



APLNG Newsletter, Spring 2010

## DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS



The 2009-2010 academic year is quickly drawing to a close. It has been another very productive year for the APLNG community, with three new programs on the books. We began the undergraduate TESOL Minor in the fall, offering two 200-level courses for the first time, both with healthy enrollments. The [ESL Certificate Immersion program](#), developed by Elizabeth Smolcic, is fully enrolled for this spring and summer, exceeding expectations for its first year. The on-line Post-Baccalaureate TESOL Certificate Program, developed by Karen Johnson and Elizabeth Smolcic, will be up and running via World Campus by Spring 2011. The APLNG community has been enhanced in other ways, as well. Work by Julieta, Tracy and Arlo, for example, has continued to improve the APLNG website and Sungwoo is developing ideas for creating a more electronically-networked APLNG community. He'll be unveiling his plan at the first Town Hall Meeting in August.

At the last day of classes, we held APLNG's End-of-Year Research Showcase and CALPER Open House on April 30th, 11:30-1pm in 7 Sparks. Graduating MA students presented either their E-Portfolios or Research Posters and other MA and PhD students showcased their in-progress research. CALPER exhibited its professional development and teaching materials and presented updates on its projects. To celebrate our many accomplishments, we had the APLNG end-of-year party on the same day, once again hosted by the Karen Johnson and her family. To close out the year, a reception for APLNG graduates will be held at my house on May 16, 2-4 pm. Graduates and their families, as well as all APLNG faculty, staff and students are invited. I look forward to seeing you. Here's to a great summer.

Joan Kelly Hall, Head

## APLNG WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS

### NEW DOCTORAL STUDENTS

#### Kwanghoon Yoon



Hello! I can't say how much excited I am to be joining APLNG community at Penn State, which I believe is a top-notch program in the field of

applied linguistics! My name is Kwanghoon Yoon, and I am from South Korea. I received B.A. and will have received M.A. by July in English language education from Seoul National University. I'm currently working as the Assistant Coordinator in the SNU wing of the federally sponsored Intensive In-service English Teacher Training Program, which has helped me broaden my perspective in regards to the professional development of in-service English teachers as well as build up extensive knowledge concerning language teacher education. My current research interests include EFL teacher education, teaching and learning English as a foreign language, sociocultural theory, sociolinguistics, world Englishes and language policy. I am particularly focused on the "EFL context," for I have learned and taught English in the Korean EFL context and my goal is to help EFL teachers and learners with my expertise I am going to build up through this program.

I enjoy playing basketball and table tennis, listening to music, but what I enjoy most is watching American TV series. I've been watching a variety of series for five years, and that has helped a lot to improve my English skills. In fact, my M.A. thesis deals with American TV series, investigating their features in terms of a new resource for learning English in the Korean EFL context. I am so excited to learn from the best at Penn State, and I am truly grateful for this opportunity. Can't wait to see you soon!

## Yumi Matsumoto



*Konnichiwa!* My name is Yumi Matsumoto and I'm from Japan. I speak Japanese, English, and some Chinese. I'm thrilled to be joining the Department of Applied Linguistics at Penn State this fall. I received my M.A. in Second Language Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in 2006. While pursuing my Master's degree, I also taught English for the Hawaii English Language Program. After graduating from UH, I returned to Japan to teach. Right now I work for a public secondary school on a very small island named Shodoshima (called "Olive Island") as an English teacher. My extensive teaching experience both in ESL and EFL contexts have made me realize that I want teaching English to be my profession!

My current research interests include: English as a lingua franca (ELF) /World Englishes, intercultural communication, Second Language Writing, discourse analysis, and Sociolinguistics in general. For my Ph.D. study, I'll work on multilingual writers' code meshing, and I would like to investigate how ELF writers appropriate English in their writing. I would also like to research creative strategies that multilingual writers use for asserting their own voices in academic writing. I'm looking forward to working on these areas while discovering new research strands at Penn State.

