

**The Society for the Study of the
Indigenous Languages of the Americas**

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Editor - Victor Golla
Associate Editor - Scott DeLancey

Correspondence should be directed to the Editor

Number 58: December 23, 1997

58.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Sorry about the delay

The SSILA Bulletin has been dormant for over seven weeks (#57 went out on October 28), and we apologize for the long silence. The editor (VG) was out of the country during November and had a large pile of matters to attend to on his return. We will now resume our normal schedule, and Bulletins will appear every two to three weeks.

Program updates for NYC meeting

Several papers have been withdrawn from the SSILA/LSA meeting in January, and some session chairs have been designated. Following are the changes to the program that we have received to date:

Friday morning, January 9

Session A. Chair: Robert L. Rankin

Session B. Chair: Victor Golla

Friday afternoon, January 9.

Session A. Chair: Terrence Kaufman

Session B. Chair: Jill Brody

Papers withdrawn: Christel Stolz, Thomas H. Stolz

Saturday morning, January 10.

Session A. Chair: Karl V. Teeter

Session B. Chairs: Colette Grinevald & Megan Crowhurst

Saturday afternoon, January 10.

Session A. Chair: Sally McLendon

Session B. Paper withdrawn: Melissa Axelrod & Jule Gomez de Garcia

Sunday morning, January 11.

Session A. No changes.

Session B. Paper withdrawn: Juergen Bohnemeyer

58.1 POSITION OPEN FOR LINGUISTIC ANTHROPOLOGIST AT SONOMA STATE U

The Department of Anthropology/Linguistics at Sonoma State University (located 48 miles north of San Francisco, one of the 22 campuses of the California State University system) anticipates making a permanent full-time (tenure-track) appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor beginning in the Fall of 1998.

The teaching load will consist of 3 or 4 undergraduate courses a semester in linguistic anthropology, sociocultural anthropology, and in linguistics. The position requires a serious commitment to undergraduate teaching in a liberal arts setting. Minimum requirements are an ABD in Anthropology, or in Linguistics with appropriate training in anthropology. The preferred combination of strengths include expertise and research in the ethnography of communication, and the ability to teach basic skills of linguistic analysis. In addition, the position calls for competence to teach communicative and first/second language development. Highly desirable are a non-Western areal specialty, an interest in the culture of schooling, and a willingness to participate in a minor in applied linguistics and an interdisciplinary major in human development.

For a candidate with the Ph.D., a tenure-track appointment will be made at the rank of Assistant Professor, Step 1 to 4 (\$37,956 to \$40,692), depending on educational preparation and experience. Appointment may be made at the rank of Lecturer for a candidate who is ABD and is anticipating completion of the Ph.D. no later than August 20, 1999, when, contingent on a successful performance review, the position will be converted to tenure-track. Although tenure can be granted at any time, contract provisions specify that the normal period of probation shall be a total of 6 years.

An initial review will be conducted for applications postmarked by January 19, 1998. If the position is not filled from the initial applications another review will take place for those postmarked by February 20, 1998. Candidates should submit a letter of application; a complete and current vita; copies of major publications; a current teaching evaluation, if available; and the names, addresses, telephone numbers and/or e-mail addresses of three references to:

Dr. Shirley Silver, Chair, Search Committee
Dept. of Anthropology/Linguistics
Sonoma State University
1801 E. Cotati Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

Tel: 707/664-2312
Fax: 707/664-3920
TDD: 707/664-2958 (for voice and hearing impaired only)
E-mail: shirley.silver@sonoma.edu

Important: Please refer to this number -- A021-98/99 -- on all correspondence and inquiries regarding this position. Sonoma State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution.

58.2 REQUEST FOR 1998 PROPOSALS: ENDANGERED LANGUAGE FUND

>From Douglas Whalen (whalen@lenny.haskins.yale.edu)

29 Oct 1997:

The Endangered Language Fund, a US nonprofit corporation, invites native communities and linguists to submit proposals for the second round of grants to work with endangered languages. These grants are made possible by the generosity of ELF's members.

