

APLNG Newsletter, Fall 2009



Letter from the Head



So far 2009-2010 has proved to be an exciting year for the Department of Applied Linguistics. Let me begin by congratulating our graduates. Chas Brua, Emily Rine and Elizabeth Smolcic successfully defended their dissertations in Summer 09. Chas currently holds a post-doc with the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence and Emily and Elizabeth are instructors for the Department. Four MA TESL students graduated this past summer: Hui Kuo, Hyun-Joo Lee, Ing-Tsan Lo, and Youngsook Song. Three additional MA students will graduate at the end of fall semester. They are: Abdulaziz Althewini, Shiho Asato, and Cassie Leymarie. We wish all graduates much success in their future endeavors.

Our APLNG community has grown. Mark Ouellette joined us in July as the ESL and ITA programs' Director. Fourteen students entered our MA TESL program and seven students entered our PhD program. This brings us to a healthy number of 70 students in our graduate programs.

Our TESOL Minor began this fall, with 56 students taking APLNG 200 (Introduction to Language and Social Interaction) taught by Xiaofei Lu. The number of inquiries from students interested in the program grows daily. The ESL Certificate Immersion Program also began this year and to date, there are 14 applicants, exceeding our expectations for its inaugural year. In addition, under the expert leadership of Karen Johnson and Elizabeth Smolcic, we continue to move ahead with the development of the on-line TESOL post-baccalaureate certificate program. We hope to begin offering the program next year.

We have already had several guest speaker presentations, sponsored by the Center for Language Acquisition and the Migration Studies Project, and look forward to those planned for the Spring. We have also participated in several Departmental Roundtable Sessions given by faculty and graduate students. The newly constituted Roundtable Committee comprised of Duff Johnston, I Nyoman Sanjaya, Shim Lew and Jackie Gianico will be planning another series of roundtables for Spring 2010.

I end by noting that, despite the downturn in the economy, thanks to the efforts of everyone— students, staff and faculty - APLNG is stronger than ever. This is a good place to be.

Joan Kelly Hall, Head

Departmental Roundtable

During fall, the Department held the following sessions:



- September 18, 2009 - Presenters: Joan Kelly Hall and Karen Johnson: *"Department discussion on the MA and PhD programs"*
- October 9, 2009 – Presenter: Sungwoo Kim: *"A case for incorporating real-time capture data to writing research and pedagogy: A Vygotskian perspective"*
- November 6, 2009 - Presenter: Wei Lai: *"Teaching of Chinese temporal aspect to beginning CFL learners"*
- November 13, 2009 - Presenter: Duff Johnson: *"A coorientation theory approach to organizational communication: Data from a Chinese university English language center"*
- November 20, 2009 - Presenter: Davi Reis: *"Non-native English-speaking teachers (NNESTs) and professional legitimacy: A sociocultural theoretical perspective on identity change"*
- December 4, 2009 - Presenter: Selim Ben Said: *"Urban street signs in the linguistic landscape of Tunisia: Tensions in policy, representation, and attitudes"*

APLNG Welcomes

Thomas Leo Schmitt



I am originally from New York City, but have moved around most of my life, including spending my high school years in London and completing my undergraduate work in Cairo. My interest in languages began at an early age when I vigorously resisted learning Italian in kindergarten in Firenze, but I have since enjoyed the challenge of language acquisition and the variety of dialects around the world.

I have been teaching English as a second language for the last twenty years in a variety of contexts. I enjoy working with students from around the world and was most recently in the United Arab Emirates. I am now the Assistant Director at the Intensive English Communication Program here at Penn State University.

I have a broad interest in the field of linguistics, including the role of culture and politics in the classroom, the potentials of technology in language acquisition and translation, and the lexico-syntactic interface.

