

# THE LING LETTER

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

A busy fall term is drawing to a close. The highlights for me were the occasions when I got to interact with new and prospective students. There were several opportunities this fall. First, I had the chance to meet a group of new TESL and Speech Language & Hearing Science undergraduates at Brock's New Student Welcome & Orientation event. Then, there was a chance to greet our cohort of Certificate and MA Students. Many have travelled to Canada from elsewhere in the world; it was exciting to see a new group, with diverse experiences, embark on their graduate education. And then, there was the chance to connect with prospective students. For the first time in several years, the Ontario Universities' Fair (OUF) and Brock's own Fall Preview were back, live and in-person. A wonderful group of student reps. (maybe you were one of them!) told prospective students what applied linguistics is all about, what they enjoy most about their courses, how they are preparing for post-graduate education, and exciting careers. It was wonderful to see our students' enthusiasm. You all are the best ambassadors for our programs. And there is lots to be enthusiastic about. You'll see many examples in these pages – upcoming events (check out the “Coffee & Conversations” series our UG Ambassadors are hosting), intriguing Winter term courses, and inspiring achievements (find out what some of our graduates have been up to). Enjoy your read! And as you head into exam time and then the holiday break, I wish you all the best.

Lynn Dempsey  
Associate Professor & Chair  
Interim Graduate Program Director

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Chair's Message.....1
  
- Department News.....2
  
- Course Offerings.....3
  
- Faculty Feature.....4
  
- Research & Publications.....5
  
- Meet This Year's MA Cohort.....6
  
- Alumni Update.....7
  
- Student Support.....8
  
- Contact Us.....9

# DEPARTMENT NEWS

*Congratulations!*

Professor Tom Farrell was recently recognized as one of the most cited scientists in the world; on Stanford University's list of the world's most cited researchers, he ranks in the top 2%.

Professor Gary Libben recently co-hosted the International Conference on the Mental Lexicon in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The conference brings together psycholinguistic, neurolinguistic, and computational research on the representation and processing of words in the mind/brain.

## Brock's Fall Preview Day

Brock's Fall Preview Day on November 6th was a great success. Students who visited the Applied Linguistics booth were greeted by enthusiastic student volunteers, department chair Dr. Dempsey, the Applied Linguistics recruitment team, and graduate student representatives. We were able to make valuable connections with students interested in learning what Applied Linguistics was all about (there was even the chance to spin a prize wheel to win department swag items!) Students were also invited to a career-focused presentation, where a group of speakers provided specific information about the department, potential career paths, and words of advice for those interested in coming to Brock.

## Ontario Universities' Fair

The Ontario Universities' Fair took place on the weekend of October 1-2nd at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Department representatives answered the questions of curious high school students, provided information about the department's SLHS and TESL streams, and shared testimonials with those who wanted to gain insight into the student experience.



Ontario Universities' Fair



MA Applied Linguistics Virtual Info. Session

## MA Applied Linguistics Virtual Info. Session

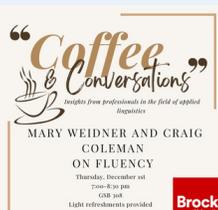
On November 10th, DALs held a virtual info. session for prospective MA TESL and Applied Linguistics General applicants. The event was well attended, providing the opportunity for attendees to chat with and ask questions of a panel of previous MA Applied Linguistics students. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated!



Fall Preview Day

## "Coffee & Conversations" Series: Insights from Professionals in the Field of Applied Linguistics

The Department's Undergraduate Student Ambassadors are excited to announce the launch of a new "Coffee & Conversations" series. This is an opportunity for undergraduates to learn about current issues from professionals working in TESL, Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Upcoming events include a discussion in December with representatives from PennWest University regarding their work with people with fluency disorders. In January, we will hear from Dr. Ted Venema, a leader in the field of Audiology. Come join us for a cup of coffee and discover more about the fascinating field of Applied Linguistics!



# COURSE OFFERINGS

## AESL 1P92

### Advanced English for Second Language Learners

<b>Development and refinement of:</b>	Offered On-Campus in Winter Term <b>Mondays 9am-12pm</b>
English academic writing skills (crafting essays, report writing)	Advanced For-Credit Instruction to Complement Course-Work in Any Discipline
English speaking and listening skills (preparing & delivering presentations; participating in academic discussions)	Designed Specifically to Enhance English Language Skills and Bolster Academic Performance

Contact [applied.linguistics@brocku.ca](mailto:applied.linguistics@brocku.ca) for more info!

