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An Information Service for SSILA Members

Editor - Karen Sue Rolph (ksrolph@stanford.edu)

Executive Secretary - Ivy Doak (ivy@ivydoak.com)

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

270.0 SSILA - AWARDS AND PRIZES

Announcing the Victor Golla Prize  
2009 Haas Award  
2009 Hale Prize

270.1 SSILA - ANNUAL MEETING, BALTIMORE

270.2 CORRESPONDENCE

Technology tools in the hands of indigenous peoples  
Point- Counter Point on the format of the SSILA Bulletin  
Xukuru of Brazil, Human Rights, and Land Tenure

270.3 UPDATES FROM COLLEAGUES- INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA

Languages and Societies of Ancient Peru: an Interdisciplinary Analysis  
NAAHoLS Special Session Call for Papers -  
Historiography of Indigenous Languages of the Americas  
The Language and Culture Research Group, James Cook University

270.4 MEDIA WATCH

NPR features Shoshone Teenagers

270.5 OBITUARY- Emmanuel Nagugwes Metallic, native Micmac speaker

270.6 CALL FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Reminiscences of Floyd Lounsbury sought

270.7 CALL FOR BOOK REVIEWS AND REVIEWERS

270.8 CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

270.0 SSILA - AWARDS AND PRIZES

Announcing the Victor Golla Prize  
August 1, 2009

To honor the scholarship and community service of Victor Golla, SSILA founding Secretary-Treasurer, the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas has established the Victor Golla Prize:

Victor Golla Prize

This prize is presented in recognition of those who, like Victor Golla, show a significant history of both linguistic scholarship and service to the scholarly community. The linguistic scholarship can take the form of either the documentation or philology of one or more indigenous languages of the Americas, such that the scholarly community knows significantly more about the language or languages of study as a result of that work. Service to the scholarly community can take the form of providing opportunities for others to communicate their work on indigenous languages, primarily through

editorial work, conference organization, or responsibility for a major archive. The Prize, which bestows a life membership in the SSILA on the recipient, seeks especially to honor those who strive to carry out interdisciplinary scholarship in the spirit of Victor Golla, combining excellent linguistic documentation or philology with scholarship in one or more other allied fields, such as anthropology, education, history, or literature.

Nomination:

To make a nomination for the Victor Golla Prize, please send a letter of nomination; a version of the nominee's CV; and two letters of support reflecting the nominee's scholarship and service to the Executive Secretary (ivy@ivydoak.com) by May 1, 2010. Nominees need not know of their nomination. The prize will be awarded when a worthy scholar is selected, and will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

History:

The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas was established in 1981, and Victor Golla served as its mainstay in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer from inception through 2007. That year, Leslie Saxon, then outgoing SSILA President, proposed an award to honor Victor Golla and his years of service to the Society, and his contributions to scholarship in Native American studies. The idea of the award was taken up by 2008 President Donna Gerdts, and a committee including Sharon Hargus, Ives Goddard, Keren Rice, Leslie Saxon and Rich Rhodes established the requirements for the award. The award was first announced by the current SSILA President Rich Rhodes during the 2009 Summer Meeting at UC Berkeley.

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2009 Haas Award

Dr. Eladio Mateo Toledo was announced as the recipient of the 2009 Mary R. Haas award at the Summer Meeting of the SSILA at Berkeley. Mateo's manuscript, "The family of complex predicates in Q'anjob'al (Maya): Their syntax and meaning," was selected as the winner for its contribution to our knowledge of Native American languages. Dr. Mateo will be at the 2010 Annual Meeting to accept the award, and to present his research.

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2009 Hale Prize

The American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI) is the recipient of the 2009 Ken Hale Prize. AILDI ([www.u.arizona.edu/~aildi](http://www.u.arizona.edu/~aildi)) encourages native community efforts to document and revitalize indigenous languages, in keeping with the work promoted and conducted by Ken Hale. Dr. Ofelia Zepeda, one of the founders of AILDI and its current Director, will accept the Prize at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

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270.1 SSILA - ANNUAL MEETING, BALTIMORE

The 2009-10 annual winter meeting of SSILA will be held jointly with the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in Baltimore, Maryland,

at the Hilton Baltimore, January 7-10, 2010. Though the call for papers deadline has passed, hotel information is available at [www.ssila.org](http://www.ssila.org).

