

BAAL Annual General Meeting

Friday, 12th September, 5.45-7.15
University of Swansea, Wales

Agenda

- 1 Introductions and apologies
- 2 Minutes of the 2007 AGM
- 3 Matters arising
4. Reports from officers
 - 4.1 Chair (Susan Hunston)
 - 4.2 Secretary (Paul Thompson)
 - 4.3 Treasurer (Richard Badger)
 - 4.4 Meetings Secretary (Erik Schleef)
 - 4.5 Membership Secretary (Lynn Erler)
 - 4.6 Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer (Dawn Knight)
 - 4.7 Publications Secretary (Veronika Koller)
 - 4.8 Newsletter Editor (Nick Groom)
 - 4.9 Web Editor (Valerie Hobbs)
 - 4.10 SIG officer (John Field)
 - 4.11 BAAL/CUP Seminars Co-ordinator (Caroline Coffin)
 - 4.12 CLIE (Catherine Walter)
5. Reports from BAAL delegates on outside bodies
 - 5.1 AILA
 - 5.2 LLAS
 - 5.3 AcSS
6. Applied Linguistics journal report (Guy Cook)
7. Elections to Executive Committee
8. AOB

Minutes (for approval)

British Association for Applied Linguistics Annual General Meeting 2007

**University of Edinburgh
7th September, 2007**

The meeting began at 5.30pm.

37 people were present at the outset, reducing to 27 by the end of the meeting.

1 Introduction and apologies

Members of the Executive committee who were present introduced themselves. Apologies were received from Ron Carter, John Field, Sarah Lawson and Tope Omoniyi.

2 Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the BAAL AGM held at the University of Cork on 6th September 2006 were received and accepted with two amendments:

- a. Item 7: The wording was corrected to 'BAAL *proposed to offer* £600 per event.'
- b. Item 11: The line which reads 'Co-opted: Catherine Coffin, Ron Carter' was deleted.

3 Matters arising

The following matter arose from the Minutes of the 2006 AGM:

3.1 (re 7) Richard Kiely reported that CUP had not agreed to increasing its funding of the BAAL/CUP Seminars and so the level of financial support would be unchanged for 2007-8.

4 Reports from officers

4.1 Chair

Susan Hunston (SH) took members through her written report. The Chair highlighted

- BAAL's role in nominating representative figures to participate in bodies such as the Academy for Social Science, which are of growing importance in the community,
- Correspondence on behalf of BAAL with figures such as Ruth Kelly (about proposals to test the English skills of migrants to this country) and Bill Rammell (about the proposed withdrawal of the right to free ESOL provision from certain groups),
- Ongoing investigation by the EC of the possibility of creating a Press List to respond to events in the public eye which relate to BAAL's interests,
- Thanks to Ron Carter (RC: previous BAAL Chair) for his quiet support to the new Chair.

4.2 Secretary

Graham Turner (GT) spoke to his written report, highlighting the Association's thanks to Richard Barwell for his invaluable work on revising the 'Good Practice' guidelines published by BAAL. The Chair thanked the Secretary who stepped down from the EC at this meeting.

4.3 Treasurer

Richard Badger (RB) tabled the latest BAAL accounts, thanking Esther Daborn (previous Treasurer) for her assistance. The Treasurer reported that the position was healthier than at the 2006 AGM, thanks partly to the outcomes of the Cork conference, for which BAAL's gratitude was due to the Cork local organising committee (LOC) and to Maeve Conrick in particular. Member numbers have also increased (see below). Expenditure has been relatively high because BAAL has printed two sets of conference proceedings during the year. Ben Rampton (BR) asked what 'Accumulated fund with Special Interest Groups' means; the Treasurer explained that this referred to the SIG accounts. Paul Meara (PM) asked why the conference figures were built into these accounts; the Treasurer stated that the LOC kept the conference books until matters were resolved and that the resulting 'bottom line' was then built back into the Association's accounts. PM asked why there was so little interest showing; RB explained that most of the money is not in the account all through the year to earn any interest. BR noted that assets of over £70,000 seemed high and wondered whether BAAL was actively looking at how to use this money; Catherine Walter (CW) and RB noted that the EC is reviewing how BAAL uses the available funds. Ros Mitchell (RM) asked whether BAAL could insure its conferences, given their significance to the Association's finances, against disaster; the Chair replied that this had been explored in the past, but the insurance tends not to cover the very things we would need.

