

# THE LING LETTER

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This is it! The Fall edition of our Department of Applied Linguistics newsletter. The newsletter, which we plan to publish three times per year (Fall, Winter, Spring) is a new venture for us as a department and it's exciting to see the final product. I want to thank very much the other members of the editorial team – Professor Andrew Lee, and our two Graduate Student Ambassadors, Osama Chattha and Daniel Wright. Significant contributions were also made by Undergraduate Student Ambassadors Maddy Fowles and Katarina Hiebert, graduate student Jackie Lloyd, Alumni Ambassador Anastasiya Bakalava, and our Digital Communications Rep. Kelsey Cere.

Our goal with this newsletter is to keep you – students, faculty, part-time instructors, staff, and alumni – informed about the many activities going on in your department. We also hope the newsletter is a means through which you can get better acquainted with the other members of this unit. In each edition you'll find profiles of students and alumni. (Cute baby photos are a possibility!). You'll get to read about research engaged in by members of this community and learn about past and upcoming events – Speaker Series talks, social activities and so on. We'll share accomplishments that we can all celebrate – awards, new publications, milestones. We'll also alert you to important deadlines, policies, curriculum changes etc.

We welcome your suggestions for additional content. Please reach out to a member of the editorial team with any feedback. As you'll see in these pages, it has been a busy and productive term for members of the Brock Applied Linguistics community. Between newsletters you can keep up with what's going on by following us on twitter @BrockUDALS. There are lots more activities on the agenda for Winter term (who else is excited to hear about Forensic Linguistics from our Winter Speaker Series event?). For now though, many of you are focused on the exam period and finishing up end-of-term papers. I wish you all well for this final 'push' of the academic term and then a restful break. It's my hope we will all return in January renewed and ready for another great term.

Lynn Dempsey

Associate Professor & Chair

Acting Graduate Program Director

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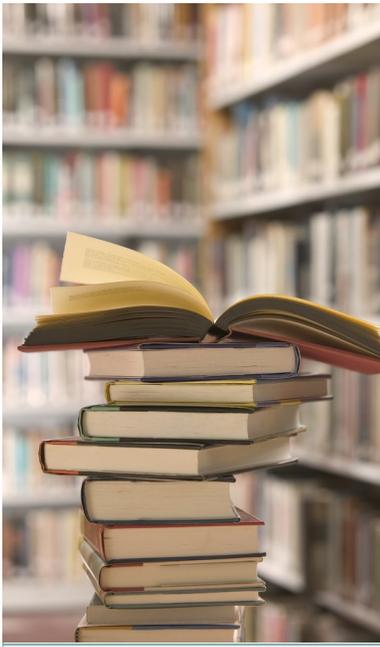
## FALL SPEAKER SERIES



On November 17th we were delighted to welcome Dr. Mela Sarkar of McGill University to give an online talk as part of the Department of Applied Linguistics' Speaker Series. Dr. Sarkar's session was titled Researching Indigenous Language Education from a Non-Indigenous Perspective and gave a highly informative overview of current issues in indigenous language education, the historical background to them, and how indigenous peoples are pioneering research and education to revitalize these languages.

Dr. Sarkar has kindly made the resources from her talk available to the Brock community, and they can be accessed here: <https://brocku.ca/social-sciences/applied-linguistics/past-speakers/>

Our sincere thanks go out to Dr. Sarkar for participating in the Speaker Series.



## NEW RESEARCH GRANT

Dr. Andrew Lee received a research grant (Insight Development Grant) from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and a research grant (Special COVID-19-Related Dean's Discretionary Fund) from Brock University.

These grants will support research projects with Air Canada and Brock ESL Services to investigate the effects of various types of second language instruction on the acquisition of L2 pronunciation and morpho-syntax.

Dr. Gary Libben and Dr. Ron Thomson are collaborators.

Notably, the application was ranked the second highest in the competition by SSHRC. Based on such outcomes, Dr. Lee has recently been invited to serve on the Linguistics Adjudication Committee for the 2021-2022 SSHRC Insight Grants as one of the researchers selected at the national level.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

Dr. Gary Libben was recently elected Secretary of the Royal Society of Canada. The mandate of the RSC is "to serve Canada and Canadians by recognizing Canada's leading intellectuals, scholars, researchers and artists and, by mobilizing them in open discussion and debate, to advance knowledge, encourage integrated interdisciplinary understandings and address issues that are critical to Canada and Canadians."

