

University of Kansas

Department of Linguistics



Message from the Chair

2011 was a hectic but rewarding year for the department. An external review of our department, mandated by the Kansas Board of Regents, started with a self-study in the fall of 2010 and ended with a site visit by two external experts and one KU faculty member. The reviewers spent two days on campus and met with faculty, professional staff, graduate and undergraduate students, as well as the KU administration. The report issued by the reviewers was very positive and concluded that *“Given the vibrancy and current relevance of faculty and graduate student research, the department is well-positioned to play a visible role in the next generation of linguistic research.”*

To date, the most tangible results of the site visit and report include an upgrade in the position of Corinna Johnson, our Office Manager and sole administrative support person, and the approval to search for two new tenure-track faculty in Second Language Acquisition/Bilingualism and Syntax/Semantics, respectively. Campus visits for both positions will take place in the Spring 2012 semester. The addition of two new faculty will contribute both breadth and depth to our curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The timing is fortunate since our undergraduate enrollments continue to increase. We now have over 120 Linguistics majors and over 800 students take our introductory classes each year. The Syntax/Semantics

position also makes up for the move of Professor Sara Rosen; she was promoted to Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs in the summer of 2011 and no longer teaches for the department.

Speaking of personnel changes, Professor Harold Torrence took over as Director of Undergraduate Studies. This position had been held by Professor Joan Sereno for the past 5 years. During her tenure, Prof. Sereno oversaw an enormous increase in undergraduate enrollments and interest in Linguistics.

In the Spring of 2011, we also celebrated the promotions of Professors Alison Gabriele and Harold Torrence. Alison and Harold were both promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Professor Gabriele was on sabbatical leave in the Fall of 2011, conducting research on a range of projects on second language acquisition including a new study on the interpretation of bare nouns in Japanese as a second language and a new longitudinal ERP study on the processing of agreement in very early learners of Spanish. In the fall of 2011, there was again cause for celebration as Professor Joan Sereno was awarded the 2011-12 Budig Teaching Professorship in Social and Behavioral Sciences. Now in its second year, this award is given annually to a faculty member who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching.

Special points of interest:

WELCOME!

New Office Assistants —
Drew Anderson &
Lucy Daldorph

CONGRATULATIONS!

New Associate Professors—
Alison Gabriele &
Harold Torrence
**New Senior Vice Provost of
Academic Affairs—**
Sara Rosen

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Message from the Chair continued

You may have read that KU is in the process of implementing *Bold Aspirations*, the Provost's strategic 5-year plan. Among many things, this plan calls for a major overhaul of the undergraduate curriculum coupled with a severe reduction in the number of required general education courses as well as the formulation of a number of strategic initiatives focusing on major ideas where KU can "harness its unique assets to help make the world a better place". While it is too early to see exactly how the strategic plan will take shape, I am confident that the department has positioned itself such that it can both contribute to and benefit from these developments.



Allard Jongman

2011 Frances Ingemann Lecture—April 15th

Prof. Lila Gleitman, Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, delivered the fourth Frances Ingemann lecture on Friday, April 15th. The title of her talk was "When the shoe fits: How children learn what words mean" and the abstract is listed below:

"*Everybody*" knows that words are learned by observing the conditions for their use. So "shoe" would be acquired in case the parent says "shoe" in the presence of shoes. However, because adult talk to infants isn't a faithful running commentary on events and objects in view, this procedure should be wildly errorful. But it is not. According to *Everybody*, the learners succeed by storing multiple sound-situation pairs and then parsing out that which is common to all – or most – of them. So the correlation between hearing "rabbit" and seeing a rabbit will be better, across many scenes observed, than the correlation between hearing "rabbit" and seeing a frog. Just so. This theory goes back at least to John Locke, is formally modeled by many contemporary computer scientists, and is documented as well in lots of experiments by psychologists. Nevertheless, in this talk, I will argue that such a procedure (a) shouldn't, (b) doesn't, and (c) couldn't, work. In the first part of the talk I show that abstract words are necessarily learned by using other evidentiary sources, so even blind toddlers can say and understand "look" and "see." In the second part of the talk I present evidence showing that observational learning doesn't look "cross-situational" either, but more like one-trial flashes of insight. That's why children can learn 8 or 10 words a day, every day.