4.4 Meetings Secretary

Joan Cutting (JC) thanked the EC for supporting her for the past three years, this being her final AGM as Meetings Secretary. From her report, JC highlighted

- The LOC Handbook which, as a result of years of input from many contributors, was now a very useful document and one which should continue to be extended and improved indefinitely,
- BAAL's thanks to the 2007 LOC; numbers attending this event were as good as usual; the number of submissions was up; the rate of acceptances was down to 40%,
- The number of applications for scholarships was down from 34 last year to 21, with only eight accepted,
- The 2008 (Swansea) conference plans were moving ahead.

RM asked about the cost of international scholarships; JC reported that these were worth £1000 each. Liz Hamp-Lyons (LHL) noted that whilst individual papers had dropped in number, despite a rise in submissions, colloquia appeared to have a 100% success rate; JC confirmed that this reflected the quality of colloquium proposals, since the papers for these go through the same review procedure. Heather Hewitt noted that the LOC had, in fact, rejected one out of four colloquium proposals this year. LHL noted that SIGs seemed to have a lower success rate; again, JC confirmed that individual SIG papers were also rated in the same way, recording that John Field (JF), as SIG Officer, was writing a SIG Handbook and aiming for a meeting with all SIG Heads during 2007-8.

4.5 Membership Secretary

Svenja Adolphs presented her report, drawing members' attention to the facts that

- Membership figures were still rising, and could approach 900 by the end of 2007-8
- The rise in numbers had come despite an increase in non-student fees.

Jill Bourne asked who the 12 'institutional' members were and why 'associate' member numbers had dropped; SA replied that institutions were mainly University departments while associates were mainly publishers, and that the two categories secured different benefits for members. BR noted that the increases had, to some extent, been attributed to the rise of the SIGs and that these should therefore not be squeezed for time at the annual conference. Guy Cook (GC) asked why membership fees were not simply increased again, since this seemed a productive strategy; RB noted that BAAL should be and was reviewing its familiar balance between conference income and member income, and GT noted that member numbers might have risen yet faster were it not for the fact that fees had increased a little already. RM asked whether BAAL knew who all of these members *were*, ie what had brought them into BAAL; SA replied that there were more student members; that SIG membership and Annual Meeting attendance pulled some new faces into the frame; that the move to direct debit was helping to retain members; and that the Membership Secretary had written directly to all of the 'lapsed' members and encouraged them back. The Chair thanked the Membership Secretary who completed her period within the EC at this meeting.

4.6 Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer

Catherine Xiang presented her report. CX noted that the PG Colloquium was different in format for 2007 and this change had been very well received. This was CX's fourth and final year in the role; she thanked BAAL for the opportunity to serve the Association and, declaring that she had learned a lot from the experience, noted that she had written a handbook for the benefit of the incoming PG Officer. BR asked whether material from the 2007 PG Colloquium could be made available on the BAAL website; CX replied that if the presenter(s) agreed, this could readily be done. CX was thanked profusely for her work on behalf of BAAL.

4.7 Publications Secretary

Veronika Koller reported on a busy year, thanking EC colleagues and Goodith White for invaluable support.

- 11 publishers had submitted 27 titles for the Book Prize, which was about average. Each book was reviewed twice and four were shortlisted.
- The Book Prize award session would be held at an evening reception at future conferences.
- 'Leftover' books (50-60 in this case) would go to the British Council (at their expense) to be delivered to Eritrea.
- It was decided not to publish the Cork (2006) conference proceedings with the previous publisher, because the terms and conditions were deemed unacceptable to BAAL.
- YK said that publishers were 'reluctant if not downright discouraging' on the idea of publishing print proceedings in future.
- For Cork, therefore, 200 print copies had been made at Birmingham University, plus a CD-ROM overseen by Martin Edwardes.

- For Edinburgh (2007), the LOC were seeking a publisher and aimed to produce a CD-ROM again.
- VK described the present proceedings arrangements as ‘transitional’; in future, BAAL would produce a CD-ROM and ask the LOC to find a publisher if they wished

PM noted that EUROSLA had had the same discussion, *mutatis mutandis*. VK asked to be given their details to seek advice. BR questioned whether the CD-ROM might seem too much for people to bother looking through; SH reported that the EC had discussed this at length – and felt that it would not be fair to ask the LOC to edit the text on this basis. One positive benefit of the CD-ROM is that BAAL can easily produce a large written record of proceedings in future: if a book were to be made of the 2007 proceedings, added Heather Hewitt (HH), it would be an edited selection, as usual. ME pointed out that, in terms of usability, CD-ROM navigation would be just like using a website. GC asked whether the CD-ROM would have an ISBN; ME confirmed that it would. VK added that – while there was space for the material on the BAAL website – the proceedings were seen as a benefit of BAAL membership and therefore not for open access. ME noted that web access may be possible in the future but was also too expensive at present, so that – while the EC was actively considering its options for the future – the CD-ROM was seen as the best option for now.

