Message from the Head

It has been 45 years since the launch of the Linguistics program at the University of Illinois. Since its inception in 1965, the Department has garnered a distinguished record of research and teaching. Its graduates have gone on to become leaders in the field in the U.S. and abroad, initiating new paradigms and areas of research and have held prestigious positions in institutions and organizations, including the presidency of the Linguistic Society of America.

The Department is known for its first-rate research on a diverse group of languages and language families, including African, Semitic, East Asian, and Romance. Over 250 dissertations have been produced in the last 40 years, many becoming key references for research on a number of languages and topics. Thanks to its internationally renowned faculty, the Department has been an incubator of new ideas and approaches that have had a lasting impact on the field.

These achievements are not only a source of pride as the legacy of our program, but they are also a source of inspiration for current faculty and students to continue at the forefront of the evolving field of Linguistics.

Over the last few years, we have hired new faculty: Corina Roxana Girju (UT at Dallas), Tania Ionin (MIT), Chilin Shih (UC San Diego and Bell Labs), Ryan Shosted (University of Cambridge). The newest member of our faculty, Jonathan McDonald (Stony Brook), joins us in the fall.

The Computational Linguistics program has made major strides by attracting externally funded research grants and contracts, and by initiating a new Certificate in Language and Speech Processing, detailed on page 3. The program has added a number of new courses in computational linguistics and language technology, and its faculty have engaged in collaborative projects with

Cont’d on page 3

Reading Groups on the Cutting Edge

Reading groups gather faculty and students in pursuit of questions of mutual interest through discussions of current literature. Here are some examples:

Child Language Acquisition, guided by Silvina Montrul, met weekly this year to discuss current theoretical, methodological, empirical, educational, and clinical issues in the study of language development in normally developing monolingual and bilingual children and in children with language development disorders.

Experimental Pragmatics met monthly to discuss the latest research in the budding field of experimental pragmatics at the nexus of pragmatics and psycholinguistics. The coordinators are Marina Terkourafi and Tania Ionin. The group hosted an invited talk by Thomas Holtgraves (Ball State, Psychology).

Language and Society, coordinated by Jennifer Cramer, focused on the intersection of language and society. This year’s theme was ‘Language and Identity’.

Philosophy and Linguistics, led by Peter Lasersohn, met to discuss recent literature in semantics and philosophy of language. This group included participants from Illinois Wesleyan and Indiana Universities.
SLATE Reaches across Disciplines

Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE), under the direction of Silvina Montrul, is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide a catalyst for bilingualism, foreign/second language and heritage language research and practice at UIUC. It promotes a series teaching, research, scholarly, and outreach activities through which faculty and graduate students can engage intellectually and professionally.

In May, SLATE held its second annual student research symposium, co-sponsored with the Department of Linguistics and dedicated to the memory of Molly Mack, professor of linguistics, who passed away in 2009. Professors David Birdsong, and James Flege were featured speakers.

Students in this program earn a Certificate of Advanced Study in SLATE in conjunction with a Ph.D. in one of the cooperating units.

For more information, see the SLATE website at http://www.slate.illinois.edu/.

Labs—Where the Rubber Meets the Road

The Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism Lab (SLAB), housed in G-73 FLB and directed by Silvina Montrul, draws faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students interested in experimental syntax, semantics, and morphology, as well as those focusing on cognitive, linguistics, and psycholinguistic aspects of second language acquisition and bilingualism in children and adults.

Details of the experimental methods used and the kinds of questions pursued can be found at https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/montrul/www/slab/.

Down the hall, in G-84 FLB, is the Illinois Phonetics & Phonology Lab, directed by Ryan Shosted. From helping undergrads learn how to use phonetics software to providing resources for faculty who wish to acquire data under controlled conditions, the Illinois Phonetics & Phonology Lab is committed to broadening and disseminating knowledge about how linguistic sounds are produced, perceived, and patterned.

Examples of research tools and projects are at http://phonlab.linguistics.illinois.edu/index.html.

Greek Debuts

Modern Greek is the most recent addition to our Department's extensive offerings in Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTLs). The language coordinator is Marina Terkourafi.

Greek is taught as part of a new program in Modern Greek Studies launched in 2008 as a collaboration between the Departments of the Classics and of Linguistics. A two-day workshop on Teaching Greek as a Second Language was organized on October 27-28, 2009, under the auspices of the new program. The workshop, which featured talks by Brian Joseph (OSU), Evangelia Adamou (Paris, CNRS), Niovi Antonopoulou (Thessaloniki), Amalia Arvaniti (UCSD), Stavroula Tsipakou (Cyprus), and Panayotis Pappas (SFU), covered topics from minority and local varieties to L2 phonology and Computer Assisted Language Learning and was attended by scholars from our campus as well as Chicago and Indiana.

Departmental Awards

Student Research Award
Jennifer Cramer
Benjamin Slade

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
Erica Britt (Linguistics)
Eman Saadah (Non-Western Languages)

Student Leadership Award
Jennifer Cramer
John Jang
Erin Rusaw

Outstanding Undergraduate in Linguistics
Kevin Stillwell

If an activity of the Department catches your interest, we invite your support and would welcome your generosity.

For information on making a gift to the Department, please visit this web page:
http://www.linguistics.illinois.edu/giving/
Message from the Head, cont’d from page 1
colleagues at the Beckman Institute and with other departments and programs on campus.
Given the increasing interest in Second Language Studies, the Department has joined with other programs in the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics to establish a Second Language Studies Laboratory to advance research in this vibrant area. (See the article on page 2.)

