

## Education

A.B. *cum laude* (Mathematics and German) 1964,  
St. Benedict's College (now [Benedictine College](#)), Atchison, KA  
M.A. (Linguistics) 1967, [University of Washington](#), Seattle  
Thesis: *Some Applications of Computers to Linguistic Field Methods*  
Ph.D. (Linguistics), 1973, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Co-Chairs: [George Lakoff](#), [Robin T. Lakoff](#)  
Dissertation: [Studies in English Generics](#)

## Positions Held

Professor Emeritus of Linguistics, University of Michigan, 2009-date  
Visiting Professor of Linguistics and English, Western Washington University, Bellingham, 2006-7.  
Associate Professor of Linguistics, U of Michigan, 1978-2009  
Associate Professor of Linguistics, Residential College, U of Michigan 1986-2006  
Assistant Professor of Linguistics, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor 1973-78  
Instructor of Linguistics, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor 1972-73  
Assistant Professor of Linguistics and Director of EFL, [Utah State University](#), 1967-72

**Languages:** Speak English (native), German, Yiddish, Malay/Indonesian, Spanish, Lushootseed  
Read Latin, Greek, and most Romance and Germanic languages  
Program FORTRAN, ALGOL, SNOBOL, Lisp, Pascal, HyperTalk, C++, Unix, awk, Perl, Python, *et alios*

## Research Interests

*Grammar*, including grammatical relations, morphosyntax, and the semantic interface  
*Semantics*, especially metaphor, lexical semantics, and sound symbolism  
*Cognitive Grammar and Semantics*, of mathematical and other embodied concepts  
*The English Language*, its grammar, structure, history, and etymology  
*Linguistic Education* • *Computational Linguistics* • *Natural Language Processing*  
*Typology and Universals* • *Logic and Mathematics* • *Indonesian Linguistics*

## Selected Professional Activities and Honors

Director and Advisor, Undergraduate [Linguistics Program](#), UM, 1988-2001

- College of Literature, Science, and the Arts ([LS&A](#)) Undergraduate Program Award 1998

Recipient, LS&A *Excellence in Education* Teaching Award 1991, 92, 93  
Member, UM Governing Committee on Pilot Living/Learning Program, 1993-96  
Member, Committee on Information and Communication Technology (now Computer Committee),  
Linguistic Society of America ([LSA](#)), 1989-1993; Chair 1991-92

- Organizer, Symposium on Computing in Linguistics, LSA Annual Meeting 1992
- Organizer, first annual LSA Software Exhibit, Annual Meeting 1992
- Honoree, Unanimous Resolution of Gratitude, voted by LSA Annual Meeting 1992

Member, UM X.500 Design and Implementation TQM Team, 1992-93  
Member, LS&A Computer Policy Committee, 1984-1990  
Special Consultant on Software Development to LS&A, 1986-1989  
Member, Regents' Committee on Broadcasting, 1982-84, 1986-87  
Consulting Editor, *Studies In Language*, 1981-1997  
Fulbright Lecture/Research Fellowship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 1986  
Principal Linguistic and Computer Consultant to [Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka](#)  
for development of the National Linguistic Data Base.  
Organizer and Chair, Sloan Conference on  
'Cognitive Dimensions of Non-Western Languages', UM 1982  
Proposal Referee, National Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities  
Member, [Ask-A-Linguist](#) Panel of Experts, 1997-date  
Member, Editorial Board, [Iconicity in Language](#), 2000-date  
Member, LINGUIST List [Advisory Board](#), 2001-date

**Selected Publications** (all publications available at <http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/LawlerPublications.html>)

