



APLNG Newsletter, Fall 2011

## DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS



In the process of preparing for the headship, I returned to a more careful reading of the university's Strategic Plan 2009-2014, entitled "[Priorities for Excellence](#)". I was particularly struck by the emphasis in the plan on 'realizing Penn State's potential as a global university.' The plan suggests that over the next decades, "the top tier of the world's universities will be defined by those that emerge as global institutions: universities whose faculty, staff, and students work and study in a global context." I was also struck by the fact that the word *language* doesn't appear in the description of this goal, and the word *linguistic* occurs only once ("... collaborative work across cultural or linguistic barriers is highly valued by prospective employers"). However, to an applied linguist, processes of globalization (educational, scientific, financial, political, religious, etc) are mediated by a host of linguistic phenomena: multilingualism, advanced proficiency, cultural competence, language ideology, and (as always) second language acquisition. Of course, each department of applied linguistics has its particular strengths, but surely our own is marked by these very themes! Since my first encounter with the department's research profile in 2003, I was impressed by two quite salient strengths: the emphasis on multilingualism and the concentration on advanced proficiency. Given our intellectual curiosity, substantive scholarship, and research-based educational programs, I am convinced that our field and our department have unique contributions to make in realizing Penn State's 'potential as a global university.' There is much opportunity and challenge for us!

Over the past few months we've celebrated important transitions in our unit. First, in our annual end-of-the-year, spring fête at the Johnson's, we thanked Joan Kelly Hall for guiding and shaping our department over the past five years as Head, and we wished her well as she returns to intensive research and scholarship on her sabbatical this year. As a new department we've needed to establish many structures and protocols, and Joan moved us carefully and wisely toward a solid foundation. Second, during the warm and beguiling summer months in Happy Valley, we congratulated three graduates who completed their MA/TESL in our department. These were: Yun-Chu Chen, Sheng-Hsun Lee, and Hsiang-Ni Su. As August rolled around, we welcomed 17 new MA/TESL students from Taiwan, China, Argentina, and the US. Our six first year doctoral students come from Thailand, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and the US. Finally, during this fall semester three students successfully defended their dissertations. These were:

Alina Pajtek, Jie Zhang, and Hyewon Lee. Our congratulations! Please enjoy reading about the wonderful goings-on, and many thanks to our newsletter committee for their effort and creativity!

Finally, I'll take this moment to wish everyone a happy and healthy winter break!

*Bob Schrauf*

## APLNG WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

### VISITING SCHOLARS

#### Hina Ashraf

Dr. Hina Ashraf is assistant professor at the Air University, Islamabad. She is visiting Penn State University as a Fulbright Scholar and is working in consultation with Dr. Suresh Canagarajah. Her chief research interests are Critical Linguistics and education practices that are affected by the language of schooling. She explored the social capital discourse through Urdu and English medium education in Pakistan as they affect the cognitive, structural and relational social capital. Her present study focuses on a particular set of contributions to the current national debate about language in education policy and practice in Pakistan, namely, letters to the editor in Pakistani newspapers. Through this study, she intends to investigate the ways in which the discourses articulated in letters of this kind are embedded in wider discourses about language, education and national identity in Pakistan and about the role of English in an increasingly globalized world.



#### Maria Helena Vieira Abrahão

Dr. Maria Helena Vieira Abrahão is professor of Applied Linguistics in the Graduate Program of Linguistic Studies at the São Paulo State University (UNESP) in São José do Rio Preto, São Paulo, Brazil. Her main research interests are Foreign Language Teaching, Technology in Foreign Language Teaching and Foreign Language Teacher Education. She works as a teacher educator in Brazil, and is currently the advisor of 7 PhD and 2 Masters students who have been developing research on different aspects of foreign language teacher education. As a visiting scholar in the department, she worked in consultation with Dr. Karen Johnson. While at Penn State she sought to deepen her knowledge on teacher education from the sociocultural perspective, and benefit from Dr. Johnson's orientation and assistance in teacher education research. She also remarked on what a great source the Penn State library was in aiding the her individual research projects.



### NEW MA STUDENTS

#### Jamie Kim

My name is Jamie Kim. I grew up in many different places, half the time in Korea and the other half here in the States. I have been living in State College since 2005. As an undergraduate, I was a double major in East Asian Languages and Literature (Chinese emphasis) and Journalism and Mass Communications at Washington and Lee University. Now I'm happily back in Happy Valley, studying in the MA TESL program at Penn State.

