

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the 2018 American Dialect Society annual meeting, I mentioned to Roger Shuy in the hotel pub that we need more awards for research excellence in dialectology to encourage scholarship in our society. Roger immediately offered to provide the American Dialect Society with sufficient funds for an award of excellence of \$100 for five years. Thus the Roger Shuy Best Paper in *American Speech* Award was born! The annual award is given to the author(s) of the best research article in *American Speech* in a given year based on the following measures: articulation of the research question, methodology, interpretation, and relevance to North American dialects. The adjudication is done by the Awards Committee, which is chaired by the president and includes editors of *American Speech* and PADS.

I am pleased to report that this year's winners are Charlie Farrington (Univ. of Oregon), Tyler Kendall (Univ. of Oregon), and Valerie Fridland (Univ. of Nevada, Reno) for their article "Vowel Dynamics in the Southern Vowel Shift (vol. 93, no. 2: 186–222, <https://doi.org/10.1215/00031283-6926157>). The Awards Committee unanimously converged with high marks for this article, commenting that "it adds to the understanding of SVS, applies methods not typically used and demonstrates the importance of examining vowel dynamics" and "is a very creative paper on one of the major ongoing vowel shifts in the United States." I am particularly gratified to see this cutting-edge collaborative article in the flagship journal of the American Dialect Society. It demonstrates not only the value of dialects and the excellence of scholarship in dialects, but also champions innovation and advanced methodologies in the study of language in the North American communities.

I would also like to announce the recipients of the ADS Presidential Honorary Memberships for 2018. The winners, chosen from nominations from the membership, are Ho'omana Nathan Horton (Oklahoma State Univ.), nominated by Dennis Preston; Bryce McCleary (Oklahoma State Univ.), nominated by Dennis Preston; and Zion Mengesha (Stanford Univ.), nominated by Bob Bayley and John Rickford.

Nathan is writing a dissertation on the language of skateboarders (or "skaters"). His aim is to collect an ethnolinguistically sensitive skaters' dictionary, one that not only catalogs the meanings and histories of the skaters' vocabulary, but also places such usage within the framework of its use in the sport and its contribution to the sportsperson's identity. Bryce is writing a dissertation on the interactional characteristics of drag queens in Oklahoma City, focusing on how they present themselves linguistically in their different identity roles, specifically on voice quality variation in both performance mode and casual speech interaction. Zion was a student of Bob's at UC

Davis, where she completed her senior thesis on teachers' attitudes toward African American Language that won the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research. She is now in the third year of a Ph.D. program in linguistics at Stanford, where she is working with John Rickford.

As I end my term as president of the American Dialect Society, I would like to take this opportunity to remind us all how important dialects are to us, not only as scholars, but also as people. The annual ADS meeting is a place to hear about the rich landscape of language in communities and places, but it is also a time and place to discuss and engage in convivial conversations with each other. Everyone has roots. Come to the ADS where you can plant them deep in the ground of a friendly society.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The transition from volume 93 to 94 highlights three numbers: 50, 20, and 70+. First, 50 years ago, with John Algeo as editor, the journal came under the sponsorship of the American Dialect Society. I celebrate this relationship by thanking the society for their continual support of the journal. Society members continue to contribute quality articles for publication. In the coming year, the society will review our position in the contemporary landscape of dialectology, particularly considering the meaning of "American speech." Note that, among the articles on English words, grammaticalization, and regionalisms over the last 50 years, the journal has also been running articles on other languages heard in North America. For example, in 1969 the journal published Lawrence Rettig's analysis of Amana German sans English in Iowa (*AS* 44, no. 1: 55–66) followed by Rose Nash's 1970 article on "Spanglish" (English-influenced Spanish) in Puerto Rico (*AS* 45, nos. 3/4: 223–33). We should not fear that the next half-century of issues may include analyses of dialects of non-English speech in America, if for no other reason than such research continues our past practices.

Another 50-year milestone is Dennis Preston's publication record in *American Speech*: 1969 marked the publication of Dennis's first-ever professional research article. His publications range from a 1969 etymological study of the term *boress* (*AS* 44, no. 1: 67–75) to his 2018 coedited double-issue "Changing Perceptions on Southernness." I use his golden (publication) anniversary to highlight the role that mentors have in strengthening the quality of dialectological research. The double volume Dennis coedited with Jennifer Cramer, along with the present volume edited by Tyler Kendall and Charlie