

Second Language Studies Department Newsletter

Spring 2019

Message from the Department Chair

This slightly-revamped Newsletter brings us all a bit closer together. At different times the Department has had a newsletter written mainly by staff, at other times a student association newsletter, and over time we've gone from hard copy to electronic formats. This version is substantially student-driven, which is a good thing, and also the Chair gets to say a few words—I like this combination. That said, on with all the interesting things that are reported here!

The newsletter gets a makeover!

For your easier browsing convenience, check out our Faculty News on p. 1, Alumni News on p. 2, Student News on p. 3, and photos of graduation (as customary) on the last page.

Dr. Betsy Gilliland Elected Chair of TESOL's L2 Writing Interest Section

In this interview, Dr. Gilliland talks about the group's purpose and her vision as Chair for 2019-20.

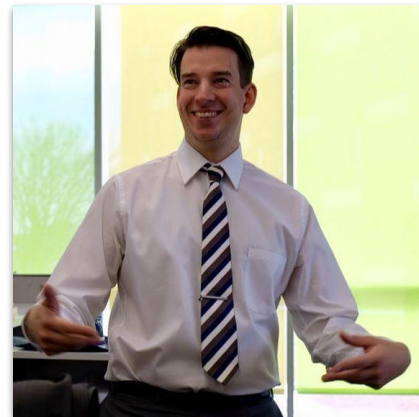
1. How does the SL Writing Interest Section (SLWIS) bridge the theory-practice divide?

TESOL International's mission is (among other things) to advance the professional development of English language teachers worldwide. The Interest Sections are sub-groups of the parent organization that allow members to collaborate around a shared focus. In SLWIS, our members are both writing teachers and academic researchers. The steering committee organizes webinars and publishes a newsletter that bring cutting edge concepts from research to our viewers and readers, many of whom are teachers interested in learning more about what they can do in their practice. At the annual TESOL convention, we also arrange a colloquium on a topic of interest to members and several "intersection" panels that bring together concepts from more than one IS, showing how issues relate across focus areas in the field.

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Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Dustin Crowther

The department's Spring 2019 hire, Dr. Dustin Crowther, received his PhD in 2018 from Michigan State. Dr. Crowther is originally from British Columbia, Canada, where he did a BA in theater. After working as an ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) in Japan with the JET program, Crowther completed his MA at Concordia, beginning his scholarly career in listening and pronunciation. His most recent work is an upcoming chapter titled "Addressing Pedagogical Inquiry in World Englishes" in the Routledge handbook *Investigating World Englishes*, which he is also co-editing.



"Promoting Comprehensibility in Second Language Speech"

Dr. Dustin Crowther visited UHM for a few weeks in January for his interview process and the department had an opportunity to hear more about his work during the SLS Brown Bag. He spoke to a room full of faculty and students about his research regarding mutual intelligibility in multilingual settings. His interests lie in understanding how people comprehend and interact with each other in an L2, such as English.

Much of the current research focuses on pronunciation in monologic speech; however, Dr. Crowther feels that needs to be expanded to focus on interactive speech from a multilingual perspective. His experience teaching English in Japan for three years and extensive interaction with international students studying English has allowed him to accumulate a range of experience in researching multilingual interactions. We are very much looking forward to welcoming him into his new position beginning this fall.

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. SooJung Youn

At AAAL 2019 in Atlanta, Georgia, we caught up with Dr. Youn to ask her about how the UHM PhD prepared her for the tenure track.