Dr. Ron Thomson is working on a new release of his website, English Accent Coach (EAC). EAC uses interactive online games that work to train the brain to recognize new sounds, an essential skill for learning pronunciation. It uses a scientifically proven approach, High Variability Phonetic Training (HVPT). Training with EAC will help users process English sounds more efficiently. This can promote faster vocabulary learning and may also improve non-native speakers' ability to process and comprehend the speech of native speakers. Students in phonetics

classes may also benefit from practice with learning IPA symbols. Visit the webpage here: <https://englishaccentcoach.com/index.aspx>

Dr. Ron Thomson, Dr. Tracey Derwing, and Dr. Andrew Lee will host the 13th annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference (<https://brocku.ca/psllt-2021/psllt-2022/>). The call for presentation proposals is now open.

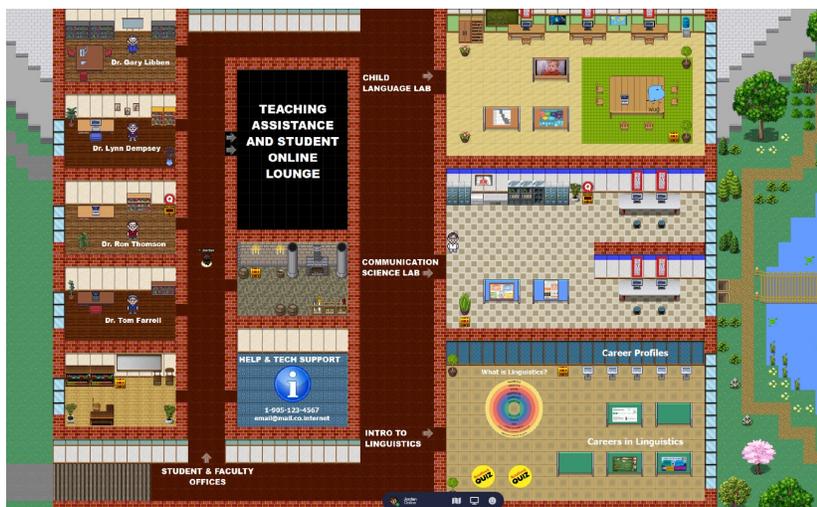
The Department of Applied Linguistics is pleased to announce that the Speaker Series for the winter term will feature Dakota Wing presenting on the theme of forensic linguistics. The talk is scheduled for Monday Feb. 7th at 11 am and title of Dakota's session will be announced shortly. <https://www.dakotawing.com/>



## DALS ON GATHERTOWN

On November 8th, the digital campus resource team hosted a digital open house on an exciting and fun virtual platform called Gathertown. Interested high school students were invited to explore the campus, ask questions, and even take part in a virtual scavenger hunt for a chance to win a prize.

It was a great chance for us to showcase the wide range of topics that Applied Linguistics covers, all in one place! There are endless possibilities for how this online resource can be utilized, and this is only the beginning. We are currently in the process of planning field trips, which would allow high school teachers to bring their classrooms to the campus virtually. Facilitators would be there to show students and teachers alike the different aspects of Applied Linguistics, and how research can be conducted in all of them. A lot of exciting things are in store, and it is free to visit at any time! Use the following link to access the campus: <https://gather.town/app/CH4PtVZMzHSD06qK/brockopen>



## LING 2P93 Language and Power



RELATIONS BETWEEN LANGUAGE USE AND THE ATTAINMENT OF POWER IN SOCIETY. TOPICS MAY INCLUDE EXAMINING DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE RELATED TO AGE, GENDER, RACE, POLITICS, NEWS AND SOCIAL MEDIA.

applied.linguistics@brocku.ca

## COURSE OFFERINGS

**Undergraduates:** Have space in your D3 schedule or know someone who does? Some great Applied Linguistics options are available in the Winter Term. Limited spaces are still available in several courses, including those listed below. To discuss these and other D3 Applied Linguistics course options, contact your Academic Advisor – Tayler Shannon at [tshannon@brocku.ca](mailto:tshannon@brocku.ca).

### **LING 1P95 – Introduction to General Linguistics II**

Explores how language is acquired, how language is represented in the brain, and how language is used in social contexts. Specifically, the course addresses (a) first language acquisition, (b) second language acquisition, (c) psycholinguistics, (d) brain and language, and (e) language in social contexts. No prerequisites. 3 hours per week. Lecture and seminar.

