

Editor's Note

Welcome to the fourth issue of *The Bangor Linguist*, the bi-monthly magazine for those with an interest in linguistics and the English language. Within each issue, we shall be discussing and exploring many aspects of linguistics and the English language, looking at what occurs around us in the department and keeping you up to date with other sights of interest. We will also be giving you reviews on “popular linguistics”, such as media reviews, puzzles and cross-words.

In this issue, we have an article by two Freshers who have told us about their experiences in their first year here in Bangor. Further we have reports from the Student Led Teaching Awards and the Societies' Awards. We will also present to you the new committee from the coming year, give you an outline of what's going to happen if you graduate this year and some pieces from the category of satirical and humoristic linguistics.

We hope that you enjoy this issue and have found what we have included is useful. If you have any comments, requests, critiques or offers of help, then please email Kathryn Barlow (the editor) via linguistics@undeb.bangor.ac.uk.

Kathryn Barlow

Roseanne's First Year

Before looking at Bangor I didn't really want to come to university – I felt no enthusiasm for it. Then I saw what it had to offer and chose to study English Language with English Literature.

The many social activities during welcome week gave new students a chance to meet and socialise with each other before the course started and also gave us the chance to meet staff in an informal setting. It provided us with an introduction to the BLS as many of the department's peer guides were part of the society.



At the start of the year new students were given the chance to be part of the committee and I leapt at the chance to become Library Manager (I'm a bit of a geek when it comes to books and couldn't resist a role with such a name) and though I'm involved with other societies and committees I feel a stronger connection to the BLS, perhaps because, being an academic society, it relates to my course.

When I learned more of what the linguistics department had to offer really interested me and after a week of lectures I felt strongly that I would much rather do a degree based entirely within the school. I decided to drop English Literature in favour of studying Linguistics and English language and it's a decision that I don't regret in the slightest. First year has been quite challenging at times but I've really enjoyed it and look forward to next year when I'll be peer guiding and taking on a more active role in the BLS as Co-Vice President and Library Manager.

Roseanne Orr

An ode to linguistic diversity: Experiences of a Monolingual

It's been three years since I first stepped foot in Wales (well I had a holiday a few years prior...but we are focusing on the degree aspect of life...good holiday mind... sorry back to point) and I can say the experience has certainly been a different one to that which I am used to back in the old North East of England; a traditionally monolingual part of the world.

I believe that living in Bangor, has certainly given me more than a taste of what a bilingual community is all about. What I would say is that though I was previously aware of Welsh, I had not experienced it, I had not lived in it, and I was not anything to do with it. And as previously stated coming from a monolingual part of the world I think this can lead one to have a narrow mind set about the world in which we live, so far as the languages and the speakers of said languages go. This probably is not helped and therefore hindered by studying French* during my time at Comprehensive and Sixth Form. French, a language which I am sure you will know is not a minority language by any stretch, and by this token it can be easy to be conditioned to think that French and similar global/taught languages are the only ones that matter. Thankfully I never really had this opinion.

I move to Bangor and begin to get in contact with such fancy attractions as Welsh-English bilingual... well anything you can shake the proverbial stick at really, signs, posters, menus, I could go on. I refer to them as fancy attractions, as back in the monolingual world it would be a very rare sight. Ok, you get the odd sign which may be for the benefit of tourists, but

that doesn't have the same feel. In fact I recall my first time I returned home to Durham following my first few months at University, and how alien it had become to see monolingual signs. Clearly that first couple of months spent in Bangor had its effect!

Though I am guilty of not truly learning Welsh in any sense, living in Bangor has allowed me to appreciate not only Welsh, but much and many other minority languages. This has been somewhat promoted through modules I have studied as part of my Linguistics Undergraduate degree, but living in this bilingual community has complimented the teachings and beliefs from lecturers and staff in Bangor. And when you add in things like the Bilingualism Centre et al, well...it becomes quite hard not to embrace language.

In closing, Bangor has given me more than just a Linguistics degree. It has given me a real appreciation for the world in which we live, and that each language has a place in this world. Diolch.

#SupportingLanguages

#PromotingLinguistics

Wedi wedi!

Callum Robson

Jenny's First Year

I was once told that a joint honours degree was like taking one and half degrees at once. After a year of studying Creative Studies and English Language, I have to say that I agree.

There is a lot of rushing around with conflicting deadlines, especially around this time of year where everything is happening at once. However, the time conflict has been happening since day one.

During fresher's week, I had activities planned by both departments that ran on the same days and at the same time. Taking the advice to stick to the compulsory meetings for one subject and going to the other department's meetings if I could, I managed to find my way around while still socialising with both halves of my course. Today, I have close friends in both English Language and Creative Studies.

One thing I noticed about the Linguistics department was how welcoming it was to the new students. The departmental peer guides were enthusiastic and there were more than enough things to do. By the end of the first week we were well aware of the BLS and what it did for the students.