1. How do quantitative and qualitative methods come together in your research?

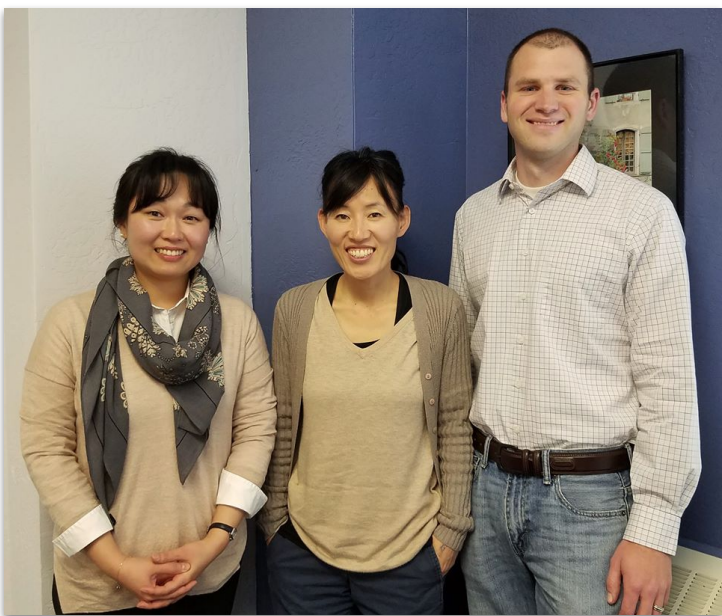
“As a language tester, you have to understand what this construct [pragmatics] is. Using CA [Conversation Analysis] at UH really deepened my understanding of how people accomplished pragmatics in spoken interaction.”

2. What kinds of GA-ships did you hold at UH?

“It was an amazing experience to teach that class [SLS 490: Second Language Testing] as a PhD student. The UH environment is unique, giving 100% responsibilities to PhD students. That’s not the case in many other places.”

3. Who was most influential during your PhD?

“Of course my advisor, JD [Brown]. Of course Gabi [Kasper], Thom Hudson. Graham Crookes... Kenny [Harsch], also very supportive, and tried to intellectually *challenge*... Also something I am most grateful is the academic atmosphere where the faculty treat us as colleagues. That environment is so encouraging, we cannot just take for granted in other programs. My heart is in Hawai’i all the time.”



Dr. Youn (left) with two other colleagues from the English Department at Northern Arizona University promoted this semester to Associate Professor or Professor. (Facebook)

2. Tell us about the SLWIS fb group anyone can join.

One of our goals is to reach beyond the confines of the TESOL organization to share ideas with teachers and scholars who may not be able to afford the membership fees. On the Facebook group, we not only share information about our IS activities but also resources that might be relevant to writing teachers and researchers. One of our ongoing activities in the IS is a book club, where members read a book on L2 writing and discuss ideas that emerge from the book. We’ve recently started a separate Facebook group for the book club in hopes of engaging more interactive discussion. Like the general IS group, the book club group is open to anyone, so feel free to join in the discussion!

3. What gaps in the L2 Writing literature would you like to see filled in your time as Chair?

The purpose of the IS is not really to expand on the literature as much as it is to support teachers and researchers in sharing the work they are doing and making connections to current literature. We are planning two webinars for 2019 to meet these goals, so keep an eye out for announcements about them.

Follow the SLWIS Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/TESOLSLWIS/>

Recent alumni accomplishments...

- BA/MA in SLS alumna **Peggy Kang** completed an English Language Fellowship (2016-18) with the U.S. Department of State in Cameroon! Watch videos of her travels at <https://vimeo.com/peggyk>
- Recent PhD graduates at prestigious universities and liberal arts colleges...
- **Dr. Jing Zhou** (2018), Visiting Professor at Pomona College
- **Dr. Hyunah Ahn** (2017), English Instructor at Seoul National University
- **Dr. Wei-Li Hsu** (2017) and **Dr. Alfred Rue Burch** (2016), Postdoctoral Fellows at Rice University
- **Dr. Mari Miyao** (2017), tenured Lecturer (equivalent to Assistant Professor in the U.S.) at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies

Demystifying the Academic Conference

On April 4, a panel on how to get the most out of conferences was hosted by PhD student **Dan Holden** with **Hayley Cannizzo**, **Masaki Eguchi**, **Anna Mendoza**, **Huy Phung** and **Kyle Sasaoka**. Here, we present the main points based on the last big conference SLS grads attended: AAAL 2019.