4.8 Newsletter Editor

Sarah Lawson’s written report was circulated to those present. Members were asked to continue to send comments to the Newsletter Editor on the digital format. The Chair thanked Sarah Lawson (in absentia) for her service in this post.

4.9 Web Editor

Martin Edwardes presented his report, highlighting

- New web design
- New ‘concept’ pages have been introduced
- BAAL Newsletter is on-line too
- Where BAAL conferences are concerned, LOCs can either prepare and run their own websites or the Web Editor can do it for them
- ME noted that he was handing on two problems to his successor: firstly, he had tried to move the site to a new provider and ended up where he had started; secondly, BAAL’s URL ‘got hijacked’ at one point in 2006-7 – not an attack (incompetence rather than malice), but something about which we must stay vigilant.

ME was thanked for his work, this being his last day in the post. There could be no doubt that BAAL’s website has a higher profile than ever before.

4.10 SIGs Officer

John Field’s report was presented: BAAL now had six SIGs, with the Gender & Language SIG awaiting ratification. An Assessment SIG had been proposed: the proposal recognised that the BAAL-SIG relationship was a two-way street, exactly coinciding with the EC’s view of what should be sought through the establishment of SIGs. Meanwhile, a SIG Handbook was also in production. RM

noted, as a point of correction to JF's written report, that Martin Bygate was now the LLT SIG convenor.

5 Reports from delegates on outside bodies

5.1 AILA

SA reported the preparations for AILA 2008 and the 'bedding down' of AILA's changed structures (ReNs, etc). SA drew attention to the development of NEAL, an issue which was likely to continue to be important to BAAL.

5.2 UCML

JF had recorded that there was nothing to report on this item.

5.3 LLAS

JF's report highlighted the 'Routes into Languages' programme; support being offered to secondary school teachers, international students and their lecturers, GCHQ and new academic staff. LLAS continued to offer pre-designed workshops, eg on pedagogical research, and hoped to visit a few institutions to canvass opinion on how it could support them better. LLAS was keen to establish contact with professional bodies such as BAAL.

5.4 AfSS

SH presented Catherine Walter's report from the AfSS AGM. Key points were that AfSS would be working on a Knowledge Transfer project this year (2007-8). The Academy was keen to have more practitioner Academicians: CW felt BAAL might wish to bear this in mind when nominating Academicians. SH reiterated that BAAL regularly sought suggestions from members when it was invited to nominate potential Academicians, and asked members to respond energetically to such calls.

6 CLIE report

CLIE, it was noted, is a joint BAAL/LAGB committee, not an 'outside body'. As current CLIE Chair, CW reported on the committee. CW noted that CLIE had provided comments to the Teacher Development Authority and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority during the year, as well as communicating with HE institutions who provide English PGCEs. CLIE had developed its on-line advice on school-teaching as a career for linguists as well as contributing significantly to other websites, discussing responses to future government initiatives and issuing relevant press release information. Presentations had been made on sign language and deaf education, and on language delay intervention. CW noted that CLIE minutes and materials are at www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/ec/clietop.htm

RM asked whether CLIE was engaged with the discussion about the 11-14 curriculum. CW answered that the issues would be looked at for the next CLIE meeting. RM asked about the current state of CILT and whether CLIE or BAAL could or should be doing anything about that. CW agreed that this

was a worry, one about which the field had only recently learned. CW noted that there may be little to be done, but that it would indeed be considered, including with reference to CILT Scotland and Wales.

7. BAAL/CUP Seminars Report

RK reported that several events had taken place in June 2007, reports of which would appear in BAAL News. The Call for Proposals was in the present conference delegate pack and would soon be circulated via BAALmail. RK was thanked for his contribution as he handed over to a successor.

8. Applied Linguistics Journal Report

GC reported steady progress with the journal. Approximately 20 submissions were received per month. Acceptance stood at c.13% with a typical turnaround of 3-4 months. GC asked referees not to be slow in sending reviews: 'just say *no* if you won't have time' was the advice. No Special Issues were intended for 2007-8. GC was pleased to report that AL now had advanced on-line access to pre-prints as soon as papers were accepted. There was to be a new US Editor in the next year; GC would remain in post for a further year. Finally, GC noted his disappointment that papers were never received from some countries represented at BAAL, and that some areas of the AL field (eg translation studies) were very rarely represented.