**Brock University** **LING 2P93**

## Language & Power

Relations between language use and the attainment of power in society

Examine differences in language related to:	No Prerequisites Offered On-Campus in Winter Term <b>Wednesdays 4-6pm</b> Limited Spaces Still Available
RACE	GENDER
NEWS	AGE
POLITICS	SOCIAL MEDIA

**Make Your Voice Heard in LING 2P93's Popular "Speaker's Corner"!**

For more information contact: [applied.linguistics@brocku.ca](mailto:applied.linguistics@brocku.ca)

## Fall & Winter Instructors

Thank you to all of our Fall Term Sessional Instructors! We look forward to seeing the Winter Term Instructors in the New Year.

### Fall Term Instructors

- Carolyn Finney (1P00)
- Mario Pizzacalla (1P00)
- Carolyn Windsor (1P92 & 4P20)
- Ivan Chow (1P94)
- Yuko Watanabe (2P10 & 3Q91)
- Charlene Cratt (2P90)
- Mike Pihura (3P97)
- Krithika Govinda Rajan (3Q93)
- Glenn Ewing (3P91 & 4P80)
- Jackie Van Lankveld (4P21)
- Matt Friesen (4P27)

### Winter Term Instructors

- Carolyn Finney (1P01)
- Carolyn Windsor (1P93, 2P99)
- Mike Pihura (2P91)
- Cassandra Chapman (3P71)
- Yarubi Colmenares Diaz (3P93)
- Glenn Ewing (4P80, 4P82 & 4P83)
- Yuko Watanabe (5P02 & 5P05)

**NEW** **LING 2P20**

## WORD POWER

<b>Learn how knowledge of linguistics can help you:</b>	With Professor <b>Gary Libben</b> Author of "Nature of Language: Psycholinguistic Perspectives on Words" Forthcoming
acquire medical terminology	No Prerequisites Offered On-Campus in Winter Term <b>Mondays 9-11am</b>  Limited Spaces Still Available!
improve your writing	
expand your vocabulary	
learn new words in a foreign language	

For more information contact: [applied.linguistics@brocku.ca](mailto:applied.linguistics@brocku.ca) **Brock University**

# Faculty Feature: Ron Thomson

## *What is something most people don't know about you?*

As a teenager, I spent a year and a half living on a rooftop in a Pakistani ghetto, where a marginalized religious group had built a community on land they did not own. Think 'Slumdog Millionaire' meets 'The Kite Runner'. This ruined my worldview - in the best of ways - and gave me friends who remain closer than family.

## *Why did you choose the field of Applied Linguistics?*

I grew up around languages. During elementary school, my father worked as a linguist with the Siksika (Blackfoot) First Nation in Southern Alberta. My adoptive Blackfoot Grandpa was one of about half a dozen monolingual Blackfoot speakers at the time, having somehow escaped being sent to a Residential School. The rest of my adoptive Blackfoot family were mostly bilinguals, so I heard lots of Blackfoot for the first 12 years of my life. After high school in Pakistan, I took a detour via a degree in Political Science. I then decided to pursue something that put me back in touch with my roots and allowed me to interact with other languages and cultures. Teaching English as a Second Language was a natural fit, and that took me to Korea and Oman before a teaching stint in Vancouver. After completing an MEd in TESL, one of my professors hired me to work in her lab. That led to pursuing a Ph.D. in Linguistics, which I applied to bridging the gap between experimental linguistics and instructed language learning.

## *What do you find is the most meaningful part of your job?*

Students. There have been times when I've felt like I was doing ground-breaking research, too, but I've learned that just because I think something is ground-breaking doesn't mean it will get noticed. Impacting individual students has turned out to be more fulfilling than publishing another paper or book. Working with other close colleagues in my field is also immensely rewarding.