The Endangered Language Fund provides grants for language maintenance and linguistic field work. The work most likely to be funded is that which serves the native community and the field of linguistics immediately. Work which has immediate applicability to one group and more distant application to the other will also be considered. Publishing subventions are a low priority, although they will be considered. The language involved must be in danger of disappearing within a generation or two. Endangerment is a continuum, and the location on the continuum is one factor in ELF's funding decisions.

Eligible expenses include travel, tapes, films, consultant fees, etc. Grants are normally made for one year periods, though extensions may be applied for. The Fund expects grants in this round to be less than \$2,000 in size.

There is no application form. For a statement of the information that should be submitted, write or e-mail:

Endangered Language Fund, Inc.
Department of Linguistics
Yale University
New Haven, CT 06520
e-mail: elf@haskins.yale.edu

Applications must be mailed in. No e-mail or fax applications will be accepted. Applications must be received by April 20th, 1998. Decisions will be delivered by the end of May, 1998.

58.3 NAHUATL INSTITUTE NEXT SUMMER AT YALE

A Nahuatl Summer Language Institute will be held at Yale University from June 15 to August 7, 1998. It will offer intensive language training in modern Nahuatl and three one-week intensive seminars with world-renowned scholars in the field of Nahuatl language and culture.

The language training will include 3-hour per day language instruction supplemented by a 5-hour per week language laboratory. Sessions and language table with native speakers will be available.

The visiting scholars will include:

- Una Canger (U of Copenhagen), an expert in Nahuatl dialectology and historical linguistics.
- Karen Dakin (UNAM, Mexico), an expert in Uto-Aztec and historical linguistics, particularly Nahuatl phonology and morphology.
- Michel Launey (CNRS, Paris), an expert in Classical Nahuatl and theoretical linguistics, particularly syntax and morphology.

The coordinator and language instructor for the Institute will be Jonathan D. Amith, an anthropologist who lived for 5 years in the Nahuatl-speaking communities of Ameyaltepec and San Agustin Oapan, Guerrero. He has taught Nahuatl in Mexico and is presently affiliated with Yale University.

There will also be guest lectures by several authorities on New World cultures, including Rolena Adorno (Yale), Louise Burkhart (SUNY-Albany), Dana Leibsohn (Smith College), and Mary Miller (Yale).

Tuition is \$2,500. Students will receive 6 hours course credit from Yale University Summer Programs. The Institute is open to under-graduates, graduates, and other scholars, and is approved for FLAS summer language grants. Limited financial assistance is available to Yale students. Accommodations and meal plans are available. Space is limited.

For application materials and further information, contact: Nahuatl Summer Language Institute, Council on Latin American Studies, Yale University, P. O. Box 208206, New Haven, CT 06520-8206 (tel: 203/432-3422; e-mail: jonathan.amith@yale.edu). There is also an Institute website at: <http://www.yale.edu/nahuatl>.

58.4 KANSAS SERIES WELCOMES SUBMISSIONS FOR 1998 VOLUME

The editors of Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics will produce two numbers of Volume 23, for 1998. They welcome submissions of papers on all topics in the field of linguistics and closely-related disciplines for Number 1. Papers dealing with native languages of the Americas will be selected for Number 2. Since KWPL is a working paper series, publication in KWPL does not preclude later publication elsewhere of revised versions of papers. Submissions should be in good readable form (double or 1.5 spaced), not necessarily final copies. If possible, please include a copy of the paper on a Mac-formatted disk, in Microsoft Word 5.1 (or earlier), with copies of fonts of symbols used. Student papers are encouraged.

Please include name, address, email address (if possible) when sending correspondence. Please send papers or inquiries to: Editors, KWPL, Linguistics Department, 427 Blake Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045 (e-mail: LGSA@kuhub.cc.ukans.edu). Questions can also be directed to the editors of KWPL: Jennifer Ludlow, (jludlow@ukans.edu) and John Kyle (jkyle@ukans.edu).

