



This 4th annual Language Science Day, held on September 27th, 2013, at the Riggs Alumni Center, featured the official launch of the Maryland Language Science Center. It continued the mission of bringing together the community of 200+ language scientists to improve awareness of the rich opportunities for language research at the University of Maryland. The event included research presentations, networking opportunities, and a poster fair, show-casing research activities, training possibilities, and potential collaborations.



Invited speakers:
 Joanne Tornow - National Science Foundation
 Barbara Landau - Johns Hopkins University
 Mary Ann Rankin - Provost, UMD
 Pat O'Shea - Vice President for Research, UMD

UMD Invests in 'Big Language'

The creation of the Maryland Language Science Center represents a major commitment by the University of Maryland to language science as a strategic priority. In keeping with the spirit of Language Science Day, the Center is a collaborative effort involving language scientists from 17 departments and centers in 6 colleges across the university. The Center's efforts will focus on interdisciplinary research and training, with the goal of answering grand challenges in basic science, and solving real-world language problems in education, technology, and health.

Participating External Organizations

- Am. Speech-Language-Hearing Assn
- Am. Psychological Association
- Center for Applied Linguistics
- Defense Adv. Res. Projects Agency
- Institute for Educational Sciences
- Linguistic Society of America
- National Academies of Science
- National Science Foundation
- Gallaudet University
- Johns Hopkins University
- University of Connecticut
- University of Wisconsin

Celebrating the New Commitment

To celebrate the launch of the Center, a series of keynote speakers addressed the importance of the new Center as a university-wide initiative, and its significance to the future of language science research internationally. Led by Patrick O'Shea, UMD's Vice President for Research, several distinguished speakers offered remarks in support of the new Language Science Center: Mary Ann Rankin, Provost; Joanne Tornow, Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation; and Barbara Landau, Vice Provost and Director of the Science of Learning Institute at Johns Hopkins University. Finally, Colin Phillips, the Center's director, took the stage to outline his vision for the future of language science at Maryland.

University Affiliated Center Participants

- Dept of Linguistics*
- Center for Advanced Study of Language*
- Inst for Advanced Computer Studies (UMIACS)*
- Dept of Hearing and Speech Sciences*
- Dept of Teaching & Learning, Pol. & Leadership*
- Neuroscience and Cognitive Science Program*
- Dept of Philosophy*
- Dept of Psychology*
- School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures*
- Dept of Counseling, Higher Ed, & Special Ed
- Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Dept of Computer Science
- Dept of Communication
- Dept of English
- Dept of Human Dev. and Quant. Methodology*
- National Foreign Language Center
- iSchool

*Language Science Day sponsor
 Language Science Day was additionally sponsored by the NSF-IGERT: Biological and Computational Foundations of Language Diversity, and the Graduate Student Government.

External Interest

Unlike previous years, when Language Science Day was a UMD-only event, the launch of the new center attracted many guests from funding agencies and professional organizations with an interest in language science. This interest reflects the uniqueness of the center's scope.

Answering Grand Challenges

In the afternoon, a panel of leading UMD language scientists discussed the theme of the day: Grand Challenges for Language Science. Each panelist described what problems they felt were most critical to solve in language science, what their disciplines had to contribute to solving these problems, and what they stood to gain from collaboration.

Building a Research Community

An all-day poster exhibit highlighted the research in language science carried out across the University of Maryland. 27 research groups presented their research, and how it aligns with the Grand Challenges theme.