Faculty News

Prof. Robert Fiorentino continues to work on his NIH-funded project, *Timing and Neural Bases of Complex Word Recognition: Electrophysiological Studies*, and the NSF-funded project, *Examining Development and Ultimate Attainment in Second Language Processing: An ERP Investigation*, for which Profs. Fiorentino and Gabriele serve as Co-PI's. Prof. Fiorentino presented work with students and collaborators at a number of conferences, including the 2011 Neurobiology of Language Conference, the 2011 Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, the 2011 Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, the 36th Boston University Conference on Language Development, the 7th International Conference on Practical Linguistics of Japanese, and the 2011 Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting. Prof. Fiorentino presented an invited talk at the 7th International Morphological Processing Meeting in San Sebastián, Spain, where he also organized the symposium "Morphology and Cognitive Neuroscience." Profs. Gabriele, Minai, and Fiorentino also received NSF funding to support the 5th Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition North America conference (special theme: psycholinguistic and neurolinguistic approaches to language development), which will be held at KU in October, 2012.

Prof. Alison Gabriele continued her work on the second language acquisition of syntax and semantics. She published two journal articles, one co-authored with William McClure in *Language Acquisition* and one co-authored with graduate student Alonso Canales in *Lingua*. She also published a paper in the proceedings of the 11th *Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition* conference with graduate students Kristi Bond and José Alemán Bañón as well as Prof. Robert Fiorentino. With students José Alemán Bañón, Kristi Bond, Beatriz Lopez Prego, she presented at various conferences including Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing, the Boston University Conference on Language Development, the UIC Bilingualism Forum, Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition, and the Neurobiology of Language Conference. Both Profs. Alison Gabriele and Robert Fiorentino were invited to participate in a Department of Defense sponsored workshop on the Cognitive Neuroscience of Second Language Acquisition. Profs. Gabriele, Fiorentino, and Minai received funding from the National Science Foundation to host a special session on *Psycholinguistic and Neurolinguistic Approaches to Language Development* at the upcoming Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition-North America conference, which will be held at the University of Kansas in October 2012.

Prof. Allard Jongman published an article on the acoustics and perception of Arabic pharyngealization in the *Journal of Phonetics* with Prof. Joan Sereno and students Wendy Herd, Mohammad Al-Masri, and Sonja Combest. He also published an article on the acoustics and perception of English fricatives in *Psychological Review*, with Prof. Bob McMurray, reuniting with a former undergraduate student after some 15 years! Prof. Jongman presented his research at the Second Language Research Forum in Ames, Iowa (with Prof. Sereno and Lynne Lammers), at the fall meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in San Diego (with Prof. McMurray as well as with Prof. Sereno and Hyunjung Lee), and at the annual Neurobiology of Language Conference in Annapolis, MD (with Wendy Herd, Prof. Fiorentino, and Prof. Sereno). With graduate student Hyunjung Lee, he co-authored a paper on laryngeal distinctions in the non-tonal Seoul and tonal Kyungsang dialects of Korean which will appear in the *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*.

Faculty News continued

Prof. Utako Minai has co-authored articles accepted in *Journal of Child Language* and *Journal of Memory and Language*, both to appear in 2012. She has made several conference presentations, including a co-authored oral presentation with Yuka Naito-Billen and Prof. Fiorentino at the Seventh International Conference on Practical Linguistics of Japanese, a co-authored oral presentation at the 2011 Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition Conference, a co-authored oral presentation with Naoko Takami and a co-authored poster presentation at the 36th Boston University Conference on Language Development, and two co-authored poster presentations at the 2011 Neurobiology of Language Conference with Lamar Hunt III, Stephen Politzer-Ahles, Yuka Naito-Billen and Prof. Fiorentino. She has been awarded a New Faculty General Research Fund (NFGRF) grant at KU, and, with Co-PI's Prof. Robert Fiorentino and Prof. Alison Gabriele, a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) supporting the 2012 Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition North America conference, which will be held at KU with the special theme of "Psycholinguistic and Neuro-linguistic Approaches to Language Development."

