Message from the Department Chair

Welcome again to the second issue in which the Chair leads off! At the end of last semester, we bade farewell to Prof. JD Brown who retired and was immediately granted Emeritus status (of course). This semester has been busy as we are hiring into our two professor vacancies (one in testing, one in SLA)! A new innovation has been the livestreaming of our Brown Bag Talks and other events! And finally, I have just sent out the first ever call for donations to the Ruth Crymes fund. Alumnis who received money from the Ruth Crymes fund to attend conferences etc., during their time here are now being asked for a contribution… pay it back, pay it forward so others can benefit. It’s been a great semester and I am looking forward to the next one too! Thank you and enjoy this issue of the SLS newsletter! – Graham Crookes

Here’s to 50 years!

Earlier this year, Dr. Day was awarded 50 years of service at UH Mānoa! It's hard to imagine staying in one place for very long, let alone 50 years! So, naturally, my first question was, what was it about this university that has kept him around for so long? His answer; the faculty and the students. Top notch candidates and students coming from around the world, highly motivated and engaged, brings a level of quality difficult to match. One of his most proud accomplishments was his instrumental role in getting an SLS Master’s program off the ground at the National University of Laos. He was hired as the chair of the MA committee that developed every aspect of the program and when the first group of students completed their degrees in the program, he was invited back as a guest of honor. It’s with great pleasure for all of us to have the opportunity to learn from someone as experienced as him.

Harsch and Faucette as Pakela Individual Advisor Awardee.

Our department’s very own BA Advisers Kenton Harsch and Priscilla Faucette were selected as co-recipients of this year’s Pakela Individual Advisor Award.

When asked how they guide students when having difficulties, both responded that the key is to get to know each individual student and their goals. Kenny said that is best to provide the students ideas and options so that they can make informed decisions. In addition, they both think that it is important to listen and sympathizing with their struggles to help them identify a range of strategies. Finally, is to make sure that students are aware of the consequences of different choices that they will make. Thank you Kenny and Priscilla for all the hard work!

Excellence in Scholarship goes to...

Dr. Christina Higgins! As the latest recipient of the Award for Excellence in Scholarship. Her work here has supported projects related to Pidgin and Hawaiian language rights and most recently, she has worked on a semiotic remapping project of the UH Mānoa campus that seeks to broaden campus knowledge of the ‘ili ‘āina, or land divisions, that honor the Hawaiian geography system. Congratulations!!
Alumni News

Alumni Spotlight
In this issue we asked our alumni community to share their most recent achievements (academic and personal) that they'd like to share. And below are what we found out:

“Since graduating from the SLS, I was an English Language Fellow in Chile for a year, taught EFL at a university in in Tokyo, completed a PhD in applied linguistics at Northern Arizona University, and am now in my 3rd year as an Assistant professor of Applied Linguistics at Grand Valley State University in Michigan.” – Dan Brown, MA 2008

“This is my second year as a teaching fellow at Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan. This year I helped write an English language book for Chinese learners called '高阶英语演讲和写作.' I've also been helping out with Multi‘ölelo (Multiolelo.com, 2019), and making videos for my YouTube channel weekly.” – Raquel Reinagel, MA 2018

“In April 2018, I became tenured in the English Department at Kanda University of International Studies, with the current rank of Associate Professor. Also, I have recently completed a draft of my book on language teacher noticing in task-based interaction, which will be submitted to Multilingual Matters.” – Daniel O. Jackson, PhD 2014

More alumni accomplishments
- Dr. Jay Tanaka (2019), Assistant Professor, Hokkaido University, Japan.
- Dr. Gavin Lamb (2019), Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Jyväskylä, Finland.
- Amy Marquardt (2019), Curriculum designer and English teacher, University of Atacama, Chile
- Mac Hagen (2018), Language Acquisition Teacher, Keystone Academy, Beijing, China
- Dr. Rue Burch (2016), Assistant Professor, Kobe University, Japan.
- Dr. Hakyoon Lee (2014), Assistant Professor, Georgia State University.
- Dr. Mark Warschauer (1998), Professor, University of California, Irvine. His current research projects include a National Science Foundation-funded study on online, hybrid, and flipped learning in higher education; a US Dept. of Education-funded study on digital scaffolding for reading and writing in middle schools, among others.

“I’ve been working since Fall 2012 at a boarding middle school in Lake Placid, NY as their International Student Program Coordinator and lead ESL teacher.” – Meredith Hanson, MA 2011

“I was SLSSA co-president in 2007-8 when it was still called HATESL. Currently I am the chair of the nominating committee for TESOL International Association. In my day job, I'm an associate professor of ESL at Northern Virginia Community College, and at night, I am a PhD student of multilingual-multicultural education at George Mason University”. – Elisabeth Chan, MA 2008

“After teaching for 25+ years I am now fully retired and enjoying all the free time. I volunteer weekly at Queen’s Medical Center West. I’m the ‘aloha’ ladybat the Information Desk in the front lobby.”

