FROM THE EDITORS

Aloha! We are pleased to present you with the SLS departmental newsletter for the Fall 2020 semester. As we continued our distance learning this semester we also had to move many of our fall semester events online as well, including our annual retreat. As with last semester, we want to use this space to congratulate our graduates and to give a big mahalo to our faculty and staff for their continued support in these tumultuous times and to our peers for their resilience despite the uncertainties of 2020 and the stress and fatigue it has brought about.

In this issue you find other articles in this newsletter recapping our online events and the amazing work students have been accomplishing while working remotely.

We also share this issue with a request. We are looking for new editors to take on the responsibilities of producing this newsletter. Interested students should reach out to us at slssa@hawaii.edu.

And as always, if you have any updates to share about your recent work, research, classroom experiences, or experiences at an SLS/Applied Linguistics related conference or event, please let us know.

We hope you enjoy this semester’s issue of the SLSSA newsletter! Please stay safe and healthy this holiday season, and we look forward to seeing everyone next semester!

Fall 2020 Newsletter Committee
Victoria Lee & Micah Mizukami

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. ISBELL

The SLS department welcomed Dr. Daniel (Dan) Isbell, who specializes in language testing and assessment, to its ʻohana this fall. Dr. Isbell was born in Oregon and grew up in several states in the Western United States including Arizona, where he received his BA in Intermedia (Interactive Media) from Arizona State University and his MA in TESL from Northern Arizona University. Prior to receiving his PhD in SLS from Michigan State University (MSU) in 2019, Dr. Isbell taught English as a second or foreign language for about five years, working with people of all ages, from toddlers to middle-aged adults. Dr. Isbell is also interested in pronunciation, an area he got involved in during his PhD with Korean projects at MSU. Some of his current projects include a comprehensibility study on L2 Korean speech and working with Dr. Dustin Crowther to study attitudes toward global English varieties.

Working in Hawai‘i has been a dream job of Dr. Isbell and he was drawn to the SLS department’s rich history in language testing, specifically the works of Dr. JD Brown and Dr. Thom Hudson. He moved to Honolulu in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic which he described as a “strange experience,” but is grateful to have many opportunities to connect with students and faculty virtually. He is also excited to get to teach courses in his areas of interest and to work with people who have similar interests. The pandemic has caused a lot of challenging restrictions, but Dr. Isbell believes that these limitations can spark creative and innovative ideas.

Dr. Isbell believes that it is a difficult time to be a student, and he recommends reaching out when you have a question or need help. He also encourages students to not be afraid to say “yes” to new opportunities and get out of your comfort zone in terms of research. Looking forward, he said, “If we can all buckle down for the next semester, we’ll get through this and start to get back to normal and be able to come together in person. See what you can do to make the most from this time.”

Thank you to Denis Melik Tangjiyev for interviewing Dr. Isbell for this article.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FALL 2020 GRADUATES

PhD graduate: George Smith

MA graduates: Austin James Barton, Jose Rommel Cabal Barza

BA graduates: Haleysable Alicto, Monique Frazier, Ryan Hirano, Alice Holmdahl, Nao Iwasaki, Annika Jennings, Mai Li, McKenna Miyata, Lune Oshima, Mary Shields, Rinalie Tuzon, Ruka Yamamoto, Caterina Yamamura, Hiromi Yasunaga

ADVICE FROM THE GRADUATES

George Smith, PhD
George plans to find employment and continuing publishing now that he has graduated. He shared the following messages:

You can do it. Just keep moving forward and never give in to your self-doubts.
Your family, friends, colleagues, and teachers will always be there to instill confidence in yourself. Use them!

Thank you for all of the memories.

Austin Barton, MA
Austin will begin teaching at a public elementary school in Taoyuan, Taiwan in early 2021. He shared the following advice (in no particular order):

Don’t bite off more than you can chew.
Don’t overthink things. Focus on the big picture first.
Take a systematic approach. MAKE FRIENDS.
And...
Go outside - you’re in Hawai’i. Nuff said.

Jose Barza, MA
Jose is preparing for his teaching licensure and plans on teaching in a public school. He shared the following message:

Enjoy the process, connect with colleagues, and seize every moment of your journey in earning the MA degree.

Caterina Yamamura, BA
Caterina plans to join the JET Program and teach English in Japan. She had the following advice for undergraduate students:

Make the best of your college journey! It only comes once. Follow YOUR dreams. This is not necessarily a matter of "What do you want to be when you grow up?" More like, "What do you see yourself doing?"