Growing up as a bilingual, I have always been interested in the nature of language and the relationship among language, society, and culture. By studying in the Applied Linguistics Department, I hope to learn many things for the next two years!

I love playing various instruments like the guitar, piano, and violin. I also love playing tennis and hiking.



#### Kuei-Ting Chuang



Nice to meet y'all!! I'm Kuei-Ting (a.k.a. Ellen) from Taiwan. It's great to join the Penn State APLNG family!! I majored in English as an undergrad, and I wish to develop more academic interests here! I love traveling, hiking, playing video games, and listening to music when I'm free, and I hope that I can discover some new and fun things to do in my free time while in the US!

#### María Pía Gómez Laich

My name is Maria Pía Gómez Laich and I am a Fulbright grantee from Argentina. I got my BA in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages at Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata (UNMDP), Argentina, in 2006. In July 2011, I moved to State College to start my MA in TEFL at The Pennsylvania State University. I am now about to finish my first semester here and I can say that I really enjoy being a student at PSU. I am particularly interested in how L2 learners acquire vocabulary and how it can best be taught.



## Meghan Cavanaugh



My name is Meghan. I received my BA in TESL from Kent State University. While I was at Kent, I also completed a TEFL certificate program in Germany. I love teaching, but specifically I enjoy teaching middle school to high school aged students. I am interested in World Englishes and Teacher Education. I am so happy to be here in Happy Valley studying at Penn State, and I am looking forward to great things to come.

## Morgan Patkos

Greetings! My name is Morgan Patkos. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone in the APLNG community. For starters I grew up in a tiny town you've probably never heard of called Coudersport, PA. I most recently lived in Pittsburgh where I completed a B.A in Cultural Studies with a minor in French at Point Park University. I became interested in TESL after spending three months in Costa Rica teaching English and since then I've tutored and helped students and professionals in the Pittsburgh area through the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council.



In my free time I travel as much as I can and this December I will be traveling to China for a bit of sightseeing and volunteering. I also enjoy reading, learning to cook Thai food, outdoorsy things, watching Korean movies, and learning new languages to name a few.



## Qianwen Li

Hi, I am Qianwen Li. I come from Shanghai, China. Language learning is an interesting issue for me. The experience of working as an English teacher for young children provided me with a new understanding on language learning. This is also one of the reasons why I choose this major, where I can explore more issues in language teaching and language learning. My academic interest is language pedagogy and second language acquisition.

## Qin Wang

Hello everybody, I'm Qin Wang from the southeast part of China. I majored in English when I was an undergraduate and fell in love with the language and English culture and all these amazing differences between the Eastern and the Western. It's really great to be a member of this TESL program, which will enable me to go further on learning and teaching a language and its culture. Also, travelling around this country and experiencing the exotic things makes me so excited. I do believe that studying in this program and living here should be a life-altering experience.



## Quanying Du



Greetings. I am Quanying, from China. I speak Mandarin and English. I received my BS in Ecology in Peking University, China and an MS in Ecology at Penn State. I have enjoyed teaching ever since I was a kid and was happy to finally choose it as my career. My plan is to finish this degree and teach both English and Biology in Chinese junior and senior high schools, hopefully my home school. Some activities that I enjoy the most are softball, soccer (both watching and playing), as well as watching movies or TV series. I also enjoy collecting makeup and keep a blog on that. My husband and I both enjoy State College, and we are expecting our first baby.

## Randi Anderson

Hi everyone, I'm Randi, one of the brand-new, bright-eyed MA students. It's exciting to be back in the university and to be a part of the Applied Linguistics department. I grew up in western Pennsylvania (the woodsy part, not the Pittsburgh part), and since leaving I have become the family Traveler and Speaker of Languages. My background is in Comparative Literature and German, but in recent years I've returned to my original idea of teaching EFL. After completing the MA program I'm looking forward to teaching abroad, most likely in South America. When I'm not being a student or a teacher I like to sing and play music (piano and guitar), and I write novels and poetry as well.

## Xiaohang Yu

Hello! I am Xiaohang Yu and I come from China. It is my pleasure to come to PSU to meet people, enjoy the culture, and of course, take TESL courses. I am interested in ESL learning and teaching, and getting to know the difference between English, Chinese, and other languages and cultures.



My future plan is to be an ESL teacher after I graduate, and I know that I will benefit a lot from two years' study here. I love pop music, meeting people and traveling.

## Yingying Xia

My name is Yingying Xia. I come from China. My English name is Jane. I received my B.A. in Language Acquisition from College of Science and Technology, Ningbo University. While studying, I tutored students

English grammar and I also had the opportunity to be a teaching assistant at Talking Street (an English training school in China).

