

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

*SSILA BULLETIN*

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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## 75.0 SSILA BUSINESS

### **1998 Elections**

The SSILA Nominating Committee (Douglas Parks, Laurel Watkins, and Pat Shaw) have submitted the following slate of candidates for the 1998 elections:

- Vice President, 1999/President-elect for 2000: Sally Thomason
- Member-at-large of the Executive Committee, 1999-2001: Randolph Graczyk
- Secretary-Treasurer, 1999: Victor Golla
- Member of the Nominating Committee, 1999-2001: John Nichols, Pam Bunte

Mail ballots will be distributed with the October SSILA Newsletter, and must be returned to the Secretary-Treasurer by December 1 in order to be counted. Results will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting, in Philadelphia, Saturday, December 5.

## 75.1 CORRESPONDENCE

### Literature series cancelled

- From Brian Swann ([swann@cooper.edu](mailto:swann@cooper.edu)) 30 Sept 1998:

SSILA members might like to know that the Smithsonian Institution Press has summarily cancelled the Series in Native American Literatures which I have been editing for several years, and for which a number of SSILA members have prepared "Readers" in various languages and/or literatures. This has left stranded half a dozen completed manuscripts that have been on the SIP desk for months if not years, and a number of other projects with contracts are now homeless. Among the many excellent manuscripts caught in this situation is Herb Luthin's "California Reader", which has been complete for quite a while. Although I'm sure it will eventually find a new publisher, it will be significantly delayed.

--Brian Swann  
Cooper Union, New York City

- From Terry Thompson ([terryt@pacifier.com](mailto:terryt@pacifier.com)) 4 Oct 1998:

Did you know that the new director of the Smithsonian Institution Press has CANCELLED the 4- or 5-year-old series "American Indian Literatures?" Steve Egesdal and I had been asked to do a volume on Salishan myths and legends (all in English), and the press has had the completed ms. since February. Some other mss. they have had for over two years. Can you please let the members of SSILA know about this? We are all seriously concerned about this, having spent several years on collecting and editing this material. Quite a few SSILA members are involved, as you can imagine. We are seeking a new publisher for the series--or for individual volumes.

--Terry Thompson (and Steve Egesdal)  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

## 75.2 POSITIONS OPEN

### **CSU-Chico: (1) Discourse, cognitive/functional syntax; (2) TESOL**

- From Sara Trechter ([strecther@csuchico.edu](mailto:strecther@csuchico.edu)) 2 Oct 1998:

The English Department at California State University, Chico announces two tenure-track (Assistant Professor) positions.

The position in linguistics requires a Ph.D. in linguistics with research/training in discourse and cognitive/functional approaches to syntax and semantics; experience in teaching core-area linguistics courses as well as introduction to Second Language Acquisition. A research interest in non-Indo-European languages(s) is desirable. Tenure-track faculty are required to pursue research and publication and provide service to the university community. The teaching load is 4 courses per semester, and teaching responsibilities will include introduction to linguistics, introduction to syntax, introduction to second language acquisition: theory and methods, and graduate seminars in linguistics (as needed).

The applied linguistics/TESOL position requires a Ph.D. in applied linguistics or TESOL (with a strong linguistics background); teaching experience in English for Academic Purposes programs in the US and ESL in a non-US setting, or ESL/bilingual programs in K-12 schools in the US. The position also involves advising ESL students, pursuing research and publication, and service to the university community. The teaching load is 4 courses per semester, including ESL, introduction to second language acquisition theories and methods, and a graduate seminar in second language acquisition.