Prof. Clifton Pye continues documenting the acquisition of the Mayan language Huastec/Teenek with Dr. Barbara Pfeiler (UNAM) and is working with Pedro Mateo (Harvard) on documenting the acquisition of Chuj Maya. He participated in the workshop "La adquisición de lenguas mayas en comparación" (Acquisition of Mayan Languages in Comparison) Dec 12-14 at UNAM, Mérida, Yucatán. He presented the paper "A Tale of Two Mam Speakers: Linguistic Processes of Language Loss" at the Fifth Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America at the University of Texas, October, 2011. An article on The Poverty of the Mayan Stimulus will appear in the *Journal of Child Language*.

Prof. Sara Rosen moved from her position as Dean of Graduate Studies to become Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs in the fall of 2011. As such, she reports to the Provost and coordinates various academic programs to enhance and support the academic mission. Unfortunately, Rosen's busy schedule precludes her from teaching.

Prof. Joan Sereno continues her research examining processing in second language learners as well as her research on Mandarin tone entitled *The contribution of speaking rate, talker and coarticulation to lexical tone processing: Effects of language background and training*, funded by a 3-year NSF grant. For this research, two Graduate Research students, Hyunjung Lee and Jiang Liu, traveled to China to collect perception data from over 200 native speakers of Mandarin. Prof. Sereno is also an Associate Editor of *Language and Speech*, on the Editorial Board of *Applied Psycholinguistics*, and was recently elected as a Member-at-Large of the *American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)*, Section Z (Linguistics and Language Sciences). Prof. Sereno presented her research at the Second Language Research Forum in Ames, Iowa (with Lynne Lammers, undergraduate Honors student), at the meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in San Diego (with Hyunjung Lee), and at the annual Neurobiology of Language Conference in Annapolis, MD (with Wendy Herd). In her final year as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Prof. Sereno saw the number of undergraduate majors increase to over 125. Prof. Sereno was also awarded the 2011-12 Budig Teaching Professorship in Social and Behavioral Sciences. Now in its second year, this award is given annually to a faculty member at KU who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching.

Faculty News continued

Prof. Harold Torrence has continued his work on Mixtec and co-authored a paper (with Dr. Ivano Caponigro and Carlos Cisneros of UC San Diego) which will be published in the *International Journal of American Linguistics*, titled “Free Relative Clauses in Two Mixtec Languages”. Prof. Torrence also co-authored a paper with Dr. Jason Kandybowicz (UT Arlington) on Krachi, an endangered North Guang language of Ghana. This paper, “How *Why* is different: Wh-in-situ in Krachi”, appears in the on-line journal *Snippets*. A paper, “Wolof Quantifiers”, by Torrence, KU Linguistics graduate student Khady Tamba and Dr. Malte Zimmermann (Potsdam University) will be published as chapter in an upcoming book *Quantification in Natural Language*. Prof. Torrence gave a talk, “Indefinite Pronouns and Wh-Expressions in Melchor Ocampo Mixtec” at the 4th Oklahoma Workshop on Native American Languages held in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and organized by KU Linguistics alumnus Brad Montgomery-Anderson. Prof. Torrence gave two talks with Dr. Jason Kandybowicz on Krachi. “Krachi Wh-in-Situ and the Grammar of Why” was presented at the Annual Conference on African Linguistics and “Krachi Wh-in-situ: A Question of Prosody” was given at the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics. At the annual conference of the Linguistics Association of the Southwest (LASSO), Prof. Torrence gave a talk with Dr. Ivano Caponigro and Carlos Cisneros called “Free Relative Clauses in Two Mixtec Languages”.

