

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-- <<--

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258.0 SSILA Business

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\* The Chicago meeting

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>From Felix Oliver (foliver@lsadc.org) 24 Sept 2007:

The 82nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) will take place at the Chicago Palmer House Hilton, 3-6 January 2008. The American Dialect Society, the American Name Society, the North American

Association for the History of the Language Sciences, and SSILA will meet concurrently with the LSA.

#### Hotel/ Local Transportation

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Please see the LSA website (<http://www.lsadc.org>) for hotel information and a link to the reservations desk at the Hilton Chicago, as well as for transportation information and rates from the two "local" airports, O'Hare and Midway. It would be wise to check both airports when making travel plans as one may prove to be more economical than the other depending on your itinerary.

#### Pre-Registration

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Members of the societies meeting with the LSA are entitled to register for the meeting at the LSA pre-registration rate. The charge for regular members is \$100, emeritus \$75, under-/unemployed \$50, and for students \$40. Pre-registration (<http://www.lsadc.org/info/registration-info.cfm>) closes on December 17. On-site registration charges are substantially higher.

#### Audio-Visual Equipment

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As in the past, the LSA will make arrangements to provide the session rooms with the AV equipment requested by the organization whose session it is. (Presenters should submit their individual requests for equipment to the society organizing their session.) For this meeting, presenters may also bring their own LCD projectors. However, the LSA cannot be responsible for any equipment brought by presenters nor can it provide any technical assistance. Presenters must bring their own laptop and cables, and should plan to check compatibility between their laptop and the LCD projector before the session begins.

#### SSILA Meeting Program

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SSILA members who submitted papers for presentation at the Chicago meeting should have received an e-mail notification from the Program Committee within the past few days. (If you received no notification contact Donna Gerdts at [gerdts@sfu.ca](mailto:gerdts@sfu.ca)). After a few last-minute adjustments, a full schedule of the SSILA sessions will be posted at the SSILA website.

\* July Newsletter available at SSILA website  
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Volume 26, number 2, of the SSILA Newsletter (dated "July-September 2007") is now being printed. It will be posted in pdf format at the SSILA website (<http://www.ssila.org>) within the next two or three days, and members who reside outside the US or Canada should download this version. A hard-copy of the Newsletter will no longer be automatically mailed to members outside North America, although they will continue to be sent if specifically requested (e-mail to [editor@ssila.org](mailto:editor@ssila.org)).

Volume 26, number 3, should be ready for distribution in November, while the 2007 hard-copy Membership Directory will be mailed to purchasers within the next two weeks.



\* Possible subjects for Canadian TV series?

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>From Mushkeg Media (mushkeg@videotron.ca) 10 Sept 2007:

To everyone who is interested in language revitalization--

This is to let you know that we are currently researching a third season of "Finding Our Talk" (broadcast in Canada on the APTV channel, and also available in video format directly from us). If you know anyone who you think should be featured on the series, please let us know about them, or let them know about us (<http://www.mushkeg.ca>).

--Janice Benthin  
Mushkeg Media Inc.  
Montréal, Quebec

\* Data on numeral systems sought

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>From Eugene S. L. Chan (eugenechans@hkbn.net) 30 Sept 2007:

Greetings from Hong Kong! For several years I have been carrying out a long-term research project on numeral systems and counting concepts. Unfortunately I could not publish the research earlier, as I failed to find support here in Hong Kong and had to stop the work in 2000.

I am now working with Bernard Comrie on the documentation of the numeral systems of the world's languages, with special attention to small languages where traditional numeral systems are susceptible to being replaced by dominant languages. I have recently finished compiling data on the numeral systems of most of the languages of Europe, continental Asia, and about 500 African languages, and will be uploading the data to a website hosted by the MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig.

I am now looking for updated data on indigenous American languages, where many traditional numeral systems are endangered. Over the past twenty years I have collected older data on several hundred American languages. However, I am still looking for phonetically transcribed data to check with the old ones. I usually record traditional numerals from 1 to 19, 20, 21 to 29, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 200, 1000 and 2000, including borrowings with phonological adaptations. Where possible I record data in either phonemic or phonetic transcriptions with tones (if any).

I hope colleagues in SSILA will be able to share their knowledge of numeral systems from languages they have been working on. All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged and shared with the public in due time on the MPI website. I have a data sheet which I will be happy to send to anyone interested in contributing.