9. Amendments to BAAL Constitution

The amendment proposed last year, to change BAAL's financial year, was approved *nem con*. The revised constitution should be made available via www.baal.org.uk. **Action: Secretary/Web Editor.**

10. Elections to EC

Elections were held to fill those EC positions becoming vacant after the AGM. Since some positions were contested, the results could not be announced at the AGM. The incoming Secretary was asked to check the BAAL Constitution to decide whether the same proposer and seconder could legitimately nominate two candidates for any one post. **Action: Secretary**

11. Any other business

- a. Tess Fitzpatrick (TF) asked for clarification, in the light of earlier discussion (item 4.7), as to the benefits to members of joining BAAL. SH replied that this would indeed need to be made clear. If the proceedings book does *not* go to all members, then it will be even *less* interesting to potential publishers. SH underlined that members would receive the 2006 CD-ROM free of charge, and that the Cork proceedings arrangements were transitional, ie would occur in this way once only.
- b. Constant Leung (CL) asked whether there would be a search facility on the 2006 Proceedings CD-ROM. ME replied that this could be done, and would use the technology wisely (though he would prefer a standard index).
- c. TF asked how much the CD-ROM and book versions would each cost and what would BAAL do with any money saved. ME and VK replied that books cost about £10 each. The CD-ROM would

cost under £1 plus inexpensive distribution costs. CW pointed out that conference costs currently subsidise other BAAL activities: the EC was looking at the idea of treating member benefits and conference benefits as independent 'zero sum' arrangements.

- d. CL suggested that BAAL might consider offering members the choice, when they renew their membership, of a print or digital copy of the conference proceedings.

The next AGM of BAAL will be held during the Annual Conference to be held at the University of Swansea in September 2008.

The results of the elections at the AGM (see item 10) were as follows:

<i>Secretary:</i>	Paul Thompson
<i>Meetings Secretary:</i>	Erik Schleef
<i>Membership Secretary:</i>	Lynn Erler
<i>Postgraduate Development & Liaison Officer:</i>	Dawn Knight
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Nick Groom
<i>Web Editor:</i>	Valerie Hobbs

<i>Ordinary Members:</i>	Lynne Cameron
	Caroline Coffin
	Alice Deignan
	Sheena Gardner

<i>Co-opted</i>	Catherine Walter (CLIE Chair)
	Tess Fitzpatrick (Swansea LOC)

Graham Turner
Hon Sec BAAL
Sept 2007

4 Officer's reports

4.1 Chair: Susan Hunston

In the past year I have communicated with various bodies on BAAL's behalf. These have included:

Academy for the Social Sciences. BAAL responded to a survey (run by the LSE) on the impact of Social Science research. We also nominated speakers for a Knowledge Transfer information day held in June.

Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée. BAAL nominated the next President, Professor Martin Bygate.

Applied Linguistic Journal. BAAL has made two nominations for the editorship, to replace Guy Cook in June 2009. The new editor will be announced towards the end of 2008.

Charities Commission. We await announcement of the final version of the new rules for charities, having responded to earlier consultations. These will involve more stringent reporting on activities, public good, and finances.

HEFCE / SHEFC / HEFCW. BAAL has responded to questions relating to the new Research Excellence Framework and has stressed the need for peer review in non-STEM subjects. BAAL has also alerted members to the journals lists appearing in the European Research Index for the Humanities.

Home Office. BAAL responded to consultation on pre-entry language tests for spouses.

Research Councils (AHRC and ESRC). BAAL has been consulted on postgraduate provision and on future funding models for researchers. It has responded to a request from the ESRC for nominations to the peer review college and has taken part in discussions with both research councils regarding support for research in ELT.

Looking ahead

I have three major concerns as we look to the future of BAAL:

1. BAAL is a community of researchers, and changes in research assessment and funding affects us all. Applied Linguistics does not so much fall between stools as occupy every available item of furniture. Finding a common voice and being able to respond quickly to consultations on research is a key function of BAAL.
2. BAAL also serves the public good by keeping matters concerning languages, and language users, in the eye of policy makers and opinion influencers. We are still working on mechanisms for doing this.
3. Maintaining continuity. A method for ensuring that incoming Chairs of BAAL are fully informed of issues is to be proposed to this meeting.

4.2 Secretary

The past year has been a period of learning for me, finding out what the Secretary needs to do, and by when. The coming year I intend to implement a number of changes in current practice in order to make the procedures smoother and more standardised.

I have started the process of establishing a digital archive of BAAL newsletters and hope to have this completed by the end of the year.

The BAAL Research sub-committee (chaired by Lynne Cameron, with Svenja Adolphs, Ron Carter, Susan Hunston and Paul Thompson as members), is drafting a document that sets out what BAAL stands for in terms of research. This will be circulated on BAALmail for consultation soon.

4.3 Treasurer

See separate sheet to be distributed by the Treasurer.

