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From: **Mark Padilla** <mark.padilla@cnu.edu>
Date: Wed, Feb 22, 2012 at 2:34 PM
Subject: New Linguistics Minor starting at CNU!
To: faculty@cnu.edu

Colleagues,

I am very pleased to share with you that Dr. Rebecca Wheeler has accepted my invitation to serve as the inaugural
Director of the Minor in Linguistics. This program will be included in the 2012-2013 Catalog. The Minor will
include coursework from across the Colleges, and involve many faculty participants.

I congratulate the work of Dr. Wheeler to bring this program into existence, and I want to acknowledge
the important scrutinizing work of the curriculum making bodies on campus. Many faculty and staff
were involved.

I have attached some documents regarding the minor, and offer an excerpt below.

Sincerely,

Mark Padilla, Provost

The Minor Program in Linguistics
(15 credits)

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. Language, an arbitrary, symbolic signaling system is the major cognitive ability distinguishing human beings from all other animals. As a discipline, linguistics examines the structural components of language [i.e., phonetics (sound), phonology, morphology (word structure), syntax (sentence structure), and semantics (meaning)], the conventions of language use (pragmatics) and the precise interplay among them. The discipline explores language in society, the nature of language variation and issues of power, prestige, and prejudice accruing to language use.

The interdisciplinary linguistics minor anchors in two foundation courses, Introduction to Linguistics and a course in the Structure of Language (in English, French, German, Spanish or Latin). Students then explore how a linguistically informed approach to language fuels both theoretical and applied inquiry in diverse disciplines. For example, Sociology and Anthropology explore cultural and ethnic differences in communicative style and language use around the world; Psychology explores child language acquisition, language and the brain, and the psychology of language; Computer Science might examine the syntactically and semantically well formed expressions in the artificial language of Java, and Philosophy explores different theories of the nature and structure of language and the role that language plays in determining what is counted as truth, knowledge, and reality.

Students will learn how to uncover assumptions about language, they will learn how to make, test and revise hypotheses, and how to construct logical arguments pertaining to the nature of language. In this way, the Linguistics Minor supports our liberal arts mission as students further deepen skills of critical thinking and analysis.

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2 Attachments

📄 **Linguistics copy.rtf**

📄 **NewProgramPro...**