Our second language emphasis has been enhanced significantly by a major development in the life of the Department, namely, its merger with the Division of English as an International Language in 2008. Its MATESL degree is world renowned, and its faculty are noted for their expertise in Conversation Analysis, Computer Assisted Language Learning, Language Testing, Pedagogical Grammar and Phonology, and Task-Based Language Teaching, all of which add new areas of strength to our program.

We warmly welcome Hugh Bishop, Fred Davidson, Wayne Dickerson, Irene Koshik, Numa Markee, Randall Sadler to our faculty. This union has also produced a Second Language Studies Laboratory to advance research in this vibrant area. (See the article on page 2.)

A measure of the productivity of our faculty and their students are the external grants that have been awarded to both. We heartily congratulate them all! (See the sidebar.)

I am also pleased to report that our increasingly popular language program has secured resources from the College of LAS to staff Arabic, Hindi, and Swahili with full-time lecturers. We have worked with the College, federally funded Title VI area centers, and the Center for Global Studies to regularly include Persian and Turkish in our language program. This is consistent with our conviction that in an interconnected world, knowledge of a second language is critical since language is the key to understanding and navigating other societies and cultures.

I would like to sincerely thank our friends and alumni who have been generous with their contributions to our program. Their help has been crucial to enhancing the quality of our program.

Certificate of Advanced Study: LSP
Language and Speech Processing is a multidisciplinary program for doctoral students with an interest in speech and language processing technology. It is open to students in the Departments of Linguistics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and the Graduate School of Library and information Science. By participating in the program, students earn the certificate in addition to the Ph.D. in their home departments. Under the program, students take courses from a specified list and work with a program-affiliated faculty member who has an appointment in one or more of the above departments.

Details about the program can be found at http://lsp.linguistics.illinois.edu/ and from Roxana Girju, Program Chair.

Studies in the Linguistic Sciences, Take 2
In 2009, Studies in the Linguistic Sciences (SLS), the department’s publication outlet since 1971, was relaunched as SLS: Illinois Working Paper as a result of a student initiative. The 2009 volume features papers produced by the students and faculty of the Department as well as the proceedings of the inaugural Illinois Language and Linguistic Society student conference. It is published as a free, open-access, online publication, edited by Matt Garley. More information is available at http://sls.linguistics.illinois.edu/.

External Grants and Awards

**NSF Dissertation Grants**
- Soodoo Baek (Ionin–PI)
- Eunah Kim (Montrul–PI, Christianson & Yoon–Co-PIs)

**SLCL Dissertation Completion Fellowship**
- Ben Slade

**German Academic Exchange Service Ph.D. Research Grant**
- Matt Garley
- Jiede Emperical Research Grant 2010
- Chen-Huei Wu

**NSF Grant (2009-2011)**
- Silvina Montrul
- Rakesh Bhatt
- Roxana Girju

**NSF Grant (2009-2012)**
- Elabbas Benmamoun

**NSF Grants (2) as PI NICHD as co-PI**
- Jennifer Cole

**WIDA Project**
- Fred Davidson

**NSF Grant (2007-2011)**
- NSF Grant (2006-2010)
- NIH Grant (1997-2014)

**Additional Grants**
- Elabbas Benmamoun
- NSF Grant (2009-2011)
- NSF Grant (2006-2010)
- NIH Grant (1997-2014)
- Chilin Shih
- Worldwide Universities Network
- Marina Terkourafi
- Continuing Grant from Seoul National University
- James Yoon
New! Certificate in TESL

Effective Fall 2009, the Department of Linguistics received approval to offer a six-course Certificate in TESL.

Undergraduate students can earn the certificate either by completing a Minor in TESL or by completing a Major in Linguistics with a concentration in TESL.

Graduate students can earn the certificate as a stand-alone credential either while in a UIUC degree program or through Academic Outreach as non-degree students.

The certificate consists of three required courses—Introduction to Linguistics, Introduction to TESL Methods, and Theoretical Foundations of SLA—and three elective courses selected from among the following:

- English Grammar for ESL Teachers
- Phonology & Morphology for TESL
- Second Language Reading & Writing
- Principles of Language Testing
- Language and Social Interaction

For more information, visit our website at www.linguistics.illinois.edu/students/certificate/documents/CertificateinTESL-web.pdf

TESL Goes Online

In 2009, the Departments of Linguistics and Curriculum & Instruction joined forces to offer the first online ESL Teacher Endorsement program in the State of Illinois.

In-service teachers who want to add ESL to the areas they are certified to teach in public schools can take the 18-hour curriculum online through Academic Outreach at UIUC.

Wayne Dickerson of Linguistics and Georgia Garcia of C&I are the faculty coordinators of the program which began last summer. Hugh Bishop, a MATESL faculty member, developed the courses and has been teaching online versions of an Introduction to Linguistics and Theoretical Foundations of SLA. C&I faculty teach the other courses. Wayne Dickerson and Randall Sadler will offer online electives.

These courses are also available to those who want to complete the Certificate in TESL online or get a head start on MATESL courses.

For more information about this new venture, visit: http://education.illinois.edu/programs/online/besl/

Joint Program with Youngsan University

Our department and the Department of English at Youngsan University, in Busan, Korea, signed a memorandum of understanding in the fall to begin a cooperative TESL program.

Spearheaded by Professor Byong-Kwon Kim, a Linguistics alumnus and Head of the English Department at YSU, the two units agreed on an arrangement by which MATESL students at YSU will use our one-year Certificate in TESL as the first of a two-year MATESL curriculum.

YSU students will be on the UIUC campus for one fall semester and will complete the remaining requirements for the certificate through courses that Linguistics instructors will offer in Busan during the Summer 1 session.

YSU students gain a Certificate in TESL from UIUC’s Linguistics department and the experience of living and studying at a US university where they can improve their English. Our department gains some revenue and Linguistics instructors add an attractive entry on their vitae.