

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

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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-->> --Correspondence should be directed to the Editor-- <<--

Number 252: February 27, 2007

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252.5 E-Mail Address Updates

252.0 SSILA Business

* New SSILA officers
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Center. Krauss, who was not at the meeting to receive the Hale Prize in person, writes:

> I am deeply honored to receive the Ken Hale Prize from SSILA. For one
> thing, I consider Ken my hero, and even more special in that I have at
> least one thing in common with him. Once, while comparing driver's
> licenses--mine from Fairbanks, Ken's from Alice Springs, and both
> useful for persuading cops that we hardly knew what traffic signals
> were--I discovered that we were both born on the very same day, August
> 15th, 1934. I have lived longer, to owe Ken even more from that day
> at Anaheim. All the more to regret I only heard about the award after
> the fact, else I most certainly would have been present, out of respect
> for Ken and SSILA, and to appreciate the honor.

David Rood, chair of the Mary Haas Book Award Committee, announced that Nicholas Pharris was this year's winner for his University of Michigan dissertation Winuunsi Tm Talapaas: A Grammar of the Molalla Language. Other members of the award committee were David Rude, Sergio Meira, Tony Woodbury, and Andrew Garrett.

In addition, Stephen Marlett, chair of the Travel Committee, announced the recipients of travel stipends for this year's meeting were Jessie Blackburn Morrow, Brad Montgomery-Anderson, Alice Saunsoci, and Gabriela Pérez Báez.

* Secretary-Treasurer to retire in January 2008
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Victor Golla, who has served as Secretary-Treasurer of SSILA since the founding of the Society in 1982, informed the Executive Committee of his decision to retire at the end of his 2007 term. However, since the duties he has assumed have evolved well beyond the description of the office in the Bylaws, he proposed to the Executive Committee that the job be split into two positions: (1) An Executive Secretary, to keep the Society's books, collect dues, organize the work of the standing committees, and serve as secretary to the program committee for the annual meeting. (2) An Editor, to produce the SSILA Newsletter and Bulletin and supervise the Society's website. He also proposed that both positions be appointive, and suggested (renewable) terms of three years. Given such a reorganization, Golla said that he was willing to continue as Editor for a few more years.

The Executive Committee, as noted above, agreed to these proposals and motions implementing them were adopted by the Business Meeting in Anaheim. Since these changes require amendments to the Society's Bylaws, a mail vote will be necessary and a ballot will be prepared soon.

* Newsletter and Bulletin delayed
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>From the Editor:

Both this issue of the SSILA Bulletin and the "January" issue of the SSILA Newsletter are significantly overdue. The Editor offers his sincere apologies. Several other important tasks, most demandingly the

completion of a VERY overdue book, have devoured nearly all of his non-classroom work time during the past six weeks. He hopes to catch up with his SSILA tasks soon.

Meanwhile, plans are afoot to begin distributing the SSILA Newsletter on-line in the near future. More on this in the next Bulletin.

--VG

252.1 Correspondence

* On the ISO 639-3 resolution
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>From Joan Spanne (iso639-3@sil.org) 14 February 2007:

My colleagues present at the SSILA meeting in January relayed to me that the resolution from the Executive Committee passed by vote of the membership. On February 5, ISO announced the publication of 639-3, so that it is now a published standard. This means that SIL should now move ahead with the whole management process of the standard, including the process for managing changes. Regardless of whatever steps SSILA takes next to advocate for a different Registration Authority, SIL as the current Registration Authority will be very appreciative of the knowledgeable participation of SSILA members and/or any appointed committee in proposing and reviewing changes to the ISO 639-3 standard.

To facilitate this, I want to alert you to the many Change Requests that have already been submitted concerning languages of the Americas. The index of Change Requests may be viewed in a number of ways, including by region and by language family. This link has a view sorted by region:

http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/chg_requests.asp?order=region

There is more information on the change process available through links under the Code Changes heading on the navigation section. In the section on Submitting change requests, there is information about how an individual (a list moderator, committee chairperson, interested researcher, etc.) may request notification of newly received Change Requests as they are posted to the website. I will be glad to set up an alert for the chair of the SSILA Board of Indigenous American Language Designations, once it is established, and for any Board members (and general SSILA members), as they may desire. We hope that other scholarly organizations will take an active interest in submitting and reviewing proposals for changes to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the ISO 639-3 code set.

A notice on LinguistList is forthcoming, and should be posted once it has received their editorial approval. I thought I'd give SSILA advance notice of the proposals already submitted.