Center for Language Acquisition (CLA)

The 2009 Summer Institute in Applied Linguistics

The CLA hosted its third Summer Institute of Applied Linguistics from June 22-July 17, 2009, bringing together an internationally diverse array of scholars and students for seminars, workshops, forum discussions and films on a range of topics in Applied Linguistics. As in past years, both students and faculty reported finding the Institute to be a stimulating venue for informed intellectual exchange, as well as for extended opportunities to connect with fellow scholars. (Further information about the 2009 Summer Institute and previous Institutes is available on the Center's website at <http://language.la.psu.edu>.)



Interdepartmental TA Orientation

The CLA organized a "Collaborative Interdepartmental Orientation for New Teaching Assistants" on August 20-21, 2009. The orientation focused on issues of interest to language educators - such as using technology for language and literature teaching, and PSU resources for language instruction - in addition to

sessions concerning university-wide policies on academic integrity, disabilities, sexual harassment, gender sensitivity, and diversity.

2009-2010 Language Teaching Workshop Series

During Fall and Spring 2009-2010, the CLA and co-sponsor CALPER offered/will offer a series of workshops to address current issues and topics in foreign language teaching and learning.

Fall 2009 Workshops

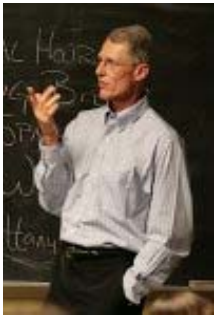
September 17, 2009: "Understanding and Applying the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning." This workshop provided an overview of the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning (2006), and their relevance and importance for curriculum design, classroom teaching, program articulation, and preparation for the job market. The session was conducted by Meredith Doran (CLA).

October 22, 2009: "The Common European Framework of Reference for Language Learning, Teaching, and Assessment: What, Why and How?" This workshop presented the European Standards for Foreign Language Learning, called The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), and addressed both the conceptual basis of the CEFR and its implications for designing classroom activities, courses, and language program curricula. The session was conducted by Gabriela Appel (CALPER).

Plans for Spring 2010

We are currently soliciting topics of interest for the Spring 2010 workshops. If you are interested in suggesting topics, please visit [this link](#) to complete a short survey (10 items total), or contact [Meredith Doran](#).

CLA Fall 2009 Speaker Series



October 23, 2009. This year's **Gil Watz Lecture** was given by **Douglas Biber** (Regents' Professor in Applied Linguistics, Northern Arizona University) on the topic of "Challenging stereotypes about academic writing: Complexity, elaboration, explicitness." Professor Biber's talk was followed by an informal get-together at the Nittany Lion Inn to continue the discussion.



November 9, 2009. **Wolff Michael Roth** (Lansdowne Professor of Applied Cognitive Science, University of Victoria) presented a paper entitled "Dialogism: Bakhtinian perspectives on learning in science." Professor Roth also generously offered time to meet with graduate students earlier that day.

College of Liberal Arts Centennial Presentation

October 24, 2009: Matthew Poehner and Jim Lantolf gave an invited presentation on "Reshaping standardized testing to Leave No Child Behind" at the College of the Liberal Arts Centennial Capstone event, held at the Penn Stater Conference Center. To celebrate its 100 years, the College of the Liberal Arts created a 12-minute video which can be viewed by going to [this youtube link](#). There is also a link to the video on the CLA website at <http://language.la.psu.edu>.

PAALC Graduate Research Symposium

The CLA will host the PAALC 2010 Graduate Research Symposium on January 22-23, 2010. The symposium will showcase scholarship by graduate students in Applied Linguistics from its member institutions. The Pennsylvania Applied Linguistics Consortium (PAALC) was established in Fall 2008. The following institutions constitute the consortium: *Carnegie Mellon University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Penn State University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, and Temple University*. For further information, please visit the symposium website at <http://paalc.socialculturaltheory.org>.

CALPER



The Center for Advanced Language Proficiency Education and Research (CALPER) started its final year of the current funding cycle. It is quite astonishing to realize that we were established seven years ago. It does

feel much shorter. The U.S. Department of Education will release new application documents for awards under the Title VI Language Resource Center Program in the beginning of the new year, at which point CALPER will apply for funding to continue with its LRC with an array of new projects. So, let's all hope that our application will be successful and that CALPER will be around for another four years.