--Eugene Chan  
(eugenechans@hkbn.net)

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258.2 Upcoming Meetings  
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\* California Indian Conference (Davis, October 26-27)  
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>From Martha Macri (mjmacri@ucdavis.edu) 24 Sept 2007:

The 2007 California Indian Conference and Gathering will be held at UC Davis, October 26-27. Five language sessions, organized by AICLS, Leanne Hinton, and Martha Macri on various aspects of California languages and language revitalization, will provide a wonderful opportunity to learn about ways to teach and ways to learn California languages. Free, but please register on-line at: <http://nas.ucdavis.edu/NALC/cicg/>

\* 5th Annual Tulane Maya Symposium (New Orleans, Feb. 15-17)  
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>From (hernandez2240@bellsouth.net) 20 Sept 2007:

Please join us the weekend of February 15-17, 2008 for the Fifth Annual Tulane Maya Symposium and Workshop, hosted by Tulane University's Stone Center for Latin American Studies. Through a series of lectures, workshops, and a roundtable discussion, specialists at this year's symposium explore the physical and sacred geography of the Maya region. The history, geology, stories, beliefs, and rituals surrounding caves, cenotes, and mountaintop shrines from across the Maya area are among the topics that will be discussed.

For further information, contact Denise Woltering (crcrts@tulane.edu) at the Stone Center. Because New Orleans is hosting the NBA All-Star game the same weekend, we encourage you to make plans soon to attend! Please visit our website at <http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/MayaSymposium/> for the 2008 program, registration, lodging information, and a retrospective of the 2007 symposium.

\* Symposium on the Dene-Yeniseic Hypothesis (Anchorage, February 29)  
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>From Jim Kari (ffjmk@uaf.edu) 4 Sept 2007:

A symposium on the Dene-Yeniseic relationship is being planned for the annual meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association, which will be held in Anchorage from Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 28-March 1, 2008. The symposium is tentatively scheduled for Friday, Feb. 29.

In several published and unpublished papers Edward J. Vajda has presented evidence for a genetic relationship between the Yeniseic language family of Central Siberia and the Na-Dene languages of North America (in which he includes Athabaskan-Eyak and Tlingit, but not Haida). Yeniseic consists of Ket (fewer than 200 speakers in 2006) and several extinct languages (Yugh, Kott, Assan, Arin, Pumpokol). Linguists have long suspected such a connection, and Ruhlen (1998) offered some possible lexical cognate sets between the two language groups, including Haida in the comparison as well. Vajda's analysis of Ket verb morphology, however, goes much further in providing specifics that can demonstrate relatedness,

and anchors these in a reconstruction of the ancestral proto-language.

In August 2006, the Linguistics Department of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig hosted a Na-Dene/Yeniseic Workshop. In his summary of this meeting, Bernard Comrie wrote: "New data presented by Edward Vajda on possible sound correspondences in basic vocabulary and prefixing verb structure between Yeniseic and Athabaskan-Eyak-Tlingit offer the beginning of real potential evidence of a genetic relationship between these two families. If substantiated by additional results, this promises to become the first genetic connection between Old World and New World language families demonstrated on rigorous principles. With geographic contact being precluded, the question of a genetic link between Yeniseic and AET can now be regarded as a serious inquiry rather than merely speculation based on listing random similarities." Since that time, Vajda has marshaled additional lexical evidence for the relationship.

This Dene-Yeniseic symposium in Anchorage will provide an opportunity for discussion and scrutiny of this exciting hypothesis. Bernard Comrie will give an introduction to the symposium. Edward Vajda will give an overview of the evidence to date that the Yeniseic languages are related to the Na-Dene language stock. Johanna Nichols will discuss the statistical soundness and some of the implications of the D-Y hypothesis. We invite others to participate. Some possible topics to explore include: the prehistoric and ecological implications of the ancient spread of a group of Dene-Yeniseic languages from North Asia to interior and coastal Alaska; new interpretations of Siberian and Alaska archaeological sites that might be suggested by this hypothesis; which avenues of linguistic investigation show the most promise for reconstructing proto-Dene-Yeniseic; and what implications this relationship may have for modern Dene and Ket ethnic identity.

For further information, contact Jim Kari (ffjmk@uaf.edu) or Ed Vajda (vajda@eva.mpg.de).

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258.3 Positions Open

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\* Syntax or Phonology & American Indian Languages, University of Utah  
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>From Ed Rubin (erubin@linguistics.utah.edu) 2 Oct 2007:

The Department of Linguistics at the University of Utah invites applications for a tenure-line position to begin July 1, 2008, pending budgetary approval. Although we anticipate hiring at the rank of Assistant Professor, a more senior appointment is possible in exceptional circumstances. The Ph.D. must be completed by the time of appointment.