A Message from Kenny & Priscilla to BA Graduates:
To our graduating SLS majors. Congratulations to each of you on your achievements throughout your time at UHM, and what you’ve accomplished, learned, and contributed within the SLS major. And of particular note is that you have done all this while going through one of the most stressful, frustrating, and crazy periods in recent history! We’re excited for all of you to start your next step forward after graduation, but keep in mind that the world is still working its way through the pandemic, so it might require even more patience and persistence as you make that next step forward. We have truly enjoyed working with all of you, and seeing your growth within our field. Wishing you all the best, and please keep in touch!
SLRF Goes Virtual

Despite everything moving online, the students have adapted to working from home, presenting at conferences, and submitting papers for publications. In October, Suzanne DeVore, Rickey Larkin, Mery Diez-Ortega, Kristen Urada, and Yanxin Zhu presented their research at the 2021 virtual Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) conference hosted by Vanderbilt University. Thank you to PhD student Rickey Larkin, who shared his virtual conference experience with us:

This year’s Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) was hosted entirely online by Vanderbilt University. This was the second time I had the opportunity to present at SLRF, and the experience was quite different this time. Vanderbilt did well in making the online experience as smooth as possible. Sessions were divided into different Zoom rooms, and participants and speakers were able to move between sessions simply using the online conference platform Sched. The ability to go back and watch recordings of missed sessions was a useful and convenient way to “attend” interesting sessions occurring simultaneously. That, in addition to the convenience of not having to experience jet lag, made the conference an enjoyable experience.

That said, I fear the online conferences may become the norm, even post-covid, mainly because of the reduced costs inflicted on graduate students (and thus, departments). While the cost saving measures are appreciated, a feeling of a community of practice is notably absent, at least for me. Without the ability to have casual conversations in the hallway or over lunch, there is not much bonding taking place between attendees. I would urge readers to consider the long-term implications of such a practice on early professionals in the field. While one or two years of online conferences being the norm might not harm the extended professional networks of early graduates, four or more years certainly would. I hope conference organizers in the future take this into consideration when deciding how best to organize post-covid events.

— Rickey Larkin

List of Awards Students Received

Mery Diez-Ortega received the 2020 Duolinguo Research Grant for her project, “Gaming together: Peer-interaction of beginner Spanish learners playing a task-based digital game”

Yuka Matsutani received the GSO 2020 Hannah Liebreich Merit Based Award in Teaching.

Kendi Ho received the 2020 International Research Foundation (TIRF) Doctoral Dissertation Grant for her dissertation project title is “Health Communication in Home Care for Elders in Hawai‘i.”

Parvaneh Rezaee received the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies award from the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute for her dissertation “The Persian Particle dige in Professional – Client Interaction.”

Publications by Students with Faculty

Wenyi Ling published an article, “From sounds to words: The relation between phonological and lexical processing of tone in L2 Mandarin,” with Dr. Theres Grüter’s in Second Language Research.

Hyeyoung Jung wrote a chapter, “The use of K-Pop culture in a critical EAP classroom,” with Dr. Graham Crookes’ chapter in the Routledge Pop Culture in Language Education.

Now-PhD graduate, George Smith, published an article, “Word lists and the role of academic vocabulary use in high stakes speaking assessments,” in the International Journal of Learner Corpus Research with SLS Affiliate Faculty Dr. Kristopher Kyle, and Dr. Scott A. Crossley.

ORIENTATION, COOLERS, AND RETREAT MOVE ONLINE

The Fall 2020 semester started off with online welcome orientations for all incoming SLS students. Afterward, throughout the semester, all departmental courses were delivered fully online, and the online Brown Bag sessions had guest speakers around the world Zooming in to share their research and experience. SLSSA, the SLS graduate student association, held virtual coolers for the faculty, students, staff, and family or pet guests to take a break and socialize from home. The Halloween cooler, which had a contest for attendees to coordinate their costumes with their Zoom backgrounds, was held in collaboration with the Linguistics department. To encourage students to come and use the virtual space to study together and talk story, weekly study rooms were held on Zoom.

SLSSA retreat auction events went online this year. Dr. Gililand had a cinnamon roll baking class (pictured left) and PhD student Micah Mizukami had a holiday origami lesson (pictured right).