### **LING 2P93 – Language & Power**

Our popular Language & Power (LING 2P93) course returns in Winter 2022. Join Professor Ron Thomson in an exploration of the relationship between language use and the attainment of power in society. You'll examine differences in language use related to age, gender, race, and politics and explore the use of language in the news and in social media. No prerequisites. 3 hours per week. Lecture and seminar.

Student Review: "This course was not only interesting and incredibly informative, but extremely relevant. I enjoyed this course so much and learned so much from it. I believe that every Brock student should have to take this course, as it provided a respectful and safe space to share viewpoints and allowed students to learn from each other along with the content of the course" – Emma Grylls, BA Social Science

### **LING 4P25: Research Practicum—Student Experience**

This course offers exciting opportunities to work closely with a faculty member on their research projects. This term, Year 4 students Aimee Cayuga, Maddy Fowles and Katarina Hiebert are working with Dr. Dempsey on a new study in the Child Language Lab: Analysis of Routine Events in Children's Picture Books. The study is examining how both adults and children classify common routine events found in children's storybooks based on various factors, including: familiarity, variability, temporal-causal connections, emotional valence/intensity, and child participation.

The research team has submitted their research ethics application. Once clearance is received, they will be seeking research participants. All Brock University students, staff, instructors, and faculty members are invited to participate in a survey designed by the 4P25 research team. Stay tuned for more updates from the Child Language Lab to learn when data collection will be starting! Furthermore, if you think you may be interested in taking LING 4P25 next year, reach out to a faculty member that has an area of research which interests you. It is recommended students discuss the course with faculty members in May, prior to other course selection.

## FALL/WINTER INSTRUCTORS

Thanks to all of our Fall Term Sessional Instructors. A special shout-out to several instructors who were new to the department this year (or returning after a long absence!): Majid Nikouee, Mike Pihura, Matt Patience, Matt Friesen, Krithika Govinda Rajan.

Some of our Fall term instructors are teaching with us again next term. A special welcome to Yarubi Diaz Colmenares, who will be teaching at Brock for the first-time next term.

### Fall Term Instructors

- Cassandra Chapman
- Glenn Ewing
- Carolyn Finney
- Matt Friesen
- Jackie Van Lankveld
- Majid Nikouee
- Matt Patience
- Mike Pihura
- Mario Pizzacalla
- Krithika Govinda Rajan
- Yuko Watanabe
- Carolyn Windsor

### Winter Term Instructors

- Cassandra Chapman
- Yarubi Diaz Colmenares
- Glenn Ewing
- Carolyn Finney
- Yuko Watanabe
- Carolyn Windsor

## FACULTY FEATURE - DR. GARY LIBBEN

### PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Andrew Lee published a journal article entitled "The effects of proactive form-focused instruction and individual differences on second language acquisition" in *Language Teaching Research*.

Dr. Lynn Dempsey recently presented a research poster entitled, "A content analysis of routine events in children's books: Protagonist and canonical structure" at the annual convention of the American Speech Language & Hearing Association taking place (hybrid) from Nov. 15-22, 2021. This poster emerged from work students in LING 4P25 (Research Practicum) completed in Fall 2020. Contributions of DALs alumni Olivia Benteau, Chloe Doonan, Mallory Hutchinson, Abbey Ryan, and Rebecca Tovberg are gratefully acknowledged.

Dr. Thomas Farrell has launched a new book series with co-editor Zia Tajeddin for Springer, entitled *Studies in Language Teacher Education*.

This book series brings together titles addressing numerous subfields of language teacher education (LTE) as an interdisciplinary area of inquiry that lies at the center of applied linguistics. It meets the huge demand for language teacher education books (monographs, edited volumes, and handbooks) due to the pressing international need for the recruitment, education, professional development, and quality assessment of language teachers.



A fun fact about yourself.

When I started being a vegetarian, I was pretty sure that I could stick with it for a week. After that, I'd feel free to change my mind and order a steak. Over 50 years have gone by and, who knows, maybe I'll still change my mind and order a steak!

Why did you choose linguistics?