I have been here for three months and am enjoying studying and life in PSU. As for my academic interests I'm still exploring in this field. When I'm not studying, I like watching movies. And I'm full of curiosity. I like to try different things.



## DEPARTMENT ROUNDTABLE

During the Fall semester, the Department held four roundtable sessions.



**Suresh Canagarajah and Susan Strauss**, "The university lecture: A genre-based, discourse-based approach," October 7, 2011



**Robert Schrauf, Xiaofei Lu, and Esther Prins (College of Education, Penn State)**, "Three perspectives on the analysis of narratives," October 21, 2011



**Alissa Hartig**, "Applied linguistics at Penn State University Law School"

**Maria Helena Vieira Abrahão (State University of Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil)**, "Foreign language teacher education in the project teletandem Brazil-Foreign Languages for All," November 4, 2011



**Applied Linguistics Conversation Analysis (CA) research group and Lori Maxfield (6th Grade Instructional Support Teacher at Mt. Nittany and Park Forest Middle Schools)**, "The language of math and the math of language," November 18th, 2011

## CENTER FOR LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (CLA)

### CLA Spring 2011 Speaker Series

The Center for Language Acquisition hosted two invited speakers this fall:

**Steven McCafferty** (University of Las Vegas) delivered a lecture on October 18, 2011, which was entitled "Teachers' self-disclosure in the adult L2

classroom.”

**Andrea Tyler** (Georgetown University) presented a lecture on October 27, 2011, entitled “Applying cognitive linguistics to second language learning.”

## CENTER FOR ADVANCED LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (CALPER)



In late Spring, the United States Congress imposed severe budget cuts on many international education and foreign language programs, including Title VI Language Resource Centers. CALPER and its 14 sister LRCs had to face a 50% reduction of its 2011-2012 grant award going into the second year of our new grant cycle. So, the beginning of this academic year has been far less than ideal, to say the least.

We upheld our commitments towards the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA) by co-sponsoring the annual conference, which was held at the Penn State in October. The first time that PSMLA returned to the Penn State campus in close to two decades. The organization was pleased with the attendance and praised the venue. The two workshops we held on Language Portfolios (Appel, Toulouse) and Heritage Language Teaching (Johnson), plus a session on "Free Resources for Language Teachers", a demonstration of the Dynamic Assessment Test and our display were also well received. A week later in October, we participated in Penn State's 10th Anniversary Professional Development Conference on Academic Advising with a talk on "The Interface of Language and Culture" (Lantolf). While we were

present at ACTFL in Denver, the dire financial situation forced all of the LRCs into a very small space that did not compare to the "LRC Pavillion" of previous years. It was not the best way of showcasing LRC work and made it difficult to relate to teachers.

*Working with Spoken Chinese*, a textbook for high-intermediate learners of Chinese was published, even though it already existed as online learning materials for a few years. But teachers indicated through feedback that a hard copy of the exercises and activities was welcomed. We hope that many find the materials useful and we were pleased that the Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA) held a "meet the author" session with Hongyin Tao in Denver.

The webinar series on assessment, a collaboration between LARC, the LRC at San Diego State University, and CALPER got off to a very good start in Spring and was continued during Fall. We have a nice group of followers who sign in and participate. The last webinar for this semester will be on Writing Assessment by Sara Cushing Weigle.

*Gabi Appel*



## MIGRATION STUDIES PROJECT UPDATE

The Migration Studies Project (MSP) organizes monthly lunch hour seminars, special and guest lectures and workshops on topics relevant to globalization, migration, and diversity. MSP brings together faculty from diverse academic disciplines not only at Penn State University but also from Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) to collaboratively construct explanatory models that unravel the linkages between and among migratory processes across social and geographical domains.

The format for the Lunch Hour Seminars changed this fall. Instead of bringing speakers in, MSP has been conducting data analysis sessions (workshop style) as part of its seminars. Future plans include applying for grants.

All interested students and faculty have been welcome at the sessions (held 12 to 1 in Sparks 7A). Listed below are the summaries of this fall's topics (followed by key discussion questions).

### *Lunch Hour Seminars*

**“Skilled migrants and development,”** September 13, 2011

**“Skilled migrants and multilingualism,”** October 11, 2011

**“Skilled migrants and trajectories of migration,”** November 8, 2011

**“Skilled migrants and educational policy,”** December 6, 2011

## CONGRATULATIONS

The Department congratulates all those who have successfully defended their doctoral dissertations in fall 2011 and completed their MA degrees.

