

# THE LINGUISTS

Applied Linguistics at Ashford University



Spring 2014 Newsletter

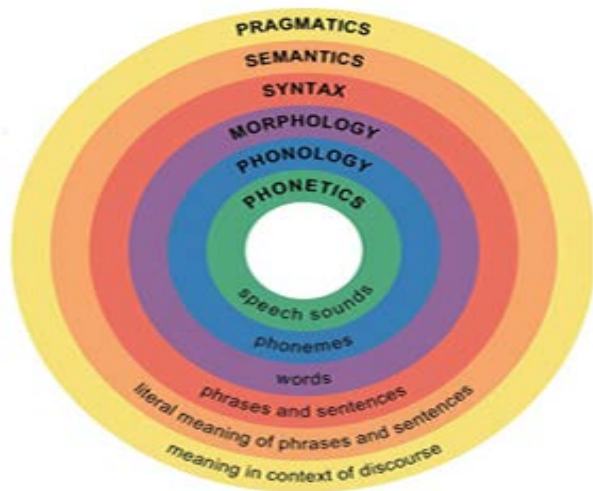
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Program of Applied Linguistics  
Ashford University

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<https://quad.bpiedu.com/community/ashford-faculty-community/college-of-liberal-arts/projects/applied-linguistics>



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

I write from a light rail to my office in downtown Denver. The air smells fresh and pure, and I know a long winter is right round corner when I see snow on top of the mountains through my window. I am originally from eastern China, where Mandarin is my native language, and I learned Japanese, German, and English as foreign languages. My research focuses on speech prosody of tonal languages (i.e., Cantonese Mandarin and



(Thai,) in East and Southeast Asia, acoustic properties of under-documented languages (i.e., Dagara, Pulaar and Shugni) in West Africa and Pamir Mountains, behavioral and psycholinguistic studies of tonal acquisition and processing, and teaching pedagogy in foreign language instruction.

This will be a big year for the Applied Linguistics Program at Ashford University. In 2010, we had only 6 majors in the program. Today, we have 194!

I invite you to read in this newsletter the wonderful changes we have made in the program to make it more conducive to your future career paths. We are holding our first student webinar, "Career Path Options in Applied Linguistics," on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. I am very excited at the prospect of interacting live with you. Please join us! This will also be your opportunity to meet your instructors. Look forward to an email from me with detailed information about the webinar. Here is to one of the fastest growing programs in the College of Liberal Arts at Ashford University. Have a splendid learning experience!

# A PEEK AT FACULTY RESEARCH

Dr. Chris Rogers received his PhD in General Linguistics in 2010 from the University of Utah under the mentorship of Lyle Campbell. His specialization is in language documentation and description with particular emphasis on language endangerment, historical change and typology. He is also professionally interested in phonological theory and learner motivation in language acquisition. Dr. Rogers' publishing record focuses on lesser-known languages and language planning situations. He regularly conducts onsite field work in remote locations such as Argentina, Peru, Guatemala, Honduras, and Brazil.



Dr. Silvia Graham received her PhD in Education Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M Commerce. She has taught both in national and international settings. Working with culturally and linguistically diverse student is her area of expertise. Her main goal as an instructor is to be a facilitator. Dr. Graham believes learning is constructed, not passed on. She fosters active involvement so learners can be the main



Amy Casey received three master's degrees in the fields of: English (Northern Arizona University), Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) with a concentration in Applied Linguistics

(Northern Arizona University), and International Education (New York University). For over 16 years, Amy has taught English and English as a Second Language to students from many cultural and linguistic backgrounds. She has worked with students of all ages in a variety of different educational settings, including public schools, colleges and universities, private language schools and test prep centers, tutoring programs, community based literacy programs, and online colleges/universities.



protagonist of their learning process.

# A PEEK AT FACULTY RESEARCH (II)



Suzanne Yow received her M.A. in Linguistics from California State University, Long Beach, where her research concentrated on Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) with a focus on Online Communities. She also has a B.A. in Spanish from Indiana University Northwest and a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology from Indiana University, Bloomington.

While at California State University, Long Beach, she examined communication on online message boards and received the Linguistics Department Best Comprehensive Research Project Award for her research entitled, *Nonstandard Orthography and Typography on Internet Message Boards: Flavor of Love 3 vs. Rock of Love 2*.

Suzanne has taught a majority of the Linguistics courses at Ashford, such as LNG 206 Language and Technology, LNG 212 Second Language Acquisition, and LNG 455 Language Disorders.

Dr. Rustin Beam received his BA in English from the Univ. of Alaska, where Dr. Burns Cooper introduced him to historical linguistics and Dr. Larry Kaplan to the world of documenting languages. He completed masters work in literature, Old English, and writing center studies with Drs. Dan Pinti and Liz Schirmer at New Mexico State University, followed by doctoral coursework in medieval literature (and more wrangling with Old and Middle English) under Drs. Jana Schulman and Eve Salisbury at Western Michigan University. At Ashford, Rustin teaches LNG 353: Evolution of the English Language.



