

# Linguistics at Indiana University



## Welcome to the Fall Newsletter

Greetings to alumni and friends of the Department of Linguistics here at Indiana University!

I think it goes without saying that this year has been unusual to say the least. As with colleges and universities throughout the world, the mode of work and learning has undergone many modifications over the past six months. This process has not just happened, of course, but has involved a lot of, mostly unnoticed, hard work and ingenuity by people in the department, faculty, staff, and students alike. What is remarkable is the level of discipline and self-motivation that has arisen, as we don't really have opportunity to help or harass one another into achievement.

Given the nature of the year, it's good to have a chance to sit down and to think together about what we've been able to do, and the many good things that have been going on. This would not be possible without the support and help of many people inside the department and surrounding the department. Thank you all for keeping the tradition alive!

Among more major news this last year, the last year has witnessed some milestones, some coming, and some going as well. After 26 years on the faculty here as the central syntax professor, Yoshi Kitagawa has officially retired from the faculty, though he is still in Bloomington. In addition, after many years of, basically, running the department, our long-term fiscal officer, Brandi Liford, accepted a position in the School of Public Health involving much more fiscal responsibility, and so she also withdrew from the department at the end of last year. While we are still in the process of replacing

the syntax professorship, Brandi's position has been replaced by Jordin Perkins, who started in the Department almost immediately after the campus was shut down in the spring. And finally, while we haven't been able (yet) to replace Yoshi's position, we have been able to replace the position in sociolinguistics vacated by Julie Auger a few years back. Next fall, Monica Nesbitt will be joining the department as our new sociolinguist.

Finally, through all this others have enjoyed milestones of service and work. Margaret Anderson, our graduate administrator just celebrated her 30-year milestone as staff at Indiana University this fall. Tom Grano was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure. And Ann Bunger was promoted to Senior Lecturer. Congratulations to each of them!

More on all this below, along with updates on several large projects that have continued unabated, or in some cases, spurred on by the unusual circumstances of 2020.

If you have news you'd like to share with the larger IU linguistics community, feel free to drop us a line. We love to know what you all are up to.

Kenneth de Jong  
Chair, Department of Linguistics

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# The Linguistics Department's Adaption to COVID-19

written by: Department Chair Kenneth de Jong

As with many other campuses around the country, Indiana University shut down in-person instruction and most student residential facilities for the period after spring break. Courses continued almost seamlessly after a slightly extended break. Resuming in the fall semester, the main concern has been to reduce traffic in the core of campus, so faculty divided themselves into those taking on the challenge of teaching online classes, and those taking on the challenge of

teaching hybrid classes with reduced-capacity classrooms. Roughly half of the faculty in the department chose one option, and half chose the other option. This general split is in place for the upcoming spring semester as well.

The campus has appeared very quiet on the outside, but somewhere underneath the quiet, the rumbling of research and teaching continued unabated. We are just now approaching the evaluation phase where we will be assessing the work we've been



*Kelly Kasper-Cushman (lower right), and her committee (starting from lower left and circling around clockwise) Laurent Deykdtspotter (French and Second Language Studies), Tom Grano (Linguistics), Patricia Amaral (Spanish and Portuguese), Steve Franks (Linguistics and Slavic), and Julie Auger (University of Montreal). Besides showing progress during pandemic, this picture also shows the remarkable cooperation across the different departments that makes up the huge research potential of linguists here at Indiana University. Congratulations Kelly!!*

doing in various modalities and attempting with students to draw fruitful conclusions from our experience with it.

On the research side, the work has also continued, mostly unabated. Besides the project updates noted elsewhere, faculty and students have continued in each of their research programs, though often facing some difficult challenges. Most striking of these are graduate and undergraduate students who have been working either in experimental research paradigms or are doing field work. In each of these cases, they have been figuring out how to conduct this sort of research remotely. As a side effect, some are also taking advantage of the remote model, and have been collecting observations and otherwise interacting with people who cannot be found anywhere near the Bloomington campus.

One additional outcome also is a change by the IU Graduate School in doctoral thesis defenses. We've had a number of them. As with the traditional ones, we have commemorative photos, but in this case they're screen-shots. Here are two, marking the culmination of a massive amount of work. Our students are still graduating, even if the ability to celebrate it has been complicated. Our undergraduates also have been continuing to graduate, even without our ability to amass ourselves in their honor. The faculty, spearheaded by Ann Bunger and Krystie Herndon, assembled a commemoration and send-off. You can see it here: <https://linguistics.indiana.edu/2020/05/congratulations-you-did-it/>



*Young Hwang (upper right), and some of the attendees at her defense, including her committee, Kelly Berkson (top and center), Stuart Davis (lower left), Sunghoon Shin (Second Language Studies, lower right), and Ken de Jong (right lower corner).*

# Chin Languages Research Project

written by: Assistant Professor Kelly Harper Berkson and James C. Wamsley



CLRP team members meet over Zoom

As for so many others, the last year has presented both unexpected challenges and opportunities to the members of the Chin Languages Research Project (CLRP). In March, as the pandemic began to intensify, team members from the Chin community became concerned about a lack of access to critical coronavirus information in Chin languages. In response, we spent the next few months translating COVID-19 materials from the CDC and WHO into Hakha Lai, the community lingua franca. Examples of our work (along with overviews of other projects, team bios, and more) can be found on our new website, <https://www.chinlanguages.org/>.

