Aaron M. Mueller

CONTACT Center for Language & Speech Processing

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RESEARCH **INTERESTS** • Endangered and low-resource language varieties

• Machine translation

• Syntax, pragmatics, and sociolinguistics

• Social media analysis

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Ph.D. student, Computer Science. August 2018 - Present M.S.E., Computer Science. Expected May 2020

Affiliation: Center for Language and Speech Processing.

Advisor: David Yarowsky.

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

May 2018 B.S., Computer Science. Honors. May 2018 B.S., Linguistics. Honors.

GPA: 4.0. Summa cum laude.

Thesis: Neural Machine Translation for Canadian French. Advisors: Ramakanth Kavuluru, Mark Richard Lauersdorf.

RESEARCH

Raytheon BBN Technologies, Cambridge, MA

EMPLOYMENT Speech, Language, & Multimedia Research Intern

Supervisor: Roger Bock

Future intern working with information extraction systems.

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Institutional Research & Advanced Analytics

Research Assistant (Machine Learning)

Supervisors: Nathan Jacobs, Craig Rudick

- Designed a system that, given a student's prior performance, predicts their future course grades.

- Implemented deep LSTMs and employed NLP techniques to learn student and course profiles.
- Designed an ordinal grade-based loss function to improve system performance.

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

Statistical Social Language Analysis Lab

Research Assistant (Natural Language Processing)

May - August 2017

May - August 2019

May - August 2018

Phone: +1-502-550-4938

Supervisor: Brendan O'Connor

- Collaborated with graduate students and faculty to improve an entity-event extraction system.
- Given news articles, used distant supervision to extract the names of American citizens who have been killed by police.
- Integrated entity mention and relation systems into pre-existing sentence-level model.
- Integrated document-level information (e.g., noun coreferences) as features to improve our system.

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Linguistics Department

Juried Project

August 2016 - May 2017

Jurors: Hilaria Cruz, Raphael Finkel, Phil Harling

- Preservation and revitalization project for a low-resource indigenous language—Chatino—spoken natively by approximately 40,000 individuals.
- Trained an automatic speech recognition system with Sphinx.
- Promoted and created Chatino language-learning resources, including open-source speech data, a speech corpus, and a website.

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD Center for Language & Speech Processing

Research Assistant (Natural Language Processing)

May - August 2016

Supervisor: David Yarowsky

- Collaborated with graduate students and faculty to create statistical machine translation systems for low-resource languages.
- Implemented a lemma-based English-Uyghur translation model.
- Built a morphological generator for Crimean Tatar.
- Created parsers to extract translation tables from foreign editions of Wiktionary.
- Funded by DARPA's Low-Resource Languages for Emergent Incidents (LORELEI) program.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow

2018 - 2023

Gaines Fellow 2016 - 2018

Two-year fellowship awarded to undergraduates based on academic performance, ability to conduct research, an interest in public issues, and a desire to enhance understanding of the human condition through the humanities. Requires the completion of a juried project, a thesis project, and a seminar in the humanities. (\$5,000)

Patterson Scholar 2014 - 2018

Awarded to University of Kentucky students who have earned National Merit scholarships. (\$80,000+)

Raymond F. Betts Scholar

2017

Awarded to rising seniors conducting thesis research. Used funds to study Québec French in Montréal and Québec City during winter of 2017–2018. (\$2,500)

Goldwater Scholarship (Honorable Mention)

2017

Phi Beta Kappa

2017

Linguistics Research Award

2016

Awarded to a University of Kentucky undergraduate to facilitate a year-long research project in linguistics. Used funds for a quantitative sociolinguistics project examining semantic shifts in gendered words in U.S. media over 200 years (\$500).

National Merit Scholar 2014

SELECTED Mueller, Aaron. Québec French and Language Technology. 2018 Betts & Rowland Scholar Awards PRESENTATIONS Ceremony, Lexington, KY, April 4, 2018.

Mueller, Aaron; Keith, Katherine; Handler, Abe; Blodgett, Su Lin; and O'Connor, Brendan. The Identification of Civilians Killed by Police with Supervised Entity-Event Extraction. 2017 UMass Amherst Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Showcase, Amherst, MA, August 9, 2017.