--Joan Spanne
ISO 639-3/RA. SIL International
ISO639-3@sil.org

* Seeking Vico scholars
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>From Robin Shoaps (shoaps@uchicago.edu) 1 February 2007:

A doctoral student of mine, Garry Sparks, is working with some documents in K'iche' (Mayan) written during the 16th century by Vico, the first theologian to write an "indigenous theology," *_Theologiae Indorum_*. He has encountered three scholars who've also translated some of the chapters and would like to contact them directly. We hope that someone in SSILA might know how to get in touch. They are:

Gunter Zimmermann
Bertold Riese
Cristiana Bredt-Kriszat.

Bredt-Kriszat was last listed as being at the University of Hamburg, Germany, but no e-mail address or contact information was provided.

Any leads should be sent to Garry Sparks (gsparks@uchicago.edu).

--Robin Shoaps
Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Chicago
shoaps@uchicago.edu

* Chief Illiniwek is history
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>From Sally Thomason (thomason@umich.edu) 16 February 2007:

I just got a message from Stephen Kaufman, the University of Illinois biology professor who was the most determined and persistent critic of "Chief Illiniwek", with the welcome news that this racist mascot has at last been retired. For the details see:

<http://www.uillinois.edu/chief/ChiefRelease2-16-07.pdf>

As readers will recall, SSILA was the first national organization to announce a boycott of the University of Illinois and indeed the state of Illinois, as a venue for SSILA events. This was in 1999. We also helped organize a protest there during the LSA Linguistic Institute that summer -- a press conference, a march to the Provost's office, etc.

But our action, the actions of the LSA and the AAA, and continuing faculty protests against Chief Illiniwek had no visible effect. What finally did the trick was an NCAA ruling that post-season NCAA athletic contests could not be held at the university as long as Chief Illiniwek remained. After their last appeal of this ruling failed, the board of trustees decided to retire the Chief.

--Sally Thomason
University of Michigan
thomason@umich.edu

* On-line discussion list for superstocks
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>From Jess Tauber (phonosemantcs@earthlink.net) 13 February 2007:

AMERIND (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/amerind>) is a new moderated discussion about superstocks, mass comparisons, Greenberg, and the like. Please join us.

--Jess Tauber

phonosemantics@earthlink.net

* Correcting a Wikipedia entry

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>From Ives Goddard (GODDARDI@si.edu) 10 February 2007:

Until recently the article on the Piscataway leader Turkey Tayac (1895-1978) in Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey_Tayac), the on-line "free encyclopedia", stated that I had worked with him and implied that I had authenticated him as having traditional knowledge of the last words of Piscataway, a poorly known Eastern Algonquian language of Maryland. At my request this has now (as of 9 February 2007) been corrected. I met Tayac once but never worked with him. In 1992 a family member gave me a list of 20 words that he had written down, and at that time I observed that, while some of these were obviously not genuine and many were unidentified, at least one could possibly have been known from tradition. Having now looked at these words again I have concluded that Tayac had learned some words of Plains Cree and Micmac (plus two of Mohawk) and was recalling those. Some words and placenames remain opaque to me. A more extensive compilation of words that William Harlan Gilbert, Jr., is believed to have obtained from him in the 1940's could not be found in Gilbert's papers after his death (as reported to me by his son, Glenn).

--Ives Goddard
Smithsonian Institution
goddardi@si.edu

* "God" in Tsimshian

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>From Christopher Roth (cfroth@earthlink.net) 7 February 2007:

I am interested in the Tsimshian (Coast Tsimshian, Sm'algyax) word for (the Christian) God, 'Wii Sm'oogit ts'm Laxha, literally Great Chief in the Sky. This to me is suspiciously similar to the Chinook Jargon term Saghalee Tyee (variously spelled), with the same literal meaning. The ethnographic record is ambiguous as to whether or not the Tsimshian were monotheists before contact, and one hears conflicting opinions on this point from contemporary Tsimshians as well. Certainly that term does not appear in any of the hundreds of Tsimshian narratives collected by Barbeau, Boas, etc., nor does any other term for a Deity. I am curious whether other languages in the areas where Chinook Jargon was used as a medium of missionization (i.e. Alaska, BC, Washington, Oregon), and especially languages of peoples geographically and culturally close to the Tsimshian, contain similarly constructed words for "God" or whether they use other forms entirely, such as loanwords, unanalyzable terms, etc. Secondly, if respondents happen to know, is the ethnohistorical evidence for or

against precontact monotheism in these cases?

Thanks in advance.

