

- Recent Happenings
- Brown Bag Series
- Conferences 2009:
AAAL and TESOL
- Faculty Watch
- Social Events

Your accomplishments are important to all of us in the program. Let everyone know about them. Send your information to Bethany Gray at Bethany.Gray@nau.edu

If you have news that you'd like to share with others in our program, please let GSAAL know. Send your news to Elena Poltavtchenko at ep99@nau.edu

Congrats! The GSAAL wholeheartedly congratulates this semester's graduates:

MA students - Ahmed Al-rhabi, Loisann Francis, Staci Hauschild, Liudmila Sidorova, Anastasia Duk, KumYoung Chang, Ali Yaylali, Jessica Davis, Betsy Buford, Dawn Beeker, Jackie Belknap, Jianing Liu, and Kirsten Novo;

PhD students - Gina Iberri-Shea, Brad Horn, Kornwipa Poonpon, YouJin Kim, Jingjing Qin, Jack Grieve, Angkana Tongpoon, Eun Hee Jeon, and Reiko Komiyama.

We wish all of you all the best and hope you will keep in touch. We also would like to remind everyone to come and celebrate at the end-of-the-spring-semester POTLUCK party. *Place:* Kiwanis Park. *Date:* May 7th. *Time:* 2:00-4:00pm.

Recent Happenings

Journal club

by Tony Becker

The Journal Club enjoyed another successful semester, largely due to the efforts of the discussion leaders: Bethany Gray, Jonathan Smart, and Tony Becker.

Bethany Gray led a thoughtful discussion of Ruhlemann (2009), *A Register Approach to Teaching Conversation: Farewell to Standard English?*, which, through analyses of corpora, challenged the notion of Standard English.

Meanwhile, Jon Smart prompted considerations for the utility of learner corpora, in an article by Gilquin, Granger, and Paquot (2007) titled, *Learner corpora: The missing link in EAP pedagogy*. Jon led us to consider the contributions of corpora in language teaching, particularly how learner corpora can inform second language instruction and materials design.

Finally, Tony Becker covered Zhao and Llosa (2008), *Voice in high-*

stakes L1 academic writing assessment: Implications for L2 writing instruction. From this article, discussions of how to actually assess voice arose, as well as the criteria that could be included in rubrics to assess it.

We encourage your participation in the Journal Club for next semester and offer many thanks to all those who came out to participate in the discussions.



Linguists joke

By Elena Poltavchenko

A mouse is in his mouse hole and he wants to go out to get something to eat, but he's afraid there might be a big cat outside, so he puts his ear by the opening and all he hears is "Bow Wow" so he thinks, "Well, there can't be a cat out there because there's a big old dog", so he goes out of his mouse hole and is promptly caught and eaten by a cat, who licks his lips and says "It's good to be bilingual!!"

Brown Bag Series

By Elena Poltavchenko

In her brown bag presentation entitled "The Many Faces of Corpus Linguistics", Dr. Randi Reppen introduced the notion of corpus-based methodology and dis-

cussed the use of corpora in research examining language development, language processing, and language teaching.

The talk covered such topics as effect of tasks on linguistic features, using

corpus findings to inform syllabi and course materials, and involving learners in activities exploring corpora. The presenter also shared a list of resources that are of interest to students wishing to conduct corpus-based research.

Conferences 2009 - AAAL and TESOL

By Reiko Komyama

NAU is well represented this year! Yes, both at AAAL and TESOL this spring, familiar faces from NAU were frequently seen as presenters and in the audience. Despite the snow storm that hit Denver, we had a wonderful time sharing our work, learning about recent research accomplishments in Applied Linguistics, and developing a professional network. Some were also actively involved in job interviews, while others enjoyed reuniting with NAU MA and Ph.D. graduates. It surely was a great experience for us all!

AAAL

- Bethany Gray
Title: Demonstrative Determiners and Pronouns as Cohesive Devices
- Dongmei Cheng & Cui Zhang
Title: Linguistic features associated with Chinese EFL learners' argumentative writing.
- Jingjing Qin
Title: The Analysis of

Toulmin Elements in Chinese University EFL argumentative Writing

- Mansoor Al-Surmi
Title: Function and Discourse Relation of Lexical Bundles in American Newspapers: The Case of LSWE Newspapers Corpus
- Reiko Komyama
Title: Reading motivation and reading ability among EAP students
- Shannon Fitzsimmons
Title: Are specific language policies really about immigration?: A corpus-based study
- Stephen Doolan
Title: A Description of Generation 1.5 Community College Students and Their Writing
- William Crawford & Jonathan Smart
Title: Complexity in lower-level L2 writing: Reconsidering the T-unit

TESOL

- Ali Osman Yaylali
Title: The Effects of Task Complexity on Learner Interactions
- Dongmei Cheng
Title: Compliment responses between Chinese ESL and

native Speakers of American English (Poster)