I think, like many professors, there was a lot of 'accident' in my route to an academic specialization. I had travelled fairly extensively before beginning graduate school and was attracted to language as a gateway to understanding new cultures. After I started in linguistics, I came to realize that language is also a gateway to understanding the human mind. I find this to be endlessly fascinating and it has drawn me to many aspects of neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and applied linguistics.

### CURRENT RESEARCH

#### Incidental learning of second language pronunciation

When it comes to language acquisition, we can divide learning into two distinct types – intentional and incidental. Intentional learning, as the words suggest, is the act of putting conscious effort into acquiring new knowledge, such as in the case of memorizing the grammatical gender of French nouns. By contrast, incidental learning is what occurs when one 'picks up' new knowledge from simply being exposed to input without trying to learn anything, much like how first languages tend to be acquired.

Research has found that learners can incidentally acquire many aspects of a second language (L2) as well. Interestingly, most of the research evidence exists within the domains of grammar and vocabulary, but how incidental learning impacts the acquisition of L2 pronunciation has not often been asked. To investigate, Assistant Professor Dr. Andrew Lee and graduate student Jackie Lloyd are conducting a research study, using Korean words and sounds that are novel to many native speakers of English.

In their study, English native speakers (with no prior exposure to Korean) complete a variety of tasks and activities over three sessions with the research team. Their results will be analyzed for what the researchers hope will be an insightful finding about the incidental learning of L2 phonology. Spots are still open for more participants – not only will participants be compensated for their time, but it will be an opportunity for budding applied linguists to get a glimpse of high-quality research in the discipline. If interested, please reach out to [linguistics.brock@gmail.com](mailto:linguistics.brock@gmail.com).

Briefly describe your research interests and any current projects.

I don't feel that there is very much that I am not interested in. I would describe my current research as centering on the dynamics of how words are acquired, processed, and represented in the minds of first and second language users. I really like experimental work and, in particular, developing new methodological approaches to the study of language processing.

Your favourite part about working at Brock?

Brock is a growing institution in which it is very easy to get to know colleagues across departments. I have had the privilege to work with and learn with excellent students and I think that Niagara is an amazing place to live.

Advice to current undergraduate and graduate students.

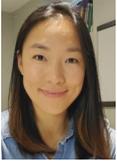
It is, of course, important to stay focused and to succeed in your program. But I think that the key to a great university experience is to create your own learning opportunities and your own discoveries. My advice is to find a few people with whom you wish to create something new (it could, for example, be a reading course, a project, or a community engagement). I am confident that you will find Brock Professors and the university as a whole to be very supportive of creativity and innovation.

## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS



MA Applied Linguistics/TESL alumnus Jordan Gallant and Dr. Gary Libben recently published an article entitled: "Power and Positivity: Psycholinguistic Perspectives on Word Valence in Canadian Parliament" in *Frontiers in Communication*. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcomm.2021.770497/full>

Current MA Applied Linguistics/TESL student Javon Luke, along with Dr. Gary Libben and other colleagues recently had an article accepted for publication entitled 'Norms of valence from 3,600 English words: Data from older adults. Behavior Research Methods' (Kyröläinen, A.-J., Luke, J., Libben, G. and Kuperman, V.)



Current MA Applied Linguistics/TESL student Jackie Lloyd and Dr. Andrew Lee will present a co-authored paper entitled 'The effects of incidental exposure and its optimal frequency on second language speech learning' at the 2022 annual meeting of the American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL 2022) held in Pittsburgh, PA.

## 2021-22 MA GRADUATE STUDENT COHORT



*Left to Right: Xi Zhen, Xue Yang, Randi Medeiros, Daniel Wright, Xiaojun Liu, Nick Moses, & Zohre Salaribaghsangani*

This term the Department of Applied Linguistics welcomed a new cohort of students to its MA Applied Linguistics (TESL) program. Coming from a variety of different backgrounds, the new students have had a successful first few months at Brock.

Xi Zhen previously taught English at a primary school in China. She is keen to develop professionally by completing the MA program and hopes to teach at the high school or university level.

Xue Yang shares a similar desire to teach English in a high school setting. Xue is enjoying studying in Canada as she feels that it is important for language teachers to focus on developing their own language skills in order to better support their students.

Toronto resident Randi Medeiros meanwhile sees the program as an important step in her professional development as a teacher. Randi feels that completing postgraduate studies will allow her to take on more senior roles and ultimately provide better lessons for her learners.

Daniel Wright, originally from the UK had similar motivations for taking the program having taught EFL for several years.