Besides teaching and doing research, I love traveling all over the world, learning about new languages and cultures, dancing hula, jogging, and trying various delicious food! My current dream is to return to Hawai'i for my vacation and to participate in the Honolulu Marathon!

I cannot wait to join the Penn State APLNG community! *Mahalo* and I'm looking forward to meeting you all soon. ☺

## Brody Bluemel



Hey all, I am excited for this great next step in life as I join the academic community at Penn State! I am originally from a small farming community in northern Utah known as West Warren, but I have spent the last eight or nine years of my life all over the place exploring different cultures, learning languages, and pursuing education. I began my ventures with a two year stay in and around Sydney, Australia where I served as a missionary. I worked primarily with the immigrant Chinese population and began learning both Cantonese and Mandarin. From there, I returned to the U.S. and finished my BA Degree in English and Language Acquisition at Drake University. A couple of weeks after completing my undergraduate studies I started right into graduate work and haven't stopped. Last year I completed my MA in Chinese (Mandarin) through Valparaiso University, and I am currently finishing a second MA in German through Middlebury College. While studying I have also had the opportunity of instructing and tutoring students in English, both at Valparaiso University, as well as teaching online English courses to business professionals in China.

My personal study of language and culture, and all the time that I have spent living abroad in Australia, China, and Germany has greatly shaped and influenced my perception of the world, my identity, and my academic interests. I find it intriguing how individuals not only establish an identity within the constraints of their language, but also how the limits of language and the tendencies of expression define in part the identity that a person acquires as they learn a foreign language. Accordingly, I hope to be able to research how language functions in shaping identity, as well as further

exploring multilingualism and second language acquisition and education.

When I'm not traveling or absorbed in a book I love being outdoors. My wife and I look forward to any opportunity we have to head outside and be active. Horseback-riding, hiking, camping, mountain biking and rock-climbing are a few of the activities that I enjoy the most, but I always love trying something new and adventurous.

## **Dorothy Worden**



Greetings from the Pacific Northwest! My name is Dorothy and I am excited to be joining the Applied Linguistics PhD program this Fall. Applied Linguistics is a bit of a discipline shift for me, but it is one I am looking forward to making. I earned my MA in English Composition and Rhetoric from Washington State University in 2008. My masters work focused on writing pedagogy and assessment with a minor concentration in Linguistics, but it was only after graduating and getting to teach in the ESL program as an instructor that I really became fascinated with the field of Second Language Acquisition.

My background is in teaching; I find working with students creatively and intellectually challenging and rewarding. In fact, my classroom experiences have influenced my research agenda more than any other source. Currently, my research interests focus on second language writing and academic literacy. In particular, I am interested in how nonnative English speaking students negotiate group work in English speaking classrooms.

When I am not teaching or studying, I like listening to live music and sharing good food and conversation. I also enjoy reading mystery novels and children's literature, playing board games, drawing, and visiting places I have never been before – even if it is just an unfamiliar building on campus. I really look forward to getting to know all of you at Penn State. See you in a few months!

## **Kimberly Buescher**



Hello! My name is Kimberly Buescher. I taught French at the high school level for four years in Massachusetts and English at the university level for two years in Toulouse, France. I also taught French at the university level while I completed my Master's Degree at the University of Massachusetts. I am passionate about teaching French and enjoy helping students develop a love for the French language and culture. For my Master's research, I focused on an application of Sociocultural theory for the L2 classroom, specifically on reading texts in the beginning French classroom. I am interested in linking Sociocultural theory, education/pedagogy, linguistics, literacy, second language acquisition and psychology. I look forward to pursuing this research further as well as discovering new strands in the Applied Linguistics Department at Penn State.

I like music, cooking, eating, enjoying the great outdoors, cooking, traveling, eating, reading, cooking, and eating ..oops did I already mention those?? Oh, and red wine, dark chocolate, bread, and cheese too... but I guess that falls into ... cooking and eating! Can you tell that I lived in France and brought back part of the French culture with me? I look forward to meeting all of you in August!

