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THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

\*\*\* SSILA BULLETIN \*\*\*

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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Number 6: June 20, 1994

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6.1 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN BRAZIL

The Linguistics Division of the Museu Goeldi in Brazil is offering a fellowship for an "Associated Researcher." This type of fellowship has a stipend (exempt from Brazilian or US taxes) from US\$1,520 to \$2,530, depending on qualifications. The fellowship is for a minimum of two years and can be renewed. The Museu Goeldi is a Brazilian federal research institute focused on the Amazon region. It is located in Bele'm, a city with about one million inhabitants near the mouth of the Amazon River. The Linguistics Division has modern computer, video and audio equipment, e-mail, a growing library, excellent students, and a wealth of research opportunities. Candidates for the fellowship must have

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a Ph.D., possess a strong general knowledge of linguistics, and have the intellectual and fieldwork skills necessary to analyze and describe Amazonian languages. Duties include (1) helping develop the Linguistics program through supervision of students, teaching, administration, and audio-video documentation, and (2) original research. If funding is approved for a proposed large scale project to develop the study of Native Brazilian languages, the fellowship holder would participate in its implementation. Prior experience in Brazil is not necessary, but candidates must be able to learn Portuguese and adapt to Brazil, as well as to contribute to the development of scientific Linguistics in Brazil and to practical assistance for indigenous communities. Inquiries should be addressed to: Denny Moore, Museu Goeldi-DCH, CP 399, 66.040-170 Bele'm, Para, BRAZIL (fax: 55-91-249-0466; e-mail: MOORE@SAC1.SECOM.UFPA.BR - keep trying).

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6.2 AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGES AT 1995 LINGUISTIC INSTITUTE

The 58th Linguistic Institute, sponsored by the LSA and co-sponsored by Gallaudet University will be held at the University of New Mexico, in Albuquerque, from June 26 to August 4, 1995. The focus of the 1995 LI will be cross-linguistic perspectives on grammar, discourse, acquisition, and processing, with special emphasis on Southwestern languages and signed languages.

The following courses on American Indian linguistics have been scheduled:

- Comparative Kiowa-Tanoan (Laurel Watkins, Colorado College)
- Comparative Phonology of Athapaskan (Jeff Leer, U of Alaska)
- Dine Language (MaryAnn Willie, U of Arizona)
- Structure of Athapaskan (Keren Rice, U of Toronto)
- Issues of Hopi Linguistics in Theoretical and Typological Perspective (Kenneth Hale, MIT, and LaVerne Jeanne, U of Nevada-Reno)

For further information on Institute offerings, either see the June 1994 issue of the LSA BULLETIN, or contact: Linguistic Institute, Dept. of Linguistics, Humanities Bldg. 526, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1196 (tel: 505/277-6353; fax: 505/277-6355). A catalog, available in the fall of 1994, will be mailed upon request. Information may also be requested by e-mail: linginst@carina.unm.edu.

In addition, a number of American Indian language groups will be meeting in Albuquerque during the Institute. The tentative list includes:

- June 26-27 (Monday and Tuesday), Kiowa-Tanoan-Keresan Conference  
Contact: Laurel J. Watkins (lwatkins@cc.colorado.edu)
- June 28-29 (Wednesday and Thursday), Athabaskan Languages Conference  
Contact: Sally Midgette (smidget@carina.unm.edu)
- June 30-July 2 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) Symposium on Language Loss and Public Policy. Contact: Gariand Bills (gbills@bootes.unm.edu)
- July 3-4 (Monday and Tuesday) Friends of Uto-Aztecan. Contact: Jane H. Hill (jhill@anthro.arizona.edu)



- July 5-6 (Wednesday and Thursday morning), Hokan-Penutian Workshop. Contact: Victor Golla (golla@nic.csu.net)
- July 6-7 (Thursday afternoon and Friday), Conference on J.P. Harrington Papers. Contact: Victor Golla (golla@nic.csu.net)
- July 8-9 (Saturday and Sunday), SSILA Summer Meeting. Contact: Victor Golla (golla@nic.csu.net)
- July 10-11 (Monday and Tuesday morning), Muskogean-Oklahoma Linguistics Conference. Contact: Jack Martin (jbmart@mail.wm.edu)
- July 11-12 (Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday), Siouan-Caddoan Linguistics Conference. Contact: Randy Graczyk, St. Charles Mission, Pryor, Montana 59066; or David Rood (rood\_d@cubldr.colorado.edu)
- July 13-14 (Thursday and Friday), Andean Linguistics Workshop. Contact: Bruce Mannheim (bruce.mannheim@um.cc.umich.edu)

### 6.3 ANY SUGGESTIONS?

Monica Macaulay writes:

Next fall I'm going to be teaching a course called "Survey of North American Indian Languages." Since I've never taught this before, I'd be very interested in any ideas and/or suggestions anybody might have. This could include suggestions for readings, project and paper topics, syllabi, etc.