Prof. Jie Zhang continues his work on the productivity of tone sandhi patterns in Chinese dialects and has focused his attention on the interaction between tone sandhi and its syntactic conditioning as well as phonetic basis in Shanghai Wu this year. He presented the results on Shanghai at the Acoustical Society of America meeting in Seattle and the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in Portland. His work on Tianjin tone sandhi and tonal coarticulation appeared in *Phonetica*, and he presented these results at the annual meeting of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics in Tianjin, China. His earlier work on the mystery of the Taiwanese tone circle also appeared in print this year (*Lingua*), and additional experiments on Taiwanese tone sandhi are currently being conducted both at KU (with Hanbo Yan and Joleen Chu) and in Taiwan (with Yuwen Lai). He continues to work with graduate student coauthors on the pitch accent system of South Kyungsang Korean (Hyunjung Lee), the phonological representation of tone sandhi in Mandarin Chinese (Stephen Politzer-Ahles), and the interaction between voicing and tone in Shanghai (Hanbo Yan) and hopes to disseminate results in these studies at conferences and in journals in the near future.

2011-2012 GTA's

- ◆ Kelly Berkson—LING 106 & LING 305/705
- ◆ Jon Coffee—LING 325/725 & LING 312/712
- ◆ Philip Duncan—LING 110
- ◆ Sok-Ju Kim—LING 106
- ◆ Goun Lee—LING 106 & LING 435/735
- ◆ Jiang Liu—LING 106
- ◆ Maria Teresa Martinez-Garcia—LING 110
- ◆ Sally Ocampo—LING 106
- ◆ Zhiyan Zhang—LING 106

**Linguistics would like to hear from its
students and alumni!
Please send news about yourself to:
Linguistics@ku.edu**

Graduate Student News

Mujdey Abudaljuh presented his poster *An OT account for the spread of emphasis in Northern Rural Jordanian Arabic: The effect of morphology* at the 17th Mid-Continental Phonetics & Phonology Conference, held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Kelly Berkson received the 2011 Outstanding Thesis/Research Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for her M.A. thesis entitled *The nature of optional sibilant harmony in Navajo*.

Kristi Bond presented (with Jose Aleman Banon, Alison Gabriele, and Robert Fiorentino) a paper *Individual difference and the role of the L1 in L2 processing* at Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition, held at the University of Washington. Kristi also received the 2011 Graduate Student Research Competition Award in the Social Sciences and Education for her poster *An electrophysiological investigation of constraints on adult second-language acquisition of morphosyntactic processing*.

Alonso Canales traveled to Costa Rica for three weeks to collect data for his dissertation project entitled *Online processing of wh-movement in English by Spanish natives* and passed PhD Oral Comprehensive exam in Fall 2011.

Philip Duncan published *Noun classifier extension in Q'anjob'al (Mayan): Acquiring a gender stereotype* in the Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics, October 2011. Phil presented a number of papers at conferences, including *Blessing Israel: Constructing Pro-Israel support in Christian Zionist discourses* at the conference on Culture, Language, and Social Practice, University of Colorado at Boulder, October 2011; *Indefinite pronouns in Ajngáa Me'phaa* at the Oklahoma Workshop on Native American Languages, Northeastern State University, April 2011; *Critical Discourse Analysis and Indigenous Nations Studies: Two applications* at Indigenous Peoples' Monthly Brownbag, University of Kansas, April 2011; and *Analyzing dispensational discourses: Combining discourse-historical and sociocognitive approaches in Critical Discourse Analysis* at Discourse Brownbag Seminar, University of Kansas, February 2011. Phil also defended his MA thesis with honors, *Global Indigenous Nations Studies, Commemorating Israel, forgetting Palestine: Representation and remembering in dispensational discourses*, October, 2011, (Advisor: Arienne Dwyer)

Wendy Herd presented a poster at the spring 2011 meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in Seattle: *Perceptual and production training of Spanish intervocalic /r, d/ and tap*. She also presented *Emergent MMN response in Spanish learners as a result of high variability training* (with Robert Fiorentino, Allard Jongman, and Joan Sereno) at the Neurobiology of Language conference in Annapolis, MD. Wendy also published the paper *Acoustics and perception of emphasis in Jordanian Arabic* in the Journal of Phonetics (with Allard Jongman, Mohammad Al-Masri, Sonja Combest and Joan Sereno).