In June, we obtained NSF RAPID funding in collaboration with researchers at the University of North Texas (Shobhana Chelliah and Sara Champlin) and California State University, Fullerton (Kenneth Van Bik) for a project we're calling LUCAH (Linguistically Underserved Communities and Health). As part of this project, UG Chin team members are interviewing

community members about their personal experiences during the COVID crisis. All interviews are in Hakha Lai, so we're also generating the first-ever conversational corpus of Hakha Lai. What we learn about public health experiences in the Indianapolis Chin community will help us develop more effective health information resources moving forward, and the resulting corpus will provide rich data for future linguistic research

## **Additional 2020 CLRP highlights include:**

- In September, team members attended the 53rd International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics, held virtually at UNT. Professors Berkson, Chelliah, Champlin, and Van Bik presented an invited talk on LUCAH.
- A new round of publications stemming from research with Hakha Lai, Zophei and Lutuv were published in the Indiana Working Papers on South Asian Languages and Cultures (<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/iwpsalc>).

# TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: LITERACY IN LUTUV

Recent graduate and continuing CLRP team member Sui Hnem Par is passionate about developing Lutuv literacy materials. Lutuv

(sometimes called Lautu) is spoken by about 18,000 people worldwide, including several hundred right here in Indiana, and while it has a writing system the system is not widely used. Ms. Par, with community support, is working to change that. Last summer she worked with Samson Lotven and J.C. Wamsley to translate and publish four children's books in Lutuv – the first four in existence. This summer, she worked with IU undergraduate Alina Matthews to write, illustrate, and publish several additional books (PDFs available on the CLRP website).

Ms. Par completed her undergraduate degree this Spring, and plans to return to IU to continue working with the CLRP and complete a master's degree in the near future.



**Protect yourself and others from getting sick**

**Wash your hands**

- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after handling animals or animal waste



World Health Organization

Original Myth-buster from WHO

**Nangmah le midang nan zawt nakhnga lo i kilven ding.**

**Na kut i ṭawl**

- Na khuh silole na hathio dih ah
- Mizaw na zohkhenh tik ah
- Eidin na bultawl lai le lio le hnu ah
- Rawl na ei lai ah
- Zunput na hman dih ah
- Zohnak hrim in na kut a thur tik ah
- Saram na tawngtham silole an zun-ek na thianh dih ah



Source: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>  
Translated from WHO int. World Health Organization, 2020 Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.  
This translation was not created by the World Health Organization. WHO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original edition shall be the binding and authentic edition.

**CYONA**  
LEAD.ACHIEVE.INSPIRE  
**CLRP**  
Chin Languages Research Project  
chinlanguages.org

CLRP Translation

- We began a collaboration with Side Effects, a public radio initiative, to translate informational resources into Hakha Lai (<https://www.sideeffectspublicmedia.org/term/burmese>).

- And, BIG NEWS! Hakha Lai will be offered at the IU Language Workshop this summer! Taught by CLRP team member Prof. Kenneth Van Bik, the course will be held remotely

during the month of June. Tuition is approximately \$1000. Please consider joining us, or make a donation to help support student scholarships or ongoing CLRP projects.

# What's Happening with LCIU?

Written By: Scott Kunkel

The LCIU has been trying to find ways in which to build community virtually among the graduate students in Linguistics. At the beginning of the semester, we hosted a Linguistic trivia event and since then, we have held several Zoom hangout meetings for students to talk with one another about classes, research, and life more generally. Although the LCIU is not holding in-person events as in past semesters, we remain dedicated to reminding students that they are part of a cohort of students sharing similar interests. As we get closer to the end of the semester, we will begin planning the

New Interdisciplinary Conference On Language Area Studies (NICOLAS), an annual conference hosted by the LCIU that is designed to showcase student and faculty research and to offer a low-stakes platform for presenting developing work. We will also be electing students to serve as members-at-large, a position held by those interested in joining the LCIU board next year who want an inside look at how the club is run. As always, we welcome any suggestions about how we could make you feel more connected with your fellow linguistics students during these unusual times!

## Welcome Dr. Monica Nesbitt



The department welcomes a new faculty member, Monica Nesbitt. She will be starting as faculty in the department next fall. The department was fortunate enough to recruit Dr. Nesbitt last spring, and after finishing a year's fellowship teaching at Dartmouth College and conducting research in regional and ethnic variation in New England English, she will be heading up the sociolinguistics research section of the department here at Indiana University. Prof. Nestbitt's specialization is in the area of sociophonetics, and she has elucidated the social dynamic of an unusual observation of the reversal of Northern Cities Shift in the varieties of English spoken in south central Michigan.

## Welcome Jordin Perkins

Just as the campus was shutting down in March, Jordin Perkins began as the fiscal officer and department manager for Linguistics. Jordin comes to us from a position at IU Auditorium, a position which reflects her love of theater, as seen here. Since joining linguistics, she has been showing great perseverance in making the department run remotely. We are so happy to have her on board with us.



