From the Program Coordinator

With the beginning of the 2013-2014 academic year, the TESOL programs continue to mark milestones of improvement and potential for future growth. In particular, we have this year some changes in the physical space of our program and the continued benefits of recent changes in our faculty.

As I mentioned in last year’s newsletter, we welcomed Dr. Elena (Helen) Koulidobrova as the first tenure-track faculty member in a new fourth position on our faculty last year. During the time that she has settled into the program over the past year (bringing many strengths in helping to bridge linguistic theory to teaching practices), Dr. Seunghun Lee was away, working on a research project in Germany (see details below). This Fall semester, all four tenure-track faculty are on campus and teaching for the first time since our growing TESOL programs got the fourth faculty member. This is a moment of strength and promise for the future of our program.

Another sign of strength and promise comes in the form of improved facilities for our Linguistics (formerly Phonology) Laboratory. A new academic building for some of the Social Science departments opened up considerable space in Diloreto Hall (adjacent to Willard Hall). The lab, in room 206 of Diloreto, has a large common room and two smaller office cubicles. These spaces will be used for a linguistics/TESOL library, a phonology lab, a studio for Dr Koulidobrova’s work on bimodal bilingualism, and several computers with specialized software for all of our work. Students will also use this space for projects and as a resource.

As always, our greatest strength as a program resides in the enthusiasm, professionalism, and hard work of our students. We welcome them back to the new academic year, and wish alumni and friends a good year as well!

Dr. Matt Ciscel, Professor and TESOL Coordinator

Save the Date!

Wed 10/2, 3:30-4:15pm, Blue-&-White Room, Student Center, TESOL Program Orientation & Reception for New & Continuing Students
Sat 11/2, Annual ConnTESOL Conference, see www.conntesol.net for more information
Mon 11/4, 6:00pm, Diloreto Hall, Room 001, Guest Talk by Dr. Diane Lillo-Martin (Uconn)
Fri-Sat 11/8-9, Willard 214, Comprehensive Exams

Tentative Dates in Spring Semester 2014:
Fri TBA late February, noon, Certification Luncheon
Fri-Sat 4/4-5, Comprehensive Exams
Later in April, TBA, Annual Guest Lecture

Resources and Links

Here are a few web-based resources that might warrant some exploring, if you are not already familiar with them. If you have suggestions for links and resources to include here in future issues of Spell Out, just send them to Dr. Ciscel (ciscelm@ccsu.edu).

- The Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, DC, has lots of information and suggestions for those working with bilingual children and other language learners, primarily within the United States (www.cal.org)
- For those oriented toward ESL abroad, one of the best sites for jobs and other resources remains Dave's ESL Cafe (www.eslcafe.com)
- US funded ESL positions and opportunities abroad are numerous, including experiences in the Peace Corps (www.peacecorps.gov), the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant program (us.fulbrightonline.org), and the English Language Fellow program at Georgetown University (www.elfellowprogram.org)
Alumni News

We love to hear from Alumni/ae! Send us your updated address and contact information, if it changes, and any news that you have of your professional positions and activities. Or just drop a message to say hello (ciscelm@ccsu.edu).

Here is brief news from two alumnae from a while back who have been in touch over the past year:

• Mary Anna (McNamara) Bogdan (MS-TESOL 1986) teaches ESL at Howard County Community College in Maryland
• Yumiko (Abe) Imai (MS-TESOL 1990) continues to teach English at Donisha Women's College of Liberal Arts in Kyoto, Japan

Graduate Students Present Papers at Regional Conferences

Under the mentoring of Dr. Zidani-Eroglu, two sets of graduate students from the program have presented papers at the New York State TESOL Conference at Columbia University and at the CCSU Conference for Language Teachers (both in March 2013). At the former, papers or posters were presented by Renee Hryniewicz, Dawn Hambrecht, and Bradley Manwaring (Kaja Cichowlaz, Davia Lehn, Philip Cummings, and Lynda Ryba also had papers accepted, but were unable to attend). At the CCSU conference, Pinar Akpinar and Valerie Lofland presented papers. Moreover, at least three of our current students are on the program to present at the upcoming ConnTESOL conference in November (details in the next newsletter). The program is very proud of these students’ achievements and congratulates them.

Faculty Focus: Dr. Lee in Berlin

During the 2012-2013 academic year, Dr. Seunghun Lee was on leave from CCSU in order to conduct a research project at the Center for General Linguistics in Berlin, Germany, with generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon foundation and the Volkswagen Foundation. The focus of his on-going research involves Phonology-Syntax Interface issues in Xitsonga, a Bantu language spoken in Limpopo, South Africa. In November 2012, Dr. Lee organized a workshop titled “Syntax-Phonology Interface from a Cross-linguistic Perspective”. He was also invited to disseminate his research findings at the University of Frankfurt am Main, Humboldt University, the Royal Museum for Central Africa, and York University. In his absence, his courses were taught by Dr. Crystal Akers, who has remained with our program as a part-time instructor now that Dr. Lee has returned from Berlin.

Farewell and Stay in Touch!

Congratulations to the following students who completed the Master’s degree in TESOL over the past two semesters:

Spring 2013: Jacqueline Holowczyk, Renee Hryniewicz, Felicia King, Paula Lenge, Bradley Manwaring, Pinar Akpinar, and Katherine Prigodich, who passed the comprehensive exams, and Anna Ulatowska, who completed a thesis entitled, “Polnglish: Polish/English Code-switching among Polish Immigrants in the USA”

Fall 2012: Philippa Howe-Ivain, who passed the comprehensive exams, and Erin Moser, who completed a thesis entitled, “ELL Beliefs about Language Learning by Proficiency Level: A cross-sectional study of adult education students”

Congratulations also to the one student who completed student teaching and the TESOL post-bacc teacher certification program in Fall 2012: Katherine Prigodich.

CCSU Linguistics and TESOL Program Website: http://www.ccsu.edu/page.cfm?p=11859

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