Prologue

Ettien Koffi
St. Cloud State University

EDITOR'S PROLOGUE
WELCOME TO THE 11TH VOLUME

Linguistic Portfolios (LP) is 10 years old! On February 10, 2022, the dean of Graduate School, Dr. Claudia Tomany threw a 10th anniversary party. The provost of the university, Dr. Daniel Gregory, the associate dean of the College Liberal Arts, Dr. Raymond Phillipot, colleagues from TESL and Linguistics, and professors from other units gathered via Zoom for the celebration. Three former student-scholars (Mahdi Duris, Michel Lopez-Backstrom, and Phillip Klopfenstein) who also serve on the editorial board of LP attended the event. The success of LP is contagious and has led to the creation of a university-wide student-scholar journal called the *Journal of Student Scholarship* (JOSS). LP will continue to be a stand-alone journal devoted to linguistics research given its smashing success. For example, from March 22, 2021 (107,679 downloads) to March 22, 2022, LP has been downloaded **18,110** times. LP is cited in prestigious academic journals in linguistics, robotics, engineering, computer science, etc. Thirty-four per cent of all downloads are in the technology/commercial sector because the acoustic phonetic papers published in LP help fuel voice-enabled smart devices. It is therefore not a surprise that intelligent systems technology giants such as Apple, Amazon, Google, Facebook are frequent downloaders.

Volume 11 has a wide variety of articles that will delight our readers. I wrote an article investigating the acoustics of infant cry with the hope of determining the correlate that is most irritating to parents and caregivers. A colleague invited me to this multi-disciplinary research project. My contribution focuses on the acoustics portion of cries. My tutorials on text-to-speech (TTS) synthesis continue with an article that I co-wrote with **Mark Petzold** from Engineering/Computer Science as a result of an inaugural course that we taught in spring of 2021. Our goal is to summon insights from acoustic phonetics, engineering, and computer science in developing an efficient and cost-effective TTS system for endangered and/or under-resourced languages. **Dusosky** enrolled in that course and wrote a very insightful article which sheds some light on concatenating nasal vowels which are deemed difficult to synthesize. **Young** and I co-wrote an article on Vietnamese-accented English (VAE) vowels. This is a timely paper that lifts the veil on why Vietnamese English is so hard to understand. **DellAcqua** published a delightful paper on developmental L2 syntax by examining issues in Somali English Language Learners' written compositions. **Beckstrand** and I co-wrote a paper investigating the existence of a putative correlation between acoustic phonetics and grammatical function. **Duris** and I worked together on a replication study investigating the acoustic correlates that 10 Saudi college professors rely on to encode lexical stress in English. Finally, I published a solo paper questioning the prosodic classification of Anyi, a West African language, as a tone language. It is quite clear from this overview that Volume 11 contains academically stimulating papers that will whet the appetite or quench the thirst of readers. 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**, 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 12, 2023*. *LP* adheres to the guidelines of the **National Academy of Sciences**, as explained in the prologue of Volume 7, 2018.[1]

Ettien Koffi, Editor of *Linguistic Portfolios*, enkoffi@stcloudstate.edu.

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