

The **Department of Germanic Studies** presents:

The Hedwig Leser Lecture

Dr. Joe Cunningham

Assistant Professor of German in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition
at Georgetown University

Will give a lecture entitled:

“Pragmatic Development in Telecollaboration: Learning to Request”

Abstract: In recent years telecollaborative exchange has matured into a robust area of inquiry, with much research documenting potential benefits, including attainment of intercultural communicative competence (Müller-Hartmann, 2006; O’Dowd, 2006; 2007) and growth of linguistic knowledge through social interaction (Belz & Kinginger, 2002, 2003; Kern, 2006; Vyatkina, 2012). When paired with focused instruction, a pedagogical approach in which the language produced by the exchange participants is subsequently developed into instructional materials, gains in pragmatic competence can be especially dramatic (Belz & Vyatkina, 2008; Cunningham, 2016). In this talk I will discuss the combined effect of focused instruction and synchronous computer-mediated communication (CMC) with expert speakers of German on the development of second language German users’ requesting behavior. For analytical purposes, requesting behavior is operationalized as the combination of three interrelated measures: directness, internal modification, and external modification. Whereas quantitative analysis showed no change between experimental conditions, qualitative analysis of 4 learners’ request production over the course of 4 online discussions revealed both idiosyncratic developmental pathways and the emergence of a common strategy for managing participation in oral synchronous CMC. I will conclude the talk with directions for future research.



Hedwig Leser

Friday, February 10, 2017

at

5:30 PM

at the

CAHI House (1211 E. Atwater Avenue)

An open reception will follow the lecture.

The Leser Lecture was founded by Professor Emeritus Henry Remark and others in honor of Hedwig Leser.