

## THE W&amp;M LINGUISTICS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



## Faculty Highlights

### Incubator Grant

By Megha Vasudevan



In 2022, Professor Leslie Cochrane, head of DA@W&M, was awarded a \$20,000 Faculty-mentored Research Incubator grant, a new pilot project from the W&M Charles Center. In this model, multiple students receive a summer research grant to work with a faculty member on their research. In summer 2022, three students — Heath Grande Staton, Ginny Helmandollar, and Megha Vasudevan — were a part of the Incubator and worked with Professor Cochrane for 10 weeks of full-time research. The grant is for a period of two years, so students will be working with Professor Cochrane again in summer 2023. DA@W&M also had two students from the WMSURE program join them this summer — Kerris Watson and Kay Carter — and together, all 5 students presented at the Charles Center's Fall Research Symposium in September 2022.

### A&S Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence



On February 10th, Professor Iyabo Osiapem was awarded the Arts and Sciences Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. This honor is given by the Dean to only three faculty members each year, recognizing those who have gone above and beyond in teaching and inspiring students.

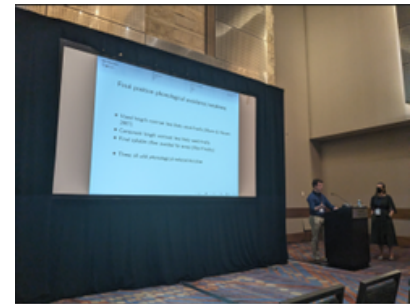
## Student Highlights

### Linguistics Society of America Conference

The Linguistics Society of America's annual meeting is one of the biggest linguistic conferences of the year. The 2023 conference in Denver this January was a busy four days, full of lectures, poster sessions, and opportunities to get to know fellow linguists.

This year, W&M was pleased to send two students – Joseph Lorber and Bennett Meale – to present their work at the conference.

Joseph Lorber at LSA:

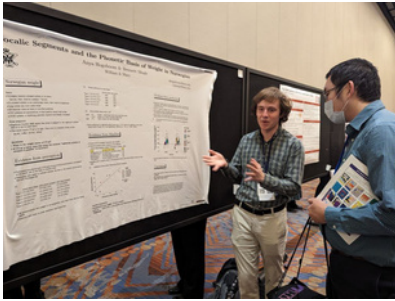


Joseph Lorber on his research:

"From the outset, our task was to reconcile the inability of current formalism to accurately capture and predict the phonological strength (or weakness) of word-final syllables. Through a year-long process of research and conducting several perception studies, Professor Hogoboom and I have come to the conclusion that the phenomenon of final lengthening as it applies to word boundaries plays a crucial role in the status of word final syllables. Specifically, word-final lengthening adds length of a degraded perceptual quality to the final syllable in a word, which causes duration-based phenomena to appear strong, and other phenomena to appear weak in that environment. We will continue our research into the coming semester, and are currently awaiting results from a version of our previous study that is being run with children still in the process of learning their first language."

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Bennett Meale at LSA:



Bennett Meale on his research:

"Professor Hogoboom and I are investigating the relationship between phonetic duration of syllable shapes (in proportion to the duration of short vowels in those positions) and the phonological classes of heavy and light syllables (i.e. can a syllable draw stress?). We have done this through various production and perception studies as well as some computational modeling via maximum entropy grammar."

### Discourse Analysis Research Group

By Megha Vasudevan

The Database:

Discourse Analysis at William & Mary (DA@W&M) has been working on a number of projects this past year. These include a customized database that contains hours worth of conversational data that students in linguistics and other similar disciplines can utilize for research. After the team developed the database's structure and coding categories, it became functional in Fall 2022. They have also conducted sociolinguistic interviews over Summer 2022 and Fall 2022, and have been inputting that data into the database.

Recent Research:

DA@W&M presented an online paper on their past research at the American Anthropological Association 2022 annual meeting, entitled "'Dogs Welcome': Pet Discourse in the UK and US Linguistic Landscapes."

Current Steps:

As of right now, they are working on de-identifying their interview data and transcribing it, so that researchers can make use of it.



The DA Team outside Tucker Hall

## Having Fun On Campus: Highlights from Last Semester



Watching *Arrival*: Sometimes students need some *space* from studying. The department got together for a change of *scene*, to watch the movie *The Washington Post* praised as "making linguists almost cool."



Pumpkin Carving:

It's not all research! Whenever that spooky season arrives, the linguists of W&M decide to give the rest of the campus pumpkin to talk about: our philosophy is gourd big or go home!



TWO LINGUISTS WERE WALKING DOWN THE STREET. WHICH ONE WAS THE SPECIALIST IN CONTEXTUALLY INDICATED DEIXIS AND ANAPHORIC REFERENCE RESOLUTION STRATEGIES?

THE OTHER ONE.