



SLS Newsletter

What Is the SLS Newsletter?

The SLS Newsletter brings you news about our faculty, students, and alumni all over the world.

Weekly Digest

We also organize a weekly email digest of SLA-related items. You can subscribe to it at <http://sls.msu.edu/resources/sl-weekly-digest/>

SLS Events

We have a calendar for organized events on campus. Go to <http://sls.msu.edu/events1/> to see what is up with us!

Want More?

More information about our program, research, faculty, students, and alumni can be found on our website. Go to: <http://sls.msu.edu/>

Unsubscribe?

If you no longer wish to receive SLS Newsletter, please contact *Dmitrii Pastushenkov* pastushe@msu.edu



In This Issue

- Happy Summer! 1
- SLS Graduates 2019 2
- SLRF is Coming to MSU! 4
- Spring 2019 Highlights 5

Happy Summer!

Professor Shawn Loewen

I know it's a cliché, but it's hard to believe that another academic year has come to an end! In my second year as SLS director, I was able to build on my experiences of the previous year and do more than just stay afloat. In fact, we had a very busy year.

Due to the MSU Graduate School's 2018 'Outstanding Graduate Program Community Award,' the SLS program was able to sponsor several additional events, including guest appearances by Nick Ellis (for Coffee and Cognition), Phillip Hamrick (for Donuts and Distributions), and virtual presentation by Lia Plakans and Khaled Barkaoui (for Testing and Tasting). In addition, the Applied Scholarship reading group met throughout the year.

A first for the SLS and MATESOL programs was our day-long, faculty curriculum retreat at the Idea Vault in Lansing. We had very helpful feedback from students about our LLT courses, and we have made some adjustments for the future.

I'm also happy to report that we have nine excellent students joining us in August 2019. Look for more details about them in the next newsletter.

So thanks to all of you for such a great year. I feel very fortunate to have wonderful students and faculty to make the SLS program truly outstanding. Have a great summer in East Lansing or wherever your travels take you!



SLS Graduates 2019

Dr. Dan Isbell

“I had a fantastic time in the SLS program - this might sound crazy, but if I had to spend four more years doing research, teaching LLT courses, and working in the ELC Testing Office at MSU, I wouldn't be upset at all. One particularly fond memory was the 2017 AAAL conference in Portland. Aside from giving and hearing talks, there was great turn out from current SLS students and faculty as well as alumni. The SLS dinner at Deschutes and karaoke night showed that academia has time for fun, too! Despite all the good times as an SLS student, it's time for me to move on to new things. This fall I will join the English department at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (or "Cal Poly" for short). Research-wise, I am really looking forward to the project I have brewing with SLS alum Junkyu Lee - we are planning to extend and expand some of my dissertation research to look at comprehensibility and intelligibility in L2 Korean.”

Dr. Susie Kim

“The most memorable moment of my time here in the SLS program for me was the dinner at AAAL 2017 in Portland, Oregon. More than 60 students, alumni, and faculty gathered and had a blast. I really felt that I belonged to a community full of great people. I look forward to continuing research collaborations with the SLS people and exploring what the future has in store for me. Starting this fall, I will be working as a Lecturer in Korean in the Department of East Asian Studies at Princeton University. As I move on to this next chapter of my life and look back over the past five years, I am thankful for every (unexpected) experience and opportunity that came my way to enrich and season me. Life as a graduate student can sometimes portray a bleak picture, and so I am glad to have been part of this wonderful SLS community that supports all its members to finish strong.”



SLS Graduates 2019

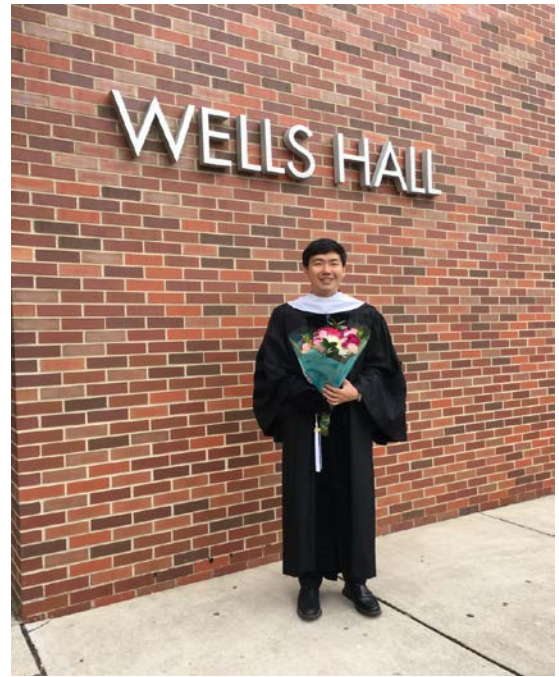
Dr. Jongbong Lee

“I am very grateful for the training and support that I received from the SLS program. While in this program, I took different classes, taught two classes, went to different conferences, and published my work. Attending this program was also a great opportunity for me to interact with faculty members, cohorts, and friends as we collaborated research and exchanged feedback on each other’s work. Our program is such a great and inspiring place, not to mention that it is the best-known place to do second language acquisition research. Even after my graduation, I will not forget all of the wonderful experiences I had in this program.”

Dr. Irina Zaykovskaya

“Five years ago, when I came to the program, I was already a linguist, but I had no background in SLA whatsoever and it’s amazing how much I was able to learn in that short period of time and to be able to teach classes on the subject, as well as do research and publish. While the classes were an obviously important part of my learning trajectory, simply having the chance to observe other people’s research and work and learning from the community in general has been even more valuable.

