

# THE LING LETTER

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Recently I attended Brock's 111th Convocation. During the afternoon ceremony I watched graduates of our Applied Linguistics/TESL, Speech Language Sciences, and Hearing Sciences programs and Certificates cross the stage to be recognized. (As one of the Bedels I had the opportunity to 'hood' some of the afternoon's graduates - a special thrill). The moment of crossing the stage was, I think, extra special for many this year as it was our first in-person Convocation in two years. Some of our graduates have written about what the experience meant to them, and we've shared their stories and photos in this newsletter. At Convocation graduates often reflect on their 4 (or so) years of undergraduate study and the highlights of that time. In June we surveyed our new grads to ask both about their future plans, and their memories. Our Alumni Rep., Anastasiya, describes their responses later in these pages. But I want to mention here one thing that struck me as I reviewed the responses to our survey: our graduates really valued the relationships they established in this department. The relationships they formed with their classmates and their professors were a really important part of their university experience. These close relationships were engendered, in part, by our relatively small class size. They were also strengthened because grads engaged in department events/activities. So, I want to say that wherever you are in your university studies, I hope you will take note of opportunities to join with your classmates: engage with LingNet (your club), attend our Speaker Series and Lunch & Learn events, pop-in to Professors' Office Hours, attend our Spring Research Day (back in 2022-23!). Keep apprised of what's happening by following us on Twitter and Instagram, monitor your email, and watch for in-class announcements. When it comes to your turn to cross the Convocation stage (it's not far off - believe it or not!) you'll have some great memories on which to reflect, just like the grads profiled here.

Lynn Dempsey

Associate Professor & Chair

Interim Graduate Program Director



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## SPEAKER SERIES

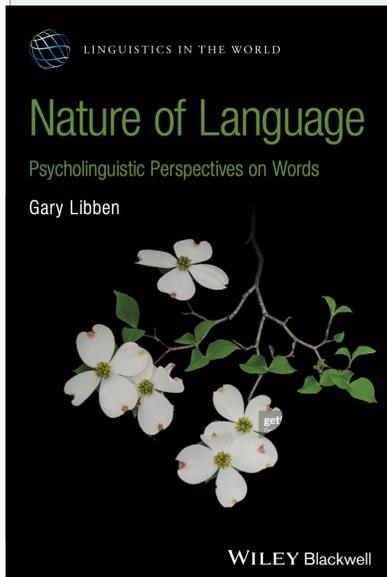
On May 31st, we welcomed Professor J.B. Orange of Western University to give an online lecture as part of the Department of Applied Linguistics' Speaker Series. Dr. Orange's talk was titled, Preserving Personhood when Communicating with Persons Living with Dementia, and provided insight into the current literature related to evidence-informed, person-centered communication strategies intended to support person-centered care.

You can find a recording of Dr. Orange's talk on Dementia care on our department website.

Our sincere thanks to Professor Orange for his contribution to our Speaker Series.



DR. GARY LIBBEN'S  
NEW BOOK



Dr. Libben will be using this textbook in a new course that will be offered by DALs in the new school year. Read about it on page 3 of this newsletter!

## DEPARTMENT NEWS



In the 2022 Edition of Research.com's Ranking of Top 1000 Scientists in the area of Social

Sciences and Humanities, Dr. Tom Farrell in the Department of Applied Linguistics was ranked 213 in Canada and 3744 globally. Dr. Tom Farrell is one of two Brock professors included in the ranking.

The first issue of Second Language Teacher Education (SLTE), a new journal co-edited by Dr. Thomas Farrell in the Department of Applied Linguistics, was released this month. The issue is available with open access until the end of July.