1. Know the conference audience and purpose.

AAAL is the conference featuring the latest research in the field, but it isn't the only one worth attending. Local conferences such as the Hawai'i Department of Education's Multilingual Symposium (March 2, 2019) connect professionals interested in applying research to specific contexts.

2. Consider not only funding but cost-saving.

Flights to the continental U.S. are expensive, but for AAAL 2019, five of us shared an airbnb house, each paying about \$33 per night. We figured out how to work the MARTA subway line (a 4-day pass costs \$20), which covered travel from the airport to the airbnb to the conference hotel downtown. We split an Uber/Lyft on the ride back to the airport.

The wonderful thing about AAAL is that they have morning and afternoon coffee breaks with pastries and fruit, as well as one reception. You can get almost all your meals at the conference.

3. Be super-organized.

To make sure you have all required documents to claim reimbursement, look at the checklist *before* you apply for funding, not when you're already putting together the reimbursement package.

Before attending the conference, read through the program and plan your schedule. That way you make sure you get the most out of each time slot. For large conferences, see how long it will take you to travel between sessions and plan your route.

ICLDC 2019

Earlier this spring semester brought to Hawai'i the 6th biennial **International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation** hosted by the Linguistics Department. Set at the Imin Center, this conference theme focused on "Connecting Communities, Language & Technology" and comes at a prime time as 2019 was designated the International Year of Indigenous Languages by the United Nations.

The conference attendance had over 400 people representing institutions, technology companies and indigenous communities from around the world. There were various presentations as well as new, interactive technology showcases for those with software they were interested in promoting to others in the field.

The end of the conference brought about a two-day field study to Hilo to tour the highly regarded Hawaiian revitalization efforts that are in place. UHM hosts this conference every two years with the common goal of supporting language revitalization and documentation for communities in need of support. Be on the lookout for it in spring 2021!

Past ICLDC Proceedings can be found here:

<https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/5960>

Congratulations to our Spring 2019 graduates!

Eunsun Lee, MA - Gavin Lamb, PhD - Jay Tanaka, PhD - Jiamin Ruan, MA - Jiaxin Ruan, MA - Junko Imai, PhD - Lin Wang, MA - Moeko Norota, MA - Robin Caselli, MA - Takumi Aoki, MA - Taylor Lewis, MA - Tim Dang, MA - Yuichiro Yamada, MA

Got news or an accomplishment that should be featured in the SLS newsletter?

Contact the SLS Student Association at slssa@hawaii.edu or the SLS Department at #570-1890 East-West Rd., Honolulu HI 96822.

BA in SLS Capstone Projects

As the spring semester is rounding up, students in the BA in SLS capstone course, SLS 485, had the opportunity to put their new, personalized websites on display. The class, taught by Kenton Harsch, showcased their professional websites on April 29th in the Moore Hall computer lab. A representative from EF (English First) schools in Hawai'i was also there to recruit ESL teachers and connected with several graduates.

This undergraduate showcase, which was attended by a record 40-50 people, gave those walking up to students' screens a look into how they displayed their professional identities. A website typically showed the student's CV, tutoring and teaching experience, sample lesson plans and a unique teaching philosophy. In a similar fashion as a poster session at conferences, students explained how they organized their websites and what their future plans were in the field, including teaching various languages and age groups in Hawai'i, applying to the MA in SLS, or teaching abroad.

Learning how to be a professional is an important skill for anyone going into any field and having a class that offers this as a capstone to our undergraduate program is very beneficial. We wish the best for all the BA graduates and their future endeavors.



BA graduate Victoria Lee presented her thesis at the UHM Undergraduate Showcase on May 3

Graduation Cooler at Dr. Gilliland's



All the best to Dr. Kris Kyle in his new position in Oregon and to his PhD student, Masaki Eguchi. We hope they will keep in touch!



At the May 3 cooler, Dr. Crookes presented an MA thesis award to Taylor Lewis for her study, "#Black Language Matters: A Case Study of Black Identities in an L2 isiXhosa Classroom"