- Elena Poltavchenko
Title: Development and Validation of an L2 Writing Motivation Questionnaire
- Elena Poltavchenko & Mark Johnson
Title: Feedback and Second Language Writing: A Meta-Analysis (Poster)
- Jeannie Naasz
Title: Pedagogical Implications for Wikis on Collaborative Writing
- Jessica Davis & Kirsten Novo
Title: Smarter Ways to Create Graphic Organizers
- Mansoor Al-Surmi
Title: Tense-Aspect Usage in Narratives of L2 Learners of English
- Rachel Koch & Nicole Ziegler
Title: Communicative Language Teaching Tips for Classroom Instruction
- Reiko Komyama
Title: Examining Intrinsic and Extrinsic Motivation of EAP Readers
- Shannon Fitzsimmons
Title: Defining and assessing language ideologies for Spanish/English bilingual students and/or their teachers

Faculty Watch - Presentations 2009

- Biber, D. (January, 2009). Frequency-based approaches to formulaic language in English: Extending the construct of lexical bundle. Invited lecture. University of Debrecen, Hungary.
- Biber, D. (January, 2009). Merging corpus linguistic and discourse analytic research goals: Discourse units in biology research articles. Invited lecture. Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest.
- Biber, D. (January, 2009). Register variation in the university: A multi-dimensional analysis. Invited lecture. HUSSE 9 (Hungarian Society for the Study of English), Pecs, Hungary.
- Biber, D. (January, 2009). Are there linguistic consequences of literacy? Comparing the potentials of language use in speech and writing. Invited plenary address. HUSSE 9 (Hungarian Society for the Study of English), Pecs, Hungary.
- Biber, D. (March, 2009). Challenging stereotypes about academic writing: complexity, elaboration, explicitness. Invited plenary lecture. 8th Annual SLAT Interdisciplinary Roundtable, University of Arizona, Tucson.
- Crawford, W., & Smart, J. (2009, March). Complexity in lower-level L2 writing: Reconsidering the T-unit. Annual AAAL conference, Denver, CO.
- Kang, O., & Rubin, D. (2009, March). Impact of prosodic characteristics of accented English on ratings of L2 oral performance. Annual AAAL conference, Denver, CO.
- Kang, O., & Rubin, D. (2009, March). Using contact theory to improve US undergraduates' attitudes toward ITAs. Academic Session, Annual TESOL convention, Denver, CO.
- McDonough, K. (2009, March). The relationships among syntactic priming, question development & nonverbal cognitive abilities. Annual AAAL conference, Denver, CO.
- McGroarty, M. (2009, March). Variability of language as a core policy issue. (2009, March 21). Annual AAAL conference, Denver, CO.
- McGroarty, M. (2009, March). Trends in L2 and education assessment: What's common and what's missing across levels. Discussion of papers in Invited Colloquium on the interface between assessment in language and education (John Norris, organizer). Denver, CO.
- Poonpon, K., & Jamieson, J. (2009, March). Using qualitative and quantitative analyses to refine TOEFL iBT's integrated speaking scoring rubric.. Annual AAAL conference, Denver, CO.
- Reppen, R. (2009, March). SLA and the inseparability of vocabulary and syntax. Discussant for a colloquium at AAAL organized by Ute Römer & Stefanie Wulff. Denver, CO.
- Reppen, R. (2009, March). Corpora in the classroom: Forging new paths. Annual TESOL convention, Denver, CO.
- Reppen, R. (2009, March). SLA and teacher training: Insights from corpus linguistics. SLAT (Second language acquisition and teaching) Conference. Tuscon, AZ.
- Rubin, O., Kang, O., & Pickering, L. (March, 2009). Relative impact of rater characteristics versus speaker suprasegmental features on oral proficiency scores. Language Testing Research Colloquium/ International Language Testing Association, Denver, CO.
- Stoller, F. L. (2009, March). Write Like a Chemist: Drawing on applied linguistics research. Annual TESOL convention, Denver, CO.
- Stoller, F. L., & Grabe, W. (2009, March). Debunking myths about L2 reading instruction. Featured speaker session at Annual TESOL convention, Denver, CO.
- Stoller, F. L., & Robinson, M. (2009, March). Communicating results from applied linguistics research with non applied linguists. Annual AAAL conference, Denver, CO.

Social Events - Karaoke Night

By Mark Johnson

Karaoke night was quite the success. Talented MA TESL folks and their friends came to Granny's Closet to display their singing abilities. It seems as though we have quite a few talented people in our program.

Among the highlights of the evening were Jeff Djavadi's and Loisanne Francis' rendition of *Like a Virgin* and Kacie Beagan's version of *I'm the Only One*. Valerie Lyashko of the Russian Department also surprised us all with

her interpretation of *Complicated*.

Overall, it was a fun night! We should do it again soon.

We are on the Web!
<http://www.cal.nau.edu/gsaal/>

Social Events - Bowling

By Tatiana Nekrasova

The officers of GSAAL (led by Mark Johnson) spent many hours thinking about how to celebrate Martin Luther King Day and finally decided to be loyal to the tradition of bowling. Luckily for us other people in Flagstaff were still sleeping at that time! The event was definitely a success. Some new faces showed up and three teams were competing for the title of best applied linguistics' bowlers. You had to be there to feel all the emotions! Overall, we had lots of fun, new records were set before lunch time, and no bones were broken. We are very thankful to all of you who came out, and we hope to see even more of you there.

