Welcome to the first Second Language Studies (SLS) newsletter! It’s hard to believe that it has been thirteen years since the first cohort of SLS students arrived in Wells Hall. During the ensuing years, the program has had numerous students graduating and moving on to new jobs around the world. Consequently, I thought that becoming the SLS interim director was a good opportunity to touch base with many of our alumni and friends to help them stay up-to-date on the latest news from their classmates and to find out about the new students and new SLS activities on campus.

As many of you know, I took over as interim director in September 2017, and although it has been a steep learning curve, I have enjoyed working with the SLS faculty and students to continue the excellent program that I inherited. In this newsletter, you will find information about new students, upcoming conferences, and other SLS-related activities.

We hope to send out a newsletter about once a semester, so if you have information you would like to have included, just let me know. Also, feel free to pass the newsletter along to anyone who might be interested.

Finally, the photo below shows our plaque for the 2018 Outstanding Graduate Program Community Award!

October 16th, 2018
Alumni news: “What’s up?”

Dr. Jennifer Behney ’11
Dr. Behney has been promoted to associate professor with tenure this year in Department of World Languages and Cultures, Youngstown State University, OH.

Dr. Talip Gonual ‘16
In Istanbul, Turkey, Dr. Gonual reunited with Dr. Shawn Loewen who gave a keynote speech at the 6th International Conference on New Trends in English Language Teaching and Testing (picture a).

Dr. Shaofeng Li ‘10
Dr. Li moved to Florida State University (from University of Auckland) this year and is currently associate professor in the Foreign and Second Language Education (FSLE) Program. There, he had a MSU reunion with another alumnus, Dr. Mostafa Papi ’16, who kindly sent their reunion picture (picture b).

Dr. Mostafa Papi, ’16
Dr. Papi just published a paper, Motivation as quality: Regulatory fit effects on incidental vocabulary learning, in Studies in Second Language Acquisition.

Dr. Lule Plonsky, ’11
During 2018 and 2019, Dr. Plonsky will deliver over 30 invited and referred presentations, including 7 plenaries and keynotes. He has also just published a chapter in Palgrave Handbook of Applied Linguistics Research Methodology, coauthored with Aek Phakiti, Peter De Costa, and Sue Starfield.

Dr. Jamie Thomas ’13
Dr. Thomas is currently working on her forthcoming single-authored book, Zombies Speak Swahili, to be published by Oxford University Press in 2019. With Cristina Jackson she is also editing a volume, Embodied difference: divergent Bodies in Public Discourse, upcoming from Lexington Books in 2019.

Dr. Amy Thompson ’09
Dr. Thompson, after 9 years at the University of South Florida, has been offered a Chair position in the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics at West Virginia University, WV. She is now appointed as Full Professor of Applied Linguistics.

Dr. Hyung-Jo Yoon ’17
In July, our alumni reunited in Seoul, South Korean (picture c). Dr. Yoon arranged the gathering. Dr. Charlene Polio, who gave a plenary at the Korean Association of Teachers of English conference at that time, also joined, as well as our alumnus Dr. Junkyu Lee ’09 and our current SLS students.
As the initial Director of the SLS program, I have been fortunate to have had the vantage point of seeing its exceptional progress from the first initial ideas of making the SLS at MSU a world-class Ph.D. program to seeing that dream become a reality. There were so many individuals who have been involved in making the SLS program a great success. The process of putting the program in place was a long and complicated one involving various levels of university and state approvals. The program would not be where it is today without the vision of two Deans of the College of Arts & Letters at MSU, Wendy Wilkins and Pat McConeghy. After a few years of planning, the program welcomed its first cohort of students in 2005 and first graduation in 2009. None of this would have happened without the exceptional faculty who have joined the program over the years and their incredible collaborative spirit. Their devotion to the program has been second to none and each one works tirelessly to support our students as they pursue their studies. The students are the bread and butter of the program and have built strong reputations in their own right. Many are tenured faculty at their institutions, some are and/or have been Chairs of their departments, and many are widely published with international reputations. A hallmark of the program shared by faculty and students alike is the willingness to be collaborative and to work together not only to further individual successes, but also with an eye on the collective good. This is what has allowed us to build a first-class Ph.D. program. I am honored and grateful to have been a part of these successes.


Patti Spinner and I are in the final stages of our book on using judgments in second language research (to be published in 2019 by Routledge). Alison Mackey and I continue to co-edit the Second Language Acquisition Research (SLAR) series as well as the series of Handbooks of interdisciplinary studies (SLA and x). In both of these series, our own faculty have books (Godfroid, Recording Eye Movement in Second Language Research; Polio, Handbook on SLA and writing; Winke, The Routledge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition and Language Testing). If time permits, I would like to embark on a book that details the history of SLA research, but that is a far-off project. And, then, of course, is precious time that I anticipate having with my grandchildren, Samuel Zemon, Jonah Silver, and Gabriel Robert.