Jacqui Asbury completed her M.A. in Linguistics at the University of South Carolina. She has been teaching online classes for more than five years. She also teaches English as a Second Language in a variety of settings and was the first full-time director of ESL for the South Carolina Department of Education. Jacqui is currently working on her doctoral degree with Liberty University Online in Education, with a focus on Curriculum and Instruction.

# APPLIED LINGUISTICS FAQs!

## (1) What is Applied Linguistics?

Applied Linguistics is an interdisciplinary field of study that identifies, investigates, and offers solutions to language-related, real-life problems. Major branches of applied linguistics include second language acquisition (SLA), speech therapy, and computational linguistics.

## (2) What do linguists do?

- **Speech language pathologist, Speech therapist**
- **Speech recognition and production, sales rep and research jobs with Microsoft, Apple, or IBM**
- **Government jobs such as forensic linguists, FBI, military language instructors (MLI)**
- **Linguist professor**
- **Interpreter and translator**
- **Teaching world languages to L2 learners in the U.S. and abroad**
- **Language documentation**

*A double major in Linguistics and Business, Criminal Justice, Education, Health, Public Relations, Social Science is highly recommended.*

# HOW MUCH DO LINGUISTICS MAJORS MAKE?

**According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2012 median pay):**

ESL Teachers	\$52,130
Interpreters and Translators	\$53,410
Linguistic Anthropologists	\$60,230
Language Professors	\$66,730
Speech-Language Pathologists	\$69,870
Forensic Linguists	\$71,040
Computational Linguists	\$79,560

# CAREERS IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Students graduating from our Linguistics Program have a variety of options to choose from, both within and outside the field.

- The SLA track can lead to jobs in education, such as teaching foreign languages, teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), working in a bilingual program at the elementary or high school level. Several of our students, using SLA theories, teaching pedagogy, and cultural awareness trainings, have decided to work or volunteer abroad, teaching languages in countries like Korea, Japan, and Germany.
- The speech therapy track prepares students to enter graduate programs in speech pathology. Our subject specific courses of LNG 455 Language Disorders and LNG 222 Survey of Communicative Disorders provide students with an ideal background to work in a university or hospital setting, working with aphasia patients, and/or running experiments using the latest technology (fMRI, MRI, PET, MEG, etc.)
- Computational linguists work in high tech firms, developing and testing models for improving or creating new software in areas such as speech recognition, dictionary development, grammar checkers, etc. Our LNG 450 Computational Linguistics and LNG 206 Language and Technology will prepare students with sophisticated thinking about speech communications between human beings and computers.

# CAREERS IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS (II)

- In addition to our emphasis in the three sub areas of linguistics, your degree here may lead to jobs in other areas, such as translation, research and documentation of endangered languages, or working for religious organizations to research lesser-known languages for the purpose of developing grammar books, teaching materials, and Bible translation.

**Want to learn more about career options in the field?**

**Join us for the webinar “Career Path Options in Applied Linguistics” on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, exclusively designed so that Applied Linguistics students can interact with each other and with faculty, and find answers to career-related questions.**

A growing number of majors means an increasing number of alumni. We encourage you to stay in touch and send us news of your professional and academic activities. We would also appreciate having your email address with us for our records. For all student matters, you can reach the Program Chair at [Mingzhen.Bao@ashford.edu](mailto:Mingzhen.Bao@ashford.edu).

**How does Ashford prepare you for your career choices?**

**READ ON!**



# Program Highlights

- We have been setting up course sequencing in the program, so that you can now complete training in **Theoretical Linguistics** before moving on to three course tracks in **Second Language Acquisition, Speech Therapy, and Computational Linguistics**.
- **LNG 360** is a **Gen Ed course** counting towards “Diversity Awareness.”
- **ENG 321 *Introduction to Linguistics*** will be aligned with the Linguistics program with a new course code: **LNG 321**.
- **Student Career Workshop** is scheduled for **April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014**.
- **LNG 212, LNG 450, LNG 455, and LNG 497** are offered through **Waypoint**.
- A NEW Linguistic category has been added to the library’s “**Database by Subject**” list:  
[http://library.ashford.edu/databases\\_subject.aspx#Linguistics](http://library.ashford.edu/databases_subject.aspx#Linguistics)
- A **Linguistics Subject Guide** is being created and will be launched soon in the Ashford library to introduce students to external and internal scholarly resources.

# I WANT TO DO MY OWN RESEARCH ON THE PROGRAM AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**GOOD IDEA!**

Here are a few websites you can visit to learn more about the field and related careers:

- <http://linguistlist.org/>
- <http://www.linguisticsociety.org/>
- <http://www.eslcafe.com/jobs/>
- <http://www.indeed.com/>
- <http://www.higheredjobs.com/>



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