--Christopher F. Roth
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
rothc@uwm.edu or cfroth@earthlink.net

* Is this project feasible?
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>From Nick Pharris (npharris@umich.edu) 6 February 2007:

I am currently teaching a small (14 students) first-year undergraduate seminar on Native American languages. As part of the class, the students will be doing a final written assignment and presentation. As one of the options for the written assignment, I was hoping to have students adopt a particular language and contact a Native American/First Nations group that speaks the language and inquire about the language situation in that group and about the existence and nature of any language revitalization programs they might be using/have used.

My question to all of you is, would this be a feasible project? Do you know of groups who would be willing to participate in exchange for a little exposure for their language programs, and what might I or the class be able to do in return?

Any input would be greatly appreciated.

--Nick Pharris
Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan
npharris@umich.edu

* Transition at the LSA Secretariat
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>From (lsa@lsadc.org) 3 February 2007:

On behalf of the LSA Executive Committee, we would like to provide you with a brief update on the current situation at the LSA Secretariat. As many of you know, Maggie Reynolds has resigned from the LSA Secretariat as Executive Director, effective 1 February 2007. Her dedicated stewardship of the LSA for 32 years is very much appreciated and she will be missed. We are sure that we speak for all members in wishing her well. If you'd like to send Maggie a personal expression of appreciation for her many years of service to the Society, you may do so either by e-mail (to lsa@lsadc.org, with "for MWR" in the subject line) or by postal mail (to Maggie Reynolds, c/o LSA, 1325 18th St, NW, Suite #211, Washington DC 20036-6501), and it will be forwarded to her.

In anticipation of the transition, the Executive Committee retained the services of an Interim Executive Director, Katha Kissman, of BoardSource Consulting. Please feel free to contact Katha directly (at KKissman@lsadc.org) with any questions or concerns you may have. Katha will also be overseeing our search for a new Executive Director, information about which will be forthcoming shortly. We expect that

the Secretariat will continue to be staffed during normal business hours and that services to members will be available as before.

Your patience during this transition period is appreciated.

--Stephen R. Anderson, LSA President
--Gregory Ward, LSA Secretary-Treasurer

* Trique interpreter?
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>From David Lafayette (dave@languagefusion.us) 11 January 2007:

We are a language services provider currently searching for a Trique interpreter for a court in Washington State. I would very much appreciate any help you may be able to offer in locating such a person.

--David Lafayette
Language Fusion, Vancouver, WA
<http://www.LanguageFusion.us>

* New films on Canadian languages
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>From mushkeg media (mushkeg@videotron.ca) 8 January 2007:

We'd like to give you an update on the comings and goings at Mushkeg Media and Mushkeg Productions.

We are currently in production on "Kaniien-kehá:ka, Living the Language", a two part documentary about saving the language in the Mohawk community of Akwesasne. It is co-directed by Paul Rickard and Tracey Deer and is being shot in Mohawk, with English and French versions. The film follows students, teachers and parents through the school year as they grapple with the challenges of keeping Mohawk alive in the face of an overwhelming English environment.

Our last production was a feature length documentary called "Aboriginal Architecture: Living Architecture", a co-production with the National Film Board of Canada. It aired this fall on APTN, SCN in Saskatchewan and many PBS stations across the US. It is available for rent or purchase in Canada from the National Film Board at <http://www.nfb.ca>. In the US it is for sale through PBS at <http://www.visionmaker.org> (877-868-2250, or for educational use from Bullfrog Films at <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com>).

For more information, including discounts we are offering as part of the DVD launch of our "Finding Our Talk" television series, check out our website at <http://www.mushkeg.ca> or get in touch with us by e-mail at <mushkeg@videotron.ca>.

Meegwetch.

--Paul M. Rickard
Mushkeg Media Inc., Montréal
<http://www.mushkeg.ca>

252.2 Grants and Fellowships

[I apologize for the late posting of the following announcement and hope that this information reached potential applicants before the deadline.-VG]

* Jacob grants for North American languages

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>From Donna Gerdts (gerdts@sfu.ca) 9 January 2007:

The Jacobs Research Fund of the Whatcom Museum is pleased to announce that, due to a generous bequest from the late Professor M. Dale Kinkade, the amounts and types of annual awards have been changed. There are now three categories of grants: Individual Grants (\$3000 USD maximum), Group Grants (\$6000 USD maximum), and Kindade Grants (\$9000 USD maximum). Kindade Grants can be used to support projects requiring an extended period of fieldwork, including dissertation research.