4.4 Meetings Secretary: Erik Schleef

BAAL 2008 Swansea University (11th – 13th September)

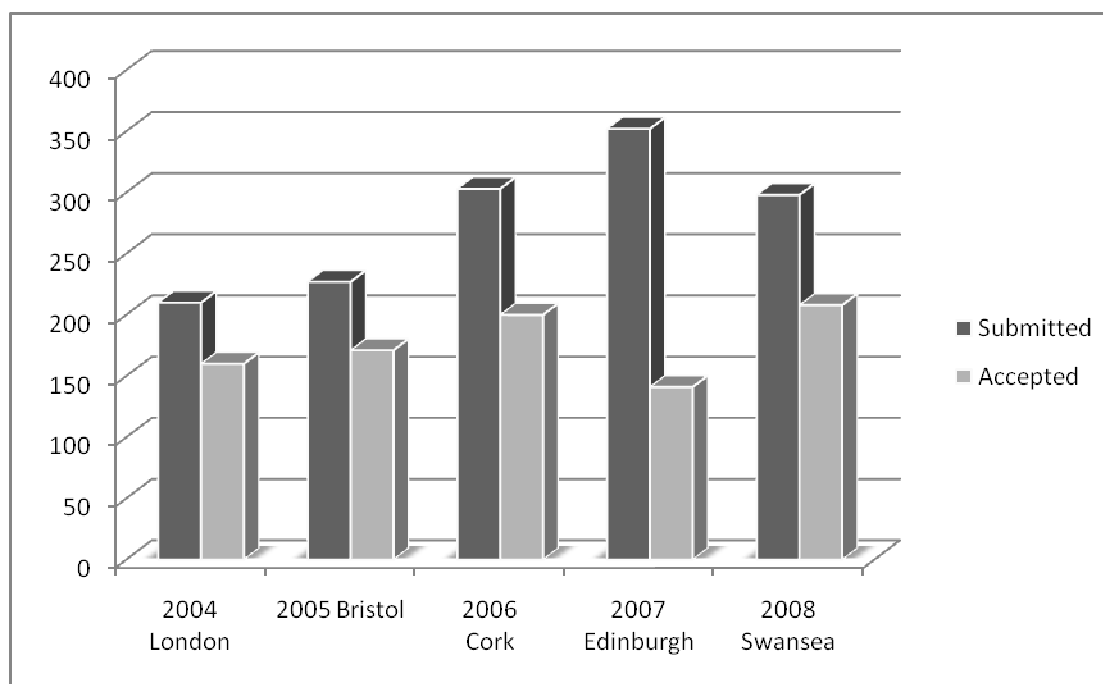
Many thanks and congratulations to the Swansea LOC for all their hard work, especially to Tess Fitzpatrick, who has been directing operations!

Programme

- On 29th August, there were 265 registered participants, which is usual for BAAL.
- The number of papers submitted is about the same as in 2006 and has fallen from last year which saw an unusually high number of paper submissions (due to Edinburgh jubilee?)
- The number of accepted papers (69%) has increased sharply compared to last year (40%) and is back to the usual 65-75% acceptance rate.
- The number of posters has increased. SIG track submissions have increased and colloquia submissions have fallen. The last two numbers are most likely linked.

	2004	2004	2005	2005	2006	2006	2007	2007	2008	2008
	Sub.	Acc.	Sub.	Acc.	Sub.	Acc.	Sub.	Acc.	Sub.	Acc.
Individual	106	69	146	92	232	141	277	100	197	127
Colloquia abstracts	50	50	41	41	13	13	18	14	8	8
SIGs	27	22	29	17	47	24	47	17	72	52
Posters	27	19	11	21	11	22	14	10	21	21
TOTAL	210	160	227	171	303	200	352	141	298	208

Sub. – Submitted; Acc. – Accepted



- There are two proposed colloquia: ‘Classrooms as cultural context: the legitimacy of educational exchange’ and ‘Communication, discourses and interculturality’
- There are six SIG Tracks: ‘Corpus Linguistics’, ‘Language Learning and Teaching’, ‘Gender and Language’, ‘Psycholinguistics’, ‘Language in Africa’, and ‘UK Linguistic Ethnography Forum’.
- Plenary speakers are Ben Rampton (King’s College London), Alison Wray (Cardiff University), and Paul Meara (Swansea University). Charles Alderson had to cancel due to illness.

Scholarships

- There were 29 (21 last year) applications for the ten UK student scholarships; nine were accepted.
- There were 38 (50 last year) applications for the International Scholarship and the Chris Brumfit award; the former went to a scholar from Iran, Seyyed-Abdolhamid Mirhosseini and the latter to a scholar from Russia, Svetlana Gorokhova.