# Focus on Faculty: Francis Tyers

Written By: Scott Kunkel

Dr. Francis (Fran) Tyers is an Assistant Professor at IU who regularly teaches classes on computational linguistics such as Computation and Linguistic Analysis (L545) and Programming for Computational Linguistics (L555). Originally hailing from the small English village of Normanton-on-Soar, Fran completed his undergraduate degree in software engineering at the University of Wales Aberystwyth, during which he did a brief internship for Hewlett Packard in Ireland. It was by chance that he happened upon a copy of John McWhorter's *The Power of Babel* in a bookstore in Gaillimh and discovered the fascinating world of linguistics. When continuing university with the intent of combining computers with the study of languages, Fran settled upon machine translation as a feasible route to synthesizing these two interests.

After completing a one-year linguistics master's degree at the University of East Anglia, Fran connected with a professor working in Alacant, Spain, who ended up inviting him to work for his company over a summer. This soon manifested in an offer to work for the company while also completing a doctoral degree at the Universitat d'Alacant. After six years at this university, Fran received his PhD in 2013 upon completion of a dissertation on lexical selection for rule-based translation with a particular focus on the under-resourced languages of Basque, Catalan, Macedonian, and Breton.

Fran speaks Spanish, Catalan, French, Russian, and Norwegian with a fair degree of fluency, and has a receptive knowledge of Portuguese, Swedish, Basque, and Turkish. When asked what advice he would give up-and-coming researchers in linguistics, Fran emphasized the value of learning another



Dr. Francis Morton Tyers

language –and preferably more– to the point of fluency, as this gives a linguist an edge in being able to compare between different language systems. For this reason, he strongly encourages students to consider studying abroad if they have the opportunity as he says that one of the best ways he has found to learn a language is to live in a place where it is difficult to get by without speaking it.

When asked why he thought linguistics as a discipline is important, Fran responded by pinpointing the power that linguists have to shed light on those communities that would otherwise go unnoticed. As he put it, "Language is important because people are important." In the future, Fran hopes to teach a seminar course on the relationship between neural/distributed and symbolic cognitive representations.

# Computational Linguistics: Highlights

It has been a challenging year for everyone, but there are some highlights from the CL programme that we would like to share with you, if only to punctuate the bad news with some good news.

Atreyee Mukherjee graduated in June with a PhD in Computer Science and a focus on Computational Linguistics. She defended her PhD thesis on *Towards Effective Domain Adaptation of Dependency Parsing*. We also had a number of Masters students graduate, including Josephine Douglas, Trey Jagiella and Jennifer Sherwood. We would like to congratulate them all and offer our best wishes for their future.

Students and professors in the CL program continue to carry out research in a wide variety of areas, such as dependency parsing, language technology for under-resourced and indigenous languages, knowledge graphs and dialogue systems, speech recognition, sentiment analysis and emotion detection, and abusive

language detection. There are active labs run by Profs. Ćavar, Kübler, and Tyers. A new development in those labs is a more systematic inclusion of undergraduate students. Prof. Kübler is currently working with Alexandra O'Neil and Dante Razo on abusive language detection, and Prof. Tyers is working with Ivy Richardson on morphology and syntax of K'che', a Mayan language of Guatemala, and with Molly Carpenter and Mary Cate Sansoterra on morphology of Basaa, a language of Cameroon and speech recognition for K'iche' respectively.

Students in the department have also participated in a Data- and Hackathon lead by Profs. Damir Ćavar and Günther Jikeli (Germanic Studies). The event was run during the summer and involved 30 secondary school and undergraduate students. The topic was on detection of hate speech and anti-semitic tweets.

-Francis Tyers

## Antisemitism Datathon and Hackathon May and June 2020

Damir Ćavar, Associate Professor in the Linguistics Department, directing the Natural Language Processing Lab, and Günther Jikeli (Jewish Studies and Germanic Studies) organized a collaborative project on the detection and analysis of Antisemitism in social media, with the aim to develop an annotated corpus of Twitter tweets for the study and engineering of automatic annotation and detection tools. Thirty high school and college students from five countries around the world took part in the *Antisemitism Datathon and Hackathon*, a virtual workshop and competition designed to teach students how to recognize antisemitism online and how to use programming to analyze large amounts of data. The workshop was conducted online through Zoom sessions over three

Sundays in May. Subsequently students worked on the creation and annotation of tweets, and the development of computational methods to automatically recognize antisemitic content. Three winning teams from Canada, Germany, and the USA received prices in an online award ceremony. See for more details

<https://news.iu.edu/stories/2020/07/iub/24-antisemitism-workshop-twitter-competition-hackathon-datathon.html>

In 2021 doctors Jikeli and Ćavar will organize a similar event focusing on racism in social media, and hate speech in general.

- Damir Ćavar

## From the Director of Graduate Studies: Stuart Davis

This past year has been a challenging one for our graduate students trying to adjust to remote learning and remote participation in conferences among many other issues. Nonetheless, there has been a remarkable amount of activity in its graduate program despite the difficult circumstances. We were able to welcome ten new graduate students, seven students have defended their dissertations several of whom have already obtained degree appropriate employment, and many of our continuing graduate students have published articles and presented papers at a variety of conferences during the past year.

First, we welcome our 10 new graduate students: six of these students are on our general MA or PhD programs while the other four are on our various computational linguistics graduate degree programs.