Since its inception, the Jacobs Fund has supported anthropological and linguistic research on the indigenous peoples of North America (Canada, Mexico, and the mainland United States, including Alaska) with a focus on the Pacific Northwest. Funds are awarded for work on problems in culture, social organization, and language. The Fund particularly encourages research on endangered languages and all aspects of expressive culture.

The deadline for application is February 15, 2007. Applications can now be submitted electronically. For more information, including application forms and guidelines, see the Whatcom Museum website: <http://www.whatcommuseum.org/pages/info/info.htm>, or contact Ms. Amy Geise, Jacobs Fund, Whatcom Museum, 121 Prospect St, Bellingham, WA 98225, telephone: 360-676-6981, e-mail: jgrant@cob.com.

252.3 Positions Open

* Lecturer/Acting Director, First Nations Language Program, UBC (12 mo)

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>From Patricia A. Shaw (shawpa@interchange.ubc.ca) 18 February 2007:

The Faculty of Arts at the University of British Columbia invites applications for a leave replacement position to assume teaching and administrative responsibilities as Acting Director of the First Nations Languages Program. This is a full-time 12-month Lecturer position, starting July 1, 2007. It involves teaching 12 credits of FNLG courses, at least 6 of which will be in the collaborative Musqueam Indian Band - UBC h@n'q'min'@m' (Musqueam Salish) language program. Ability to teach an introductory FNLG 100 course for another BC First Nations language would be an asset. The successful candidate will also be responsible for administration of the FNLG program, for mentoring Aboriginal students, for on-going collaboration with the Musqueam Indian Band, and for liaison with other First Nations programs at UBC, as well as with endangered language organizations

Offered courses:

LING 407/507 - Language Documentation Methods (4 credits)
[This course gives fieldworkers an overview of current language documentation practices. Topics include: audio and video equipment selection and use; data collection and processing; data management; archiving and access issues; "best practices."]

LING 499/599 - Language Documentation Lab (2 credits)
[In this hands-on lab, students put documentation methods into practice.]

LING 407/507 - Curriculum Design and Development (2 credits)
[Students will learn how to produce useable teaching materials from documented speech (in written, audio and video forms). Basic elements of curriculum design and lesson planning will be taught.]

Ling 499/599 - Topics in Documentary Linguistics (1 credit)
[This course covers essential topics for fieldworkers. Field Phonetics: how to collect and analyze phonetic and phonological data. Ethical Issues in Field Work: fieldworker responsibilities to communities and individuals. Grammar and Dictionary Writing: the how-tos of writing a grammar and dictionary useful for multiple audiences. Methods for Field Research: collecting the best data possible from your consultants and collaborators.]

Students should have completed at least introductory work in Linguistics. The four offered classes are designed to be taken together but may also be taken individually. Credits are transferable, check the transfer policies at your institution.

More information about the summer session in Language Documentation is available at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~langdoc> or contact us by e-mail at <langdoc@uoregon.edu>.

* CILLDI 2007 (Edmonton, July 9-27)

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>From CILLDI (cilldi@ualberta.ca) 16 February 2007:

The 8th annual Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI) will be held at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from July 9th through July 27th, 2007. It is sponsored by the Faculties of Education, Arts, and Native Studies. Undergraduate and graduate students interested in learning an Indigenous language (Cree Immersion for Adult Beginners will be taught again this year) or gain expertise in the areas of linguistics, language and literacy acquisition, curriculum development, second language instruction, policy and planning and research are invited to join us. Classes are scheduled in two 7 - day blocks: Block 1 (July 9-18) and Block 2 (July 18-27). Students may only take one course per block (5 hours a day), for a maximum of two courses over the 3 weeks of the Institute. The course offerings this year are as follows:

Block 1:

LING 399 B1/599 B1- Comparative Athapaskan II: Sentence & Narrative

- Corpora and computational tools
- African historical linguistics
- Diachronic semantics and pragmatics
- Language change in real time
- Evolutionary phonology
- Origins of Germanic
- Nouvelle-France: le français de la colonisation
- Historical grammar and Spanish dialectology
- Word order in the evolution of French
- Genesis of creoles
- Quantitative Approaches to comparative linguistics
- East Asian languages: theory of metatypy

Plenary Speakers include:

Ritchie Kayne, New York University
 William Labov, University of Pennsylvania
 Claire Lefebvre, Université du Québec à Montréal
 Christiane Marchello-Nizia, Ecole Normale Supérieure LSH, Lyon
 Marisa Rivero, Université d'Ottawa
 Theodore Vennemann, University of Munich
 Gillian Sankoff, University of Pennsylvania

