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

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Number 9: October 22, 1994

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9.0 SSILA ELECTIONS

The 1994 nominating committee (Leanne Hinton, Lyle Campbell, and Pamela Munro) submitted the following slate of candidates to run unopposed for the offices to be filled in the 1994 SSILA Elections:

Vice President (1995) and President-Elect for 1996: William Shipley
(UC-Santa Cruz, Emeritus)

Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee, 1995-97: Terrence Kaufman
(University of Pittsburgh)

Secretary-Treasurer, 1995: Victor Golia (Humboldt State University)

The Executive Committee has nominated the following candidates for the position to be filled on the Nominating Committee (1995-97): Karen Booker (University of Kansas) and Scott DeLancey (University of Oregon).

Ballots have already been mailed to members with addresses outside the US and Canada, and US and Canadian members will receive their ballots with the October *SSILA Newsletter* shortly after Nov. 1. To be counted, ballots should be received by the Secretary-Treasurer no later than November 29, 1994.

9.1. JOB OPENING AT UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

The Department of Linguistics at the University of New Mexico seeks applicants for a tenure track Assistant Professor position in Native American linguistics beginning August 14, 1995.

Minimum qualifications: Ph.D. in linguistics by starting date of appointment; current program of linguistic research; demonstrated ability to work effectively in Native American communities. Desirable qualifications: native or native-like proficiency in a Native American language; research on one or more Native American languages of the U.S. Southwest; area of expertise in syntax; ability to communicate effectively with students and colleagues.

Deadline for receipt of applications is November 30, 1994. Send letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and names of three references to: Search Committee, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1196. E-mail queries can be sent to Garland Bills at <GBILLS@BOOTES.UNM.EDU>.

The University of New Mexico is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

9.2. CALL FOR PAPERS: SYMPOSIUM ON LANGUAGE LOSS AND PUBLIC POLICY

A Symposium on *Language Loss and Public Policy* will be held at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 30-July 2, 1995, in conjunction with the 1995 Linguistic Institute.

The Symposium will bring together scholars from different disciplines to discuss the linguistic, psycholinguistic, sociolinguistic, cultural, and policy aspects of language loss. The term is used here in its broadest sense to subsume three areas of investigation:

- (1) the ATTRITION of native language skills by individual members of indigenous and immigrant communities;
- (2) societal SHIFT from the use of the native ethnic language to the use of a dominant official language; and
- (3) the consequent DEATH of the subordinate language.

The clear interrelationships among these three areas -- in the linguistic processes involved and especially in the societal conditions that give rise to loss -- gives a meeting such as this Symposium considerable scholarly significance. The fact that the incidence of linguistic and cultural

disruption worldwide is rapidly accelerating also makes the need for such a Symposium pressing.

The presenters will explore with each other and with other participants in the 1995 Linguistic Institute the accumulated knowledge in the three areas of language loss in order to arrive at a more global understanding of the relationships among the linguistic processes in loss, its underlying causes, its consequences for individuals and societies, and the implications for policy intervention.

Central objectives of the Symposium will be, in light of what is known about language loss, to examine its ecological significance, that is, its effects on individuals, communities, and society as a whole, as well as the policy implications of what is now seen to be a worldwide and rapidly accelerating phenomenon. Another important objective is to provide information to members of the wider community both as an educational objective and as a resource for those concerned with questions of policy.

Persons intending to submit a formal abstract for the Symposium should send an expression of interest by November 1, 1994. This preliminary submission should include a tentative title and specification of the language situation(s) examined, the area of language loss that will be the emphasis of the report, and whether the paper will focus on the nature and causes of loss or on the consequences of loss and policy implications.

The deadline for receipt of formal abstracts providing greater details is January 31, 1995. Abstracts should not exceed 500 words, and may be submitted by regular mail, FAX, or electronic mail.

In order to make papers available to other participants in advance of the Symposium, presenters will be asked to submit pre-publication versions of their papers by May 15, 1995. Publishable versions of the papers will be due at the Symposium.

Preliminary expressions of interest, formal abstracts, and requests for additional information should be directed to: Garland D. Bills, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1196 USA. Telephone: (505) 277-7416 or (505) 277-0324; FAX: (505) 277-6355; E-mail: gbills@bootes.unm.edu

9.3 ENDANGERED LANGUAGES PAPERS AT LSA

A two-part session made up of reports by LSA members on aspects of their recent linguistic field work - especially (but not exclusively) involving endangered languages - will form part of the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in New Orleans. This *Field Reports/Endangered Languages* session, organized by Ken Hale (MIT) & Tony Woodbury (U of Texas Austin), inaugurates an effort by the Committee on Endangered Languages and their Preservation to bring field work and work on endangered languages more into the mainstream of professional linguistics. The session is scheduled for Friday afternoon and evening, January 6, 1995 and will include the following papers:

Part 1 (2-5 pm):

Leanne Hinton (UC-Berkeley), "Yowlumni (Yawelmani) Yokuts language revitalization"
Taylor Roberts (MIT), "Relativization in Lillooet Salish"
Juliette Blevins (U of Western Australia) & Doug Marmion (Yamaji

Lg. Ctr.), "Nhanta and its position within Pama-Nyungan"
Colleen Cotter (UC-Berkeley), "Radio as a language preservation tool: Recent developments in Ireland"
Xi Zhang (U of Toronto), "Vowel harmony in Oroqen (Tungus)"
Fiona McLaughlin (U of Kansas), "Language and identity among Fula speakers in Senegal"
Joyce McDonough (Ohio State), "A phonetic study of Navajo: a report on phonetic field work"
Charles E. Grimes (SIL-Indonesia), "Digging for the roots of language death in eastern Indonesia: The cases of Kayeli and Hukumina."