## **Matthew Jadlocki**



Hey ya'll! I'm Matt. I'm from a little bit all over but mostly Georgia. Unfortunately, my family left the state just long enough for me and my siblings to lose our southern drawl. My parents recently retired to their home state of Pennsylvania where I'm currently spending time with them (I love you, Mom!) and the rest of my family and looking forward to joining the APLNG community at Penn State.

I most recently lived in a small town on the island of Shikoku in Japan. I taught English there for two years through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. I studied the Japanese language and various cultural traditions such as bonsai, calligraphy, and tea ceremony, practices which I hope to continue here in the US. During the three years prior to that, I taught French at a public high school in Georgia where I also coached boys soccer, a sport I always enjoy playing. I had previously earned my undergraduate degrees in French and education at the University of Georgia. At graduation I knew that I wanted to enter graduate school, and with the benefits of many great experiences, I am glad to finally do so this fall. I love teaching and learning foreign languages and discussing how people do both. I am excited to investigate issues in second language acquisition formally and more in depth at Penn State.

よろしく!

## **Xian Zhang**



I am Sean from China. Before coming to PSU, I'll have been teaching in China for 10 years. I took my BA in China and my MA in US. The study experience in US was valuable and I got interested in Applied Linguistics ever since. Now, my research interests mainly fall into second language acquisition and language testing. But I also find computer assisted language teaching and learning fascinating.

I am proud that I'll be able to take my degree in Applied Linguistics in PSU, which I believe is one of the best programs in US. In PSU, I am sure that I'll be able to learn a lot from the strong APLING team. Joining the APLNG community in PSU will be a big help for my future career.

## **NEW MASTER's STUDENTS**

### **Ron Boben**



Greetings PSU Applied Linguistics community! Ron Boben here. It's a great pleasure to be among you all and back at my undergraduate alma mater. Some brief highlights about yours truly: A teacher and businessman by education and experience, I also fancy myself an historian and amateur cultural anthropologist, and find endlessly fascinating issues of culture, language, history, world-view, class etc. Thus, sociocultural questions surrounding these topics as well as business English pedagogy, teaching as a way of life and classroom dynamics and methodology are of great interest to me. As an ESL teacher, I've lived and worked in charming, beautiful South Korea. I've done a fair amount of traveling around southeast Asia, sojourned a bit in the Middle East and have had the privilege of traveling Europe and spending time with relatives in Slovenia and Austria. I exercise regularly and really enjoy my time in the gym. I love hiking, camping, biking and the great outdoors, but would rather live in the city; I appreciate the four seasons, but would rather live in a warm climate near the beach. I so look forward to the enriching experience that our time here at Penn State will bring. Pax!

### **Breyann Bello**





Hello! My name is Breyann Bello, but I prefer to go by Bre (yes, like brie cheese!). I am one of the newest M.A. students within the Department of Applied Linguistics. Growing up as an "Air Force brat", I have had the privilege of living in both the United States and abroad, including Cocoa Beach, Florida; Lajes (on the Azorean island of Terceira), Portugal; Wichita, Kansas; Aviano, Italy; Sumter & Columbia, South Carolina; & Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I received my B.A. in History from the University of South Carolina in 2003, with an emphasis in American History. Although I have only been at Penn State for a short time, I have been greatly influenced by some of the areas discussed in my courses, including assessment and English for Academic Purposes. I hope to research these topics further as I complete my master's degree. In my spare time, I enjoy going to concerts, cooking, and taking road trips!

## DEPARTMENT ROUNDTABLE

During Spring, the Department held four roundtable sessions: Buthaina Al Thowaini, Hewon Lee, Houxiang Li and Adam van Compernelle presented their work and invited discussions.