For additional details (including information on travel, lodging and registration), please visit the ICHL website <http://www.ichl2007.uqam.ca> or contact the organizers by e-mail at ICHL2007@uqam.ca or by snail mail at:

ICHL Organizing Committee
 Département de linguistique et de didactique des langues
 Université du Québec à Montréal
 C.P. 8888, succursale Centre-Ville
 Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3C 3P8

* CILLA III (Austin, Oct. 25-27)
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>From Nora C. England (nengland@mail.utexas.edu) 28 Jan 2007:

The third Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America will be held October 25-27, 2007, at the University of Texas at Austin. We invite the submission of abstracts on research about any aspect of Latin American indigenous languages. Already published papers will not be accepted. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

Grammar	Linguistic Anthropology
Sociolinguistics	Language Politics
Linguistic Theory	Historical Linguistics
Community/Linguist Cooperation	Language Vitality
Discourse	Indigenous Literacies

Spanish is encouraged for presentations; English and Portuguese are also acceptable.

The Keynote Speakers will include:

Bruna Franchetto, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro
 Salomé Gutiérrez, University of California, Santa Barbara
 William F. Hanks, University of California, Berkeley

Terrence Kaufman, University of Pittsburgh

There will be a Poster Session on Linguistic Materials for Community Use.

Speakers will be allowed 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion. Papers will be selected based on the evaluation of an anonymous written abstract, which may not exceed 500 words. Electronic submissions are encouraged. We cannot accept more than one paper by any author, but it is possible to participate in the poster session as well as give a paper.

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is May 4, 2007. Please send your abstract to: nengland@mail.utexas.edu (Subject: CILLA III abstract). Please include, in the following order:

- Title of the paper
- Author's name
- Author's affiliation
- Address, phone number, and e-mail address at which the author wishes to be notified
- Equipment needs for the presentation.
- An abstract of 500 words maximum (please send as a Word attachment.
Title of Word file: Lastname.Firstinitial.CILLA.doc).
- Indicate whether it is a paper or poster.

Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent by May 31.

A Registration Fee will be collected at the meeting (no credit cards can be accepted): \$20 students and \$40 non-students. Registration scholarships are available for indigenous scholars.

For more information please contact:

Nora England
University of Texas at Austin
1 University Station B5100
Austin, TX 78712-0198
nengland@mail.utexas.edu
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/llilas/centers/cilla/index.html>

252.5 E-Mail Address Updates

The following additions or changes have been made to the SSILA e-mail list since the last Bulletin:

Arana, Gabriel G. gga3@cornell.edu
Dougherty, Zane zedoug@gotme.net
Frazier, Melissa melfraz@email.unc.edu
Gaffney, Shawn shawn.gaffney.1@bc.edu
Golumbia, David dgolumbia@virginia.edu
Headland, Thomas N. tom_headland@sil.org
Hemmauer, Roland r.hemmauer@let.leidenuniv.nl
Innes, Pamela pjinnes@uwyo.edu
Kershner, Tiffany L. tlkershn@ksu.edu
Koontz-Garboden, Andrew .. andrewkg@manchester.ac.uk
Lafayette, David dave@languagefusion.us

McAlpin, Jennifer jdmccann@uiuc.edu
Nagai, Tadataka fftn2@uaf.edu
Olbertz, Hella olbertz@inl.nl
Peake, Marc marc.peake@univ-lyon2.fr
Robinson, Lila W. lilarob@suddenlink.net
Salinas, Taryn tsalinas@ngs.org
Shea, Kathleen kdshea@aol.com
Taff, Alice alicetaff@gmail.com
Van Gijn, Rik rik.vangijn@mpi.nl
Woodward, Lisa llwoodward@verizon.net
Yetter, Lynette lynette@musicandes.com

When your e-mail address changes, please notify us (golla@ssila.org).

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

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The SSILA Bulletin is distributed electronically to all members of SSILA. Non-members may subscribe free of charge by sending their e-mail address to the editor (golla@ssila.org).

SSILA also publishes a quarterly hard-copy Newsletter that contains book reviews, notices of journal articles and recent dissertations, and other news and commentary. The Newsletter and other publications of the Society are distributed only to members or to institutional subscribers.

SSILA welcomes applications for membership from anyone interested in the scholarly study of the languages of the native peoples of North, Central, and South America. Dues for 2007 are \$16 (US) or \$20 (Canadian) and may be paid in advance for 2008 and 2009 at the 2007 rate. Checks or money orders should be made payable to "SSILA" and sent to: SSILA, P.O. Box 555, Arcata, CA 95518. For further information, visit the SSILA website (<http://www.ssila.org>).