Adrienne Johnson was awarded FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) fellowships for Summer 2011 and Academic year 2011-2012 to study Korean.

Sok-Ju Kim published *Word order variables in Patzún Kaqchikel* in the Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics, October 2011. Sok-Ju passed PhD Oral Comprehensive exam in February 2011 and received support from the Doctoral Student Research Fund from Graduate Studies, University of Kansas, March 2011.

Hyunjung Lee presented two posters at the fall 2011 meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in San Diego: *Perceptual accommodation to rate, talker and context in Mandarin* (with Joan Sereno and Allard Jongman) and *Perception of initial stops in tonal and non-tonal Korean* (with Allard Jongman), for which she was awarded 2nd place in the Best Student Paper competition. In the summer of 2011, Hyunjung ran experiments in Beijing China; she also collected data for her dissertation in Seoul and Pusan, Korea, with support from the Doctoral Student Research Fund from Graduate Studies, University of Kansas.

Graduate Student News continued

Stephen Politzer-Ahles presented (with Robert Fiorentino, Xiaoming Jiang, and Xiaolin Zhou) posters at several conferences, including *Online processing of scalar implicatures in Chinese as revealed by event-related potentials* at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society in San Francisco and *Event-related potential investigation of scalar implicature processing using picture-sentence verification* at the Neurobiology of Language conference in Annapolis, MD. Steve also co-authored a poster (with Lamar Hunt III, Robert Fiorentino, and Utako Minai) *N400 is elicited by pragmatic as well as semantic anomalies: a visual-world study of scalar implicatures* at the Neurobiology of Language conference. Finally, Steve co-authored a poster (with Robert Fiorentino, Elena-Anda Popescu, and Mihai Popescu) *The role of morphological juncture identification in complex word processing: an MEG investigation* at the Society for Neuroscience conference in Washington DC.

Graduate Research Competition 2011

A whopping 8 Linguistics presentations were part of the 2011 Graduate Research Competition! Held on March 16th, Linguistics graduate students presented the following 7 posters in the Kansas Union Ballroom:

Mujdey Abudaljuh—Effects of gender on the production of emphasis in Jordanian Arabic: A sociophonetic study

Kristi Bond—An electrophysiological investigation of constraints on adult second-language acquisition of morphosyntactic processing

Wendy Herd—Training English learners of Spanish to perceive and produce intervocalic tap, stop, and trill

Hyunjung Lee—The perception of Korean initial stops in tonal and non-tonal dialects

Beatriz Lopez Prego—Gender and number agreement in L2 Spanish. “To default or not to default? That is the question”

Stephen Politzer-Ahles—Online processing of scalar implicatures in Chinese as revealed by event-related potentials

Breanna Steidley—The effect of background language and speaker differences on serial recall of aurally presented single-talker stimuli

In addition, **Kelly Berkson** gave a talk "The Nature of Optional Sibilant Harmony in Navajo" at this competition.

Undergraduate Student News

Lamar Hunt III presented a poster (with Stephen Politzer-Ahles, Robert Fiorentino, and Utako Minai) *N400 is elicited by pragmatic as well as semantic anomalies: A visual-world study of scalar implicatures* at the Neurobiology of Language conference in Annapolis, MD.

Undergraduate Research Symposium 2011

Lamar Hunt III presented his research at the 2011 Undergraduate Research Symposium held on April 2nd in the Kansas Union. His talk was entitled "An ERP study characterizing the time course of scalar implicature computation".