**After**



**Before**

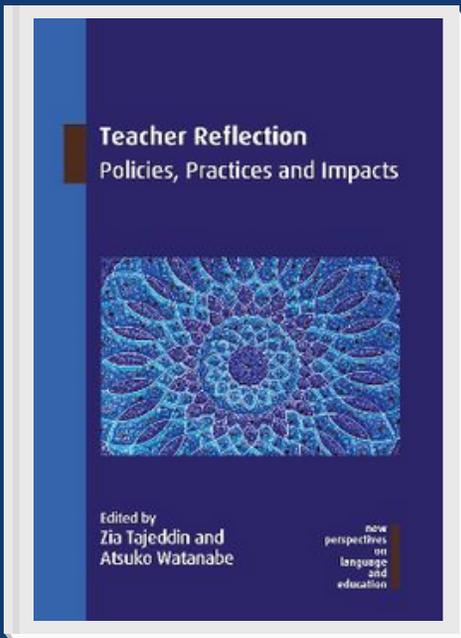
## *What do you do outside of work?*

Most of my life outside of work revolves around my family, and in particular, the needs of our profoundly brain-injured three-year-old. I love talking about him, so feel free to ask - he's got lots of interesting language-related issues.

## *Do you have any advice for current students?*

My advice is to make the most of your time as a student. Use it to grow as a person and to develop social networks that will serve you for a lifetime. If at all possible, avoid working in unrelated fields while you study. You'll have plenty of opportunities to work in the future. Now is the time to learn.

# RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS



A newly edited book honours Prof. Farrell's decades of work on Reflective Practice. "Teacher Reflection: Policies, practices and impacts".

## MA Thesis Defensis

In August, Javon Luke successfully defended his MA thesis: "Computerized Dynamic Assessment of Vocabulary Knowledge (CDA-V): Vocabulary Depth Assessment and Zone of Proximal Development". Javon's work, conducted under the supervision of Prof. Gary Libben, involved developing and testing a new vocabulary measure, a significant undertaking. Congratulations!

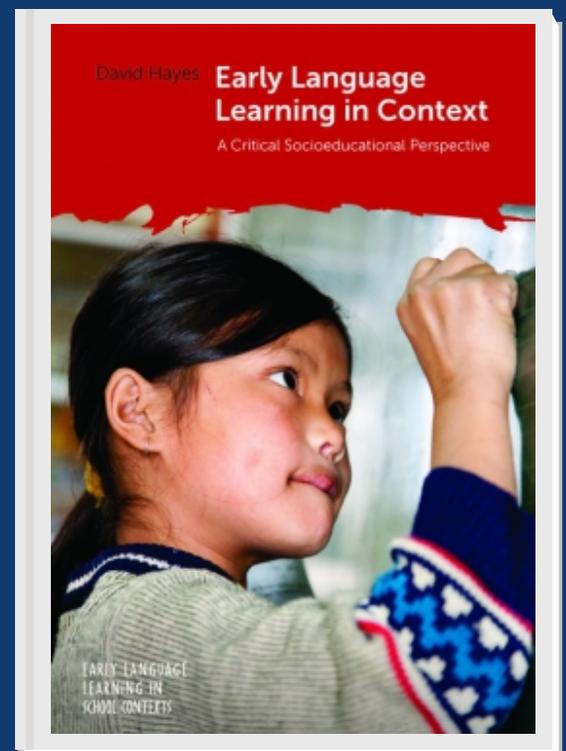
Professor Lynn Dempsey recently published "Categorizing emotion words: the influence of response options" in *Language and Cognition* with lead author B. Zupan and co-author K. Hartwell.

Professor David Hayes recently published "Early Language Learning in Context: A critical socioeducational perspective". The book provides a critical analysis of early school foreign language teaching policy with a focus on the influence of socioeducational and cultural context.

For more information about the book, visit: <https://www.multilingual-matters.com/page/detail/Early-Language-Learning-in-Context/?k=9781800415836>

He has also recently published a book chapter:

Hayes, D. (2022). Local English teacher identities in a globalized economy. In K. Sadeghi and F. Ghaderi (Eds.) *Theory and practice in second language teacher identity: Researching, theorising and enacting* (pp. 31-43). New York: Springer. Available at [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-13161-5\\_3](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-13161-5_3)



# MEET THE 2022-2023 MA GRADUATE STUDENT COHORT



**From left to right:** Oluwatosin Orodiran, Kimia Nouri, Sara Adloo, Dorcas Oteng Acheampong, Rachel Springle, Danielle Perry, Sarah Gordon, Muhammad Moin Akhtar, and Adetunji Ajayi

The Department of Applied Linguistics is pleased to present this year's MA Applied Linguistics (TESL) cohort. From a wide variety of backgrounds, these students have had some great class discussions and been hard at work throughout this Fall semester.

