A Schrift to Fest Kyle Johnson

Preface: three notes from the editors

Forty-three papers are assembled here to celebrate Kyle's birthday and his contribution to linguistics. The three of us would like to jointly thank all the contributors to this volume as well as Erin Jerome at UMass Scholarworks, the editors of *Semantics & Pragmatics* for allowing us to use their LaTeX style file, and Rajesh Bhatt, Tom Maxfield and Joe Pater for their discreet help. We also provide our individual acknowledgements below.

> It was the first day of the first Introduction to Linguistics course I taught at UMass, back in the fall semester of 2012. I had spent some time describing the course to my students and then spent a little while introducing myself and telling them a bit about what I did and where I came from. At the end of all this I asked, as I often do, if anybody had any questions. One woman in the middle of the class raised her hand, and when I called on her, she said, "actually, I heard that I should take this class with Professor Johnson." Kyle's notoriety as a gifted teacher certainly precedes him, and, as many of the papers in this volume attest, he has had a impressive influence on the field of linguistics as well. This, no doubt, is due to his unusual charm and his uncanny ability to uncover interesting problems that others fail to see — a talent which I have been the fortunate victim of many times.
>
> (Also, to Anne-Michelle and Keir: Thanks for inviting me to help!)
>
> Nicholas LaCara
> Amherst, Massachusetts
> 26 June 2017

> It's not that Anne-Michelle needed to convince me that Kyle deserved a festschrift; she needed to convince me that Kyle wouldn't find it premature, even tacky. Certainly he will appreciate the brilliant linguistic papers in here, but don't interpret the pinstripes, bowties, and rendering of *coördination* (we did not follow that practice here) as self-importance or intellectual pretension. So would a festschrift be embarrassingly aggrandizing for Kyle's Mid-western modesty? My worries were put to rest when we received such a great

number of responses to our call for papers. Kyle should know that in addition to the forty-three papers here, there would be more if secrecy did not preclude a general call and if deadlines extended indefinitely. I think Marcin Morzycki explained why the field, often without any loud fanfare, appreciates Kyle so much: "Kyle listens more intelligently than most people talk." This is the field's quiet fanfare to honor Kyle. Let it also be known that, since referring to the year we were celebrating was out of the question, I voted to title this *A Festschrift to Celebrate an Odd Birthday*.

Keir Moulton
Vancouver, Canada
26 June 2017

In my first year of graduate school Kyle Johnson taught me a syntax class. Shortly after that, he stopped trying to make me a syntactician, and instead hired me as the UMass assistant for *LI*'s Squibs and Discussion section. In that capacity, I apprenticed under Kyle in several more advanced aspects of the field — how to charm a syntactician (and the odd semanticist), how to extract late submissions by sharpening the charm, how to keep a lot of secrets, and how to convince people who are far too busy to say yes anyway just because they respect Kyle so much. Of course it took me some years to observe that these were precisely the skills required for a phonologist to co-edit a Kyle Johnson festschrift. Once that thought had been had, however, and Keir and I had spent a few more years periodically reiterating the idea at each other, this volume was really an inevitability. ... So happy birthday, KBJ. (And thank you, Nick, for helping us shield ourselves from at least some of Kyle's imminent wrath about the typesetting.)

Anne-Michelle Tessier
East Lansing, Michigan
26 June 2017