

THE W&M LINGUISTICS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



Faculty Highlights

Welcome to William & Mary!

The Linguistics Program is excited to welcome Visiting Assistant Professor Meg Gotowski to her new teaching position! Professor Gotowski will be teaching Study of Language, Types and Universals, and Computational Methods this spring. She specializes in language acquisition, learnability, computational linguistics, morphosyntax, and semantics. Professor Gotowski is part of two research projects at the moment. The first looks at how children learn adjectives and how syntax and semantics can help them. The second project evaluates how large language models “learn” compared to the learning that humans do. Professor Gotowski enjoys working with students, and there are usually opportunities to get involved with her research!



“I love being a part of the linguistics community at William & Mary, and students should feel free to say hello or to chat with me about acquisition or modeling any time!”

New Babies!



Over the summer, Professor Leslie Cochrane had twins! Rory (left) and Torin (right) were born on August 10, 2024. We are pleased to have Professor Cochrane back on campus after she was on leave for the fall semester.

Professor Taylor's Collected Works

Professor Talbot Taylor is in the midst of publishing a six-volume series of the research he has done throughout his career. In 2021, he was approached by editor David Bade about publishing a collection of his papers to make them available in one place. Previously the articles had been published in multiple journals, some with a non-linguistic focus, and some articles were not digitally available. The six volumes group together articles on one of the main areas of Professor Taylor's research.

The topics of each volume are as follows:

1. *Children Talking About Talking: The Reflexive Emergence of Language*
2. *Folk Linguistics, Epistemology, and Language Theories*
3. Epistemological issues raised within the practices of linguistic analysis
4. History of linguistics
5. Ape linguistic research
6. Topics in the philosophy of language

The first two volumes came out in 2023 and digital copies are available for free on W&M's ScholarWorks site: <https://works.bepress.com/talbot-taylor/>. The third volume should appear this summer.

Student Highlights

This January, four students had the opportunity to go to the annual Linguistics Society of America conference. Aidan Burnham and Nick Voivoda presented a talk on adults' sensitivity to learning a different grammar system in a language vs. non-language context. Lulu Griffin and Chloe Wright also attended, and they each presented a poster based on their honors theses.

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Aidan and Nick with Professors Harrigan and Srinivas

Aidan Burnham

"I absolutely loved attending the LSA! It was welcoming, engaging, and full of things to do. I loved attending talks to learn about what's new in the field and further my knowledge than what I already know from the classroom. The professors made it possible, and I have great appreciation and thanks for them as I wouldn't be where I am today because of them. What I loved most about presenting at the LSA was getting feedback and suggestions to further advance our research!"

Lulu Griffin

"I had a really great experience at the LSA. It was cool to be in a space totally dedicated to linguistics! I got the chance to listen to talks on current research in the field, attend discussion sessions, and meet other passionate students and people. I especially liked and learned a lot from a very meaningful presentation/talk on signed language, specifically on the Philadelphia dialect. I also enjoyed being able to present research that I've conducted, practice my public speaking skills, and get some feedback."

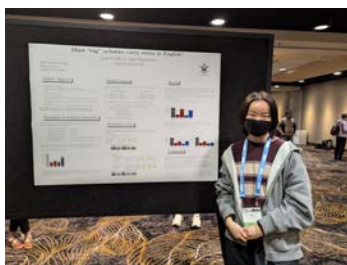
Nick Voivoda

"I am extremely grateful I got to attend this year's LSA Annual Conference. Not only did I learn about new research in a myriad of linguistics' subfields, but I also attended multiple networking and career-oriented events which helped me build my professional skillset. On top of all of this, I presented research I have been working on and got lots of valuable feedback. Overall it was a great experience and I hope I get to attend next year's conference!"

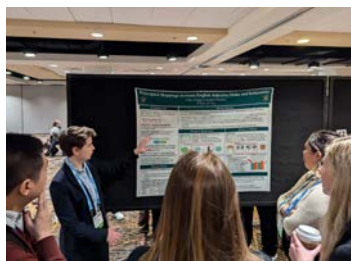
Chloe Wright

"I was very grateful for the opportunity to attend the LSA this year. I saw a lot of talks by people who I've heard about or read papers by in classes, and it was interesting to see them present in person. It was also helpful to have so many people looking at the work we've done and offering ideas, especially getting feedback from more people who specialize in adjectives."

Nick, Lulu, and Chloe's travel to the LSA was possible thanks to the Charles Center's Research in Motion Travel Grants.



Lulu with their poster



Chloe presenting her poster

Halloween Highlights: Linguistics Pumpkin Carving!



It's not all research! This October we gathered in the Wren basement for a gourd time carving pumpkins. Check out the spooktacular designs!

