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Editor's Prologue to Volume 6

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EDITOR'S PROLOGUE
WELCOME TO THE 6TH VOLUME

How do we know that a publication is successful? Here are four metrics by which I judge the success of the *Linguistic Portfolios (LP)*. The first metrics has to do with the number of downloads. Last year (2016), articles from *LP* were downloaded more than 16,000 times. This represents an increase of 10% over last year. Given the crowded field of online academic publications, this is no small feat! The second metrics is the quality of the institutions that download articles from *LP*. Here is just a quick sampling: MIT, UCLA, Ohio State University, Indiana University, New York University, Oxford University, University of Arizona, Purdue University, and many more. Articles from *LP* are also downloaded by numerous technology institutions because we provide acoustic phonetic data that can be used in speech recognition and text-to-speech applications. Here is a small sampling of the "commercial" entities that download articles from *LP*: DataCom and Core Network, MTT Network (Pvt) Ltd, Mobile Broadband Limited, DoD Network Information Center, FCB Communications, Mauritel 3G, Digital Energy Technologies Ltd, to name only these. The third metrics of success is that *LP* is now registered with the Library of Congress as an online publication. Our registration code is **ISSN 2472-5102**. It is prominently and proudly displayed on every page of the publication. Last but not least, *LP* co-sponsored the Minnesota Undergraduate Linguistics Symposium on the campus of St. Cloud State University on April 9, 2016.

Volume 6 features several excellent articles on a wide variety of linguistic topics. Even though it was not consciously planned, four articles are devoted to the acoustics of fricatives. This is a happy development since there is not enough data on fricatives in the acoustic phonetic literature. Meet the associate editor and the proofreader of Volume 6, 2017. **Chris Reigstad** earned his MA in Literature at SCSU and is currently pursuing an MA in TESL/Applied Linguistics. He has worked as a writing center consultant, private tutor, and an editor. He is the teaching assistant for Introduction to Linguistics. His areas of interests are sociophonetics and the acoustic phonetics of L2 English. He can be reached via e-mail at reigs020@umn.edu or at rech1302@stcloudstate.edu. **Alex Hennen** proofread several articles. He is an undergraduate student at SCSU majoring in English with an emphasis in linguistics and a minor in philosophy. He is currently on a study abroad program for a year in Japan where he is mainly studying Japanese and linguistics. His plans include becoming a Japanese-English translator and/or interpreter. He can be reached via email at: arhennen@stcloudstate.edu or at: arhennen@gmail.com.

The *LP* is open to all students from Minnesota and neighboring states whose papers are innovative and of extremely high academic quality. The only requirement is that papers be recommended by the faculty member who taught the course or who supervised the research project. His/her name appears at the end of the paper as the recommender. The deadline for submission is always **December 31st** of each year. *We are now accepting submissions for Volume 7, 2018*.

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