Second, we congratulate the seven students who have defended their dissertations during the calendar year 2020. These include Yina Patterson, Young Hwang, Traci Nagle, Kelly Kasper-Cushman, Valentyna Filimonova, Hassan Bokhari, and Yiwen Zhang. We also congratulate the ten students who obtained the Master's degree in Linguistics during 2020; these included seven students who obtained the MA in general linguistics, two on the MA concentration in computational linguistics, and one student who completed our unique BS/MS in computational linguistics.

Third, we applaud both Hai Hu and Sherman Charles for receiving the highly competitive dissertation fellowship awards from the College of Arts and Sciences to work toward the completion of their dissertations. Also Stefen Flego was awarded the prestigious Stetson fellowship by the Acoustical Society of America.

Fourth, our graduate students remain highly active giving a large number of conference papers during the past year. This includes around 30 conference presentations (oral and posters) by around 20 different graduate students. This is in addition to over 20 publications authored or co-authored by our

graduate students. The phenomenal range of research that goes on in our department was highlighted by our first departmental research roundtable held on October 2nd attended on Zoom by around 50 people where we hear short presentations of on-going research by graduate students Samson Lotven 'Vowel Shift in Zophei', Hai Hu 'Natural Logic for Natural Language Inference', Charlene Gilbert 'Recursion and edge effects in wh-movement in native and non-native French: Evidence from reading times', and Sherman Charles 'Articulation and acoustics of lateral approximants' as well as by faculty members Steven Franks 'Coordination Conundrums' and Francis Tyers 'Annotating noun incorporation in polysynthetic languages'.

Finally, we give our heartfelt congratulations to Valentyna Filimonova who appeared in the Linguistic Society of America's June (2020) member spotlight. The wonderful interview with her can be found at: <https://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/june-2020-member-spotlight-valentyna-filimonova>. Valentyna has been much involved in the LSA's Student Ambassador initiative and we note that graduate student Yi-An (Jason) Chen currently serves as an LSA Student Ambassador.

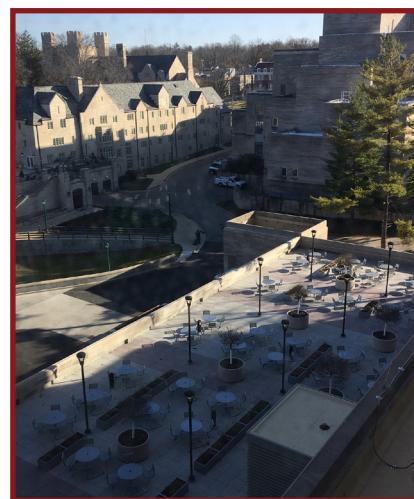


Photo By: Kenneth de Jong

*Construction on Ballantine Hall is complete and includes a beautiful outdoor seating area.*

## From the Director of Undergraduate Studies: Ann Bunger

The 2020 school year has presented us with unique challenges and opportunities.

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, IU moved to remote learning after an extended spring break. Classes were moved online. Students were forced to abandon in-person research activities and were called back from study abroad programs. Our departmental luncheon for graduating seniors was cancelled. The highly anticipated Bicentennial graduation ceremony was held online. During this time, many members of our department felt disconnected from each other and from their anticipated academic experience.

Despite these challenges, our students have continued to excel. Brendan Moore earned the 2020 Outstanding Senior Award. Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Awards were awarded to Sebastian Green, Coleton Hast, Greta Herbertz, Hannah Martin, Brendan Moore, and Victoria Smith. Morgan Farrell was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

Twenty-three students graduated from the department with a bachelor's degree in 2020, and after the graduation that wasn't, these students moved on to new beginnings in graduate school, medical school, Teach for America, and the Peace Corps and to exotic locations ranging from Ukraine to Hawaii to Indianapolis. You can view a video the department created to celebrate our 2020 graduating class here: <https://youtu.be/F8hsOQk-B7k>