September 25th, 2018

SLRF 2018: Who from MSU?

The Second Acquisition Research Forum 2018 is quickly approaching. This year, the conference will hosted by University of Quebec in Montreal (The Université du Québec à Montréal: UQAM). From the SLS program, we have 11 students and 5 professors presenting at the conference:

**Dr. Shawn Loewen**
*Motivation and persistence in app-based foreign language learning* on Day 1 (2:45-2:45pm) in Room DS-M220

**Dr. Peter De Costa**
*Engineering students’ academic socialization through the collaborative writing: A Vygotskian perspective* Co-presenting with Jongbing Lee and Wendy Li on Day 2 (11:15-11:45am) in Room R-R160
Dr. Aline Godfroid
Validating implicit and explicit L2 knowledge measures: A research synthesis. Co-presenting with Kathy Minhye Kim, Bronson Hui, and Daniel Isbell on Day 3 (11:45-12:15pm) in Room DS-R340.

Dr. Paula Winke, Dr. Susan Gass, and Lizz Huntley
Dr. Winke has a presentation in a colloquium, Observations of the “Attention Spike” during Arabic learners’ captioned-video watching: An eye-tracking study on vocabulary learning on Day 1 in Room DS-R510

Irina Zaykovskaya
“Mouse likes cheese – it's her favorite dish”: Does L1 gender affect the L2 English reference system? on Day 2 (12:45-1:15pm) in Room DS-2520.

Jongbong Lee and Myeongeun Son
Simultaneous attention to form and meaning: An eye-tracking study and conceptual replication on Day 2 (2:45-3:15pm) in Room R-R160.

Stella (Xuehong) He
Working memory, presentation formats and learning L2 Chinese words: Exploring learner-internal and external factors on Day 3 (11:45-12:45pm) in DS-1540

Kathy Minhye Kim
When we are asleep: Investigating sleep-dependent consolidation of L2 grammar knowledge. Co-presenting with Dr. Kimberly Fenn (MSU Psychology) on Day 2 (10:00-10:45am) during Poster Sessions.

Jin Soo Choi
Effect of task complexity on L2 speech production: Looking inside comprehensibility and linguistic features on Day 1 (2:15-2:45pm) in Room DS-R340.

Bronson Hui
Processing automaticity in novel word learning on Day 3 (11:45-12:15pm) in DS-R340.

Wendy Li, Jongbong Lee, and Dr. Peter De Costa
Navigating the language socialization path of new international students: A nexus analysis mediated discourse perspective on Day 2 (11:45-12:15pm) in Room DS-2585.

Dr. Ryo Maie
Beyond boundaries: Combining methodological approaches to acquisition of explicit and implicit knowledge under an incidental condition. Co-presenting with Robert DeKeyser (University of Maryland) on Day 3 (12:15-12:45pm) in Room DS-R340.

Magdalyne Oguti
Sensitivity of L2 learners to semantic information when marking grammatical gender in Swahili and Zulu on Day 2 (11:15-11:45am) in Room DS-4375.

Dmitrii Pastushenkov and Bronson Hui
Finding evidence for implicit learning of L2 Russian grammar: How far can learners go? on Day 3 (3:45-4:15pm) during Poster Sessions.

**SLRF2019 at MSU**
As many SLS people are aware, the 39th Second Language Research Forum: Advancing Transdisciplinary Research will be hosted by us, Michigan State University. This is the fourth time that the program will host the conference (previous ones: 1992, 1997, and 2009), and the dates have already been set for September 19-22, 2019.

Upon hosting one of the most notable conferences in the field of second language research, the SLS Newsletter interviewed the conference co-chairs, Caitlin Cornell (CC hereafter) and Matt Kessler (MK hereafter).

1. Can you tell us the back-story of what motivated to host SLRF 2019?
CC & MK: Several of the 2017 SLS cohort attended SLRF 2017 hosted by OSU. There, we learned from Paula Winke more about what goes into hosting the conference. A lightbulb went off for Caitlin in this moment, and she knew that with a large but tight-knit cohort leading the charge we could pull off a really great event. She rallied the troops, prepared a pitch, and the group presented to the director Shawn Loewen its intention to submit a bid to host SLRF 2019.
Led by the co-chairs, the cohort worked on its bid proposal from October 2017 to May 2018. When we were awarded SLRF 2019, Caitlin and Matt got to work immediately putting plans in motion, including appointing important roles among those members of the cohort who wished to remain integral to the process and getting started on the conference website. For example, Bronson Hui was tasked with assembling a team to handle the review of proposals for the conference. We are currently working on efforts to promote SLRF 2019 at this year’s SLRF in Montreal later this month. The current SLRF team has been helpful in arranging some space for us at their event.

