Editor's Prologue: Welcome to the 10th Volume

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EDITOR'S PROLOGUE
WELCOME TO THE 10TH VOLUME

The specter of death, suffering, and isolation that COVID-19 has inflected upon our world is not over. Looking at the bright side of things, the pandemic has userhed in a new era of scientific and technological advances that the pre-covid world could not have anticipated. Vaccines have been made in a record time. More students have attended school virtually than never before in the history of humanity. Of course, none of these substitutes are perfect compared to the pre-covid world in which crowds could gather and people could live their lives without the hassle of wearing masks. Even so, the world has succeeded in making lemondade with the lemons that COVID-19 has given us. For example, at a personal level, I have enjoyed conferences during which participants from India, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Germany, England, and the USA have attended. I did all this without having to leave the comfort of my office. Lest I'm misunderstood, let me say again that virtual conferences and classrooms are no substitutes for human bodily presence. I remarked to a fellow linguist how much I have missed going to academic conferences. He agreed. It took COVID-19 to remind earthians that human contact, which we so easily took for granted, is irreplaceable!

Linguistic Portfolios (LP) hit a significant milestone on October 25th, 2020, when it totalled **100,000 downloads** in only 9 years of existence! *LP*'s readership has grown and so has the number of citations in scholarly publications. A year ago, there were 90,408 downloads. As of March 22, 2021, there have been 107,679 downloads, that is, 17,271 downloads! *LP* averages 1,440 downloads a month! Bepress, the organization that tracks downloads from *LP*, provides the following statistical distribution of the industries that enjoy our articles: Education 60%, Technology (Commercial): 34%, Governments: 2%, Organizations: 1%, Librairies: 1%. Others: 2%. *LP* has a worldwide reach. No doubt that the topics covered in **Volume 10** will continue to deepen our understanding of speech communication. They include a comprehensive review of the acoustic correlate of duration, intelligibility issues faced by Arabic speakers of English, an acoustic phonetic comparison between Northern and Central Minnesota English, an acoustic phonetic analysis of three tonally contrastive grammatical moods in Anyi, a masking analysis of the vowels [ʌ] and [ɔ] in Central Minnesota English, and an announcement of book on the intelligibility of L2-accented English. These are academically stimulating and thought-provoking insights that our readers will enjoy. I would like to thank the authors who contributed to this volume. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to **Mahdi Duris, Michel Lopez-Backstrom**, **Barbara Kennedy**, and **Phillip Klopfenstein** for taking time out of their busy schedules to review and proofread papers for this volume.

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. Co-publication with students is highly recommended because it is an integral part of the academic mentoring process. The deadline for submission is always **December 31st** of each year. *We are now accepting submissions for Volume 11, 2022*. *LP* adheres to the guidelines of the **National Academy of Sciences**, as explained in the prologue of Voume 7, 2018.[1]

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[1] National Academy of Sciences. 2018. *Fostering Integrity in Research*. National Academic Press. Online at: www.nap.edu/21896.