From the Program Coordinator

The TESOL programs at CCSU continue to thrive and grow, while also facing some challenges in the face of state funding pressures and the long-standing marginality of our profession and the populations that we serve. Some recent elements of these challenges include a major reworking of CCSU's Intensive English Language Program with which our TESOL programs have collaborated so closely throughout our common history and the deepening shortage of resources allocated to English learners across the state in the face of educational reforms and tight state and local budgets. Even so, TESOL at CCSU remains the strongest program in this field in Connecticut and continues to take strides toward addressing the profession's many challenges.

One big change in the program over the past two years was the resignation of Dr. Seunghun Lee, who left us in summer 2015 for a job at a prestigious university in Tokyo, Japan. With budget cuts and hiring freeze threats from the state, the program was concerned about being able to refill the phonology position that he had filled with such dedication. With some effort, we successfully secured permission from the administration to fill the line and were able to run a successful search that resulted in the hiring of Dr. Tatiana Luchkina, who started this fall. Please join us in welcoming her. Also, see more details of her background and research interests below.

Another big change that warrants highlighting is the fact that the long-awaited renovation of Willard Hall (and combination with the adjacent Diloreto Hall) is finally underway. Over summer 2016, the English Department moved from our weary home in Willard to temporary space in Carroll Hall. In 2018, when renovations are complete, we will return to the third floor of the renovated Willard-Diloreto Hall.

Dr. Matt Ciscel, Professor and TESOL Coordinator

Willard-Diloreto Renovation!

As part of the English Department, we are temporarily in Carroll Hall, third floor, rooms 340-343, from now until some time in 2018.

The renovation will fill in the space between the old Willard and Diloreto Halls, effectively creating one big building with over 30,000 square feet of additional space. The cost of the project is estimated at over $50 million.

When reopened in 2018, the renovated building(s) will contain most of the Student Services offices on the lower floors, a few administrative offices, some classrooms, and the offices of three departments: English (TESOL’s home), Modern Languages, and Journalism.

CCSU Hosts International Conference

On May 13-15, 2016, the Linguistics and TESOL Program hosted the 12th Annual Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics, organized by Dr. Leyla Zidani-Eroglu, with help from the other faculty members in
the program. The conference, which focuses on the language family that includes Turkish, Mongolian, Korean, and Japanese, attracted scholars from all over the world and across the U.S. Graduate students in the program assisted with logistics and attended many sessions and presentations.

**TESOL Curriculum Changes**

During the 2015-2016 academic year, the faculty guided several changes in the curriculum of the Master’s, short certificate (OCP), and undergraduate minors (in TESOL and Descriptive Linguistics) through the curriculum revision process. An advanced TESOL methods course was added to the list of required courses in both the Master’s and OCP, while the lists of electives were reworked and expanded. The OCP was also increased from 12 to 18 credits in order to make federal student aid accessible to its students. The two undergraduate minors were also reduced from 21 to 18 credits in order to attract more students. Finally, the comprehensive exam grading policy was changed such that an overall score (rather than question by question) is now used to determine a cut-off for passing. This change will improve pass rates while still requiring rigorous preparation for the exams.

**Faculty News**

We are very happy to be able to welcome a new faculty member who started August 2016. Dr. Tatiana Luchkina is the new tenure-track phonologist in our program. She holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her dissertation focused on the role of prosody in free word order languages. She has extensive experience in ESL and as a researcher in a broad range of team projects in theoretical and applied linguistics.

In other faculty news, Dr. Leyla Zidani-Eroglu is on sabbatical in Fall 2016, working on a research project and article related to Turkish syntax, while Dr. Matt Ciscel will be on sabbatical in Spring 2017, working on a book project related to his research on language policy issues in Romania and Moldova. Dr. Zidani-Eroglu will be coordinating the program during spring and summer 2017.

**The BELL Laboratory**

Under the leadership of Dr. Helen Koulidobrova, the faculty of the TESOL program successfully secured funding from the CT Legislature (through the CT State Department of Education) for a resource center on our campus aimed at providing K-12 school districts with guidance and training on instructing emergent bilinguals (aka English language learners). The Bilingual and English Language Learner Laboratory (BELL Lab) has funding from fall 2015 through spring 2017 and has already provided numerous workshops in five targeted school districts.

For more information about the Lab, contact Dr. Helen Koulidobrova (elena.koulidobrova@ccsu.edu).

**Alumni News**

We love to hear from Alumnae/i! 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).

CCSU Linguistics and TESOL Program Website:
http://www.ccsu.edu/english/tesol/index.html

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