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## 270.2 CORRESPONDENCE

Technology tools in the hands of indigenous peoples

Dear Editor,

The Indigenous Language Institute conducted a field survey to visit 52 Native language programs nationwide (1999-2002), and findings of the survey were synthesized and published as *Awakening Our Languages*, a 10-booklet how-to guidebook for language practitioners. The field survey and publishing projects were funded by the Educational Foundation of America, Ford Foundation, The Christensen Fund, Kalliopeia Foundation, and Administration for Native Americans Language Grant.

Several needs were identified through this field survey, one of which is the significant lack or total absence of materials in Native languages for teaching and learning purposes. In response to these needs and requests of community language practitioners, ILI developed the Ancient Voices, Modern Tools technology training services.

Across the board, Native people desire to have their languages used daily by all community members. With this goal in mind, ILI researches ways to help communities accomplish this lofty goal, one of which is to help communities create a critical mass of materials in the languages so that language is everywhere, everyday for everyone. This includes books, signage, CDs and DVDs of songs and movies, films, toys, games, etc. Who better than the community people themselves who have access to their language and knowledge to produce culturally appropriate materials?

Ancient Voices, Modern Tools workshops provide training on how to create multimedia materials using ILI-developed templates and Languagegeek® keyboard customized for all Native languages. We found that teachers involved in language work were creating materials one piece at a time, usually on kitchen tables. The computer helps facilitate the production, but, for example, people were still struggling with complex diacritical marks which were being added by hand, then photocopied. With Languagegeek® keyboard, a complex character requires the click of a specially embedded key. The ILI-developed templates use desktop publishing software that comes pre-installed in computers and open-source freeware, thereby ensuring affordable and accessible processes and software for all.

The philosophy behind Ancient Voices, Modern Tools workshop series is to enable every citizen of the nation and community with tools to document, create and share multimedia materials in their languages. It democratizes the process of creating materials, and includes anyone – even if you don't know the language well – to participate in the process. Tech savvy is a talent that one can combine with speakers who may not be comfortable with technology; as teams, many intergenerational groups work together to create print and audiovisual materials.

The two workshops – Creating Print Materials and Creating Digital Stories – help nations tell their history from their perspectives, help communities portray their culture with their own words, and help individuals share stories with families and friends. Stories that have gone untold can now be

shared in their languages- across time and distance- digitally; mothers can pop in a CD of Native language songs for the babies; teachers can make numerous copies of lesson plans, booklets, etc for their classes.

To date, we have trained over 400 individuals who represent 140 tribes in the US and Canada. We will begin training workshops for international indigenous peoples in April 2010 in collaboration with the National Geographic Society Enduring Voices Project.

Inée Y Slaughter

Executive Director

Indigenous Language Institute

1501 Cerrillos Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
Tel 505.820.0311, Ext 1  
Fax 505.820.0316  
Email inee.slaughter@ilinitiative.org  
Website www.ilinitiative.org  
Visit www.youtube.com/user/ILINative

Note from the Editor: The ILI Board of Directors can be found at:

<http://www.ilinitiative.org/organization/languageAdvisoryCouncil.html>

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Point- Counter Point on the format of the SSILA Bulletin... still soliciting feedback

Text e-mails are just fine. They take up very few bytes, and one can easily edit portions of them in any way if one wants (e.g., quote portions of them, quote from them, to answer questions).

Randa Marhenke  
randa@armory.com

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I would prefer the SSILA Bulletin in pdf format.

George F. Aubin, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus of French and Linguistics  
Assumption College  
Worcester, MA 01609-1296  
E-mail: gaubin@assumption.edu

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Xukuru of Brazil, Human Rights, and Land Tenure

Dear Colleagues,

I will be working with the Xukuru indigenous tribe in Brazil this year during my developmental leave, and have created a petition at:  
<http://www.petitiononline.com/Xucuru/petition.html>  
It addresses the grave and serious human rights abuses occurring to the Xukuru, and I would like to ask for your help.

If you sign the petition, you'll be assisting the cause of social justice for Brazil's indigenous peoples; the Xukuru tribe is a leader in the struggle for indigenous human rights and land re-demarcation in Brazil. I'll be taking signatures to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights of the Organization of American States in Brasilia, Brazil, and possibly, the UN.