58.5 UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Chicago Linguistic Society (Chicago, April 17-19, 1998)

The 34th Regional Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society will take place April 17-19, 1998, at the University of Chicago. Original, unpublished work is invited which addresses one of the following panel topics:--The Status of Constraints in Linguistic Theory (Friday, April 17).--CHIPHON '98: The Acquisition of Spoken Language (Saturday, April 18).--Language Acquisition and the Lexicon (Sunday, April 19). The deadline for receipt of abstracts is Jan. 31, 1998. Send abstracts to: Chicago Linguistic Society, 1050 E. 59th St., Chicago, IL 60637. Abstracts may also be submitted by e-mail, provided they conform to guidelines. Further information may be obtained by visiting the CLS website at <http://humanities.uchicago.edu/humanities/cls/cls.html>, by writing to the above address, or by e-mail from cls@tuna.uchicago.edu.

Athabaskan Languages Conference (Calgary, June 1998)

>From Gary Donovan (donovan@acs.ucalgary.ca) 17 Nov 1997:

The tentative--nearly firm--dates for the next Athabaskan Languages Conference will be June 12-13, 1998, at the University of Calgary and the Tsuut'ina Nation lands. There will be many Native people coming and, hopefully, a feast with buffalo meat prepared in the old way. Co-organizer Bruce Starlight is hoping to have some of the older people tell stories and compare stories across the nations. We are hoping that several linguists will gear their presentations to the native people present, but provision will also be made for linguists to talk on theoretical issues. We are also toying with the idea of have the various papers vetted by peer assessment and then published, in part in paper and in part on computer diskettes.

Discourse Across Languages & Cultures (Milwaukee, September 1998)

"Discourse Across Languages & Cultures" (the 24th University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee Linguistics Symposium) will be held September 10-12, 1998. Papers are sought that discuss written, spoken, or signed discourse from a cross-linguistic and/or cross-cultural perspective. It is part of the purpose of this symposium to initiate a dialogue among the various disciplines and sub-disciplines that are involved in this study and abstracts are welcome from scholars representing any of the following fields of study where the focus of the paper is on cross-linguistics and/or cross-cultural comparison: discourse analysis text linguistics contrastive rhetoric rhetorical typology translation studies genre studies

Abstracts should be sent to: '98 UWM Symposium Committee, Dept. of English, U. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413. The deadline for receipt is February 2, 1998. For further information visit the Conference website: <http://www.uwm.edu:80/Dept/English/98Symp.html> or contact Michael Darnell at the address above (tel: 414/962-1943; fax: 414/229-2643; messages: 414/229-4511; e-mail: darnell@csd.uwm.edu).

WECOL (Tempe, Arizona, October 1998)

>From Elly van Gelderen (ellyvangelder@asu.edu) 10 Dec 1997:

WECOL (the Western Conference on Linguistics) will be held from 9-11 October, 1998, at Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ). The deadline for abstracts is June 1 and they should be sent to: Elly van Gelderen, Chair Abstracts Committee, ASU, English Department, Tempe, AZ 85287-0302. LASSO will be held at the same time at ASU, but abstracts should not go to the above address.

58.6 CORRESPONDENCE

More on Poliespo and its creator

>From Nathan M. Gant (ngant@igc.apc.org):

You may recall that I inquired about the Poliespo language a few months ago. I have found a little more information on it which I can share.

The Cherokee man who invented Poliespo is N.I.(Nvwtohiyada Idehesdi) Sequoyah. Besides English and his native tongue, he speaks Japanese, French, Italian, Esperanto and Poliespo with varying degrees of fluency.

In 1991, he published "Fundamentals of Poliespo", in which he introduced an artificial language, based on Cherokee, as a system of universal communication in the tradition of North American Indian sign language and smoke signaling. He had originally created this language (which he originally called Anagalisgi) before learning Esperanto. After picking up Esperanto during a stint in the Navy, he combined some of the elements of it into Anagalisgi. "Poliespo" is a compound meaning "polysynthetic Esperanto."