**Alina Pajtek, Ph.D.**

"A cross-linguistic and cross-cultural analysis of taste, food, cooking, and interaction in a corpus of television cooking shows from Romania and the US"

**Jie Zhang, Ph.D.**

"The acquisition of the Chinese resultative verb complements by learners of Chinese as a foreign language: A learner corpus approach"

**Hyewon Lee, Ph.D.**

"Concept-based approach to second language teaching and learning: Cognitive linguistics-inspired instruction of English phrasal verbs"

**MA Graduates:** Breyann Bello, Ronald Boben, Elizabeth First, Megan Layng

## APPOINTMENTS

Sinfree Makoni, who has a joint appointment in the Department of Applied Linguistics and African Studies, will also be a Research Fellow at the International Center for the Study of Terrorism at Penn State.

## SOCIAL NEWS

### Study Breaks

In the fall semester, the social committee organized three one-hour afternoon study breaks on October 16, October 26, and November 16. Students and faculty members gathered to share drinks, snacks, and much-needed laughter.



### Game Night and Bowling

On November 4, APLNG students took a break from study and research for a game night of food and Pictionary fun! Rebecca Zoshak hosted and a good time was had by all. The next week, APLNG students hit the lanes at Northland Bowl in State College.

### Holiday Party

On December 10, students and faculty members gathered at the home of Dr. Canagarajah to celebrate the holidays.



## PUBLICATIONS - May 2011 - November 2011

Abdelhay, A., Makoni, B., & Makoni, S. (2011) The Naivasha language policy: The language of politics and the politics of language in the Sudan. *Language Policy*, 10(2), 1-18.

Canagarajah, A. S. (2011). Codemeshing in academic writing: Identifying teachable strategies of translanguaging. *Modern Language Journal*, 95(3), 401-417.

Canagarajah, A. S. (2011). Diaspora communities, language maintenance, and policy dilemmas. In T. McCarty (Ed.), *Ethnography and language policy* (pp. 77-98). New York and Abingdon: Routledge.

Canagarajah, A. S. (2011). English studies as Creole scholarship: Reconfiguring the discipline for postcolonial conditions. *Changing English*, 18(3), 251-264.

Canagarajah, A. S. (2011). Writing to learn and learning to write by shuttling between languages. In R. Menchon (Ed.), *Learning-to-write and writing-to-learn in an additional language* (pp. 111-132). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Johnson, K. E., & Golombek, P. R. (2011). The transformative power of narrative in L2 teacher education. *TESOL Quarterly*, 45(3), 1-24.

- Kingtoner, C. (2011). Enhancing language learning during study abroad. *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics*, 31, 58-73.
- Lantolf, J. P. (2011). SLA, i + 1, SCT, the ZPD, and other things: A response to Evensen. *Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 5, 215-219.
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- Lantolf, J. P. (2011). Sociocultural theory: A dialectical approach to L2 research. In S. M. Gass & A. Mackey (Eds.), *Handbook of second language acquisition* (pp. 57-72). New York: Taylor Francis.
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- Makoni, S. (2011). Sociolinguistics, colonial and postcolonial: An integrationist perspective. *Language Sciences*, 33(4), 680-688.
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- Poehner, M. E., & van Compernelle, R. A. (2011). Frames of interaction in Dynamic Assessment: Developmental diagnoses of second language learning. In M. E. Poehner & P. Rae-Dickens (Eds.), *Addressing issues of access and fairness in education through Dynamic Assessment [Special issue]. Assessment in Education: Principles, Policy and Practice*, 18(2), 183-198.
- Schrauf, R. W., & Iris, M. (2011). Using consensus analysis to investigate cultural models. In D. B. Kronenfeld, G. Bennardo, V. de Munck, & M. D. Fisher (Eds.), *A companion to cognitive anthropology* (pp. 548-568). Wiley-Blackwell.
- van Compernelle, R. A. (2011). Developing second language sociopragmatic knowledge through concept-based instruction: A microgenetic case study. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 43(13), 3267-3283.
- van Compernelle, R. A. (2011). Responding to questions and L2 learner interactional competence during language proficiency interviews: A microanalytic study with pedagogical implications. In J. K. Hall, J. Hellermann, & S. Pekarek Doehler (Eds.), *L2 interactional competence and development* (pp. 117-144). Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- van Compernelle, R. A., & Williams, L. (2011). Thinking with your hands: Speech-gesture activity during an L2 awareness-raising task. *Language Awareness*, 20(3), 203-219.

## Newsletter Credits

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