Respectfully,  
Marcia Mikulak  
Associate Professor Department of Anthropology  
University of North Dakota  
[marcia.mikulak@und.ed](mailto:marcia.mikulak@und.ed)

Editor's Note: This letter from the petitioner is provided as a service to our members.

### 270.3 UPDATES FROM COLLEAGUES- INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA

Languages and Societies of Ancient Peru: an Interdisciplinary Analysis

VII SIMPOSIO INTERNACIONAL DE ARQUEOLOGÍA PUCP 28, 29 Y 30 DE AGOSTO DE 2009

LENGUAS Y SOCIEDADES EN EL ANTIGUO PERÚ: HACIA UN ENFOQUE INTERDISCIPLINARIO

The symposium's detailed program can be found at

<http://www.pucp.edu.pe/simposio/arqueologia/index.html>

#### Presentación

En el último cuarto del siglo pasado, los estudios de lingüística andina alcanzaron un alto grado de desarrollo echando por tierra algunos conceptos que hasta entonces se tenían como verdades consagradas, particularmente en relación con la historia y evolución de las lenguas más importantes del antiguo Perú: el quechua, el aimara, el puquina, y el mochica. Si bien tales estudios buscaron, desde un inicio, correlacionar los hechos lingüísticos con los eventos histórico-culturales propios del área andina, dicho esfuerzo se hizo, siguiendo la vieja práctica del trabajo compartimentalizado, sin contar con la participación de los estudiosos de las disciplinas afines, en especial la arqueología y la etnohistoria, cuyos practicantes permanecieron, por lo general, ajenos a los avances verdaderamente espectaculares en el terreno lingüístico. Hacía falta, entonces, entablar el diálogo interdisciplinario y reunir a los especialistas de las disciplinas mencionadas para aprender los unos de los otros con el objeto de llegar a establecer consensos y señalar coincidencias en aspectos fundamentales relacionados con el pasado histórico-cultural de los pueblos andinos. Convocados varios especialistas de diversos países para ese fin en el simposio «Arqueología y lingüística en los Andes», llevado al cabo en el McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research de Cambridge (2008), el VII Simposio Internacional de Arqueología PUCP, que lleva por título «Lenguas y sociedades en el antiguo Perú: hacia un enfoque interdisciplinario», es la continuación del primero, esta vez con el objeto de

debatir ampliamente sobre tópicos de interés común a ambas disciplinas que todavía permanecen reacios a ser tratados de manera integral y consensuada.

Co-organizadores

\*Dr. Peter Kaulicke- (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Departamento de Humanidades)

\*Dr. Rodolfo Cerrón-Palomino- (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Departamento de Humanidades)

\*Dr. Paul Heggarty- (University of Cambridge, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Reino Unido)

\*Dr. David Beresford-Jones- (University of Cambridge, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Reino Unido)

Editor's Note: For those who may not be able attend, the SSILA Bulletin Editor will look forward to correspondence about highlights of the symposium.

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NAAHoLS Special Session on the Historiography of Indigenous Languages of the Americas

The North American Association for the History of the Language Sciences meets concurrently with SSILA and LSA. We are currently soliciting submissions from members of SSILA to a special session on the Historiography of Indigenous Languages of the Americas, to be held at the NAAHoLS annual meeting Baltimore MD, 7-10 January 2010. We are interested in research on any aspect of the history of how indigenous languages have been studied and analyzed.

All presenters must be NAAHoLS members (contact the Secretary at <dboe@nmu.edu for details). Papers will be 20 minutes, with 10 minutes for discussion. Abstracts, which should not exceed 500 words, may be submitted as hard copies or as file attachments (MS Word only). The submission deadline is 1 September 2009.

Abstracts should be sent to: David Boe- Department of English, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI 49855; (906) 227-2677; dboe@nmu.edu

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The Language and Culture Research Group, James Cook University

The Language and Culture Research Group (LCRG, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University) brings together linguists, anthropologists, social scientists, and those working in the humanities, under the leadership of Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and Adjunct Professor R. M. W. Dixon. The primary aim of the LCRG is to investigate the relationship between language and the cultural behavior of those who speak it, and the relations between human biology, cognition studies, and linguistics.