The class is going to include students from all sorts of backgrounds (from undergraduates with no linguistics training to grad students in linguistics), so I'm looking for suggestions at all levels.

I'll be happy to send a summary of what I get to anyone who wants it. (Or I could post it in a future bulletin.)

- Monica Macaulay (macaulay@sage.cc.purdue.edu)  
Department of English, Purdue University  
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1356

### 6.4 CALL FOR PAPERS FOR LSA SESSION ON FIELD REPORTS/ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

A session on Field Reports/Endangered Languages has been proposed as an organized session for the January 1995 LSA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The organizers (Tony Woodbury & Ken Hale) are circulating the following announcement:

The documentation of languages and language use is a central mission of the discipline. Higher order generalizations about human linguistic competence, communicative competence, and linguistic prehistory all depend on it. It is an urgent mission because overall linguistic diversity is declining drastically. Michael Krauss (in *Language* 68:4-10, 1992) estimates that the 6000 or so languages spoken now may be reduced to below 1000 in as few as a hundred years. Yet, while the regular LSA session categories accommodate certain results of field documentation and description, they still fail to support the enterprise itself, or to provide a forum for its most immediate results and products. This failure tends to diminish awareness of field work and

documentation as an ongoing enterprise within the discipline at a time of unprecedented urgency. Worse, it places a heavy or even prohibitive burden on beginning linguists who have made a commitment to the documentation and revitalization of endangered languages, but who, in addition to the demands of field work, must tailor their work to existing session categories if they want to present it at all.

Therefore, the Committee on Endangered Languages is soliciting abstracts for a proposed organized session at the January, 1995, LSA Meeting titled 'Field Reports/Endangered Languages.' The organizers are Ken Hale (MIT) and Tony Woodbury (U Texas, Austin). If this session is successful, a similar one will be proposed for the 1996 LSA Meeting, with the eventual goal of establishing 'Field Reports/Endangered Languages' as a self-sustaining regular session category at future Meetings.

Abstracts are invited on results of recent field work, especially (but not necessarily) on languages that are endangered, including:

- \* Squibs presenting fact patterns that are interesting in some general (e.g., theoretical or historical) sense, or new for a given language or area (e.g. a verb paradigm not noted in earlier descriptions; or tone in a region where tone languages are not expected).
- \* Descriptions of new phenomena (cf. such past field 'discoveries' as clicks, vowel harmony, echo words, ergativity, whistled speech, ritual registers, and convergence)
- \* Presentations of new findings on issues of language endangerment (e.g., the distribution and speaker strength of languages or dialects in a given area, language preservation or revitalization efforts, attitudes toward language death, or the sociolinguistics of endangered language communities)
- \* Field methodology (e.g., field techniques, dictionary making, natural text collection/representation, speaker census and survey methods, linguist-community cooperation)
- \* General issues of concern for field workers (e.g., the intellectual roles of linguist and consultant, the responsibility of linguists to the communities in which they work, or the role of field work in linguistic theory).

As in regular LSA Meeting sessions, papers will be 15 minutes long, with five minutes for discussion. There are eight slots. Please submit abstracts by Tuesday, August 30 to: Tony Woodbury; Dept. of Linguistics; Calhoun Hall 501; University of Texas; Austin, Texas 78712-1196 (phone (512) 471-1701, email acw@emx.cc.utexas.edu). Submitters must be LSA members. Each submission should conform to the guidelines for 15 minute papers in the December 1993 LSA Bulletin and should consist of a completed Abstract Submittal Form (p. 61), a short abstract on the form provided, and a long abstract as specified. Please also include a phone number or email address where you can be reached on Wednesday, Sept. 7. That way, you can be notified about your abstract in time for the September 10 deadline for regular LSA abstracts.