BAAL 2009 Newcastle (3rd-5th September)

LOC membership (provisional)

- LOC: Vivian Cook, Alan Firth, Chris Jenks, Mei Lin, Florence Myles, Peter Sercombe, Paul Seedhouse, Steve Walsh, Tony Young

Conference office

- Kate Morris, Conference Services, Newcastle University

Preparations

- The theme is “Language, Learning and Context”.
- Plenary speakers have been contacted and confirmed: David Crystal, Bethan Benwell & Liz Stokoe, Pauline Rea-Dickins.

Future conferences

BAAL 2010 Aberdeen

BAAL 2011 UWE Bristol

Other developments

- Uncertain future for Chris Brumfit award
- Online abstract submission?

4.5 Membership Secretary: Lynn Erler

4.5

781 members (of which 214 are reduced rate which include 167 students)

13 Associate

16 Institutional (including 2 libraries)

Total: 810

Normal rate = £ 40

Reduced rate = £ 15 (unwaged, retired, students)

Associate (3 members in one department) = £ 120

Institutional (e.g. publishers) = £ 125

There are extra administrative costs created by 1) the small number of members who have chosen to pay their subscription by Direct Debit and 2) the members who renew late. This has led to Dovetail requesting payment for extra work, and they have calculated that, rather than the current 30 days a year required for BAAL work, they will need to do 35 to 40 days, because of these problems and because the membership has risen. The EC has decided to agree to 35 days with a review in June of each year, but also that the Direct Debit system must more strongly promoted and members need an incentive to renew subscriptions on time – therefore, people who pay by direct debit or who pay on time will receive a 5% discount.

4.6 Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer: Dawn Knight

4.6

I took up the role of Postgraduate Development and Liaison Officer in September 2007 (following elections at the AGM) and will hold the post until the annual conference in 2009. As part of my duties I am signed up as co-owner of the BAALPG list which currently has 134 members, although I intend to initiate a requirement drive to attract more members at future PG events (and BAAL 2008), and will concentrate my efforts on such over the next 12 months.

As PG officer I have organised the ‘Applied Methodologies in Applied Linguistics’ PG workshop (which is aimed at PG students, but open to all) which will run as part of the annual BAAL conference. The event aims to provide students with an insight into a range of methodological and analytical approaches for linguistic enquiry in order to broaden their understanding of what it actually

means to make Linguistics 'Applied'. 3 guest speakers will present papers on their past and/ or current research experience and expertise (see below), discussing the 'how, when and why' of the specific qualitative and/ or quantitative methods and strategies for Applied Linguistic research and how they put linguistic theory into practice.

- *Date:* Friday 12th September 2008
- *Location:* Taliesin Room, Swansea University
- *Speakers:*
 1. **Alison Wray**, Cardiff University: *Making the research literature work for you*
 2. **Joan Swann**, the Open University: *Researching spoken interaction: the story of a project*
 3. **Svenja Adolphs**, the University of Nottingham: *Researching Context*
- *Duration:* 2-hour workshop comprising of three 40 minute presentations (30 minutes for delivery, 10 minutes for question and discussion)

20+ students have emailed for more information on the event, expressing an interest in attending (although I am hoping that on the day it will attract a large audience of PGs and beyond). Questionnaires have been drawn up to circulate to attendees out after the event in order to gauge how useful/ successful the event was seen to be and to determine other topics of interest and possible future events for PG BAAL members. Feedback from this will be taken into consideration when organising a PG event for BAAL 2009.

Aside from the PG Workshop I have also recently been working with the EC to develop some advertisement material for use when recruiting future BAAL members. A draft .ppt presentation has been made for these purposes.

4.7 Publications Secretary: Veronika Koller

4.7

a) BAAL Book Prize 2008

Based on the reviews, a short list was drawn up consisting of:

- Cohen, Andrew D. and Ernesto Macaro (eds): *Language learner strategies*. OUP.
- Coulthard, Malcolm and Alison Johnson: *An introduction to forensic linguistics*. Routledge.
- Montgomery, Martin: *The discourse of broadcast news*. Routledge.
- Pennycook, Alastair: *Global Englishes and transcultural flows*. Routledge.

The shortlist was published on the BAAL website. Anonymous reviews of shortlisted books will be published on both the BAAL website after the conference and in the next newsletter. I have identified two final reviewers, and they have agreed on the winning title.