The LCRG is concerned with the fundamental business of linguistics, especially anthropological linguistics – our faculty and research students undertake intensive studies of previously undescribed (or barely described) languages, with a primary focus on the languages of Amazonia, the Pacific (especially the Papuan languages of New Guinea), and of Aboriginal Australia. We also concentrate on studying minority languages, including languages of immigrants, within the context of the majority populations. We work in terms of basic linguistic theory, the cumulative framework which is

employed in most linguistic description, providing anthropologically informed grammars and analyses of languages and language areas. Our work has a sound empirical basis but also shows a firm theoretical orientation, seeking explanation hand-in-hand with description.

Building on reliable descriptive studies, the LCRG also puts forward inductive generalizations about human languages, cultural practices, and cognition. We enquire how a language reflects the environment in which people live, their system of social organization, food production techniques, and the ways in which people view the world. For instance, groups living in mountainous terrain often have to specify, for any object, whether it is uphill, downhill, or at the same level as the speaker. And if there is a chiefly system, a special term of address may be required for speaking to a high chief, and a different term for a minor chief. Why are languages the way they are? We seek scientific explanation and motivation, combining the expertise of linguists, anthropologists, and social scientists from other domains.

Another focus of study concerns the ways in which languages influence each other. What kind of words, and meanings, are likely to be borrowed between two languages spoken next to each other, and under what social circumstances? Are some kinds of systems particularly open to diffusion, so that they are likely to spread over all the languages in a geographical area, and are other kinds of systems less likely to be diffused?

The Group comprises a number of students and research staff. Its scope includes work within a number of projects funded by the Australian Research Council – including 'Are some languages better than others?' and 'The world through the prism of language: a cross-linguistic view of genders, noun classes, and classifiers'. Each year, we plan to attract PhD students and Post-doctoral Fellows, and invite leading national and international scholars as Visiting Fellows and Honorary Visiting Fellows, to spend their sabbatical in the vibrant intellectual atmosphere of the Cairns Institute at JCU.

The LCRG organizes international workshops on topics in ethno-linguistics and linguistic typology, continuing the tradition laid by A. Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon since 1997. The LCRG is now the centre of South American and Amazonian studies in the Australasian region.

The Cairns Institute is an exciting new initiative which aims to establish JCU as the world's leading research university in the area of peoples, societies, and cultures of the tropics. Our mission is consistent with that of the Cairns Institute as a whole – to enhance human life in the tropics, with particular focus on South America, Australia, and the Pacific, so as to materially contribute to a brighter, more enriching future for tropical peoples. This will be achieved by assisting them with linguistic and cultural maintenance, understanding of their identity and heritage, and through globally-informed scholarship, research excellence, and a mobilizing commitment to social justice. We work in close collaboration with colleagues from the Department of Anthropology, Archaeology and Sociology, in particular, Associate Professor Rosita Henry, Dr Mike Wood, Dr Nigel Chang, and Professor Bruce Kapferer, the Cairns Institute's International Strategic Advisor.

The LCRG is jointly coordinated by Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and Professor R. M. W. Dixon. For further information, research opportunities and visits, contact us at [Sasha.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Sasha.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au) or [nyamamayratak@gmail.com](mailto:nyamamayratak@gmail.com)

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, PhD, DLitt, FAHA  
Professor and Research Leader (Peoples and Societies of the Tropics)  
The Cairns Institute  
James Cook University  
PO Box 6811  
Cairns  
Queensland 4870  
Australia

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270.4 MEDIA WATCH

NPR features Shoshone Teenagers

In a radio feature on July 19, 2009, National Public Radio (NPR) broadcast details of a summer immersion program being undertaken by ten Shoshone teenagers from Idaho, Utah, and Nevada. To read more about the Shoshone Youth Language Apprenticeship Program, and listen to their interview, "Ten Teens Study to Guard their Native Language," please go to:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=106783656>

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270.5 OBITUARY- Emmanuel Nagugwes Metallic, native Micmac speaker

Emmanuel Nagugwes Metallic, a Micmac speaker and scholar from the Listuguj community in Quebec, Canada. Manny, as he was known, spent his life, from early teenage on, researching and accumulating data on his language. Very early on he was the first to alert his fellow 'Migmaq' that their language was in danger of extinction.

Manny worked with linguist Gilles Delisle on a beautiful Micmac Teaching Grammar. The manuscript was never published, although it was photocopied thousands of times, and distributed free of cost to anyone who asked for it. He also worked for the Canadian Museum of Civilizations as an expert on Eastern Algonquian language and culture. Manny worked in team with Danielle E. Cyr and Alexandre Sevigny on the Metallic Migmaq-English Reference Dictionary which was published in 2005.