## APLNG STUDENTS' CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

During the course of the academic year, APLNG students made more than twenty presentations on their research at the annual conventions of our major professional organizations and several international and national conferences and meetings. Here is the impressive list:

- **American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL):** Assma Al Thowaini; Larysa Bobrova; Adam van Compernelle
- **American Association for Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL):** Larysa Bobrova
- **American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies:** Larysa Bobrova
- **Association for French Language Studies:** Adam van Compernelle
- **CALICO:** Julieta Fernandez; Aziz Yuldashev; Haiyang Ai
- **International Conference on Bilingualism and Bilingual Education:** Selim Ben Said
- **Pennsylvania Applied Linguistics Consortium (PAALC):** Selim Ben Said
- **Penn State Graduate Research Symposium:** Selim Ben Said, Buthainah M. Al Thowaini, Madhav Kafle, Assma Al Thowaini
- **Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) :** Selim Ben Said, Jie Zhang
- **TESOL :** Katya Arshavskaya; Cassie Leymarie
- **The Geolinguistics of Language/Dialect Continuums :** Selim Ben Said



## CENTER FOR LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (CLA) NEWS



**PAALC Graduate Research Symposium.** On January 22-23, the Center for Language Acquisition hosted the inaugural PAALC 2010 Graduate Research Symposium, a showcase for graduate scholarship in Applied Linguistics from students at PAALC (Pennsylvania Applied Linguistics Consortium) member institutions: Carnegie Mellon University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Penn State University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, and Temple University. Diverse research strands were represented, including Language & Technology, Language Planning & Policy, Second Language Acquisition, Language & Identity, Linguistic Landscape, and L2 Pedagogy. Symposium events also included a buffet dinner accompanied by graduate program overview presentations, and a screening of the documentary film "The Linguists."

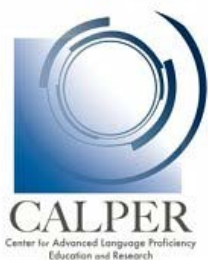
The CLA thanks the Graduate Symposium Organizing Committee for their many contributions to making the Symposium a success: Rimma Ableeva, Tracy Beckett, Larysa Bobrova, Julieta Fernandez, Alissa Hartig, Sungwoo Kim, Shim Lew, Mary Kathryn Malone, Shureka Nyawalo, Priscilla Ortiz. We also extend our thanks to Lynn Maggs, to the many volunteers who assisted during the Symposium events, and to the local faculty members who served as panel commentators.



**CLA Spring 2010 Speaker Series.** This semester the Center for Language Acquisition was able to bring four scholars to campus who presented their research. In February, Zhaohong Han from the Teachers College at Columbia University gave a talk entitled "From 'Julie' to 'Albert': The selective fossilization hypothesis." In March we welcomed Jenifer Larsen-Hall from the University of North Texas who presented her work on "Improving data analysis in second language acquisition by utilizing modern developments in applied statistics," and Deidre Martin from the University of Birmingham in the UK who spoke on "Applying Vygotskian ideas of learning to developmental language disabilities: Dynamic assessment." Paul Matsuda from the Arizona State University visited our department in April and presented a lecture entitled "Voice and the discursive construction of identity in writing."

**2009-2010 Language Teaching Workshop Series.** In March, CLA and CALPER conducted another professional development session for PSU language educators. The session on "Technology Resources for Foreign Language Teaching at Penn State" provided an overview of the most recent technology tools for foreign language instruction available at our university, including support for blogs, e-portfolios, wikis, chats via ANGEL, video/podcast/website creation through Media Commons services, and classroom activity files from CALPER's website. About 30 instructors from various departments participated in the session.