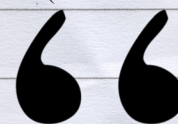
Months later, I've remained part of the BLS. Compared to what I personally experienced on the other half of my course, the Linguistic department was more friendly and welcoming, making the transition from college to university a lot smoother. Now, I consider the friends I made in English Language some of the closest I've made here.

Jenny Smith

Self-limitation

(dedicated to liquid consonants)

By Florian Breit



I knew a lady like a diamond,
who knew not more than nothing.
She saw a problem in pendant,
not just a foible something;
she saw words much like liquid,
vowed herself not to sanction:
Dear, there must be no vacuum!



BLS Members Recognised at SU Societies' Awards

Former BLS President Stuart Smith and Vice President Florian Breit were both on the receiving end of Silver Awards at the 2012 Bangor Students' Union Societies' Awards. This was a big step for not only the society but the committee as well, considering the BLS has in recent years often been overlooked.

During his time with the BLS Florian has held positions as Treasurer

Jo Sutton, before taking over from Megan Milton as President of the society during the 2011/12 term. He worked tirelessly on improving the many little things important to keep the society together and proved a great resource in managing the expansion of the BLS's activities, overseeing the establishment of new communication methods such as the newsletter.

Both of them also did a great job



Florian receiving his Silver Award from SU Vice-President Rich Gorman

and Vice President. In the former he was in charge of looking after the societies finances and also lay the groundwork for our new digitalised library system. During his time as Vice President he has helped with setting up the new BLS website, trained officers in the use and administration of the new library system and started up the popular “Approaches to Language” lecture series; something we as a society wish to continue for the foreseeable future.

Stuart's BLS career started off as a first year Social Secretary, as which he helped organise the ever successful BLS Summer Meal alongside Social Secretary

at campaigning for the society and increasing it's representation in the department, so that the BLS now has a seat on the Board of Studies and regular meetings with Department Chair Vyv Evans.

Matt Jackson

Rejected Dissertation Ideas

When it comes to forming an idea for a dissertation topic, sometimes you can go through many ideas before you hit “the one”. By this token I would like to share some ideas that I went through and were rejected for one reason or another (usually ethics based). Anyway enjoy!

• Why are linguists so god damn

handsome?

• Are bilinguals able to systematically work out rules better than monolinguals: A case study involving the card game of Mao

• A comparative neurolinguistic study between people who have had strokes, people who have been stroked, and “The Strokes”

• Does language influence the vocal tract?

• Does the vocal tract influence language?

• Do women just go on and on and on?

• What are the effects on the vocal tract when totally submerged underwater?

• What are the effects on the vocal tract + phonetics following general anaesthetic?

• Investigation into the phonetic systems of shy people.

• Study into the acquisition of pragmatics in mimes.

• Are seagulls just effing with me?

• Did cavemen sound like Victorian Gentlemen; retrospective study.

• The reintroduction of a full case system into English; overnight experiment

• Are women still going on and on?

• Why do <h> and /h/ get mistreated?

• A correlative study of beards and linguists.

• Is learning to play a sport like learning a second language?

• How long can I mess around with the Welsh language before being evicted?

• Would David Crystal go to the pub if I asked him?

Callum Robson

Linguistics Chat-up Lines

With the long summer break and hopefully high temperatures ahead, it is just a question of time until we linguists too get into that daunting situation: The beach party in full swing you sit by the fire among a large crowd of non-linguist who now seem to really hit it off, but nobody really seems impressed by your analysis of metaphor and metonymy use in Nick Clegg's continued struggle to proliferate himself linguistically after the student fee debacle last year.

If despite being a linguist you just don't want to end the night alone, we here at the BLS lab are more than happy to help and under great strain have prepared some linguistics based, field-tested chat-up lines for your free usage.

- I'd very much like "you" and "I" to become the arguments of a two place predicate.
- How about you and me sit in a syllable tree, [k-ɪ-s-s-ɪ-ŋ-g]?
- Hey sweets, following the Attract Closest Principle (Chomsky 1995:297) you will surely join me for a drink, right?
- Would you drop your [h] for me?
- Have you ever wondered whether there was S-O agreement across gender with the verb "to mate"?
- Hey, I'm sure you've heard of Syntax before.. but what about syntax?
- Our vibrations are gonna make some sweet harmonics!
- Right then sweets, you know about the entailments of the cooperative principle and what that implicates for us two?
- Let's do the retroflex flap until you trill...
- Did she just shake her phonotactics at me?

• I think it's time we move on from A-bar movement, don't you sweetie?

• Say, wanna show me your input space?

• Well I didn't believe in the Immediacy of Experience Principle until now, but how are you?

• Have you ever wondered what case marking for absolutive feels like?

• Hey there. By the way, I'm a linguist...

We wish you the best of luck with these, though we have been legally advised to refuse all liability for any outcomes whatsoever.