Part 2 (8-11 pm):

Colette G. Craig (U of Oregon), "The Rama language project of Nicaragua: 10 year perspective"
Troi Carleton (U Texas Austin), "Prosodic structuring in traditional Chichewa narratives"
Ian Maddieson (UCLA), "Phonetic theories, field studies, and endangered languages"
Robert S. Williams (UCLA), "Oklahoma Choctaw in McCurtain County: The state of the language and its prospects for survival"
Filomena Sandalo (Univ. of Pittsburgh), "Kadiweu as a pronominal argument language"
Walt Wolfram (NC State U) and Natalie Schilling-Estes (UNC-Chapel Hill), "Dialect preservation and community collaboration: A proactive program"
Arienne M. Dwyer (U of Washington), "Dominant language influence on serial verb constructions in Salar"
Jonathan David Bobaljik (MIT), "Itel'men (Kamchadal): Collectivization and language death and preservation on Kamchatka."

For more information about the session or about the LSA's Committee on Endangered Languages and Their Preservation, contact Tony Woodbury at <acw@mail.utexas.edu>.

9.4 LSA PARASESSION AT TULANE (INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SESSIONS)

A Parasection to the New Orleans LSA meeting, entitled "Language South of the Rio Bravo", will be held on the Tulane University campus immediately following the conclusion of the regular meeting (Jan. 4-8), on Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 9-10, 1995. The sessions on the first day of the Parasection will focus on indigenous languages and related topics. (The second day will be focused on Spanish.)

Grammar of Indigenous Languages (Jan. 9th, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm)

Bret Gustafson, "Andean Languages: Autonomy and Standardization"
Robin Schafer, "Word Order and Negation in Nahuatl: A Cross-Dialect Study"
Robert Hamrick, "Classical Kaqchikel Morphophonology"
Rosa Rodriguez, "Nominalizations in Kaqchikel"
Doris Payne, "Word Order, Aspect, and Lexical vs. Pronominal Argument Status in Panare (Carib)"
Lyle Campbell, "A Reevaluation of the Quechuman hypothesis"
Veronica Grondona Ceria & Filomena Sandalo, "A Preliminary Reconstruction of Proto-Haikupan with Special Reference to Pronominals and Demonstratives"
Cari Spring, "What's Underlying? Comparative Evidence from Asheninca"
Sidney da Silva Facundes, "Possession and Unpossession in Apurine (Maipuran, Arawakan)"

Language Contact (Jan. 9th, 2:00 - 4:10 pm)

- Salikoko Mufwene, "Creolization, Language Death and Rebirth"
- Catherine Berezna, "Language Contact and Language Death: the Impact of Spanish on Texistepec Popoluca"
- Martha Swearingen, "A Linguistic Melting Pot: The Anterior/Completive Marker in Palenquero"
- Heliana R. de Mello, "Arcaismos e contacto linguistico no portugues vernaculo do Brasil"
- Marleen Haboud, "Lenguas en contacto y cambios gramaticales: El caso del castellano andino ecuatoriano"

Sociolinguistic Aspects of Indigenous Languages (Jan. 9th, 4:30 - 6:30 pm)

- Judie Maxwell, "Kagchikel Metalanguage for Linguistic and Cultural Change"
- Kimberly A. Soto, "Documenting Indigenous Language Use: A Community Effort (Mexico, North Pame)"
- M. Paul Lewis, "Language Maintenance in Six K'iche' Communities"
- Robert McKenna Brown, TBA
- Marta de Gerdes, "The poetics of Kuna radio broadcasts"

For more information, contact: Judie Maxwell, Dept. of Anthropology, 1021 Audobon, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118-5698 (tel: 504/865-5336; fax: 504/865-5338); e-mail: maxwell@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu).

9.5 PUT YOUR LANGUAGE IN A MUSEUM

From Eva Schultze-Berndt (schultze.berndt@nov1.lili.uni-bielefeld.de):

Dear All,

At the University of Bielefeld, a Language Museum project has just gotten off the ground. Its goal is to make information on language, languages, and linguistics, accessible to a wider public. The focus is to provide information on the languages of the world (especially those spoken by small groups of speakers), and to draw attention to their beauty, diversity, and social settings.

We are looking for material of any kind on language and linguistics, or information on particular languages, which would be appropriate for public display. Videos and electronic media would be particularly welcome (we use both Mac and DOS/Windows platforms). Please contact me if you have materials that you could share or sell to us, or if you know of anyone who might. Many thanks!

Eva Schultze-Berndt
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D-33501 Bielefeld
Germany

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* Secretary-Treasurer & Humboldt State University *
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