The successful applicant will have a primary specialization in theoretical syntax or phonology. We prefer applications from candidates with a secondary specialization, especially in, but not limited to, the documentation of American Indian languages. Though not required, expertise in securing external funding for research will be considered an asset. Preference will be given to candidates whose research interests mesh with those of the present faculty and who will contribute actively

to the success of the department's research and teaching missions.

Duties require a sustained research program, the mentorship of graduate and/or undergraduate student-scholars, a normal teaching load of four courses per year, and departmental and/or university service. Salary is competitive, and commensurate with abilities and experience. The University of Utah offers a generous benefits package and research support.

The Search Committee will begin screening applicants on November 20, 2007, and the position will remain open until filled. Candidates should send a letter of application, a CV, and representative scholarly publications to the address below. Candidates should arrange to have three letters of reference sent directly to the same address. Candidates should please indicate whether they will attend the LSA meeting in Chicago.

Address for all materials:

Edward Rubin, Chair  
Syntax/Phonology Search Committee  
Department of Linguistics  
255 S. Central Campus Dr., Rm. 2300  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

The University of Utah values candidates who have experience working in settings with students from diverse backgrounds, and who possess a commitment to improving access to higher education for historically underrepresented students. Moreover, the University of Utah is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer, and encourages applications from women and minorities, and provides reasonable accommodation to the known disabilities of applicants and employees.

\* American Indian Studies, Iowa State University  
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>From David J Oliver (doliver@iastate.edu) 7 Sept 2007:

The American Indian Studies Program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Iowa State University invite applications for a tenure-track position at the level of assistant or associate professor. The appointment will be in both the American Indian Studies Program and one of the departments in the College where tenure will be held. Potential departments include Anthropology, History, Political Science, and Sociology. The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. in an appropriate academic discipline with a specialty in the indigenous peoples of the Americas. She/he will also have demonstrated ability to accomplish research-intensive publications.

The normal teaching load is two courses per semester (or four courses in two semesters in a nine-month year), one in the American Indian Studies Program and the other in the academic department, with attendant mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students. Information regarding the American Indian Studies Program and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is found at:

<http://www.iastate.edu/~catalog/2005-07/courses/amin.html>

and

<http://www.las.iastate.edu/>

The deadline for applications is October 19, 2007, or until the position is filled. Applicants should send 1) a letter of application including statements of teaching philosophy and research interests; 2) a curriculum vitae; and 3) the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of three referees/references. Please submit application materials electronically followed by a hard copy.

Application materials should be forwarded to: Cindy Bartleson, American Indian Studies Program, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 202 Catt Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011-1050, [cmbartl@iastate.edu](mailto:cmbartl@iastate.edu)

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of gender, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. We strongly encourage women and members of historically under-represented groups to apply.

\* Director, Indigenous Nations Studies Program, University of Kansas  
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>From Allard Jongman ([jongman@ku.edu](mailto:jongman@ku.edu)) 4 Sept 2007:

The University of Kansas invites applications for a full-time Associate or Full Professor position and Director of the Indigenous Nations Studies Program. The Director has primary responsibility for all aspects of the M.A. program focused on Indigenous Peoples worldwide (<http://indigenous.ku.edu>). This is a unique program with a global focus. The successful candidate will be appointed in the Indigenous Nations Studies Program with the possibility of a joint appointment in another academic unit. We invite applications from specialists in all fields whose scholarship relates to the program focus.

The program focuses on the traditions, diversities, mechanisms for cultural survival, and aspirations for self-determination of Indigenous Peoples globally. The program is committed to the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples and their communities through the rigorous study of the complex problems and issues that face Indigenous cultures.

For a complete position announcement and requirements, please refer to the CLA&S website (<http://www.clas.ku.edu>).

Application Procedures: A complete dossier includes: a letter of application addressing the required/preferred qualifications; a brief statement outlining the candidate's vision for a globally focused Indigenous Nations Studies program; a CV; and at least 3 letters of recommendation (not to exceed 5). Send all materials to: Danny J. Anderson, Chair of Search Committee, Indigenous Nations Studies Program, University of Kansas, 1410 Jayhawk Blvd., Lippincott Hall #104, Lawrence, KS 66045-7515. E-mail inquires to <[djand@ku.edu](mailto:djand@ku.edu)>. Priority review of applications begins November 1, 2007.

The University of Kansas is an EO/AA Employer and encourages applications from underrepresented group members.