2011 Graduations — Congratulations!

Bachelor of Arts

MAJORS

- ◆ **Jamie Bost**
- ◆ **Emily Boullear**
- ◆ **Mallory Bowen**
- ◆ **Emilio Breyer**
- ◆ **Rebecca Cannon**
- ◆ **Molly Coon**
- ◆ **Caitlin Davies**
- ◆ **Nicholas Eastwood-Tallmon**
- ◆ **Staci Ford**
- ◆ **Anne Fluker**

- ◆ **Kate Hogan**
- ◆ **James Kuntzsch**
- ◆ **Robert Lewis**
- ◆ **Hannah Mazon**
- ◆ **Caitlin McCormick**
- ◆ **Alisa Miller**
- ◆ **Michelle Phillips**
- ◆ **Erin Williams**
- ◆ **Charles Williamson**

MINORS

- ◆ **Jennifer Byrne**
- ◆ **Abby Davenport**
- ◆ **Emily Heisserer**
- ◆ **Ashley O'Brien**
- ◆ **Danielle Sanders**

- ◆ **Emma Frosini**, (Honors), “Perceptual training of phoneme and phonemic cluster distinctions of Italian”, (Advisor: Allard Jongman)

Master of Arts

- ◆ **Abuduwaili Ayifu**, MA Exam
- ◆ **Kristi Bond**, “Investigating limitations on L2 acquisition: Individual difference and sensitivity to agreement violations in L2 Spanish”, (Advisors: Alison Gabriele & Robert Fiorentino)
- ◆ **Sarah Jean Coughlan**, MA Exam
- ◆ **Hiba Gharib**, “Transitivity alternations in Sorani Kurdish”, (Advisor: Clifton Pye)
- ◆ **Goun Lee**, “Acoustic characteristics of Korean fricatives and affricates”, (Advisor: Allard Jongman)
- ◆ **Jiang Liu**, “Durational properties of lexical stress and grammatical stress in Nanchang Chinese and their implications for tonal contrasts”, (Advisor: Jie Zhang)
- ◆ **Stephen Politzer-Ahles**, “Online processing of scalar implicatures in Chinese are revealed by Event-Related Potentials”, (Advisor: Robert Fiorentino)
- ◆ **Jeff Shouse**, “Cortical responses to familiar and novel orthographic systems”, (Advisor: Robert Fiorentino)
- ◆ **Breanna Steidley**, “The effect of background language and speaker differences on serial recall of aurally presented single-talker stimuli”, (Advisor: Allard Jongman)

Doctor of Philosophy

- ◆ **Rania Nayef Al-Aqarbeh**, “Finiteness in Jordanian Arabic: A semantic and morphosyntactic approach”, (Advisor: Clifton Pye).
- ◆ **Wendy Herd**, “The perceptual and production training of allophones and phonemes in L2 Spanish”, (Advisors: Allard Jongman & Joan Sereno). Wendy is currently an Assistant Professor in the English Department at Mississippi State University.

Welcome New Graduate Students!

- Hesham Aldamen**—Jordan—MA in Linguistics from Yarmouk University—Research: phonetics and phonology.
- Saad Aldosari**—Saudi Arabia—MA in Linguistics from the University of Kansas—Research: second language acquisition.
- Chih-Hsiang Hsieh**—Taiwan—BS in Life Science, Horticulture from National Taiwan University—Research: phonetics, neurolinguistics, and second language acquisition.
- Robert Lewis**—United States—BA in Linguistics from the University of Kansas—Research: morphology, syntax, Arabic, and Algonquian languages.
- Jie Liu**—China—MA in Applied Linguistics at Beijing Language and Culture University—Research: second language acquisition and syntax.
- Travis Major**—United States—BA in Linguistics and English from the University of Wisconsin—Research: syntax and Uyghur.
- Maria Teresa Martinez-Garcia**—Spain—MA in Linguistics from the University of North Texas—Research: second language acquisition and neurolinguistics.
- Kotoko Nakata**—Japan—MA in Japanese Pedagogy from the University of Kansas—Research: second language acquisition and neurolinguistics.
- Matt Orzulak**—United States—BA in Linguistics from the University of Kansas—Research: psycholinguistics.
- Mfon Udoinyang**—Nigeria—MA in Linguistics from Eastern Michigan University—Research: documentary linguistics.
- Hanbo Yan**—China—MA in Chinese Linguistics from Shanghai University—Research: phonetics, vowel changes, experimental linguistics and sociolinguistics.
- Wen-Chi Yeh**—Taiwan—MA in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language from National Chengchi University—Research: phonology.