– Judy Guffey, MA 1990

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2019 SLS Department Retreat

**What:** A Saturday at the beach in late September  
**When:** Sept. 28, 2019  
**Where:** Kailua Beach Park (changes every year)

**Reasons to go each year...**
1. *Unwind in the way that suits you.* Socialize with the big group under the cabana, play volleyball or cards, go for a dip in the waves with a few friends, or stroll along the shore contemplating life. Whatever you feel like at any point in the day!
2. *Totally worth the cost.* As a SLSSA member, $10 gets you round-trip transportation, a catered lunch, and coffee, tea, soda and BEER all day.
3. *Schmooze with faculty.* Picnic-style talks with faculty lets grad students ask them about career or personal advice in a casual setting.
4. *The AUCTION!* Doubles as Joel and Kenny’s stand-up comedy… affordable items range from handmade crafts to bonding activities (hiking, snorkeling, baking, karaoke) throughout the year.

Anna Mendoza is an epitome of ‘Jack of All Trades’.

The College of LLL bestowed to Anna Mendoza the 2019 Excellence in Research Award held at Bilger Hall in September 2019. Anna graduated with a BA in English and Creative Writing in Pennsylvania and MA in TESL from the University of British Columbia. When asked what was her motivation to be in this field, she said “I think my passion for teaching SL comes from the wide range of knowledge that I can bring to bear on this task”. As she considers a second language instructor should be a ‘jack of all trades’, she is confident that she can play some of the roles being a linguist, psychologist, activist, coach, mentor, and among other things because of her educational and professional background.

Her study is an ethnography on ELL classes in high school examining how students used multiple languages to learn and navigate social life in mainstream English classes where there was no explicit bi/multilingual pedagogy.

Being a PhD student herself and in graduate school, the most important thing that she had learned that is fundamental to her research is to be an avid reader. She also reiterated to “read widely in SLA, and read deeply in your specialization (e.g., sociolinguistics), and read both deeply and widely in your individual area” which for herself is translanguaging in the plurilingual, English-as-a-lingua-franca classroom.

Her advice to MA students who would want to further their careers and do a PhD is to “know what you want to get out of it, so you can guide your path”. Moreover, she also noted that one should think if one wants to be a tenure-track professor (what area?), start a language school, work for Duolingo, work for the government? Because these are all considered legitimate career avenues to work for, but also keeping in mind where one would go and plan to do yearly. Anna concluded that the desired outcomes of a PhD cannot be accomplished based on the actions of only a year as this requires a five-year plan.

Best of luck Anna!

**Congratulations to our Fall 2019 graduates!**

From left: Les Black, Hayley Cannizzo, Hitoshi Nishizawa, and Mery Diez at the graduation cooler.

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.
SLRF turf

A number of students from the Department of Second Language Studies participated in the 2019 Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) at Michigan State University on September 20-22, 2019. With this year’s theme, “Advancing Transdisciplinary Research” it emphasized on “diversity and bringing together different disciplines, approaches, and methodologies”.

Graduating this fall 2019, Hitoshi Nishizawa research interests are in listener variables when comprehending and perceiving L2 speech. Hitoshi shared some of his struggles when he talks to peers, “I had many experiences where some of my friends understood me but some were not. It could be because those who did not understand me were simply not paying attention to my speech”. This led him to go about and research the different variabilities within the listeners. He found out that when miscommunication happens during conversations, “it is not all the speakers’ responsibility”.

Another participant Huy Phung cannot make it to Michigan but did an interesting online presentation via Zoom about the construct of lexical sophistication using a corpus constructed from a writing section of a placement test. He said that while the construct of lexical sophistication is interesting, it is challenging for him to identify a stable cluster of indices to predict writing and vocabulary scores rated by humans. This led him to look into the testing and measurement perspective to examine the issue and questioned the nature of the construct. Phung found out that the best combination of indices seems to depend on the nature of corpus.

First prize winners of the Best Poster award Kristen Urada and Precious Arao also partake in the forum with their research project that investigated the “Involvement Load Hypothesis” and looked at three tasks to determine which was the most effective for incidental vocabulary learning. The three tasks that they compared are the following: reading comprehension, gap-fill, and sentence writing or paragraph composition. Kristen, on her research interests, wants to see if pedagogic tasks suggested in SLA research that have been found to be effective for intermediate learners are also effective for beginning learners as well. Meanwhile, Precious said that “after taking a quantitative research class, I gained interest in measuring vocabulary in Filipino language. This also allowed me to try researching in Filipino as most studies are done in English”. Thank you for your participation in the forum, colleagues!

Special thanks to Hoa Le, Jose Barza, and Jarrid Baldwin for this edition of the Newsletter.