



## Linguistics Update, July 2015

UC Santa Cruz

### NEW RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

One of the most exciting developments for the Department of Linguistics at UCSC in the past three years has been a new level of success in winning external research funding. Linguistics faculty are now leading four major multi-year projects funded by the [National Science Foundation](#).

The longest running of these is a project led by [Matt Wagers](#) and [Sandy Chung](#) which you can read about [here](#). This project centers on how speakers of Chamorro make use of the language's structures in real time comprehension. More recently, a project led by [Grant McGuire](#) and [Jaye Padgett](#) centers on the phonetics of surviving varieties of Irish. You can read about that project [here](#). [An interdisciplinary project](#) led by [Pranav Anand](#) and colleagues in Computer Science and Psychology pioneers computational modeling of how people use language to persuade others of their point of view. Finally, the [fourth project](#) led by [Pranav Anand](#) and [Jim McCloskey](#) focuses on ellipsis – a pervasive

### 2015 End of Year Celebration

Congratulations to the 2015 MA's and graduating seniors in the Linguistics and Language Studies majors! We also celebrate those students who were elected to Phi Beta Kappa and those who won awards and/or honors. Click [here](#) to go to our brochure and photo gallery.



Sandy Chung, Scarlett Clothier-Goldschmidt (MA graduate), Matt Wagers

but mysterious property of all human languages.



Pranav with our new team of undergrad annotators in the Santa Cruz Ellipsis Consortium (SCEC).

These projects aim to deepen our theoretical understanding of language. Two have as their central focus endangered languages (Chamorro, Irish) and have community involvement at the core of their work. But all four also have a strong practical component – testing new technologies and providing new resources that should be useful both to language communities and to technological development. Most crucially: they involve undergraduate student researchers.

Our department has a long tradition of combining world-quality research with a strong commitment to teaching and mentoring. It is natural in that context that our undergraduate majors should now be playing central roles as interns and researchers in these four externally-funded projects. In the process, they are acquiring important new skills, qualifications, and experience which are preparing them for jobs in the high tech sector and elsewhere. They are also winning recognition for their research. In 2014-15, three undergrads received Humanities Undergraduate Research Awards (HUGRAS), and one undergrad received a Dean's Award and a Chancellor's Award, for research that grew directly out of their participation in these projects. Making



## A MESSAGE FROM CHAIR SANDY CHUNG

As a Department we are proud of our success in attracting external research funding and excited about the new opportunities that these projects make possible for our majors. At the same time, the University of California is still in a very difficult financial situation. State support for UC is now only a fraction of what it formerly was. We've worked hard through these difficult times to maintain the strength of our undergraduate programs and to prepare our students to take advantage of the opportunities just described. That effort has required much hard work, but we have preserved our historic commitment to first-class teaching, and opened up some exciting new opportunities for our undergraduates. A contribution from you could make it possible for even more undergraduates to participate in linguistic research as we move forward.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCES

Click here for [links](#) to our annual conferences.

## Linguistics at Santa Cruz (LASC) 2015



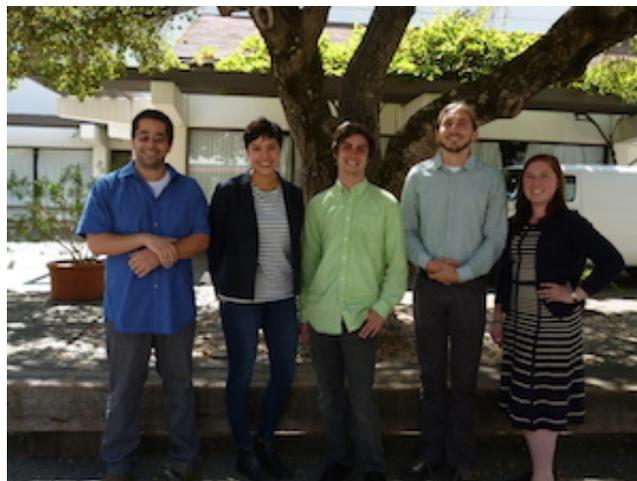
Group of LASC Speakers

it possible for our students to experience this kind of intense, day-to-day involvement in collaborative research reflects a seamless fusion of the research and teaching missions of the Department.



The SCEC group is training/working over Summer 2015.

## Linguistics Undergraduate Research Conference (LURC) 2015



Adrian Brasoveanu and LURC Speakers

University of California - Santa Cruz  
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