## Second Language Teacher Education

## DALS IN THE NEWS

Take a look at some of the Brock News articles DALs has been showcased in over this past term:

Pronunciation conference to feature free public talk on accents

<https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2022/06/pronunciation-conference-to-feature-free-public-talk-on-accents/>

Linguistics students get taste of teaching TESL in new context

<https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2022/06/linguistics-students-get-taste-of-teaching-tesl-in-new-context/>

Public talk to focus on communicating with persons living with dementia

<https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2022/05/public-talk-to-focus-on-communicating-with-persons-living-with-dementia/>

Federal funding helps Brock student pursue linguistics learning overseas

<https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2022/05/federal-funding-helps-brock-student-pursue-linguistics-learning-overseas/>



## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FEATURE – KATARINA HIEBERT

### GRADUATE STUDENT GRADUATIONS

After successfully defending their MA thesis projects, DALs Graduate Students; Osama Chattha & Jackie Lloyd were able to walk across the stage at convocation this past June.

Congratulations on your great achievements and best of luck in the future!



#### **A fun fact about yourself.**

I love running and am training for a half marathon right now!

#### **Why did you choose applied linguistics?**

I chose to study applied linguistics because I thought it would provide me with a strong background that I could apply to my future goal of Speech-Language Pathology. I also had always had a strong interest in language and thought I would enjoy the courses in the program.

#### **What are your reflections on your time at Brock University?**

I am very grateful for my time at Brock University. The DALs has offered me many incredible opportunities to develop academically and professionally which I can build upon as I leave Brock University. I am also thankful for the relationships I was able to form with both students and staff at Brock University.

#### **What was your favourite memory about studying at Brock?**

I have a lot of great memories from studying at Brock. Specifically, I really liked the experience working with other Year 4 students, Maddy Fowles and Aimee Cayuga, on our research practicum course in Dr. Dempsey's Child Language Lab. I also have great memories working as a teaching assistant, because I was able to connect with applied linguistics students across all years. Another experience I really enjoyed was assisting Dr. Thomson in hosting an academic conference last month, here at Brock University. Finally, it was an honour to be awarded the Dean's medal at convocation last month (pictured above)!

#### **Advice to current undergraduate linguistics students.**

My advice to current undergraduate students is to take every effort to make the most of their time at Brock. I found that a lot of my favourite experiences, such as working as a teaching assistant or being involved with LingNet, came from taking initiative and seeking these opportunities. I also encourage students to spend time building relationships with faculty and staff in the department, because not only are they all wonderful people to know, but I found my professors to be very helpful in guiding academic decisions and providing me with some really exciting research opportunities!

#### **What are you doing next?**

In the fall, I will be attending McMaster University for the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program. I feel that my studies at Brock have really prepared me well for this program, and I am looking forward to starting!

### PSSLT 2022

This past June, DALs hosted the Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching (PSSLT) Conference lead by Professor Ron Thomson and a group of volunteers (pictured to right). Over 100 people attended the three-day event!

*Volunteers group picture at Ravine Vineyards in NOTL.*

*Back Row (left to right): Prof. Ron Thomson, Prof. Andrew Lee, Xiaojun Liu, Osama Chattha. Front Row (left to right): Laura Stansfield, Alessandra Perri, Caroline Duarte Ramos Avila, conference co-organizer Katarina Hiebert, & Jordan Gallant. Not pictured: Alyssa Gauthier.*



## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

This past June, DALs celebrated with our new graduates as they walked across the stage at convocation. A special congratulations goes out to DALs very own Katarina Hiebert for being the recipient of the Dean’s Medal, awarded to the student with the highest overall academic standing in the Faculty of Social Sciences! Read her feature student profile at the top of page 4. You can view some pictures and student remarks down below. Congratulations to all undergraduate and graduate students on their incredible achievements!!



Left picture (left to right): Makenna Williams Hons BA, Hearing Sciences; Aimee Cayuga Hons BA Speech & Language Sciences; Prof. Ron Thomson; Prof. Lynn Dempsey; Katarina Hiebert Hons BA Speech & Language Sciences; Maddy Fowles Hons BS Speech & Language Sciences; Madison Alexander, Hons BA Speech & Language Sciences. Right picture: Prof. Lynn Dempsey and Sarah Gordon Hons BA, Applied Linguistics/TESL.