2011 Budig Award

Sereno chosen as Budig Teaching Professor in Social and Behavioral Sciences

Prof. Joan Sereno was awarded the 2011-12 Budig Teaching Professorship in Social and Behavioral Sciences. Now in its second year, this award is given annually to a faculty member who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching. A former recipient of the Kemper Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching, Prof. Sereno is widely known as an outstanding teacher and advisor. Here is the official KU news release from September:

A linguistics professor who built enrollment in one of her classes from 15 to 200 is the 2011 recipient of the Budig Teaching Professorship in Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Kansas.

Joan Sereno, who has taught in the Department of Linguistics since 1999, was surprised with the award during the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences new faculty reception Sept. 9. Sereno will hold the title of Budig Teaching Professor for one year and will receive a \$5,000 research supplement.

2011 Budig Award continued

Sereno consistently obtains the highest student course evaluations in her department, which prides itself on excellent teaching. She teaches courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including the popular introductory course Language and the Mind (LING 110).

Enrollment in that course has increased tenfold in 10 years. The department also credits its recent growth in undergraduate majors in large part to Sereno and her popular course.

Knowing that the Language and the Mind course may be a student's only exposure to linguistics, Sereno appeals to students' existing knowledge about language and relates linguistic theories to that knowledge. One such example is "Rock Chalk Jayhawk," which does not rhyme for many, but rhymes for most Kansans. She uses the KU chant to illustrate linguistic issues such as dialectal differences within the same language and the social significance that such dialectal difference may entail.

Sereno has served as the director of undergraduate studies in linguistics since 2006. Since she arrived at KU nine years ago, the total of graduate and undergraduate advisory committees she has served on has reached a total of 80. She received a William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence in 2006.

The teaching professorship was established by a gift from former Chancellor Gene Budig and his wife, Gretchen. It is given annually to a department faculty member who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching.

Gene Budig was KU's chancellor from 1981 to 1994. He received the Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 1994 and the Distinguished Service Citation in 1997. He is a KU Endowment trustee. Gretchen Budig received the Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 2010. Since 1981, the Budigs have provided more than \$1 million to support areas across KU's campuses. Their gifts also have established two teaching professorships in social welfare; the Budig Teaching Professorship in Special Education; the Budig Teaching Professorship of Writing; the Budig Teaching Professorship in Education; and the Budig Distinguished Librarian Program.



Prof. Joan Sereno receives the Budig Award from Prof. Danny Anderson, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

2011-2012 Frances Ingemann Scholarship

Stephen Politzer-Ahles was the recipient of the Frances Ingemann Scholarship for the 2011-2012 academic year. This award, endowed by Prof. Ingemann, is given annually to an outstanding graduate student and considered the highest honor for Linguistics graduate students. Steve is a third-year graduate student who works with Prof. Robert Fiorentino.

Faculty Promotions

2011 Donors—THANK YOU!

- ◆ Marc Branham & Lori Sandholdt
- ◆ Elsy Cardona
- ◆ Frances Ingemann
- ◆ Mary Janzen
- ◆ Diane & James Mielke
- ◆ Cornelia Paraskevas
- ◆ Janice Price
- ◆ Kathleen Shea
- ◆ Gregory Stump
- ◆ Holly Storkel & Michael Vitevitch
- ◆ Christopher & Laura Wilhelm
- ◆ Dawn & John Williams

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