken by Asian Americans, across a range of ethnicities and life histories in the US, and (2) testing the perception, by both Asian American and non-Asian American listeners, of Asian racial/ethnic identity in the speech of Asian American English users. Sharmaine will be involved in both the collection and the analysis of pilot data on this project. (with Prof. Chang)

Kathryn Turner

“Development of speech production in Korean-English bilingual children”



This is a continuation of a project comparing the speech production of young children acquiring both Korean and English with that of age-matched children acquiring only one of these languages. The goal of this project is to better understand how bilingual children differ from monolingual children with respect to the arc of their language development. Kathryn will contribute to the acoustic analysis of audio recordings from an elicited production task with 3- and 5-year-old children, focusing on fricative production. (with Prof. Chang)