**Oluwatosin Orodiran** is from Nigeria. He completed a BA in Linguistics & MA in Linguistics and African Languages at Adekunle Ajasin University and the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, respectively. He aspires to venture into second language acquisition and has enjoyed the vast opportunities provided by the department to develop in his career through systematic engagement and learning.

**Kimia Nouri** graduated from English translation in Iran and then went on to teach young learners at a language academy. She decided to study in this MA program at Brock to develop a greater awareness of teaching methodologies and to help her in her career as a professional ESL teacher. She appreciates how this program is not only focused on the teaching of Applied Linguistics but also offers the opportunity to engage in research.

**Sara Adloo** is from Iran and completed the TESL certificate program at Brock last year. This MA program is helping her to achieve one of her career goals: to become a knowledgeable English teacher in her country.

**Dorcas Oteng Acheampong** is from Ghana and has an MA in Foreign Linguistics and Applied Linguistics from Nanjing Tech University, China. She appreciates both the professors and courses in this MA program and how they train students to become great ESL teachers.

**Rachel Springle** is from Oro-Medonte, Ontario and completed the TESL certificate program at Brock last year. She appreciates how the MA program offers the opportunity to explore many aspects of Applied Linguistics in great depth. After graduating, she hopes to work in the field of Teaching English for Medical and Scientific Purposes.

**Danielle Perry** completed her BA in Applied Linguistics TESL with a focus on adult education. Danielle is happy to be back at Brock to continue learning and becoming a better ESL teacher.

**Sarah Gordon** recently completed the Applied Linguistics TESL degree program at Brock University. She has extensive ESL/EFL teaching experience. She is excited to be a part of the MA program and looks forward to the opportunity to continue teaching in a more senior role with a greater awareness of the theories and methodologies behind the TESL profession.

**Muhammad Moin Akhtar** is from Pakistan and appreciates how the MA program has renowned professors and amazing facilities.

**Adetunji Ajayi** is from Nigeria and has prior background knowledge in linguistics and communication studies. He has a passion for computational linguistics. His career ambition is to delve into using computer-mediated technology to teach language learning and ease second language acquisition across the globe.

**Sandra Akudugu** is from Ghana and did her undergraduate degree in Linguistics and French at the University of Ghana. She is grateful to be in the MA TESL program and aspires to be a translator and journalist.



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



## A L U M N I U P D A T E



Daniel develops curriculum and content for a Toronto-based edtech company, helping teachers across the world better support learners of English. The thing he remembers most fondly from his time at Brock is the faculty's generosity with their time and expertise in encouraging students' exploration of course content.



Connie spent a few years working in EAP and ESL classrooms and then decided to return to grad school in 2019. She now works in curricular development at Touchstone Institute, a company that supports internationally educated health professionals transitioning to work in Ontario. What she valued most about her time in the MA program was learning from the professors how to create a culturally inclusive approach to communication, whether that is through teaching or material development. It's been invaluable to her career and personal outlook on life, too.



Kathryn is a graduate of both the BA and MA Applied Linguistics TESOL programs. After graduating, she moved to South Korea, where she worked as a teacher at an international middle school, an international high school and finally, an international university over a period of four years. This past September, she moved to an Assistant Professor position at Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan. She says that this is an exciting move for her because she is teaching language courses for communicative English and academic writing, and has been asked to teach an introduction to linguistics course in English. She also has a governmental research grant and has been encouraged to research for the first time in her teaching career since graduating!

# STUDENT SUPPORT

## BROCK UNIVERSITY LINGUISTICS NETWORK

After a great semester, LingNet is hosting an upcoming study session on December 7th from 5-7 pm in WH 207. This will be a great opportunity for students from all years to come together, study, and help each other.



Any questions? Email LingNet at:  
[brocklingnet@gmail.com](mailto:brocklingnet@gmail.com)



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Email our Interim Academic Advisor, Tayler Shannon at [tshannon@brocku.ca](mailto:tshannon@brocku.ca)

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

- Just a reminder for students intending to graduate in Spring 2023, don't forget to submit your Intent to Graduate form via your my.brocku.ca portal by February 1st
- To schedule an academic advising appointment, please use the Microsoft Bookings link below

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/AdvisingBAinSocialSciencesAppliedLinguisticsWGST@brocku.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

# Contact Us



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

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## Meet the Editorial Team!



*From left to right: Dr. Lynn Dempsey, Dr. Andrew Lee, and MA Student Rachel Springle*