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



Now that we reached the end of the spring semester, CALPER is preparing for its annual summer workshop series for language educators. During the second week of July, we will offer 10 workshops. We hope that many teachers will be able to participate in our series and travel to State College. In March, we exhibited our materials at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) and conducted a session, in which Xiaofei Lu and Jim Lantolf introduced the Graphic Online Language Diagnostic (GOLD) to teachers. We have had a number of teachers who registered to use GOLD and who are testing the tool. CALPER also showed materials and resources at the annual Indiana University of PA Spring Methodology conference—a one-day event that is attended by 200 teachers from the region. Most importantly, though, we applied for a new Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education to continue operation of the Center for Advanced Language Proficiency Education and Research for another four years. We hope to hear good news about re-funding later this summer, when the Department announces the 2010-2014 national Language Resource Centers.

## **MIGRATION STUDIES PROJECT UPDATE**

The Migration Studies Project held a series of lunch hour presentations and discussions once every month. The gathering is aimed at acquainting the university community with the work of colleagues in diverse departments, identifying areas of common scholarly interest, and building community.

It also invited scholars to campus for its distinguished and guest lecture series. Marcelo Suarez-Orozco from NYU spoke on "Rethinking immigration in the age of global vertigo." Susan Robertson from the University of Bristol in the UK held a lecture on "Constructing knowledge economies through higher education: Hegemonic projects and their contradictions" and Rochona Majumdar from the University of Chicago gave a talk entitled "The Past and Future of Postcolonial History".

The year was ended by a two-day intensive session "International Workshop on Skilled Diaspora" which was held here at Penn State April 30th and May 1. Scholars who participated in the workshop came from The George Washington University; University of Leeds; University of Bristol; University of Cape Town; University of Washington; University of York, UK; University of Sydney; and the Pennsylvania State University.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**



Gil Watz Dissertation Fellowships: Sungwoo Kim and Adam van Campenolle were presented with this year's fellowships.

APLNG Alumni Outstanding MA TESL Student Award: Tom Spencer received the 2010 award.

MA graduates: Abdulaziz Althewini, Shiho Asato, Cassie Leymarie, Ghadah Al Morshedi, Assma Al Thowaini, Sung Hee Hwan, Xuan Liu, Tom Spencer, I-Ting Tsai and Fei Yu-Yang

Doctoral Dissertation Defenses:

- Stefanie Rehn: "The spoken self: An ethnographic exploration of accent and identity"
- Kwanghyun Park: "Enhancing lexico-grammatical performance through corpus-based mediation in L2 academic writing instruction"
- Rimma Ableeva (Department of French and Francophone Studies – Applied Linguistics): "Dynamic assessment of listening comprehension in second language learning"

**The Department congratulates all new Masters of Arts, Doctors of Philosophy and the Gil Watz and MA TESL awardees.**

## **APLNG DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN NEW POSITIONS**

Four of our doctoral students are working on completing their dissertations and have committed to new positions in the fall. Tracy Beckett took on a position as the Managing Director of the Africana Research Center here at Penn State. Selim Ben Said will leave for West Virginia University and assume his position as a Teaching Assistant Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages. Davi Reis will be an Assistant Professor in the Department of Instruction and Leadership at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and Duff Johnson was offered an assistant professorship in the Department of English and Applied Linguistics at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. To all good luck in your new posts and whether you move far away or stay a little closer - keep in touch with Penn State APLNG!

## **ALUMNI NEWS**



An Cheng (Ph.D., 2005), Assistant professor, Oklahoma State University, has recently been invited to serve on the Editorial Board of the journal *English for Specific Purposes* - an international peer-reviewed journal that has been publishing articles on topics relevant to the analysis and learning of discourse for specific communities since 1980. Also in 2009, he won the Arts and Sciences "Junior Faculty for Scholarly Excellence" Award at Oklahoma State.



Victoria Hasko (née Driagina; Ph.D., 2007), Assistant professor University of Georgia, was awarded a grant by the National Endowment for Humanities, Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant for a project on "Telecollaborative Webcasting: Strengthening Acquisition of Humanities Content Knowledge through Foreign Language Education".

## **EXTENDED APLNG**

Finally, the extended APLNG community is growing. Take a look at some pictures. Susan Strauss' children Tenaye, Mihret and Bereket. Selim Ben Said's son Shamseddine. Tracy Beckett's daughter Zoë. Jim and Gabi Lantolf's grandsons Henry and Harrison.



## **PUBLICATIONS**

Winter 2009



- Bobrova, L. (2009). The "heart" as poetic metaphor in Antonych's The Grand Harmony. *The Ukrainian Quarterly*, 65, 255-271.
- Canagarajah, A. S. (2009). Multilingual strategies of negotiating English: From conversation to writing. *Journal of Advanced Composition*, 29, 711-743.
- Kinginger, C. (2009). *Contemporary study abroad and foreign language learning: An activist's guidebook*. University Park, PA: Center for Advanced Language Proficiency Education and Research (CALPER) Publications.
- Williams, L., & van Compernelle, R. A. (2009). Second-person pronoun use in French language discussion fora. *Journal of French Language Studies*, 19, 363-380.
- Wong, M. & Canagarajah, A. S. (Eds.), (2009). *Christian and critical English language educators in dialogue*. New York: Routledge.

## Spring 2010

- Canagarajah, A. S. (2010). The possibility of a community of difference. *Cresset*, 18-30.
- Canagarajah, A. S. (2010). Ideology and theory in second language writing: A dialogical treatment. In T. Silva & P.K. Matsuda (Eds.), *Practicing theory in second language writing*. (pp.176-190). West Lafayette, IN: Parlor Press.
- Canagarajah, A. S. (2010). Achieving community. In D. Nunan and J. Choi (Eds.), *Language and culture: Reflective narratives and the emergence of identity*. (pp.41-49). New York: Routledge.
- Hall, J. K. (2010). Language learning as discursive practice. In L. Wei & V. Cook (Eds.), *Contemporary applied linguistics, Volume 1, language teaching and learning*. (pp. 256-273). London: Continuum.
- Hall, J. K. (2010). Interaction as method and result of language learning. *Language Teaching*, 43, 202-215.
- Kinginger, C. (2010). American students abroad: Negotiation of difference? *Language Teaching*, 43, 216-227.
- Lu, X. (2010). What can corpus software reveal about language development? In A. O'Keeffe & M. McCarthy (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Corpus Linguistics*, (pp. 184-194). Oxfordshire, UK: Routledge.
- Tasker, T., Johnson, K. E., & Davis, T. (2010). A sociocultural analysis of teacher talk in inquiry-based professional development. *Language Teaching Research*, 14, 1-12.
- van Compernelle, R. A. (2010). Incidental microgenetic development in second-language teacher-learner talk-in-interaction. *Classroom Discourse*, 1, 49-64.
- van Compernelle, R. A. (2010). Towards a sociolinguistically responsive pedagogy: Teaching second-person address forms in French. *Canadian Modern Language Review*, 66, 445-463.
- van Compernelle, R. A., & Williams, L. (2010). Orthographic variation in electronic French: The case of l'accent aigu. *French Review*, 83, 820-833.

## In Press

- 
- Thorne, S. L. (in press). The 'intercultural turn' and language learning in the crucible of new media. In F. Helm & S. Guth (Eds.), *Telecollaboration 2.0 for language and intercultural learning*. Bern: Peter Lang.
- Thorne, S. L., & Black, R. W. (in press). Identity and interaction in internet-mediated contexts. In C. Higgins (Ed.), *Negotiating the self in a second language: Identity formation and cross-cultural adaptation in a globalizing world*. New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Thorne, S. L., & Tasker, T. (in press). Sociocultural theories and applied linguistics. In J. Simpson (Ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Applied Linguistics*. New York: Routledge.
- Sykes, J., Reinhardt, J., & Thorne, S. L. (in press). Multiplayer digital games as sites for research and practice. In F. Hult (Ed.), *Directions and prospects for educational linguistics*. New York: Springer.

## Newsletter Credits

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

© 2010 [Department of Applied Linguistics](#), [Penn State University](#)