Department picture at SLSSA’s online graduation cooler.
SLS alumni – Dr. Anna Mendoza, Dr. Jay Tanaka, Mr. Samuel Aguirre, Ms. Amy Marquardt, Ms. Kumi Sweely, and Mx. Raquel Reinagel – shared their experience at the Thursday, December 3rd, 2020 Brown Bag session, organized by Ms. Victoria Lee, a current SLS master’s student. During the session, the six alumni shared their experience after graduating from the department and gave some tips on how to prepare for life after graduation. Below are some additional tips they had to share about their post-SLS experiences.

**Dr. Anna Mendoza**
2020 PhD
Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education, University of Hong Kong

SLS prepared me well for my position. Some examples: The job workshops by Dr. Crowther – ATTEND. The “how to publish,” “how to do a lit review,” “how to submit conference abstracts” etc. workshops by Dr. Gilliland – ATTEND. Collaborate with peers on publishable papers! Choose the assistantships that will help you get where you want to go after the PhD.

**Dr. Jay Tanaka**
2014 MA, 2019 PhD
Specially Appointed Associate Professor, Hokkaido University

For students now, I would suggest giving presentations at as many conferences as possible, and publish where you can (Check out Hawaii TESOL’s The Word). Department of SLS provides good academic and emotional support for people who challenge those things. I presented at many conferences during my time at SLS and that experience really helps me now.

**Ms. Amy Marquardt**
2018 MA

I am using my degree in every capacity of my day to day work. Everything from writing research and that process in order to apply for grants, to task-based language teaching, materials development, handling the stress of paperwork, the practical application organizing students and classes (gained through working with HELP and the ELI).

**Ms. Kumi Sweely**
2016 BA, 2018 MA
ESL Instructor, Institute of Intensive English

I would put more focus into your SP and apply to schools once you’re finished in order to land a job after you graduate. It’s better to graduate in the spring since most schools start their new school year in the fall. I already had a decent job before graduating and got lucky with the timing for the teaching position at the school. Having a relationship with a school can really help propel yourself into your career.

**Mx. Raquel Reinagel**
2016 BA, 2018 MA
English Teaching Fellow, Nazarbayev University

Set up a specific time each week where you look for jobs and fill out applications. Be efficient with your cover letters (i.e., don’t write a new one each time.) Your SP is important, but it could mean absolutely nothing to you once you enter the job market, so don’t put your whole life on hold for it.

**Mr. Samuel Aguirre**
2016 MA
Specially Appointed Associate Professor, Hokkaido University

My SLS area of concentration was Language Policy and Practice. During my time there, I worked with faculty in the College of Education, the Hawaii State Legislature, the Board of Education, and the Department of Education to pass policy oriented towards promoting multilingual/multicultural practices in the state’s K-12 public education system. Those experiences helped me in my later work at the Illinois State Board of Education.
SECOND LANGUAGE STUDIES WORKING PAPER
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Submitted by Dr. Dustin Crowther

The Department of Second Language Studies at University of Hawai’i at Mānoa publishes a biannual working paper called Second Language Studies. The publication is currently edited by Dr. Dustin Crowther, with an editorial board comprised of SLS PhD students Micah Mizukami, Thu Ha Nguyen, and Kristen Urada. Our most recent issue was published in September 2020, and featured an introduction to Multi-Ōlelo (Phung et al., 2020), one empirical study (Crowther et al., 2020), and a summary of recent SLS graduate works (theses and dissertations; Urada, 2020). The current and all previous issues of Second Language Studies can be accessed at the following link: https://www.hawaii.edu/sls/research/publications/sls-papers/. Our next issue will be published end of spring 2021, and we are looking for submissions on a range of themes, including, but not limited to:

- in-progress research, which may consist of pilot data, or focus on an early stage of data collection; scholarship directly relevant to Hawai‘i and the Asia-Pacific region that may not have a scholarly home elsewhere;
- needs analyses focused on language programs housed at the University of Hawai‘i and neighboring institutions; theoretical papers that address key issues in second language use, learning, and teaching; and
- reviews of second language studies textbooks, language learning textbooks, language teaching textbooks, language learning technology, language tests, etc.

Submission deadline for spring 2021 publication is March 31st, 2021. All submissions will undergo single blind review with a goal to develop submissions to publishable quality. You may submit your paper directly to Dr. Crowther (dcrowth@hawaii.edu).

In addition to accepting submissions for spring 2021, we are also looking for potential reviewers. If you are interested in reviewing for Second Language Studies, please contact Dr. Crowther (dcrowth@hawaii.edu) and provide your name and areas of research interest.

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