Xiaojun Liu worked previously as a guidance counsellor at the international department of a high school in China. He felt that studying TESL abroad himself would be the best way to ensure he could answer questions from students preparing to enter overseas institutions.

Nick Moses meanwhile is keen to go abroad himself in order to teach and feels the program, following on from his undergraduate studies at Brock, will give him the skills needed to do so successfully.

Zohre Salaribaghsangani moved to Canada with her family this year and is settling well into life in St. Catharines. Having taught EFL in her native Iran, Zohre views the MA program as a great opportunity to develop as a teacher. In particular, she finds exploring aspects of language acquisition she had not considered in depth previously, such as cognitive processes, very rewarding.

With their first term in the program coming to a close, the new MA students can reflect on a productive period of study. After a well-deserved break, they will return in the new year refreshed and ready to continue working toward their respective goals.

## MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI AMBASSADOR

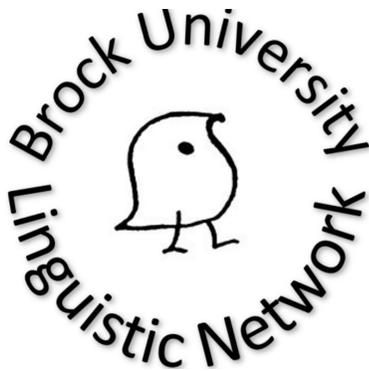
### Alumni Ambassador Anastasiya Bakalava

As the Alumni Ambassador for the Department of Applied Linguistics, my role is to create and execute new initiatives that connect the Department of Applied Linguistics' Alumni back with the Department. One of the aims of my role is to better understand what the Department of Applied Linguistics' graduates do with their Applied Linguistics degrees. The information I gather about the graduates through initiatives such as the DALs Alumni survey will be shared with current and prospective students as a recruitment tool on the Department website and at recruitment events, showcasing the impact of a DALs degree.

The Department of Applied Linguistics Alumni survey was launched, with help from Alumni Relations, in mid-November through an email sent out to DALs Alumni from the past 10 years. The survey focuses on asking graduates what they have been doing since their graduation. It includes questions about post-graduate education and employment and asks alumni how they feel their DALs degree prepared them for their future endeavours.

The DALs Alumni survey is the first step in connecting with DALs graduates; once the survey information is collected and analyzed, follow-ups will be made with certain

alumni who agree to provide a testimonial of their experience in the Department of Applied Linguistics. These testimonials will be posted on the Department's website under the new "Meet our Alumni" tab as a recruitment tool for future students, and to inspire current students about the versatility of a DALs degree. So far, the survey has had a great response and I am very excited to begin collecting Alumni testimonials and creating their student profiles.



## BROCK UNIVERSITY LINGUISTICS NETWORK

Ling Net has had a successful start to the 2021-2022 academic year. In the past few months, we have been able to offer students fun and informative events, including:

- Textbook buy and sell
- Peer mentoring program
- First Year Social
- Letter of Intent Talk
- Custom-designed sweater orders

On November 24th, we hosted a brand-new event, called the 'SLP/AUD. Graduate Student Panel,' where we welcomed Brock alumni to present on their recent experiences in SLP/Audiology graduate programs. We heard from Olivia Benteau (Western), Brianna Kuchurean (University of Toronto), Andrea Mancuso (SUNY Buffalo) and Alyssa Gordon (Dalhousie). We also heard from an external student attending McMaster.

If you have any questions for us, please email [brocklingnet@gmail.com](mailto:brocklingnet@gmail.com)

Our committee is also looking forward to hosting more events in the new year. Keep an eye out on our Facebook and Instagram (@brockuniversitylingnet)!



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



### **Undergraduate—Samantha Martin**

Samantha Martin graduated from Brock's Department of Applied Linguistics in the Speech and Language Sciences branch in June of 2020. She then decided to apply to a post-graduate certificate program in Brain Disorders Management from Mohawk College to further her education and experience before applying to her Masters in Speech-Language Pathology, which she is hoping to begin in the Fall of 2022. Mohawk College's Brain Disorders Management program is designed to teach individuals how to support clients with brain disorders across the lifespan by using intervention strategies, research, and policy development. This program is the first of its kind in Ontario and Samantha was very excited to see what it entailed, and it was everything she hoped for. Building on what she had learned at Brock, this program taught her about the neuroscience behind brain disorders as well as treatments and cutting-edge research that is being done regarding the brain and brain disorders. There were also a few unique opportunities, which she unfortunately did not get to participate in in-person due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as receiving Non-Violent Crisis Intervention training and the opportunity to learn about and receive training in their Multi-Sensory Lab. Overall, Samantha found that this program was

a wonderful addition to her knowledge in Speech and Language Sciences. She says it provided her with extra experience of the many other aspects of a client with a brain disorder that she may encounter in her future working as a Speech-Language Pathologist.