- (with L. Selinker) ‘[On Paradoxes, Rules, and Research in Second-Language Learning](#)’, *Language Learning* 21:1, 1971.
- [Generic Papers](#) 1972-97.
- [Acehnese Papers](#) 1975-90
- ‘[The Eclectic Company; or, Explanatory Power to the People](#)’, *Georgetown University Round Table*, 1973.
- ‘[Ample Negatives](#)’, CLS 10, 1974.
- ‘[Quelques Problèmes de Référence](#)’, *Langages* 48, Paris, 1976. ([English original MS](#))
- ‘[Mimicry in Natural Language](#)’, *The Elements*, CLS 15, 1979.
- ‘[Semantics](#)’ [review article], Zwicky, Kantor, Lawler, & Keller-Cohen, *Language Development, Grammar, and Semantics: The Contribution of Linguistics to Bilingual Education*. [Center for Applied Linguistics](#), 1980.
- (with Richard Rhodes) ‘[Athematic Metaphors](#)’, CLS 17, 1981.
- [Review of Lakoff & Johnson](#), *Metaphors We Live By*, *Language* 59:1, 1983.
- [Review of Furbee-Losee](#), *The Correct Language: Tojolabal*, *IJAL* 49:4, 1983.
- [Review of Austerlitz \(ed.\)](#) *The Scope of American Linguistics*, *American Anthropologist* 81, 1983.
- ‘[Lexical Semantics in the Commercial Transaction Frame: Value, worth, price, and cost](#)’, *Studies in Language* 13:2, 1989.
- ‘[Women, Men, and Bristly Things: The Phonosemantics of the BR- Assonance in English](#)’, Beddor (ed.), *Michigan Working Papers in Linguistics* 1:1, 1990.
- [Review of Botley, McEnery, & Wilson \(eds.\)](#), *Multilingual Corpora in Teaching and Research*, [Language Learning & Technology](#) 5:3, 2001.
- ‘[Style Stands Still](#)’, *Style* 37:2, 2003.
- [Memorial for James D. McCawley](#), *Language* 79:3, 2003.
- ‘[The Data Fetishist’s Guide to Rime Coherence](#)’, in *Poetry and Candy Colored Syntax*, *Language Presented to Haj Ross*, Haralampos Kalpakidis and William Salmon (eds), 2006.
- ‘[Making the Point with Metaphors: Not Just for Poets](#)’, ‘[Complements and Dummies](#)’, ‘[Everybody Has Their Own Opinion about Singular They](#)’, *Editorial Eye*, 2005
- Encyclopedia articles 2006-2010 ‘[Negation](#)’, ‘[Punctuation](#)’, ‘[Notation: Logical](#)’, ‘[Notation: Mathematical](#)’

**Book** — [Using Computers in Linguistics: A Practical Guide](#). 1998, Routledge. Co-Editor (with [Helen Aristar Dry](#)), co-author of the [Introduction](#), and author of §5, ‘[The Unix™ Language Family](#)’ and its [online appendix](#). The [Bibliography](#), [Glossary](#), and [Page Index](#) from the book are also online.

**Web Site** — <http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/> (ca. 700,000 hits per annum) — Selected items:

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about English Grammar and Usage 58 essays on various topics. (ca 24,000/mo)
- ‘[Metaphors We Compute By](#)’, hyper-lecture, available on [my Website](#) (ca 100 hits a day) and also in Hickey, [Figures of Thought: For College Writers](#), Mayfield 1999
- The Lawler-Rhodes [Database of English Simplex Words](#), with source code and Pascal compiler (Windows/DOS)
- [A World of Words](#), educational HyperCard suite for teaching etymology and linguistics (Mac, Sys 6++)
- [The Chomskybot](#)

**Recent Presentations**

- (with Karen van Hoek) ‘[Space, Time, and Polarity](#)’, *Languageing*, 1997
- (with Eric Breck) ‘[Embodying Arithmetic: Counting on Your Hands and Feet](#)’, *Languageing*, 1998
- (with Haj Ross) ‘Linguistics on the Edge’, *Midwestern Conference on Film, Language, and Literature*, 2002
- ‘[Leftovers](#)’, Colloquium, Linguistics Department, University College, University of London, 2002.
- ‘Peculiarities of American English’, Colloquium, Applied Linguistics, Birkbeck College, London, 2002.
- ‘[Grammar: A Trivial Pursuit](#)’, *Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar*, Seattle, 2004.
- ‘[The Data Fetishist’s Guide to Assonance Coherence](#)’, poster, LSA annual meeting, San Francisco, 2009.
- Handouts for 2 invited talks I’ve been giving for the last few years to Science Fiction and Fantasy writers and fans at [NorWesCon](#) in Seattle; I’ll be giving new versions of these these talks this year as well.
  - ‘[Language Fossils](#)’ (about historical linguistics, language families, PIE, and sound symbolism)
  - ‘[Fictional Linguistics](#)’ (about strange stuff from real languages to contrast with lame SciFi languages)