

### Faculty Member Contact Information

**Name:** Kristine Hildebrandt

**Department:** English Language and Literature

**E-mail Address:** khildeb@siue.edu

**Phone Number:** 618-650-3380

**Campus Box:** 1431




### Description of the URCA Assistant Position

This posting includes one funded position. In addition, the faculty member may be willing to mentor additional, unfunded students.

**How many unfunded students is this professor taking in addition to his/her one funded student?**   1  

(Students, if the faculty member will have both funded and unfunded students, he or she is free to select which student receives the funding. Funding cannot be split up between multiple students; only one student will receive it.)

**Which of the following apply to this position?**

- This position is **only** open to students who have declared a major in this discipline. **M**
- This project deals with social justice issues. 
- This project deals with sustainability (green) issues. 
- This project deals with human health and wellness issues. 

**How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?**   6  

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9.)

**Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?**  Yes       No

**If yes, in which course?** ENG 499

**If yes, for how many credit hours?** 3

**Location of research/creative activities:** Mainly on campus

### **Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity:**

The Southwestern Illinois Dialect Survey began in 2010. We are now in a phase of active data organization and analysis towards conference presentations and manuscript construction, particularly on the pronunciation dimensions of dialect variation. The URCA assistant will play a key role in the data organization and analysis, and will also work with the primary investigator on occasion to record additional data from other volunteers.

### **Brief description of student responsibilities:**

The RA will work under the direction and supervision of the primary investigator on pronunciation analysis with already-available computers and computing software. The RA will learn basic statistical analysis and chart-plotting to assist with conference presentation and manuscript construction.

Note! It is extremely important that the URCA student understand that s/he will learn to work with data coded to Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, and that s/he will need to meet firm deadlines set by the supervisor.

### **URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?**

Students will learn a great deal about language and dialect variation and about attitudes towards dialects are systematically and objectively studied. The RA will also learn professionally transferrable skills, including data analysis, visual representation, mapping, and manuscript construction. If this analysis is done well, s/he could be considered a full collaborator in the project and be included as a co-author on a paper that would be submitted for peer review and possible publication.

### Requirements of Students

**If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours), please indicate all required days and times:**

The supervisor and student will set regular weekly meeting times for instruction and progress checks. Otherwise, the student will work independently.

Note! It is very important that the student understand that s/he will need to meet firm deadlines set by the supervisor. The student will commit between 6-8 hours per week to this project.

**If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?**

This work will mainly be on-campus; however, we are still searching for lifelong residents of Jersey, Macoupin and Monroe counties for recording. It is preferable that the student assistant can accompany the supervisor off campus on those occasions as they come up.

**Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:**

Strongly preferred but not required: Completion of ENG 400 ('Principles of Linguistics'), or ENG 416 ('Language & Society') with a grade of 'B' or higher. If the RA has no prior language-study background, then I will ascertain in an interview whether the candidate is appropriate for this position.

I also prefer working with students who have some experience with Microsoft Excel.

**Other requirements or notes to applicants:**

Note! It is extremely important that the URCA student understand that s/he will learn to work with data coded to Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, and that s/he will need to meet firm deadlines set by the supervisor.

The student should be prepared to meet regularly and work efficiently on the project. Students who cannot work independently, who tend to procrastinate, or those with highly irregular schedules, or those whose present commitments stretch them beyond the ability to focus on this project, should not apply.