Manny lives in the memory of hundreds of friends and colleagues who miss him, and remember him as a wonderful mind, a bright spirit, and a wealth of indigenous knowledge.

Our condolences and many thanks to Danielle E. Cyr for providing this obituary.

Professor Danielle E. Cyr

Department of French Studies  
York University  
dcyr@yorku.ca

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270.6 CALL FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Please share your language problems, ideas, and concerns with our scholarly community of linguists. Send letters to the editor at: ksrolph@stanford.edu

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Reminiscences of Floyd Lounsbury Sought

If you happen to have known, worked, and/or studied with Floyd Lounsbury, you are most cordially invited to share your data, memories, and opinions with our SSILA membership. Please send your text to me, along with permission to share your thoughts, Karen Sue, at ksrolph@stanford.edu.

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270.7 CALL FOR REVIEWS AND REVIEWERS

Have you read a recently published book of possible interest to SSILA members? Please send your inquiries/recommendations about titles, or text about a book you'd like to comment on to the editor at: ksrolph@stanford.edu.

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270.8 CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Opportunity

Applications are invited for a two year Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in The Cairns Institute to work as part of a team headed by Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and Professor R.M.W. Dixon, within the framework of their joint project 'World through the prism of language: a cross-linguistic view of genders, noun classes and classifiers'.

Applicants must have a doctorate or equivalent qualification, preferably awarded within the last five years. Cases in which the period since the award of the doctorate is in excess of five years may also be considered, as will applications from candidates whose thesis is currently under examination. Experience of linguistic fieldwork is required and ideally the appointee will have already completed a grammatical description of a language that has not previously been described (not their native language) in terms of basic linguistic theory. A Fellowship will not normally be awarded to an applicant who already holds an appointment within the University.

Ideally, we are seeking to make an appointment to work on a language from either South America, New Guinea or from the Tibeto-Burman family. However excellent applicants with primary interest in another area will be considered. The appointee will be required to undertake extensive fieldwork and will produce a comprehensive description of a previously undescribed language.

## Duties and Accountabilities

The key duty is to conduct research in anthropological linguistics, with particular attention to language analysis, producing high quality publications in refereed outlets.

## Key Selection Criteria

1. Thorough professional training in linguistics, with special reference to language-description, anthropological linguistics and linguistic typology;
2. PhD (conferred or pending) in descriptive linguistics, in terms of basic linguistic theory;
3. Demonstrated ability to work, under direction, as a member of a research team;
4. Demonstrated ability to work to a timetable, and produce results on time;
5. Demonstrated ability and commitment to disseminate the results of research in high quality publications within agreed timeframes; evidence of high level written, oral and interpersonal communication skills to diverse audiences.

## Desirable Selection Criteria

1. Ideally, to have produced a description of a language, preferably
  - (a) a language for which there had previously been no good description; and
  - (b) a language other than that of which they are a native speaker;
2. Some training in anthropology.

## Enquiries

Name: Professor A Aikhenvald

E-mail: [Sasha.aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Sasha.aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au)

Further details, including the application form, are available at jobs at jcu website:

[http://cms.jcu.edu.au/jobs/research/JCUPRD\\_051280](http://cms.jcu.edu.au/jobs/research/JCUPRD_051280)

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## 270.9 MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

### New Members:

Alice Lemieux	<a href="mailto:lemieux@uchicago.edu">lemieux@uchicago.edu</a>
Jessica Lee Holman	<a href="mailto:jessicaholman@uky.edu">jessicaholman@uky.edu</a>
Rebecca Hanson	<a href="mailto:rhanson@students.latrobe.edu.au">rhanson@students.latrobe.edu.au</a>
Kimberly Ann Meadows	<a href="mailto:kmeadows@ucalgary.ca">kmeadows@ucalgary.ca</a>
Sara Johansson	<a href="mailto:sara.j.johansson@gmail.com">sara.j.johansson@gmail.com</a>
Marianna Di Paolo	<a href="mailto:dipaolo@hum.utah.edu">dipaolo@hum.utah.edu</a>

Sidney da Silva Facundes

[sfacundes@gmail.com](mailto:sfacundes@gmail.com)