Abstracts will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the Committee on Endangered Languages. To the extent possible, the eight abstracts will be chosen so as to represent languages of most or all major world



regions, with an emphasis on languages that are endangered; to demonstrate the range of topics possible for LSA Field Reports; to emphasize the work of younger, less established members of the profession, including especially graduate students; and to showcase field results of importance and interest to linguists generally.

An electronic copy of the (preliminary) proposal for this session to the LSA Program Committee is available from Tony Woodbury at acw@emx.cc.utexas.edu.

6.5 ATHABASKAN LANGUAGE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The 1994 Athabaskan Language Conference was held on June 16th and 17th at the Elders' Potlatch House on the Stoney Creek Reserve (about 65 miles west of Prince George, British Columbia, on Highway 16). Elders participated throughout the conference in a variety of ways, including story-telling between talks.

Papers included:

MaryAnn Willie (U of New Mexico) and Eloise Jelinek (U of Arizona), "Subjects in Navajo 'Psych' Verbs"

Ferdinand de Haan (U of New Mexico), "Negation and Scope in OV Languages: Evidence from Navajo"

Alice Taff (U of Washington), "Deg Xinag Verbs: Hypercard Language Learning Project"

Leslie Saxon & Jacqueline deBruin (U of Victoria), "Dogrib First Person Dual Subject Inflection"

James Kari (ANLC), "Local vs. Regional Place Naming-Conventions in Athabaskan Languages"

Sharon Hargus (U of Washington), "D-Classifiers in Wits'uwit'en"

Bill Poser (Stanford U), "The Latin Hymns in the Carrier Prayer Book"

Chris Gunlogson (U of Washington), "A Comparative Look at Agreement in Athabaskan Languages"

Dagmar Jung (U of New Mexico), "Functions of the Nominalizer -i in Jicarilla Apache."

Siri G. Tuttle (U of Washington), "Metrical Evidence for the Full-Reduced Vowel Distinction in Galice Athabaskan."

6.6 AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGES SESSIONS AT MID-AMERICA CONFERENCE

The 1994 Mid-America Linguistics Conference will take at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, October 14-15. While the Conference will continue its 29-year tradition of accepting papers on all linguistic topics, special emphasis will be put on (1) African languages, African-American English, and creoles used by people of African descent, and (2) Muskogean, Caddoan, and other southeast Indian languages, in recognition of the long-standing interest in Native American languages at the University of Kansas. The plenary speaker will be Stephen Anderson, Johns Hopkins University.

Contributed papers will be allowed a maximum of 20 minutes for presentation. Papers presented at the conference will be published in the conference proceedings. Instructions for the preparation of manuscripts will be sent along with notification of acceptance.

Abstracts are to be submitted in both a short and long version. The short abstract is to be prepared for photocopy reproduction in the meeting handbook. It must fit within a space 6.5" wide and 3" high. If you use proportional spacing, the font must be no smaller than 12 point. If you use fixed spacing, there should be no more than 12 characters per inch. On the same page, give your name and affiliation as you wish it to appear in the program. Also include your mailing address, telephone number, fax number and E-mail address where applicable.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is Monday, August 29, 1994. E-mail submissions will not be accepted. Faxed submissions to meet the deadline must be followed immediately by mailed abstracts on regular paper. Mail abstracts to the MALC Program Committee at the Linguistics Department address given below.

For additional information about program content, contact: Frances Ingemann, The University of Kansas, Linguistics Department, Lawrence, KS 66045 Telephone: 913/864 3450 Fax: 913/864-5208 E-mail: fing@ukanvm.bitnet or fing@ukanvm.cc.ukans.edu

Published proceedings of the conference will be available; ordering information will be provided in September.

6.7 A BIT OF HISTORY

One hundred years ago this month, June 7, 1894, WILLIAM DWIGHT WHITNEY died at New Haven, Connecticut. One of the leading Sanskrit scholars of the nineteenth century, Whitney was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1827, and rose to become Professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology at Yale University. His Sanskrit Grammar (1879) was the standard work in its field, and his popular volume The Life and Growth of Language first published in 1875 went through several editions. Whitney's elder brother, Josiah Dwight Whitney (after whom Mt. Whitney was named), was an historical geologist and served for many years as Professor of Geology at Harvard University.

Whitney encouraged the study of American Indian languages and supported efforts by John Wesley Powell and others to set up the Bureau of American Ethnology. He also helped Powell devise a standard phonetic orthography for Indian languages.

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* THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS *
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