Samantha is currently working as a Developmental Support Worker with Bethesda Services. This position entails working with a client during their day-to-day activities, as well as remediating challenging behaviours the client may exhibit. She is a part of a team who work together to implement the client's behavioural support plans, and document daily data to observe trends and changes in the clients' behaviour. Samantha recalls that her experience in DALs has helped her immensely at her current job position as one of her clients is non-verbal, and she believes that her knowledge of augmentative and alternative communication has been very helpful to her in this role. She also believes that the amount of in-depth discussion and experience about the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach to working with clients that she received during her time in DALs has been helpful. Samantha stated that she is grateful for the ongoing support from the DALs community and the vast amount of knowledge and wisdom she received from the professors and her fellow students.

### **Graduate Student—Jordan Gallant**

Jordan Gallant is currently a new PhD student at McMaster University and is planning to conduct research on the interplay between working memory, second language use, and emotional word processing in the Language, Memory, and Brain lab run by Dr. Elisabet Service. He is also attempting to balance his academic ambitions with the fatherhood. His son, Kiyokaze was born late in the evening on October 3rd, 2021. Kiyoko is already supporting his Dad's academic career having waited until immediately after the SSHRC application deadline to be born. He also makes sure that Dad gets enough breaks from his coursework by providing ample diapers to change and grins goofy enough to distract from the woes of theoretical syntax. Kiyokaze is spelt 心風 in Japanese and the characters stand for 'heart' and 'wind'. You have him to thank for all those warm autumn breezes.



## UNDERGRADUATE AMBASSADORS

The Undergraduate Ambassadors for 2021-22 are Maddy Fowles and Katarina Hiebert.

As the DALs Undergraduate Student Ambassadors, we have been involved in several exciting projects. We have created a student handbook for undergrad students in the DALs which will be available shortly! Earlier in the semester, we offered a weekly virtual drop-in for students to present their questions and concerns about the program. We have also been a part of different recruitment initiatives, including speaking on 'Let's Talk Brock,' a podcast aimed at reaching prospective students and creating/preparing materials for the Fall Preview Day webpage. As a part of the DALs social media campaign, we have been creating faculty member and student profiles, as well as other content for the DALs twitter page. On Thursday Dec. 2nd we hosted a DALs Trivia Night with students & faculty.

Finally, we are looking forward to hosting a 'Lunch and Learn' series in the new year for both students and community members, where we will invite professionals to give practical seminars on a topic within their field of practice. More information to come!

**Brock**  
University

Department of  
Applied Linguistics



## ACADEMIC ADVISING

Hello students! My name is Tayler, and I am the interim academic advisor for Applied Linguistics and the BA in Social Sciences. I am a Brock University alumna; I completed a BA in Sociology and an MA in Social Justice and Equity studies. In 2016, I had the wonderful opportunity to do an academic exchange to Scotland.

Here are a few important deadlines for you to know:

- The deadline to apply to graduate is February 1st, 2022
- The deadline to apply for Year 4 Honours is June 1st, 2022. You can find the form here: <https://brocku.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/ApptoYear4Studies.pdf>
- The deadline to apply for concentration in Hearing Sciences or Speech and Language Sciences (for Year 1 students) is also June 1st, 2022.

I am taking both in-person and virtual academic advising appointments – please email me at [tshannon@brocku.ca](mailto:tshannon@brocku.ca) with any questions or to book an appointment.



## 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). You can also email contributions to either graduate student ambassador Osama — [oc1oqu@brocku.ca](mailto:oc1oqu@brocku.ca) or Daniel — [dwi9vd@brocku.ca](mailto:dwi9vd@brocku.ca).

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## MEET THE EDITORIAL TEAM!



*From left to right: Dr. Lynn Dempsey, Dr. Andrew Lee, MA Student Daniel Wright, MA Student Osama Chattha*