

Ling News

FALL/WINTER ISSUE

JANUARY 21, 2009

Not just for Free Food.....

By Chris Hsieh

Having been the colloquium organizer for a semester, I really appreciate every one's participation in Fall 2008 Colloquium Series in Linguistics. In Fall 2008, we had as speakers: Dr. Morris Halle (MIT), Dr. Valentine Hacquard (UMD), and Dr. Lila Gleitman (UPenn). I hope every one enjoyed these talks, and people who had appointments with these speakers also benefited a lot from the discussions.

Within a limited budget on the honorariums for speakers, William, Catalina and we the colloquium committee have been trying to invite people from more places other than the New England area. We really thank these speakers for coming to UConn. In addition, we also thank William, Jon and Dr. Letty Naigles for assisting us in hosting the speakers. Last but not the least, I sincerely thank Jungming, Lyn, Ting, Zhanna, and Irina for picking up the food and arrange the colloquium dinner.

Linguistic Colloquia provide opportunities for people in the department to get together and for us UConn linguists to exchange thoughts with linguists in other places. Most important of all, they also provide the opportunities for us students to have discussions with the speakers and get new stimuli from the discussion. Everyone participated in the selection of the speakers for the colloquia, and we believe, when you vote for someone, there must be something (in linguistics) you would like to discuss with him/her. The speakers are very willing to meet students and contribute what they know to help students. We would be very happy to see people automatically sign up the appointment sheet and discuss what we want to discuss with the speaker.

Linguistic colloquia are more than enjoying the talks and having free food. They are valuable opportunities for everyone to benefit from other people's thoughts.

The dates and the speakers for the linguistic colloquia in Spring 2009 are as follows. We look forward to every one's participation in the colloquia.

02/13/2009: Dr. Karin Stromswold (Rutgers): Dr. Karin Stromswold is a professor in Rutgers psychology. Her research areas include: normal and abnormal language acquisition, genetics of language and language disorders, functional Neuro-imaging studies of language, language processing by children and adults, perinatal factors affecting language development (<http://ruccs.rutgers.edu/~karin/stromswold.html>)



Dr. Valentine Hacquard (UMD)

Important Days

Spring semester starts: Jan 27, 2009

Spring Break: March 6 -14, 2009

Last day for tax return filing to be received: April 15, 2009

Final Exam begins: May 1, 2009

Ling News

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Colloquium *continued from page 1*

03/20/2009: Dr. Paul Portner (Georgetown): Dr. Paul Portner graduated from UMass Linguistics in 1992 and now is a professor in Georgetown Linguistics. His research focus on natural language semantics. The topics he works on include: clausal types, mood and modality, tense and aspect, and information structure.
(<https://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/portnerp/>)

03/27/2009: Dr. Howard Lasnik (UMD): Dr. Howard Lasnik graduated from MIT Linguistics in 1972 and then served in UConn Linguistics and UMD Linguistics. He is now a professor in UMD Linguistics. His research Includes: syntactic theory; logical Form; learnability.

04/10/2009: Dr. David Embick (UPenn): Dr. David Embick graduated from UPenn Linguistics in 1997 and is now an associate professor the department of UPenn Linguistics. His research areas covers: syntactic theory, Distributed Morphology, syntax/morphology and syntax/semantics Interface. In addition to linguistic theories, he also works on language typology (Native American Linguistics) and the interface between cognitive Science and Linguistics.
(<http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~embick/home.html>)



The Banquet at GALANA3

04/17/2009: Dr. Maria Polinsky (Harvard): Dr. Maria Polinsky is a professor in Harvard Linguistics. Her research includes: Language universals and their explanation, comparative syntactic theory, the expression of information structure in natural language, incomplete acquisition (heritage languages), Austronesian languages (esp. Malagasy, Maori) and languages of the Caucasus (esp. Tsez, Kabardian).
(<http://scholar.iq.harvard.edu/mpolinsky>)

Tax Return

By Pei-Jung Kuo

I would like to recommend a website where you can find detailed/step by step descriptions which can help you to file your tax return: <http://www.utexas.edu/international/taxes/>. They haven't updated the website yet, so it still shows the year for 2007 tax filing. But you should come back later to check the update. You can also download all the necessary forms, instructions and samples from this website. I find it very useful!

Another important point to remind my colleagues of is to not forget to file your educational expenses. When we receive a scholarship or fellowship, we get tax deduction from that too. But if you spend this money on educational expenses such as university fees, books, computers etc., you can get the tax that you have paid back as long as you remember to mention it in your tax return. You can also find instructions about this on the above website. Have a happy tax return filing! ☺

Johnny's Babies

By Johnny Cheng



Andrew is riding a toy horse in a service area on highways in Taiwan.



Allison's first time as a flower girl in a wedding

Love



What? I like straws. It's better than pacifiers.



Do I look like a Japanese dolly or what?



Allison: Mama, can I take this tricycle back to the States?
Mama: Of course not..



DEPARTMENT OF
LINGUISTICS, UNIVERSITY
OF CONNECTICUT

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Linguistics Rules!



Fall Miscellanea

By **Whoever Contributes**

Crawford, Jean, and Hirsch, Christopher. 2008. Sesotho passives: Evidence for Maturation. Paper presented at the 3rd Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition North America (GALANA), Storrs, CT, September 5, 2008.

Crawford, Jean. 2008. Sesotho passives: The long and short of it. Paper presented at the 33rd annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, November 2, 2008.

Crawford, Jean. 2008. Student coordinator for the GALANA conference, Storrs CT

Takahashi, Masahiko 2008. Case-valuation, Phasehood, and Nominative/Accusative Conversion in Japanese. Presented at the 39th Annual Meeting of the North Eastern Linguistic Society (NELS-39), Cornell University, Ithaca.

Takahashi, Masahiko 2008. Acquisition of Japanese Passives and the Role of Felicity. Presented at UConn-UMass-Smith Language Acquisition Workshop (December).

Vaxman, Alexandre L. 2008. Clusters and the onset. In Blaho, S., C. Constantinescu & E. Schoorlemmer (eds.), Proceedings of Console XV. Available online at <http://www.sole.leidenuniv.nl>

Want to Have Some Fun?

By **Pei-Jung Kuo**

I admit that sometimes Storrs is not so exciting, so it becomes a frequent task for people to try to have some fun here. Having studied here for almost five years, I learned some ways to keep my social life active.

First, you can find a lot of activities at SUBOG. The website is: <http://www.subog.uconn.edu/>. Though a lot of time you see a bunch of undergraduates there (some of them may even be your students), these events are in fact open to everyone. The two that I like most there is Late Night and two-dollars movie watching. Late Night is usually held on Friday night, and there is a variety of different free things there.

I like to 'stuff-your-own-bear' since I can get a free puffy animal like a Husky! As for the movies, they are usually quite new. Some of the old ones are even shown for free. Simply check the website for the program and the showing dates!

Second, I also like to watch some performances with my colleagues at Jorgensen center (<http://jorgensen.uconn.edu/>) or Connecticut Repertory Theatre (<http://www.crt.uconn.edu/>). The tickets for students are really cheap (less than 10 dollars each) and you can get very good seats. For example, this semester they have National Acrobats of China and Russian National Ballet. You'd better get the tickets now if you want to watch them!



The Ice Cream Husky,
My dog 'Eddy' from Late Night, and me