The Alice F. Freed Prize in Language, Discourse, and Society

The “Alice F. Freed Prize in Language, Discourse, and Society” is an annual prize of $250 that recognizes one graduate student in Linguistics who completes the Master of Arts Degree Program in Applied Linguistics with outstanding work in the field of Sociolinguistics, Discourse Analysis, or Language and Culture. The prize will be awarded in May of each academic year. The full-time faculty of the Linguistics Department will select the recipient of the prize according to the following criteria:

1. The student’s research for the capstone course APLN 605, Research Questions in Applied Linguistics (either Option A or Option B) falls within the domain of “Sociolinguistics,” “Discourse Analysis,” or “Language and Culture.” The range of possible topics includes work on language change and variation; forensic linguistics (i.e., language and the law); language and gender; the analysis of ordinary, electronically-mediated or institutional discourse; narrative analysis; conversation analysis; critical discourse analysis; literacy; language planning and policy; and topics within the field of anthropological linguistics. Examples of past MA student research within these fields are listed at the bottom of this announcement.

2. In addition to the required courses for the MA in Applied Linguistics (which must include APLN 502 Sociolinguistics), the student completes at least one elective from the following list of courses and receives no less than an A- in the course:

   - APLN 510, Discourse Analysis
   - APLN 512, Cross-Cultural Discourse Analysis
   - APLN 518, Forensic Linguistics
   - APLN 530, Language Policy and Language Planning
   - APLN 532, Language and Culture
   - APLN 534, Languages in Contact
   - APLN 535, Language Policy in Nations in Transition
   - APLN 536, Languages of the U.S.A
   - APLN 538, Cross-cultural Perspectives on Language Socialization
   - APLN 540, Literacy
   - APLN 542, Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Literacy
   - APLN 582, Language and Mobile Communication

[Note: Courses and course titles often change over time. If new linguistics courses are developed in these specific areas of study, they may be added to the list of possible electives. All courses are to be taken in the Linguistics Department at Montclair State University or at the Linguistic Society of America’s Summer Linguistic Institute.]
3. The student has an overall GPA of at least a 3.70 in courses leading to the MA in Applied Linguistics. In the case that a student is completing other courses toward the MA in Applied Linguistics in the same semester that the research for APLN 605 is being carried out, the student must have a 3.70 by the end of the preceding semester and must be in excellent standing in all remaining courses at the time that the application for this prize is submitted. See how to calculate your GPA at https://www.montclair.edu/advising-transitions/student-resources/gpa-calculator.php

4. To be considered for this prize, students may apply or be nominated by a full-time faculty member from the Linguistics Department. In either case, the student is responsible for turning in the application form (page 3 of this announcement) and submitting it to the Linguistics Department Office by April 1 of the academic year of graduation, whether for a January, May or August graduation.

Examples from past MA student research that fall within the scope of this prize are listed below.

1. The structure of lesbian self-realization stories
2. The case of “generic” you
3. Computer-mediated discussion groups as communities of practice
4. Critical discourse analysis of the treatment of Monica Lewinsky in the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal
5. Socio-political motivations for code-switching in Israel
6. Language socialization in Italian-speaking children
7. News media racial profiling
8. The discourse marker o sea in spoken Mexican Spanish
9. The function of silence as a discourse feature in direct and cross-examinations in a criminal trial
10. Pragmatic shift in apologies in Chinese
11. Been and beyond: tense/aspect marking in North Alabama English
12. The sign language interpreter’s role in turn-taking and simultaneous talk in non-face-to-face interpreted interactions
13. The use of the past tense verb form for the past participle in NYC English
14. The use of narrative to mark group membership and construct identity on myspace.com
15. Usage patterns of thanks and thank you in American English families
16. The effectiveness of mass notification text messages
17. Study of Hindi-English code-switching and identity in Hindi movies
18. A study of the discourse marker aí in spoken Brazilian Portuguese
19. Code-switching by English/Turkish bilingual children
20. Ebonics and American public schools
Application - The Alice F. Freed Prize in Language, Discourse and Society

Deadline for Application: No later than April 1 of the academic year of graduation. Students need to submit this completed application to the Linguistics Department, 222 Schmitt Hall, Montclair, NJ 07043. Phone: 973-655-4286

Student’s Name:________________________________________________________

Address:________________________________________________________________

City: ______________________ State______________ Zip ____________

Student’s ID #: ______________ Expected Date of Graduation ____________

Telephone #:____________________ Email address: ______________________

1. APLN 605 Research Questions in Applied Linguistics:
   Topic: __________________________________________________________________
   Option A or Option B? ___________ Advisor:_____________________________

2. APLN 502 Sociolinguistics:
   When taken? _____________ Taught by? _____________ Grade received? __

3. Elective from the list above: Course taken? APLN ______________________
   When taken? _____________ Taught by? _____________ Grade received? __

4. Overall GPA: __________ (This is your GPA for MA courses in Applied Linguistics as of January of the academic year in which you expect to graduate.)

Student’s Signature: Please confirm by signing that you will have completed all 37 shs. and all requirements for the MA in Applied Linguistics by the end of May of the current academic year. (An August graduation date is permissible when the final 1 sh. grade for APLN 605 needs to be submitted after the end of the spring term.)

________________________________________________________________________

Student’s Signature                                           Date

________________________________________________________________________

Nominating faculty member (Optional)                           Date

________________________________________________________________________

Signature of Linguistics Department Administrator             Date application was submitted

A copy of this dated application is to be provided to the student.

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