Mueller, Aaron; Finkel, Raphael; and Cruz, Hilaria. Documenting and Promoting the Chatino Language and Orthography. *Juried Presentation in Satisfaction of the Requirements of the Gaines Fellowship*, Lexington, KY, February 21, 2017.

Mueller, Aaron. A Lemma-Based Approach for English-Uyghur Statistical Machine Translation. *9th Annual Conference of the Illinois Language and Linguistics Society (ILLS9)*, Urbana, IL, March 31–April 1, 2017.

Mueller, Aaron and Lauersdorf, Mark R. Lexical and Semantic Shifts in the Linguistic Construction of Social Gender: A Corpus-Based Analysis of Written U.S. English. Poster. *9th Annual Toronto Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (TULCON9)*, Toronto, ON, March 4–6, 2016.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence, Lexington, KY

Student Outreach Team

August 2017 - May 2018

- Promoted the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Chellgren Fellowship.
- Organized panel discussions, workshops, and lectures on abstract writing, research poster design, and academic presentations.

 Led the review committee for our Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars, an annual conference where University of Kentucky undergraduates present their research to other students and faculty.

UK Special Collections Research Center, Lexington, KY

Archiving Intern

September 2015 - May 2016

- Created a diachronic corpus of Lexingtonian architectural documentation which includes zoning ordinances and Lexington Planning Committee meeting minutes.
- Made accessible an archival collection that highlights Lexington's architectural history.
- Cooperated on a multiformat project that layered GIS technology, city government data, archival photos, and digital humanities tools.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Amnesty International

2012 - Present

- International organization dedicated to the protection of human rights worldwide.
- Member of Amnesty International at Johns Hopkins and Washington, D.C.
- Founder and former Co-President of Amnesty International at the University of Kentucky.
- Organize fundraisers and informational events: concerts featuring local bands, panel discussions on contemporary issues, faculty debates, petitions, protests, and more.
- Attendee at Amnesty's national Human Rights Conference.

Oxfam International 2014 - Present

- International organization dedicated to poverty eradication, disaster relief, and political advocacy for those facing harsh living conditions and injustice worldwide.
- Member of Oxfam in Washington, D.C.
- Founder and former Co-Coordinator of Oxfam at the University of Kentucky.
- Plan awareness-raising, fundraising, and petitioning events for Oxfam's GROW campaign with a distinct focus on food inequality in impoverished and war-stricken countries.

Society for the Promotion of Undergraduate Research

2014 - 2017

- University-of-Kentucky-based organization founded to assist undergraduates in finding research opportunities and in bettering their research.
- Co-President and former Director of Events.
- Plan and execute the Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars.
- Plan research workshops to help undergraduates improve their abstracts, presentations, and papers.
- Organize faculty panel discussions, promotional events, and information sessions on getting involved in undergraduate research and on scholarship and summer research opportunities.
- Merged with the Student Outreach Team in May 2017 (joined upon merge).

COMPUTING

Computer Programming:

SKILLS

- Languages: Python, C, C++, Java, HTML, CSS, Javascript, MATLAB, R, UNIX shell scripting.
- Machine Learning Toolkits: TensorFlow, Sockeye, Keras, PyTorch, OpenNMT.
- Version Control: DVCS (Git, Bitbucket).
- Development Environments: Vim, Emacs, Eclipse.

Linguistic Tools:

Praat, AntConc, QGIS, Audacity.

Desktop Editing and Productivity Software:

- TeX (LATeX, BIBTeX).
- GIMP, Inkscape.
- Microsoft Office, G Suite, OpenOffice.org, LibreOffice

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English and French (Canadian). Rudimentary Inuktitut. Experience with Chatino and Uyghur through research.

INTERESTS AND - Music: guitar (classical, electric), bass, banjo, synthesizer, MaxMSP, Ableton Live.

HOBBIES

- Athletics: cold-weather/snow hiking, swing dance, contra.
- Hobbies: natural language learning, reading (philosophy, politics), city exploration.
- Cooking: Thai, French, German, Southern.