



# The University of Texas at Austin Department of Linguistics

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Welcome to the Spring 2019 UT Austin Department of Linguistics eNewsletter

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## Danny Law on the Highs and Low(land)s of Studying Mayan Languages

Associate professor Danny Law studies how languages change over time, and like the Mayan languages he studies, he's learned that his own research and teaching will continue to evolve, sometimes taking him down – or up – unexpected paths. [Read more...](#)



## On Guard, Ready, Go: Grace Neveu Stands Poised for Her Next Move

Grace Neveu, a Ph.D. candidate in the UT Department of Linguistics, discusses what brought her to UT, the unexpected places her graduate program has taken her, and what waits for her after graduation. [Read more...](#)



## Industry Spotlight: Q & A with Alumnus Nick Gaylord

Nick Gaylord received his Ph.D. in Linguistics from UT in 2013, and he's spent the half-decade since then happily discovering that there is indeed life outside of academia. We asked Dr. Gaylord to share a bit of his experience with the transition from doctoral program to work in industry. [Read more...](#)

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Dear friends,

In this, our second, newsletter, we are highlighting two important research areas of the Department of Linguistics: the study of signed languages and the study of the indigenous languages of Latin America.

Grace Neveu's dissertation sits at the intersection of these two areas of research. She's looking at the "home signing" of an isolated deaf man in a remote community in the Peruvian Amazon. Remarkably, Grace's dissertation will be the fifth from our department that has investigated a sign language of Latin America.

In his research, Associate Professor Danny Law looks at the linguistics of Mayan languages. Among Mayanists, he is exceptional in that he has published both on the epigraphy of the Classical Mayan writing system and on the linguistics of modern Mayan languages.

Last, but not least, we look at the career transitions that many of our alumni make. Nick Gaylord (Ph.D. 2013) moved from UT's campus to the tech jobs of the Bay Area. Linguists now have interesting career options outside academia. Nick tells us about how he made this transition.

We hope you'll enjoy reading these stories that showcase some of the tremendous work being done by our faculty, students, and alumni.

All best wishes,



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