This semester, we exhibited our materials at the New York State Association for Foreign Language Teachers (NYSAFLT) in October. The conference was held in Buffalo, NY. It was noticeable that the current state of the economy in the country also affected teachers' opportunities to participate in professional development events. As the conference organizers informed us, NYSAFLT had 40% fewer attendees this year than in 2008. We also traveled to San Diego, CA in November to exhibit and give presentations at ACTFL. CALPER faculty gave six papers altogether in San Diego – Joan Kelly Hall and Karen Johnson on the "Heritage project", Xiaofei Lu on the "GOLD project", and Hongyin Tao (UCLA) on the "Chinese project". At ACTFL, Julie A. Belz and Nina Vyatkina were presented with the 2009 ACTFL-MLJ Paul Pimsleur Award for Research in Foreign Language Education for their paper "The Pedagogical Mediation of a Developmental Learners Corpus for Classroom-based Language Instruction", which appeared in October 2008 in the journal *Language Learning & Technology*. Congratulations Nina and Julie! Last year, it was Matthew E. Poehner who received the award for his work on Dynamic Assessment. Two years in a row that projects which were partially funded through CALPER received the Pimsleur!

Quite a few of the CALPER project directors and graduate assistants are beginning to finalize their current work – so by the end of the next semester, you should see a number of new CALPER publications. This semester, the second CD in the Instructional Resources for LCTL Teacher Preparation series appeared. Karen E. Johnson and Joan Kelly Hall completed "Understanding Teachers of Heritage and Domestic Language Learners". More information on the publications is available at <http://calper.la.psu.edu/publication.php?page=hl2>. The Dynamic Assessment project also had an article appear in TESOL Quarterly, which is based on the project's work with an elementary school language teacher in Pittsburgh, authored by Matthew E. Poehner (see Publications).

And lastly, CALPER is "going with the flow", so to speak, by having joined "Twitter" about a month ago. Not because we like to write tweets, but because we hope to reach more foreign language teachers and make them aware of CALPER's work in particular, but also the LRC program in general. So, if you also feel like following us – here we are <http://twitter.com/CALPERPA>.

Gabriela Appel

Publications

Books:

- Johnson, K.E. (2009). *Second Language Teacher Education: A Sociocultural Perspective*. New York: Routledge.
- Kinginger, C. (2009). *Language Learning and Study Abroad: A Critical Reading of Research*. New York: Palgrave/ Macmillan.

Edited Volume:

- De Bot, K. and Schrauf, R.W., eds. (2009) *Language development over the lifespan*. New York: Routledge.

Book Chapters:

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- Roberts, P. and S. Canagarajah. "Broadening the ELF Paradigm: Spoken English in an International Encounter" In Farzad Sharifian (Ed.) *English as an International Language: Perspectives and Pedagogical issues*. Clevedon, UK: Multilingual Matters. 2009. 209-226.
- Schrauf, R. W. (2009). The bilingual lexicon and bilingual autobiographical memory: The neurocognitive basic systems view. In A. Pavlenko (ed.). *The bilingual mental lexicon: Interdisciplinary approaches* (pp. 26-51). Multilingual Matters.
- Schrauf, R. W. (2009). Longitudinal designs in studies of multilingualism. In DeBot, K. and Schrauf, R.W. (eds). *Language development over the lifespan* (245-270). Routledge.
- van Compernelle, R. A., & Pierozak, I. (2009). Teaching language variation in French through authentic chat discourse. In L. Abraham & L. Williams (Eds.), *Electronic discourse in language learning and language teaching* (pp. 111-126). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
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Happy holidays to everybody and best wishes for the new year!

Newsletter Credits

Contributors to this issue include: Gabriela Appel (Newsletter committee advisor), Haiyang Ai (HTML), Katya Arshavskaya (Content editor), Jackie Gianico (Content editor), and Sungwoo Kim (Photographer)

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