Florian Breit

English Language as a Joint Honours Student

When I started looking around for universities I simply couldn't pick a subject, a single subject, that fit for me. I thought of myself as an aspiring journalist however I knew a full journalism degree was not my cup of tea as most involve tedious days sat behind a camera filming things that I merely didn't care about, I also felt as though that would neglect an academic field I was interested in: Linguistics. I eventually settled on a joint course in ever so sunny Wales. I had heard a few horror stories before joining and at open days around the UK, I was warned off of joint degrees already by a few people but I thought my journey would be different and that a joint degree of English Language and Journalism fit exactly what I wanted to do.

My overall opinion of doing English Language as a joint degree is that if your pathway best fits a joint degree then it's most certainly the way forward, the split between the two subjects has for me been per-

fect. A sprinkling of journalistic ideals and practises from the media school and time spent exploring the history of English and various language features in Linguistics. However that is not to say that being a joint honours student has never caused any problems or issues for me. At times on a personal level I've had to try and stop the two courses from clashing, maybe avoid drawing out linguistic theory to back up a media article. I've also found that I seem to have to juggle my coursework as deadlines often clash, however a keen sense of time planning helps that (or just do each one the night before its due causing very little clashing). I've found I often sit there deliberating my modules a bit more than a single honours student as well, however I'm never quite sure if this is because I am spoilt for choice or I overthink which module fits in which slot allowing me to follow different choices.

Despite the small obstacles to climb, I think I prefer being a joint honours student. Not that I have any experience as a single honours student, though at times I certainly feel more like a linguistics student than a media student and from talking to other students I get the idea that no one ever quite sees themselves as a member of both schools, rather a person who drifts into one from the other.

Matt Jackson

Course Rep and Student Led Teaching Awards

At the beginning of this month, PJ Hall was filled with Course Reps, lecturers, food, music and many awards. The night was to celebrate the hard work from the Course Reps for their hard work over the past year, as well as to award the

lecturers and other members of staff across a variety of departments.

From our department, we had three members of staff who were on the shortlist for an array of awards: Peredur Davies, Christopher Shank and Nia Jones. Christopher was up for New Teacher of the Year, whilst Nia was up for Outstanding Pastoral Support. Peredur, on the other hand, was up for two awards, for which one of them was the Dissertation/Thesis Supervisor of the Year.

Even though they didn't win the main awards for the categories that they were nominated for, we are proud they they were in the shortlist.

Kathryn Barlow

Ready, set, graduate!

If you are one of the students graduating this year, first of all congratulations! Now, you must at some point surely have wondered what to do by when and how to back up information from your e-mail accounts and M: drive. For this we have tried to collect some information on what is happening to your accounts and privileges when and the important dates to look out for. The most important first: The graduation ceremony for linguistics is on the 17th of July at 3pm in PJ Hall. However, registration has now passed so if you haven't already registered for it you will probably graduate in absentia. For the graduation ceremony you will also need to hire a gown from Ede & Ravenscroft online, best well in advance. Make sure you have a measurement tape to hand when doing this as you will be asked for various measures such as head circumference to ensure all parts of the gown fit!

If you want to bring guests to the ceremony in PJ Hall you need to buy tickets for them (a maximum of 2pp) via the <http://bangor.ac.uk/graduation> website, which will set you back £12 per ticket. If you do not do this there will also be a lecture room with live CCTV to the ceremony where as many guests as you like to bring can watch the whole thing for free.

While you can still go to the library and consult books and journals there, borrowing rights for undergraduates have ceased on the 1st of June, so that there is no access to online journals or the possibility to borrow books any more. The 1st of June was also the date from which student status officially ended for undergraduates, though graduates will variously have more time left.

You will be able to access BangorPortal and Blackboard until the 13th of July, which is when Student Records will terminate accounts for graduating students. This will also be followed shortly by termination of your E-Mail account and M: drive, so if you have any E-Mails you wish to keep beyond that date or data on the university computers it is best to back these up before then.

There is a guide on the IT-Services website under <http://bit.ly/BangorBackup> which explains how to transfer the Bangor E-Mails onto your own computer using either Thunderbird or Outlook. To back up data from your M: drive, you can either go and copy it onto a pen-drive yourself or use the CD burning services provided by IT Services, who will for £2.50 provide you with a CD or DVD containing all the files you've saved on the university computers. This service is available by email-

ing cd@bangor.ac.uk.

Note that the university also provides a service called "E-Mail for Life", which basically is a free Bangor email address that is permanently forwarded to another E-Mail account, for instance a Hotmail or Gmail account. These are mostly in the form inital.surname@univ.bangor.ac.uk and you can sign up for them here: <http://bangor.ac.uk/alumni/email>. What a great way to show off your Bangor past and stay in touch with the friends you've made here!

Florian Breit

Keep in touch with the BLS

We have a website which can be found at <http://bangorlinguists.org>. We are now also on Facebook (new page!) and on Twitter:

<http://on.fb.me/BangorLinguists>.

<http://bit.ly/BLStweet> (English)

<http://bit.ly/CIBtweet> (Welsh)

There are also some year groups on Facebook, named "Linguistics & English Language 'XX'", where "XX" is the year of graduation (e.g. '12 for the current third years). Make sure to join!

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