The winner of the poster prize can choose one of the leftover books, and all other copies will be shipped to the British Council in Angola, via headquarters in London.

b) Conference proceedings (with thanks to Martin Edwardes)

The CD was completed and sent out to BAAL members, together with the last newsletter, as well as to about 12 interviewees and authors who are not BAAL members. Sample CDs will be on display at the conference. The prize is £4.99 retail, £2 wholesale, and orders should be placed with Martin Edwardes (martin.edwardes@btopenworld.com), who will forward the money minus package and posting to BAAL.

I have also answered a couple of queries about how to obtain the CD. There have been no further objections to a non-paper based publication on part of the membership. However, acting on Ros Mitchell's request at the AGM 2007 and taking up Paul Meara's suggestion, I have contacted a US self-publishing company called Lulu (www.lulu.com) and got the following quote, based on 850 copies of a bound paperback volume:

- 6x9 inches (the Equinox format), 175 pages: £3,391.50, unit price £3.39, 17% bulk discount
- A5 (the Continuum format), 200 pages: £3,995, unit price £4.70, no discount

Shipping from the US will be added to this, but I would have to advance with an order to see the actual cost. Should members at the AGM wish me to obtain further quotes or go ahead with this one, and should the EC agree with that, I would do so.

Other than that, I assume that LOCs every year are still encouraged to find a publisher at their own expense. However, they should be asked not to make overly optimistic promises to the membership, as this can lead to some confusion and dismay.

4.8

4.8 Newsletter Editor: Nick Groom

See separate sheet.

4.9

4.9 Web Editor: Valerie Hobbs

**A note of thanks, firstly, to BAAL members for voting me into this office. Due to the excellent work of Martin Edwardes, the previous editor, transition has been very smooth, and I am enjoying my 'job' very much.

Brief points

- All is well!
- Requests for postings continue to arrive each week
 - Main areas: employment, conference diary, additions to publishers database)
 - Changes made to employment page layout to facilitate easier identification of recent postings and their deadlines.
- Anticipated improvements to SIG pages
- Feedback is welcome. Please continue to send updates and requests for new postings.

4.10 SIG officer: John Field

4.10

Current Special Interest Groups

- UK Linguistic Ethnography Forum - Ben Rampton, U. of London
- Corpus Linguistics - Paul Thompson, U. of Reading
- Psycholinguistics - John Field, U. of Reading
- Multimodality - Lesley Lancaster, Manchester Met U.
- Language Learning and Teaching- Martin Bygate, U of Lancaster
- Language in Africa
- Gender and Language – Kate Harrington

Developments 2007-8

- No new proposals for SIGs
- Gender and Language SIG accepted as fully constituted.
- Assessment SIG not ratified.
- Death of John Holmes, founder and Convenor of LIA SIG
- More streamlined system for SIG support for Annual Meeting. Six SIG tracks at AM.

SIG Handbook (now in draft)

- Guidelines to ensure consistency in the way in which SIGs are run
- Clear specification of the relationship between the SIGs and BAAL (including budgeting events, annual reports, accounts, elections, role at AM)
- A SIG calendar with indications of actions required by SIG Convenors and the SIG Officer

Future developments

- Submit Handbook to EC and SIG Convenors for final approval
- Design a template for SIG websites on the BAAL site
- Improve SIG reporting via BAAL News
- Consider financial goals of SIGs
- Develop a format for annual reporting of SIG membership and activity
- *Find a successor ...*

John Field, SIG Officer

4.11 BAAL/CUP Seminars: Caroline Coffin

4.11

BAAL/ Cambridge University Press Seminar Series 2008

Twelve proposals were received this year and were ranked and rated by a sub-committee of 5 raters. Feedback identifying strengths and weaknesses of each proposal was provided to each proposer. The results of the rankings were as follows:

Leeds, Newcastle and Strathclyde were funded.
Open University was offered a float.

The seminar topics and dates which were publicised in the BAAL News Spring issue and on BAAL mail (as well as being made available on the BAAL website) were as follows:

Institution	University of Leeds	Newcastle University	University of Strathclyde
Seminar Title	Integration and Achievement in a Multilingual Europe: Languages for Learning and Life	Conceptualising 'Learning' in Applied Linguistics	Applied linguistics: what do primary teachers need to understand? Developing an applied linguistics curriculum for pre-service primary school teachers.
Dates	June 18 th & 19 th 2008 over 2 days	June 19 th & 20 th 2008 over 2 days	May 29 th -30 th and September 1 st -2 nd 2008.

Reports on each of the seminars will be made available in future BAAL newsletters and in the journal *Language Teaching*.

Call for Proposals - BAAL/ Cambridge University Press Seminar Series 2009

The call for proposals was modified following discussion at BAAL exec in January and was included in the BAAL News Summer issue as well as being distributed on BAALMail and BAAL PGMail. Details including the financial template are also available on the BAAL website.