To be honest, most favorite moment was my dissertation defense. I had been away from MSU for a year prior to it, and there was only one person from my cohort, but a lot of other people came to support me, as well. I am not picking this memory because it’s my personal achievement but, rather, because it illustrates the communal nature of the program – it felt like family. Among my most immediate plans are the publishing of the results of my dissertation and some of the prior studies I had done but hadn’t had a chance to publish. I am also planning to start a YouTube channel in which I will be talking about SLA in Russian, because this area of research is virtually nonexistent in Russia, while languages are definitely taught and learned – and there’s a huge demand for accessible knowledge in that area; I view this endeavor as an opportunity to give back to the community in which I grew up.”



SLRF is Coming to MSU!

An update from the co-chairs of SLRF 2019,
Caitlin Cornell and Matt Kessler,
AKA “Cat and Matt”

The Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) will return to MSU September 19-22, 2019. This is the fourth time that the SLS program will host the conference (MSU also hosted in 1992, 1997, and 2009).

The co-chairs have added several new and interesting components to their iteration of the SLRF conference. Following its push toward inclusivity which began with the designation of a transdisciplinary theme, Caitlin has been exploring ways to make the conference more accessible to graduate students. For example, we will be implementing a formal mentorship opportunity for student participants. Irina Zaykovskaya is spearheading our effort to link graduate students with established scholars in the field. Matt is heading the effort to include travel grants for students attending from economically disadvantaged areas of the world. Finally, we are pursuing a “green” conference, with an aim for “zero waste.” We have asked the conference venue to cut down on catering waste such as plastic drinking straws (available only upon request) and we are piloting a virtual-presentation option to reduce our overall carbon footprint by cutting down on some participants’ air travel.

Thanks to help from the abstract team (Bronson Hui [lead], Jin Soo Choi, Melody Ma, & Xiaowan Zhang), the review process is complete and we are moving forward with the scheduling of talks. Be on the lookout for social events, too: rumor has it that, in addition to an opening reception, there will also be a brewery crawl, a golf outing, and maybe even a comedy slam.



Caitlin Cornell



Matt Kessler

For more information about the schedule as it unfolds, visit the official conference website (<http://slrf2019.sls.msu.edu/>). Connect with SLRF on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SLRF2019>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/SLRF2019>) to receive the latest updates.

SLRF 2019

● **Date:**

September 19-22, 2019

● **Location:**

The Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center,
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

● **For general inquiries:**

Contact Caitlin Cornell and Matt Kessler
slrf2019@sls.msu.edu

Spring 2019 Highlights

Dr. Paula Winke

Paula Winke is now serving on a National Academy of Sciences ad hoc committee to advise the Foreign Service Institute on foreign language proficiency testing. The committee is meeting at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington DC four times during the 2019 calendar year. The end product will be a book on current considerations in the design of high-stakes, standardized, foreign language proficiency testing across multiple languages, which will be published by the National Academies Press. The project website is [here](#).

On the right is a picture of Paula (after an early evening run post meeting) at the Einstein Memorial outside of the National Academy of Sciences building on the National Mall in Washington DC.

Also, Paula Winke, Shinhye Lee, Hyung-Jo Yoon, Jieun Irene Ahn, Ina Choi, and Yaqiong Cui's 2018 *TESOL Quarterly* paper "The cognitive validity of child English-language tests: What young language learners and their native-speaking peers can reveal" has been nominated by the *TESOL Quarterly* Editorial Board for the AAAL 2019 Research Article of the Year award. A decision will be made by AAAL later this year. Congratulations to Paula, Shinhye, Hyung-Jo, Irene, Ina, and Yaqiong for being nominated! You can see their video abstract [here](#).



Spring 2019 Highlights

Dr. Aline Godfroid

Aline Godfroid is the recipient of the 2019 TESOL Award for Distinguished Research. The award was granted by the TESOL organization for her work with the SLS students' study "[Incidental vocabulary learning in a natural reading context: An eye-tracking study.](#)" which was published in *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*. The article was selected by the organization as the best TESOL-related, empirical research article appearing in 2018.



Jungmin Lim

It has been another successful year for Jungmin with her recent publication in *Assessing Writing*:

Lim, J. (2019). An investigation of the text features of discrepantly-scored ESL essays: A mixed methods study. *Assessing Writing*, 39, 1-13.

Jungmin was also awarded the Ruth Crymes TESOL Fellowship for Graduate Study and the NFMLTA/MLJ Dissertation Support Grant by the National Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (NFMLTA).



Kathy Minhye Kim

Kathy Kim has received an 18K National Science Foundation Grant for her dissertation "Exploring the Interface of Implicit and Explicit Second-Language Knowledge: A Longitudinal Perspective." Kathy also received a Laura Bassi Scholarship by Editing Press and a Dissertation Support Grant by NFMLTA/MLJ.



Spring 2019 Highlights

Dmitrii (Dima) Pastushenkov

Dmitrii was awarded a Cultures and Languages across the Curriculum Fellowship in Undergraduate Teaching and Learning with the MSU Residential College in the Arts and Humanities for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Lizz Huntley

For the past two years, when not reading articles and working on her qualifying research papers, doctoral student Lizz Huntley has been collaborating on an elementary Arabic textbook. The fruits of her weekend labors will finally pay off this July, when Routledge will release [“Arabiyyat al-Naas fii MaSr \(Part One\): An Introductory Course in Arabic.”](#) The textbook integrates Egyptian colloquial Arabic with Modern Standard Arabic. For Huntley, this project has been inspired by her own experiences as a student of Arabic, as a study abroad coordinator in Egypt, and as an instructor of the language.

Ryo Maie

Ryo’s new publication is coming soon:

Maie, R. & Salen, B. (in progress). Blustery with an occasional downpour: An analysis of target discourse in media weather forecasts. In M. J. Ahmaidan & M. H. Long (Eds.), *The Cambridge handbook of task-based language teaching*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