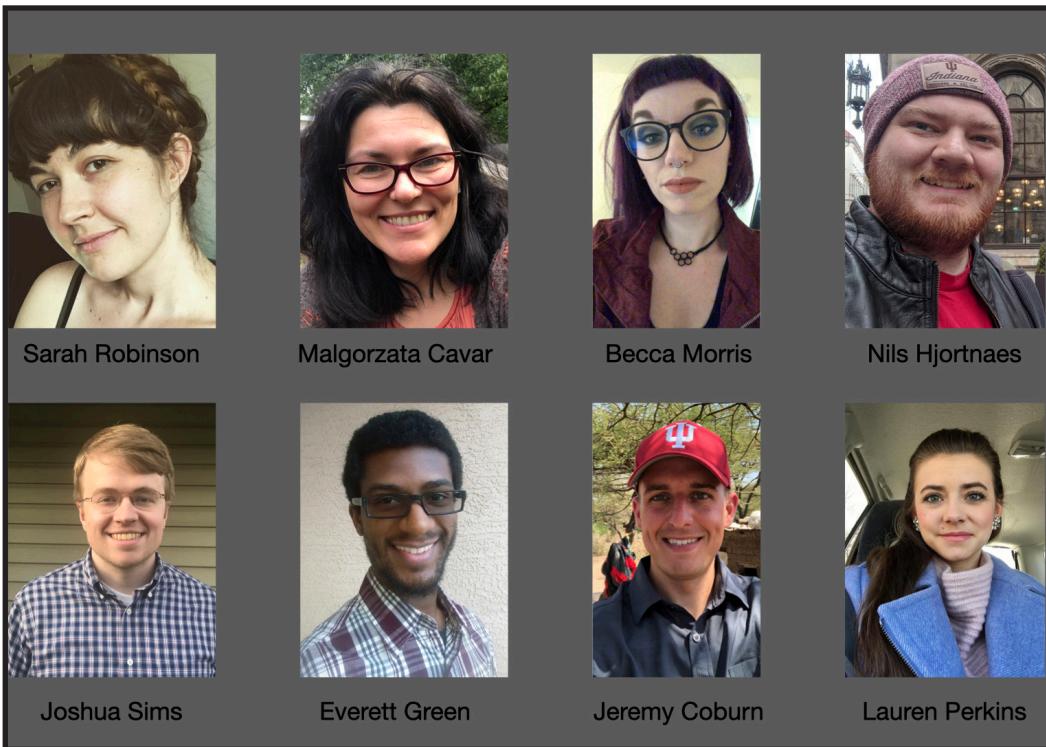
The return to campus this fall has been an adventure. Some of our courses are meeting online, some face-to-face, and some in a hybrid of the two modalities. Both students and faculty have begun to learn new skills and to explore new ways of teaching, learning, and interacting. Zoom meetings have given us glimpses of each other's homes and pets and helped us to learn more about each other (as well as about linguistics).

Our department maintains a high number of active undergraduate majors: there are currently 112 majors pursuing either a B.A. in linguistics or a B.S. in computational linguistics and 29 students minoring in one of these areas.

Many of these students are involved in projects outside of their regular classes. Chan Lu completed an independent study with Dr. Tom Grano that led to a poster on "Mandarin *xiang* and the architecture of attitude reports" that will be presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Dante Razo and Matt Luettgen have been carrying out research on abusive language detection with Dr. Sandra Kuebler. Dante and Dr. Kuebler will be presenting a paper on this research at an upcoming workshop. Isabllie Amacker has been working with Dr. Małgorzata Cavar through the Center of Excellence for Women & Technology (CEWiT) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. Ivy Richardson and Harry Zhang have continued their work with Dr. Francis Tyers on the development of language technology tools for under-served language communities. Molly Carpenter and Mary Cate Sansoterra are also working with Dr. Tyers on similar projects this year through the CEWiT REU program. Alina Matthews, Lia Haza, Sylvie Martin-Eberhardt, Alexis Wagner, and Olivia Ryan worked with Dr. Kelly Berkson over the summer on the Chin Languages Research Project. Alina, Lia and Alexis co-authored papers on this research that were published in the *Indiana Working Papers in South Asian Languages and Cultures*. Several students, including Ally Pavot, Holly Lemna, and Olivia Ryan, have been working on language revitalization projects with the Language Conservancy. And six students—Mikhael Hayes, Karli Lewis, Sam Myers, Ali O'Neal, Kevin Reidy, and Jacob Schmitt—have served as undergraduate teaching assistants for linguistics courses this year, working with faculty members teaching Introduction to the Study of Language (L103), Language and Computers (L245), and Phonology (L307).

Anyone interested in learning more about our undergraduate program should contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Ann Bunger ([acbunger@indiana.edu](mailto:acbunger@indiana.edu)), or our staff adviser, Krystie Herndon ([kherndon@indiana.edu](mailto:kherndon@indiana.edu)).

# LINGUIST List



It's not "business as usual" this year, even for "the linguistic community online." Yes, the weekly meeting of our team has - unsurprisingly - moved to zoom early this year. But the internet has always been our natural habitat and we are exceptionally well equipped to operate under the current circumstances. We are all fine and all members of the crew continue to pursue their degree at IU. Yes, we have published fewer job announcements in Spring - but the numbers uncharacteristically picked up in Summer. We have also published at least as many conference announcements as is typical. We are especially happy to be of service to all those conference organizers and participants who had to adapt their plans as the general situation evolved.

We had postponed the yearly fund drive - which usually takes place in Spring – and as we are wrapping up the exceptional Fall fund drive of the Linguist List, we have lower than usual numbers to report. This wasn't unexpected; supporting the LINGUIST List is probably not the first thing on everybody's mind this year. Yet, when do you need your

community if not in times of trouble? Even the smallest donation has demonstrated the power of this community, solidarity, the responsibility of each of us individually for our colleagues. If you missed the official fund drive you can donate the year round at <https://crowdfunding.iu.edu/the-linguist-list>.

But there is more good news – we have not been wasting time and have kept developing our back-end technology. In particular, the new linguistic programs database went live. The profiles are maintained and updated directly by the faculty members associated with the programs. Students can search for educational options by degree, concentration, location, and other criteria, to easily narrow down to the programs tailored to their needs. You can check if your favorite university is in the database here: <https://linguistlist.org/programs/>.

In summer we also said goodbye to the old vintage website that was there with us for about 15 years. We hope that the new site has more 2021's appeal but also it is more user friendly to navigate.