BAAL exec representation and publicity

The representatives of BAAL exec who attended each of the seminars and provided a short presentation on BAAL were:

Leeds – Alice Deignan
Newcastle – Richard Badger
Strathclyde – Sheena Gardner

BAAL/ Cambridge University Press guidelines for co-coordinator

A short set of guidelines has been prepared and will be available for future co-coordinators. .

4.12 CLIE (Committee on Linguistics in Education)

4.12

Chair's report: Catherine Walter

Members will remember that CLIE is a joint committee of BAAL and the LAGB (Linguistics Association of Great Britain) that brings together some fifteen UK associations with an interest in the teaching of language and languages to reflect upon, and to comment upon, how knowledge about language can be beneficial in the UK education system at all levels. CLIE meetings are held three times a year, with public presentations following the first two meetings (in November and February). These presentations are announced on BAALmail. BAAL members are also welcome to read the minutes of CLIE meetings on the CLIE website, <http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/ec/clietop.htm> (I will post this to BAALmail again after the AGM).

Joan Swann and Theresa Lillis have come to the end of their very productive time as BAAL representatives on CLIE, and the Executive Committee is asking for expressions of interest from members.

The 2007-2008 CLIE presentations were by Adrian Beard (on issues of transition for English A-level students going on to study English language / linguistics in higher education; and by Jan Blommaert (on how immigrant childrens' literacies are ignored by official bodies).

CLIE contributed material on language to the Teacher Development Agency website for PGCE Modern Foreign Language students. This is a website which offers student teachers resources to improve their content knowledge, and since many MFL university courses focus on literature, it is important to offer information about language to student teachers. CLIE members are now preparing materials for the analogous website for PGCE English students.

CLIE produced a joint statement on 'standard English' which is available on the website. This was used as a basis for comments on the government's proposal for Functional English Standards, which seems based on a rather atheoretical approach to language.

CLIE received no response from the DCSF to its carefully articulated comments on the Functional English Standards. We have since gone some way towards finding ways of communicating more frequently with relevant DCSF staff.

CLIE has scoped a project to survey the 70 PGCE English course providers into the policies of PGCE English admissions tutors on the first degrees of applicants. The background to this survey is a concern about the mismatch that exists between the subject knowledge needed by English teachers and the contents of a traditional literary 'English' degree now that English at KS3 and KS4 includes so much work on language (not to mention the even more demanding English Language at A-level). CLIE conducted an informal survey in 2006 (see the website for results). CLIE is seeking sources of funding for this small project.

5. Reports from BAAL delegates on outside bodies

5.1

5.1 AILA

The AILA Congress this year was held in Essen, Germany, and I would like to thank GAL (German Applied Linguistics Association) for their hospitality. It was preceded by meetings of the Executive Board (EB) and the International Committee (IC) and included a meeting of NEAL (Network of European Applied Linguistics). Here is a summary of points from the various meetings:

EB/IC meeting

1. AILA is setting a new fee structure linked to national GDP. Affiliates will be informed in October / November 2008 what the new fee will be. For highest-earning countries it is likely to be US\$7.50 per member.
2. The former Scientific Commissions have been renamed Research Networks (ReNs). AILA has about 15. New ReNs can be proposed – applications need to be made up to 2 months after each congress.
3. Martin Bygate (nominated by BAAL) is the new President of AILA. BAAL offers its congratulations.
4. The next Congress is in Beijing in 2011 and the one after that in Brisbane in 2014. The theme in Beijing will be ‘Harmony in Diversity: Language, Culture, Society’. The abstracts deadline will be March 2010.

AILA-Europe (NEAL) meeting

1. At the request of the EB/IC, NEAL has changed its name to ‘AILA-Europe’.
2. At BAAL’s request, AILA-Europe agreed to write to the European Science Foundation requesting increased Applied Linguistics representation on the ERIH Linguistics panel. The letter was drafted following the meeting.
3. Results of the Applied Linguistics questionnaire were given. There is a clear preponderance of AILA-Europe members in universities and involved in language teaching. There is a strong preference for multilingualism in meetings and journals, although most respondents use English much of the time in their working life. Response rates from BAAL were low and I agreed to urge members to send me their email addresses so that they could be given access to the questionnaire.
4. AILA-Europe has proposed a European Applied Linguistics journal. De Gruyters is interested in publishing this.
5. The future organization of AILA-Europe was discussed. Karlfried Knapp has kindly offered to continue the organiser’s role for one year, after which it was agreed the organization would rotate among member associations, each affiliate nominating an organizer, and meeting expenses, for one year.

Susan Hunston, Chair

5.2 LLAS Spoken report

5.3 AcSS Spoken report