According to a letter I just received yesterday, "Fundamentals of Poliespo" is available in The Netherlands for 25.00 dutch guilders via the Universala Esperanto Asocio in Rotterdam (see their web site). In the US, it can be purchased for \$10 from Bernice Garrett, 15555 Huntington Village Lane, #240, Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

Currently N.I. Sequoyah is on Death Row in San Quentin, California. His address is N.I. Sequoyah (Bill Waldon), H27800-4E79, San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin CA 94964. I'm not familiar with the circumstances that have put him behind bars. Father Matthew Regan, a Catholic priest in residence at Saint Leander's Parish in San Leandro, Calif. is supporting Sequoyah's innocence. His mailing address is 474 West Estudillo Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.

--Nathan M. Gantngant@igc.apc.org

Placement needed

>From Frank Seifart (fseifart@zedat.fu-berlin.de) 9 Dec 1997:

I am currently collecting material for my MA thesis (at the Freie Universitaet Berlin) on possible formats for the documentation of endangered languages. In this context, I am interested in a ca. six-week placement with an organization doing practical work, preferably in Latin America. Could anyone knowing of such opportunities send me details, addresses, etc?

--Frank Seifart Ratiborstr.12, D-10999 Berlin, GERMANY Tel.+49-30-6123429

58.7 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Chinook Jargon page

Jeffrey Kopp (jeffkopp@worldnet.att.net) maintains a hobby home page with a considerable amount of information about Chinook Jargon. The URL is:
<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Delphi/6460/jargintr.htm>

Omaha material on-line

>From John E. Koontz (john.koontz@colorado.edu) 12 Dec 1997:

Readers of the SSILA Bulletin might want to know that I have some Omaha materials up under a personal Web page now. Not much really, just some notes on paradigms and a few texts. I hope eventually to do more with it. The URL is: <http://spot.colorado.edu/~koontz>

--John E. Koontz Research Associate Center for the Study of the Native Languages of the Plains and Southwest

Evidentiality

>From Ferdinand de Haan (fdehaan@unm.edu) 10 Dec 1997:

I have compiled a bibliography on evidentiality and put it on the web at:
<http://www.unm.edu/~fdehaan/evibib.html>

--Ferdinand de Haan Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico

Endangered languages

>From Luisa Maffi (maffi@nwu.edu):

In the latest SSILA Bulletin you mention that, pending the development of a more comprehensive information center, SSILA will continue to answer questions on language endangerment and language revival "as best we can." I thought I should make you aware that the recently revamped Terralingua web site now features a page specifically devoted to language maintenance and revitalization organizations from all over the world, which we plan to continue expanding. When people ask you such questions, you may want to mention our site too. The URL is: <http://cougar.ucdavis.edu/nas/terralin/home.html>

--Luisa Maffi President, TERRILINGUA Department of Psychology, Northwestern University

58.8 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

New and changed addresses

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Special note on Smithsonian addresses

Ives Goddard (goddard.ives@nmnh.si.edu) tells us that some software on the Smithsonian's mailing system can't handle the abbreviated addresses SI people use internally, and that to communicate with an SI address from outside the system people must use the full formal address. This has the shape: LASTNAME.FIRSTNAME@nmnh.si.edu Thus, Ives can only be reached at the address shown above, and not via the abbreviated address goddardi@nmnh.si.edu that Ives distributed to his correspondents a few months ago. He apologizes for this confusion, but it is not of his making. However, it should be noted that SOME Smithsonian addresses do not follow the LASTNAME.FIRSTNAME format. Inquiries to the National Anthropological Archives should be addressed to naa@nmnh.si.edu. And Robert Leopold, who is the NAA contact person for manuscripts (including J. P. Harrington materials) can also be reached at leopold@nmnh.si.edu.