\* Curator, Endangered Languages, Smithsonian Institution





and Bruno Rudolph's Wörterbuch der Botokudensprache, an essential source for the knowledge of Krenák (Macro-Jê stock):

[http://biblio.ethnolinguistica.org/rudolph\\_1909\\_worterbuch](http://biblio.ethnolinguistica.org/rudolph_1909_worterbuch)

Volunteers are welcome to contribute relevant materials and suggestions (contact email: [biblio@ethnolinguistica.org](mailto:biblio@ethnolinguistica.org)).

\* Isthmus Zapotec Vocabulario available on SIL Mexico website  
^  
>From Albert Bickford ([albert\\_bickford@sil.org](mailto:albert_bickford@sil.org)) 27 Aug 2007:

I am pleased to announce the posting of the following item to the SIL Mexico website, and encourage others to pass on word of its availability:

Vocabulario zapoteco del istmo (Velma Pickett)  
<http://www.sil.org/mexico/zapoteca/istmo/S003a-VocZapIstmo-zai.htm>

This provides a newly-revised electronic edition as well as a scanned version of the most recent print edition (now out of print).

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this publication.

\* Greenberg's Amerind dictionary  
^  
>From Merritt Ruhlen ([ruhlen@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:ruhlen@stanfordalumni.org)) 23 Sept 2007:

There is now a new version of Joseph Greenberg's Amerind Dictionary on the web at: <http://www.merrittruhlen.com>

\* Language segment on ABC's "Good Morning America"  
^  
>From David Costa ([pankihtamwa@earthlink.net](mailto:pankihtamwa@earthlink.net)) 21 Sept 2007:

The video clip of a segment of ABC News's "Good Morning America" program that was devoted to endangered languages, originally broadcast on September 20, can be viewed at: <http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=3628706>

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#### 258.5 E-Mail Address Updates

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The following additions or changes have been made to the SSILA e-mail list since the last Bulletin. ("At" substitutes for ampersand to discourage the harvesting of addresses by spammers.)

Barrett, Rusty ..... [erbarrett@uky.edu](mailto:erbarrett@uky.edu)  
Brown, Jason ..... [jcb@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:jcb@interchange.ubc.ca)  
Chacon, Thiago Costa ..... [thiago.chacon@utah.edu](mailto:thiago.chacon@utah.edu)  
Chang, Charles B. .... [cbchang@berkeley.edu](mailto:cbchang@berkeley.edu)  
Coronel-Molina, Serafin M. .. [scoronelmolina@gmail.com](mailto:scoronelmolina@gmail.com)

Gallagher, Gillian ..... gilliang at mit.edu  
Haugen, Jason D. .... jason.d.haugen at williams.edu  
Haynie, Hannah J. .... hjh at berkeley.edu  
Holden, Josh ..... josh.holden at umontreal.ca  
Kallassy, Tracy ..... trkallassy at yahoo.com  
Klopfenstein, Marie ..... klopfenstein at louisiana.edu  
Koenig, Jean-Pierre ..... jpkoenig at buffalo.edu  
Koops, Christian ..... ckoops at rice.edu  
Lee-Goldman, Russell ..... rleegold at berkeley.edu  
Manley, Marilyn ..... manley at rowan.edu  
Matsukawa, Kosuke ..... kosuke222 at hotmail.com  
Midtlyng, Patrick J. .... midtlyng at uchicago.edu  
Morley, Eric A. .... morley at gmail.com  
Muñoz-Ledo, Veronica ..... veromly at umail.ucsb.edu  
Nagai, Kayo ..... kayonagai at gmail.com  
Rogers, Chris ..... chris.linguist at gmail.com  
Rosen, Nicole ..... nicole.rosen at uleth.ca  
Rouvier, Ruth ..... rouvier at berkeley.edu  
Sakel, Jeanette ..... jeanette.sakel at uwe.ac.uk  
Shibushita, Ken ..... kshibu at aa.cyberhome.ne.jp  
Shipley, Elizabeth ..... e\_shipley at umail.ucsb.edu  
Silva, Wilson ..... wlsylva78 at gmail.com  
Stapert, Eugenie ..... eugenie.stapert at gmail.com  
Tamburro, Paul René ..... ptamburro at tru.ca  
Thornes, Tim ..... tthornes at uca.edu  
Tubino-Blanco, Mercedes ..... mtubino at email.arizona.edu  
Walker, Alex ..... deseretian at gmail.com  
Yao, Yao ..... yaoyao at berkeley.edu

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

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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 at the 2007 rate. (The basic rate will rise to \$20 in 2008.) 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>).

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