*“Graduating from my undergraduate degree is one of my greatest achievements thus far. Many times, I wondered whether I would make it to my convocation at all, but through perseverance I succeeded. Being at the convocation was extraordinary; hearing my name be read alongside the names of the other graduates, including friends from my program, and walking across the stage (without falling) are moments I do not wish to forget. I am very glad to have had that time to say a formal goodbye to Brock, others in my program, and part of the Linguistics department. Congratulations to all our grads, I’m excited to see what the future has in store for us!” - Madison Alexander, Hons BA Speech & Language Sciences*

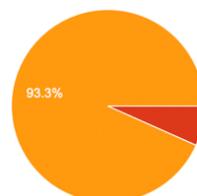
*“I’m very appreciative that my graduating class was able to have an in-person convocation to celebrate and solidify the completion of our degrees. It was a surreal moment to be able to sit in the gym and walk across the stage. It made the last 4 years feel like they flew by! It was so nice to see everyone after a few months and some for the last time for a while before we all go tackle whatever’s next!” - Makenna Williams Hons BA, Hearing Sciences*

## ALUMNI SURVEY OUTCOMES

In early May, a survey was distributed to our 2022 Department of Applied Linguistics graduating class focusing on their post-graduation plans and reflecting on their time at Brock University and DALs. Many of these new graduates said that they will be pursuing further education in related fields, such as Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, Communication Disorders Assistance, Hearing Instrument Specialist, and Teaching English as a Second Language at various institutions across Canada and the United States. When asked of their favourite memory at DALs, many graduates spoke of the friendships they made over the course of their degrees within the department, getting to know the DALs faculty, working as teaching assistants, conducting research, interesting courses focused on their desired fields, and the many guest speakers in their classes and at department events. Graduates were also asked if they would like to be included in the 2022 graduate class profiles, which will be featured on DALs social media platforms over the next several months.

### What are your post-graduation plans?

15 responses



- Travelling
- Working
- Post-graduate education

## CALLING ALL DAL'S GRADUATES!

If you are a 2022 DAL's graduate and have not filled out the survey yet, please do so at this link: <https://forms.gle/rbn8hNdpQt2v96T6>.

If you are interested in knowing what past graduates of DAL's are up to now, and what they have gone on to do after their time at DAL's, check out the DAL's website "Meet our Alumni" page: <https://brocku.ca/social-sciences/applied-linguistics/meet-our-alumni/>.

## FIND US ON YOUTUBE!

Our Digital Communications Rep. Kelsey Cere has developed overview videos for several of our courses. Check them out on our YouTube channel.

Also, on that channel are video recordings of past-talks in our Speaker Series, and Tutorials on topics like "Inflectional Morphology" (2.4K views) developed MA Applied Linguistics/ TESL grad Jordan Gallant. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjFfbPEprOOIf3GdUxtzL3w/videos>

**Brock**  
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## ACADEMIC ADVISING

Academic Advising – For questions about course selection and to plan your course of studies, contact Tayler Shannon our Interim Academic Advisor at [tshannon@brocku.ca](mailto:tshannon@brocku.ca)



## CONTACT US

If you want to contribute something to the next issue of the department newsletter please contact the editorial team at: [appliedlingbu@gmail.com](mailto:appliedlingbu@gmail.com).

As we wrap up the final issue of The Ling Letter department newsletter for 2021-22, we would like to thank graduate students Daniel Wright and Osama Chattha for their outstanding work and contributions to the newsletter issues. We congratulate them on their achievements in DAL's and at Brock and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours!

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



@BrockUDALS



@brockuappling

## EDITORIAL TEAM LUNCH



*From left to right: Daniel Wright (MA 22'), Dr. Lynn Dempsey, Dr. Andrew Lee & Osama Chattha (MA 22')*