



Language Science Day 2012

Sept. 14th, University of Maryland languagescience.umd.edu

Language Science Day (LSD), held early in each academic year, is the kick-off event of the year's language science activities, bringing together students and faculty from a campus-wide community, showcasing ongoing projects from various disciplines, facilitating networking among participants, and improving awareness of research and training opportunities at the University of Maryland. This year's LSD, as the third annual event, brought together over 175 language science researchers, a 15% increase from last year, from 18 departments and UMD-affiliated institutions, to exchange ideas in the form of student and faculty presentations followed by a research fair. Networking activities continued during a lunch buffet and a dinner social for 100 people at a nearby faculty home. The 2012 LSD was the most widely attended and successful event to date.

Participant Affiliations

Department of Computer Science	Center for Advanced Study of Language
Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences	Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Department of Human Development and Quant. Methodology	NSF IGERT Program in Language Science
Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership	Department of Anthropology
Neuroscience and Cognitive Science Program	School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Department of Philosophy	iSchool
Department of Psychology	UMIACS
Second Language Acquisition Program	Department of English
Department of Linguistics	

The event opened with a networking lunch buffet, accompanied by slides that highlighted language science events and activities, recent awards, and student and faculty publications. Colin Philips gave an overview of the year's activities, and a summary of progress towards community-wide goals. During lunch, participants joined 'topic corner' discussion areas, providing an opportunity to interact with researchers with similar interests. After lunch, a series of brief faculty presentations highlighted interdisciplinary research opportunities and links between basic science and real-world problems. An excellent series of student presentations shared personal experiences and best practices for getting involved in interdisciplinary research, and for building cross-field student research communities, such as the highly successful PHLING network.



After the presentations, two research fair sessions engaged participants in a more interactive way. Representatives from 28 groups and/or laboratories presented ongoing work on a large range of language-related topics, including theoretical research, experimental studies, computer/mathematical modeling, clinical applications, etc. Instead of recycling posters from disciplinary meetings, teams developed broadly accessible summaries that explained their combined work to non-specialists. Funding for the event came from 11 participating departments, programs, and centers, as well as a sponsorship from the Graduate Student Government. Participants felt energized by the day's activities and the growing strength of the community, and LSD is now firmly established in the annual calendar.