# Meet the New Graduate Students

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**Ryan Doyle Elward** is from Murphysboro, Illinois. He received his BA in English from Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois and is now a first semester MA student in General Linguistics. His research interests include cognitive linguistics and evolutionary linguistics, as well as sociolinguistics, rhetoric, and the language of political discourse. He also loves finding new foreign language films and making a good Chemex.

**Soyoung Kim** is a first year Ph.D. student in General Linguistics. Originally from Korea, she received a B.A. from Cornell University in Linguistics, Economics, and Japanese Literature, and an M.A. in Linguistic Studies and Language Teaching from Syracuse University. Her research interests include syntax, morphophonology, syntax-phonology interface, and NLP.

**Pavel Kovalev** received his B.S. in Mathematics from HSE University, Moscow. He is pursuing a PhD in Mathematics and Linguistics. He is interested in formal semantics and adjacent areas lying in the intersection of mathematics and linguistics.

**Scott Kunkel** is a third-year graduate student who is currently completing a dual M.A. degree in French Linguistics and Linguistics. He is broadly interested in sociolinguistics, with a particular interest in experimental methods for investigating the perception of phonetic variation in spoken French. At present, he is working on a master's thesis which focuses on the socio-indexical nature of word-final post-obstruent liquid deletion in Hexagonal French. Other research interests of his include language attitudes and variability in address pronouns (in French and in English). When not glued to his screen, Scott likes to listen to music, ride his bike, and bake bread.

**Qin Li** is a first year PhD student. She is originally from China and has just received her M.A. in Applied English Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her major interests quite narrowly focus on English syntax and second language acquisition. She has a lot to catch up on the life and study here at the IU and is looking forward to any chance of learning, communicating, and improving.

**Matt Luettgen** is continuing into the graduate portion of the Computational Linguistics Joint B.S./M.S. program at Indiana University. During the undergrad portion of the program he minored in Japanese and spent time studying abroad at Nanzan University. Matt also participated in research at RIT that aimed to provide accessible captions for DHH individuals. His research interests include NLP and Natural Language Generation.

**Ludovic Mompelat** has a B.A. in Foreign Languages (English, German, and Spanish), Literatures, and Civilizations (Université Catholique de l'Ouest, 2015) , an M.A. in Teaching French as a Foreign Language, Language Didactics, Media, and Francophone Studies (Université Catholique de l'Ouest, 2017) and an M.A in French Linguistics (Indiana University, 2019). His research interests encompassed by his double PhD in French Linguistics and Computational Linguistics include : Sociolinguistics, Language Contact, Creole Languages, Syntax, Corpus Linguistics, Natural Language Processing, and Machine Learning.

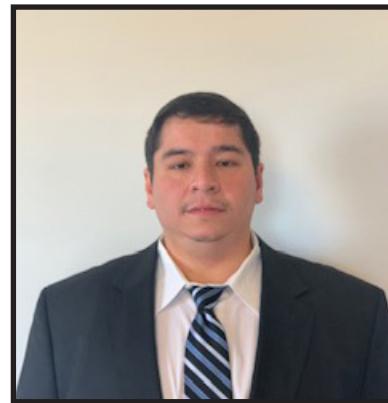
**Ling Sun** is a graduate student in general linguistics. She studied classic Chinese and Chinese literature at Sichuan University. She received her MA in Linguistics at University College London. Her major interest is semantics. She is also interested in language modelling and cognitive science.

# Our First Department Fellowship

This fall of 2020 has witnessed many unusual achievements for the department, but Hassan Bokhari's thesis defense is exceptional, even in this context. Hassan came to Bloomington from Saudi Arabia as a student of languages in Near Eastern Studies. Hassan took the advice of some of his professors who noted his unusual talent as an analytic linguist, in addition to his remarkable breadth of knowledge of languages of the area, and he became a dual degree doctoral student in linguistics.

In addition to the challenges of being a dual degree student at a difficult time, he has an additional challenge. Hassan is extremely visually impaired. I have been particularly struck by his extraordinary bit of achievement in learning phonetic transcription and learning how to interpret spectrograms and waveforms. It's remarkable how much of the scientific representations used in linguistics are in a visual format, and it is even more remarkable how he mastered their use. He completed an excellent thesis on phonological patterning this fall, working through many paradigms of observations.

To get here, however, there was one more obstacle, and that is that of funding to complete the degree, as his funding was lost due to the



Hassan Bokhari

global crisis. Hassan Bokhari was awarded a partial fellowship from the Department of Linguistics Student Fellowship Fund, which allowed him to finish the degree. The fund was instituted through the remarkable generosity of two of our faculty, Bob Botne and Clancy Clements, and we are working our way toward endowing a complete doctoral fellowship to support students to allow them complete their degrees. Hassan's work is a partial downpayment on this long term goal, and we are thankful for the support of faculty and friends of the department that has gotten us this far with developing the fund.

-Kenneth de Jong

## Faculty News



From Barbara Vance (pictured middle): I am finally holding in my hands a copy of the following publication, which has been "in progress" on my CV for a number of years (I don't even want to count them):

*The Handbook of Historical Linguistics, Volume 2*, edited by Richard D. Janda, Brian D. Joseph, and Barbara S. Vance. Wiley-Blackwell, copyright 2021.

# Awards and Honors

## DEGREES AWARDED IN 2019-2020

### Bachelors Degrees awarded:

Michael Akimoto  
 Briana Bontz  
 Duncan Bowie  
 Hannah Elaine Dalida  
 Michael DeVine  
 Martin Good  
 Zoie Hancock  
 Skye Koon  
 Paxton Krehn (joint with Anthropology)  
 Meng Luo  
 Wendy Martinez (joint with Speech Language and Hearing Science)  
 Chloe McCracken  
 Kyla Myars

#### *With distinction:*

Josephine Douglas (BS in Computational Linguistics)  
 Victoria Smith

#### *With high distinction:*

Morgan Farrell  
 Sebastian Green  
 Sam Myers  
 Federica Sanchez  
 Ethan Yde

#### *With highest distinction:*

Carla Barney  
 Pyoung-Hwa Peace Han (BS in Computational Linguistics)  
 Andrew Coleton Hast (joint with Anthropology)  
 Greta Herbertz  
 Brendan Moore

### MA & MSs awarded:

Jonathan Caudell (dual degree with Spanish)  
 Anamitraa Chakraborty  
 Zachary Chasko  
 Jeremy Coburn  
 Josephine Douglas (MS in computational linguistics)  
 Lauren Gustanis  
 Trey Jagiella (computational linguistics)  
 Derek Legg  
 Jennifer Sherwood (computational linguistics)

### PhD theses defended:

#### 2020

**Valentyna Filimonova.** "The Social Meaning of Variable Polite Leísmo in Mexico City"

**Kelly Kasper-Cushman.** "Mapping the Functional Distribution of Human Impersonal Uses of on, ça, and ils in French"

**Traci Nagle.** "Perception, Production, and the Implementation of Phonological Opacity in the Bangla Vowel Chain Shift"

**Young Hwang.** "Generational Tone Change in North Kyungsang Korean with a Focus on English Loanwords"

**Yina Patterson.** "A Study of Nominal-Clausal Relations in Chinese"

#### 2019

**Beatrice Ng'uono Okelo.** "Aspects of Luo Anthroponymy: Morphophonological and Ethnopragmatic Perspectives"

**Melissa Witcombe.** "An Optimality Theoretical Approach to Iotation in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian"

**Phillip Weirich.** "Explorations of Dialect Perception in Indiana"

## HONORS

### Undergraduate

**Outstanding Senior Award:** Brendan Moore

**Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Award:** Sebastian Green, Coleton Hast, Greta Herbertz, Hannah Martin, Brendan Moore, Victoria Smith

***Phi Beta Kappa:***

**Fall 2019:** Peace Han, Greta Herbertz, Brendan Moore, and Matthew Luettgen.

**Spring 2020:** Alexandra O'Neil

***Executive Dean's Undergraduate Research Award:*** Samantha Myers**Graduate*****Fred W. Householder Best Research Paper***

**Award:** Jeremy Coburn for "Swahili Nasal Class Prefixes"

**Honorable Mention:**

-**Zhou He, Trey Jagiella, and Tian ZhouYu** for "Tone 4 Sandhi in Heze Chinese", written for Kenneth de Jong's Introduction to Phonetics

-**Jisu Park** for "Causative Psych-verbs in Korean", written for Tom Grano's Semantics.

**FUNDING AWARDS****Graduate**

**Fulbright USP Research Award:** Jeremy Coburn for research in Tanzania documenting the Hadza language

**Fulbright-Hayes DDRA Fellowship:** Jeremy Coburn for research in Tanzania documenting the Hadza language

**College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship:** Hai Hu, for 2020-2021

**Fred W. Householder Memorial Student Research Fund**

-**Matthew Ajibade.** \$400 in support of "What Nigerians Think of Nigerian English: a Perception Study on the Variants of Nigerian English"

-**Jeremy Coburn.** \$500 in support of "Case Study of Hadza Clicks using 3D/4D Ultrasound"

-Feier Gao. \$500 in support of "Social Personae Perception."

-**Sarah Robinson.** \$350 in support of "Toxicification and Hate Speech in Immigration Discourse: a Corpus Linguistics Study"

**College of Arts and Sciences Travel Award**

-**Anamitraa Chakraborty.** \$200 in support of her presenting "Interdialectal Variation and Codeswitching among the Immigrant Speakers of Bangla from Bangladesh" at the Annual Conference on South Asia.

-**Hai Hu.** \$300 in support of his presenting "Monalog: a Lightweight System for Natural Language Inference Based on Monotonicity" at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Computational Linguistics.

**Student Conference Travel Fund:**

-**Juyeon Chung.** \$250 in support of her presenting "Production and Perception of English Vowels Preceding Voiced and Voiceless Consonants by Korean Learners of English" at the Acoustical Society of America.

-**Valentyna Filimonova.** \$250 in support of her presenting "La Varaicion en la Deixis Social y la Cortesia en la Ciudad de Mexico" at the Asociasion Mexicana de Linguistica Aplicada, National Congress.

-**Feier Gao.** \$250 in support of her presenting "Mandarin Full Tone Realization and Indexical Meaning" at the Linguistic Society of America.