2. Can you tell us about goals you two have for hosting SLRF?

CC: As the goal of SLRF 2019 is to foster dialogue among disciplines within SLA, we have designed SLRF to be maximally inclusive. Since SLA is a relatively young field, the SLRF 2019 theme of Advancing Transdisciplinary Research places specific emphasis on diversity and bringing together different disciplines, methodologies, and epistemologies. We chose a theme that is interesting on its own, but also allows for variation and diversity.

MK: There is a lot of great research being done across different subdomains of SLA. Since SLRF is a graduate/student-run conference, I think it’s especially important for students and scholars-in-training to be exposed to different approaches and different types of research. All too often, we become entrenched in our specific research silos, where we only consider one specific aspect of SLA. However, some times, other people’s work—in a different area—can tell us something interesting about our own work, and change or inform how we move forward.

3. What special things about SLRF 2019 (at MSU) can you tell us?

CC & MK: We can’t now! We have to keep a tight lid on SLRF developments for now. We will let the launch of the website speak for itself (when it is ready).

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**SLRF 2019**

- **Date**
  September 19-22, 2019

- **Location**
  The Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, Michigan State University, MI

- **For general inquiry**
  Contact Caitlin Cornell and Matt Kessler
  slrf2019@sls.msu.edu

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Caitlin Cornell earned her MA from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has taught English and trained teachers since 2007 and completed two fellowships with the U.S. State Dept. ELF program. She serves as co-chair of SLRF 2019 and as graduate representative for the Accessible Learning Conference. In 2018, she interned with the EL and Accessibility Specialist at the Michigan Department of Education. She teaches LLT 307: Methods of Language Teaching. Her interests include CALL, online learning, accessible learning (e.g., for language learners with disabilities), and U.S. language policy.

Matt Kessler is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Second Language Studies program. Prior to joining SLS, Matt taught English in Thailand through a Fulbright grant, and before that, as an adjunct for Ohio University’s English Language Improvement Program. Matt earned his B.A. in English and M.A. in applied linguistics from Ohio University. Now at MSU, he currently teaches LLT 306: Adult Language Teaching Methods. His research interests include L2 writing, genre, and computer-assisted language learning.
Welcome to SLS! Our New Cohort

In Fall 2018, we welcomed seven new students to SLS program (picture d). In the picture, from left to right:

**Lee Her** is a recipient of the MSU university distinguished fellowship and has experience teaching English abroad in Thailand. She received her MA in TESOL from San Jose State University and a BA in literature from UC Santa Cruz. Her research interests include learner and teacher identity, learner motivation and intercultural communication particularly within the Hmong community.

**Curtis Green-Eneix** earned his MA in TESOL at the University of Arizona and his BA in English focusing on Linguistics at Boise State University. He is a McNair Scholar and Fellow who has taught English for academic purposes at the University of Arizona. Currently, he is assisting Dr. De Costa with research. His research interest includes teacher development, interactionist approaches, teacher and student identity (re)construction, positionality, critical discourse analysis, mobility and education, and refugee/immigrant perspectives into language and content learning.

**Yingzhao Chen** received her MA in Second Language Acquisition from the University of Maryland and her BA in English Language and Literature from Sun Yat-sen University in China. Prior to joining the program, she worked as an EFL teacher in Beijing. Her research interests include instructed SLA, implicit and explicit learning, and second language processing.

**Özgehan Uştuk** is a third-year Ph.D. candidate at Dokuz Eylül University-Turkey. He is a Fulbright visiting student/researcher at MSU-SLS program in 2018-2019 academic year working on his dissertation about EFL teacher development. He holds two MAs, first in theatre pedagogy and second in English language teaching. He is a research assistant at Balikesir University in Turkey. He also runs an NGO called Teachers for the Future organizing Erasmus+ projects on professional development for disadvantaged EFL teachers. His research interests include drama/theatre in education, EFL teacher development and education, teacher cognition, and emotions.

**Yerahm Choung** joined the SLS program with a Fulbright scholarship. She earned her BA and MA in English Language Education from Seoul National University. Her research interests include corpus linguistics, second-language (L2) learners' writing, and cultural and individual issues in second-language acquisition and learning.

**Ryo Maie** received a B.A. in English and Language Sciences from Kanda University of International Studies, Chiba, Japan, and M.A. in Second Language Acquisition from University of Maryland, College Park. He started his academic study in linguistics and cognitive psychology, and his current research interests include second language cognition, explicit and implicit learning, usage-based and cognitive linguistics approaches to language development, and task-based language teaching.

**Wenyue Melody Ma** received her MA in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from Michigan State University and then joined the SLS program in the Fall of 2018. Before her MA studies, she worked as an intern at Disney English in China. She has been doing research on second language assessment including proficiency tests and assessing writing. Currently she is a graduate research assistant working at Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA).