If you think UUSLAW might be some sort of exotic cole slaw, guess again! Or, better yet, just ask one of your friends who studies language acquisition; she or he will tell you that UUSLAW stands for the UMass, UConn, Smith Language Acquisition Workshop. Twice a year, faculty and students from the University of Massachusetts, UConn, and Smith College take turns hosting these one-day workshops to present and share ideas about their latest language acquisition research, and the most recent meeting was hosted by UMass. On the cold and blustery Saturday morning of December 12, a hearty band of UConn students and staff found their way to UMass’s Amherst campus to join about a dozen others in Herter Hall. During the morning session, our own Jean Crawford presented her latest work on the role of telicity and situational aspect in the acquisition of passives, and later Oksana Tarasenkova asked for our thoughts about some interesting puzzles in children’s acquisition of Russian morphology.

After a delicious lunch and much informal discussion, we also heard presentations from (among others) UConn’s Ting Xu and Lyn Shan Tieu. Ting presented her work on English-speaking children’s negative questions, addressing the question of whether the lack of negative questions with 2 auxiliaries in children’s speech might be the result of parameter-setting or incorrect lexical information. Lyn spoke later about her research into cross-linguistic influences on Cantonese-English.
bilingual children’s acquisition of wh-questions. English has wh-movement and Cantonese does not—if you want to know what children learning both languages do with their wh-questions, just ask Lyn!

Other presentations from folks at UMass included Liane Jeschull’s talk on inceptive aspect (it may be easier for kids than you thought); Ruth Lopes’ work on ellipses in the acquisition of Brazilian Portuguese; Misato Hiraga’s further research into how kids deal with recursive verbal compound nouns (have you ever run into a ‘tea pourer maker’?); and some interesting findings on past-tense production in young African-American English speakers, presented by a group of undergraduate researchers.

I’m sure others who were at December’s UUSLAW will agree that it was worth the trip. The good news is, the next one will be held at UConn, sometime this spring—and all are welcome!

**Space for food**

*By HangYee Cheung*

Do you know that dogs wag their tails vertically in Hong Kong? Well, it’s how they have evolved to adapt to the spatial constraints here. Despite this, there is always space for food. My family of five lives in about 400 square feet of space, and that includes my sister’s boyfriend who has stashed himself under her dressing table. My space is in the living room, and I sleep on a mattress laid on top of my little cupboard and tiny writing table (see picture). Just in case you think I have a decent sized bed, let me give you the dimensions: 2 feet x 5 feet, that’s why I stopped growing bigger since I was a little girl, which, incidentally, is the real reason why women from Hong Kong always look so young that we can’t get liquor from the store. It has nothing to do with SKII and other cosmetics.

But back to the food issue. We still eat a nice 6-entree dinner every so often. Now, if you would look carefully, Chinese food as eaten by the Chinese is not all darkly stained with soy sauce though sometimes it is hardly conceivable if one thinks mostly of chop suey and chicken chow mein (neither available in my city). Food is a really big thing in Hong Kong. When friends meet, they don’t say *hello*, instead they’d ask if the other has eaten. *sik jor fan mei?*, that’s what we’d say, which glosses as *eaten rice not?* You’d expect that if this is the standard greeting, everyone should always be quite stuffed with food, and would have eaten their fill at home before they step out. But take a look at this spicy BBQ fish served in a tray of fish broth.
Space for food continued from page 2

Restaurants in Hong Kong are everywhere, and when they are good, people would wait a full 2 hours for a seat. We’re not even talking about comfortable seating. The fish you see about is served in a tray the size of a large pizza, and that fills up two-thirds the table that seats four!! My friends and I eat with our elbows gently nudging, an involuntary courtesy that could be interpreted as it’s my turn to eat, depending on how hard one nudges. There is seriously no space, but what we have, we fill with food.

Sometimes, the competition to stuff oneself with good food goes home, and we often have hot pot parties.

Oh, just in case you’re wondering why there is so little food on the table, it’s because we’ve finished most of it before I remembered to take a picture.

Please see one of the most handsome additions to our LING family

Koji Sugisaki (Ph.D. UConn 2003) is now a father.
His new baby boy is named ’Takuto’.

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Spicy in Jordon, Kowloon

Hot pot, what’s left of it

Name: Takuto
Date of Birth:  13 July, 2009
Weight: About 8 pounds at birth, currently around 16-17 pounds.

Congratulations, Koji! We hope that Mother, Father and the baby are all doing great.
Student Accomplishments

By whoever submitted

Publications


Publications to appear


Conference presentations


See Student Accomplishments page 5
Departmental presentations


Invited Talks / Guest Lectures

Đespić, Miloje. 2009. The Universal DP Hypothesis and Binding - The Case of Serbo-Croatian, Friday, 30 October 2009, Syntax Colloquium Series, Yale.

Sad News

It is with much sadness that we write to inform you that our colleague Mariana Lambova passed away Monday, January 18th after a long battle with Lou Gehrig's disease. Mariana's sister called and said Mariana began to have symptoms in November of 2006. By December of 2008 she had lost the ability to speak. She died in her sister's home in NY surrounded by her mother, sister and brother-in-law. Mariana's sister is Ilka D. Marquardt. We asked if we could give out her address in the event you wish to send your condolences. Please see below:

Ilka D Marquardt
111 E. 30th Street, Apt 6C
NY, NY 10016-7352
Ph. 203-225-8917 (B)
Catalina Rittton

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—Ting