-**Matthew Pollock.** \$250 in support of his presenting "Toeing the Party Line: Indexing Party Identity through Dialectal Phonetic Features in Spanish Political Discourse" at New Ways of Analyzing Variation.

**University Graduate School Grant-in-Aid in Support of Dissertation Research**

-**Kuan Yi Chao.** \$1000 in support of doctoral thesis research

# Awards and Honors Cont...

## Faculty

**NSF RAPID Research Grant:** Kelly Berkson, to support research developing translations of health-related documents for the members of the Chin community.

## TEACHING AWARDS

### Faculty

Trustees Teaching Awards: *Ann Bunger, Kenneth de Jong*

## Student

**Daniel A. Dinnsen AI Excellence-in-teaching Award:** (\$300): *Colette Feehan*, for excellence particularly in managing the shift in teaching C103 to online format in the spring of 2020.

## STAFF AWARD

**Award for 30 Years of Service to I.U.:**  
*Margaret Anderson*

# Funds for Supporting the Linguistics Department

**Linguistics Student Fellowship Fund:** To provide a base for supporting graduate students. In the shorter term, this fund has enabled summer fellowships to attend institutes and other training venues pertinent to their research development. In the long run, we hope to have sufficient resources to endow a fellowship for a student, specifically to enable them to complete critical periods of their doctoral research. The current balance is roughly 25% of what is necessary for this purpose.

**Linguistics Student Support Fund:** To provide support, especially, for undergraduate research, including research grants and short-term fellowships. There is a good base for smaller grants of this type currently, and support for this fund will enable this program to continue and to grow, as more and more undergraduates are finding their way into research projects.

**Student Conference Travel Fund:** To provide support grants for students to attend conferences related to their areas of research. Each year, as many as 10 awards are made to graduate students for this purpose, as conference participation is a crucial element in their developing their awareness of the larger discipline and in networking with eminent scholars in their field of research.

## Daniel Dinnsen Excellence in Teaching

**Fund:** To provide support for an annual award for teaching excellence among our graduate students. Each year, a financial award is given to graduate teachers nominated by supervising faculty. Over the past years, student awards have recognized innovations in service learning, and the development of new classes by our graduate students.

**Linguistics Enrichment Fund:** The linguistics enrichment fund is the longest-running fund, supporting a variety of departmental activities, as well as underwriting the other funds in cases where they are drawn down.

**Fred W. Householder Memorial Fund:** To provide support for graduate student research expenses. This fund has been providing for a large number of Householder Grants to individual graduate students who are in the process of conducting larger-scale research projects which require financial outlays. Support for this fund will enable this very active program to continue. Fred Householder was a long term faculty member in the department who is known for his dedication to graduate student development and research.

# Thanks To Our Donors 2019-2020

## Linguistics Student Fellowship Fund

Robert Botne

Steven Franks & Karen Maronski Franks  
Tom Grano  
Barbara Vance & Richard Janda

## Linguistics Student Support Fund

Kelly Berkson

Kenneth & Carolyn de Jong  
Brian Jose

Lisa Sulski LoVallo and Michael LoVallo  
Alwiya Omar

## Student Conference Travel Fund

Damir & Malgorzata Cavar  
Stuart Davis

## Daniel A. Dinnsen Excellence-in-Teaching

### Fund

Cynthia Clopper

## Linguistics Enrichment Fund

Robert & Susie Cheng

Jennifer Crittenden

Catharina de Jonge & Vijay Kannan

Brian Jose

Yoshi & Isoko Kitagawa

William Klein

Sandra Kuebler

Marvin Moody

Brian Moore & Ellen Tsai

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Daniel Newhall Maxwell

Suzanne Jensen Nicks

Samuel & Cecelia Obeng

Joe J. Ree

Lisa Sulski LoVallo & Michael LoVallo  
Joyce Woller

## Fred W. Householder Memorial Student Research Fund

Susie H. & Robert L. Cheng

Mimi Bentley

J.J. & Mary J. Pia

Gerald and Katherine Tullai

# We've Moved ... Again

Picture By: Kenneth de Jong

*The construction of Ballantine Hall is finally complete and the Linguistics Department is now located in Ballantine Hall 504. The department occupies all the offices to the right.*



# Indiana University Linguistics

Ballantine Hall 504  
1020 E. Kirkwood Ave.  
Bloomington, IN  
47405



This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Department of Linguistics with support from the College of Arts and Sciences Office of Alumni Relations, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University.

## Department of Linguistics

Chair ..... Kenneth de Jong  
Newsletter Editor ..... Meaghan Gallegos

## College of Arts & Sciences

Executive Dean ..... Rick Van Kooten  
Executive Director of Advancement .... Travis Paulin  
Director of Alumni Relations ..... Vanessa Cloe



**COLLEGE OF  
ARTS AND SCIENCES**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
Bloomington

## Linguistics alumni – *What's new with you?*

Please print as much of the following information as you wish. Updates will be used for the next newsletter and to keep our records up to date. Mail to the address below, or email your update to LingDept@indiana.edu.

**Home address** \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Institution \_\_\_\_\_

**Work address** \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

\* Email \_\_\_\_\_

\* Home page \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please indicate clearly upper and lower case.

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