As a university that educates students of various ethnic and cultural backgrounds, we value a diverse faculty and staff and seek to create as diverse a pool of candidates as possible. Starting date for both positions is August 1999. Salary ranges from \$37,956-40,692. Deadline for applications is December 3, 1998 (and continue as necessary). Please mail letter of application, current CV, and recommendations to:

Karen C. Hatch  
Department of English  
California State University, Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0830

### **UC-Santa Barbara: Phonetics or Phonology**

- From Susanna Cumming ([cumming@humanitas.ucsb.edu](mailto:cumming@humanitas.ucsb.edu)) 7 Oct 1998:

The Linguistics Department, University of California, Santa Barbara, seeks a linguist for an Assistant Professor, tenure-track position in phonetics or phonology, to take effect July 1, 1999. Ability to teach courses in both fields is preferred. Active research on a

variety of languages, and in one or more of the following areas, will be considered a plus: competing theories in phonology or phonetics; phonetics-phonology interactions; natural discourse prosody; instrumental phonetic analysis; cross-linguistic, typological, developmental, or historical-comparative studies of phonological-phonetic systems. The Ph.D. is required at the time of appointment.

Applications must include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and representative publications. Candidates should arrange to have three letters of recommendation sent by application date. Preliminary interviews will be held in January, 1999 at the LSA meeting in Los Angeles. For full consideration, applications must be received by December 11, 1998.

Address inquiries and applications to:

Search Committee  
Dept. of Linguistics  
UC Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106  
e-mail: [lingsearch@humanitas.ucsb.edu](mailto:lingsearch@humanitas.ucsb.edu)  
Fax: 805/893-7769

UCSB is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

### 75.3 AN INVITATION TO JOIN ASLIP

- From John Bengtson ([john.bengtson@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:john.bengtson@co.hennepin.mn.us)) 5 Oct 1998:

The Association for the Study of Language in Prehistory (ASLIP) is an international society of scholars interested in linguistic reconstruction at depths greater than those at which most Indo-Europeanists and Semitists cease probing. Its members, formally known as paleolinguists and informally as "Long Rangers", question the linguistic isolationism that insists on treating Sumerian and Basque as permanent linguistic islands and attributing all correspondences between language families to borrowing or to coincidence.

Paleolinguistics is a key component of the emerging synthesis between linguistics, archaeology, paleoanthropology and genetics, which seeks to trace the origins and development of modern humans. ASLIP, while emphasizing the linguistic side, has many members from other disciplines, who are working together to understand the larger picture of prehistory.

ASLIP publishes an annual journal, *Mother Tongue*, as well as a quarterly newsletter and invites subscriptions and contributions from linguists, archeologists, anthropologists, biologists, and generalists who believe that a sense of intellectual adventure is not incompatible with scholarly rigor. Annual membership is \$25, which entitles each member to our journal and newsletter and provides voting rights in the Association.

For further information, contact ASLIP's president, John D. Bengtson, 156 15th Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413 (tel: 612/782-9009 or 612/348-5910; e-mail: [john.bengtson@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:john.bengtson@co.hennepin.mn.us)).

The most recent issue of *Mother Tongue* (III, December 1997) contains:

- A Hardware Symposium, discussing the origin of language, with articles by Terrence Deacon, Philip Lieberman, Stephen Zegura, W. Tecumseh Fitch, and Merlin Donald. This explores in breadth and depth the variant theories that have made language evolution such a lively subject both in popular books and in academics.
- A special section on Nihali and Kusunda (continued from MT II), two language isolates in India. Included are essays by Paul Whitehouse, Roger Williams Wescott, and Harold Fleming, analyzing the languages and their possible relationships to Austric or other language macro-families.
- A section exploring the theories of the relationships of Sumerian, another language isolate and a famously controversial topic, presenting possible connections to Austroasiatic (Igor Diakonoff), Dene-Caucasian (John Bengston), and Nostratic (Allan Bomhard).
- Several other articles on topics of interest to Long Rangers and language evolutionists, including book reviews by Ken Hale (on Lyle Campbell), Vaclav Blazhek (on Merritt Ruhlen), and Sergei Starostin (on Viacheslav Chirikba), as well as recommendations for Long Rangers by the late "elder statesman" Paul K. Benedict.

## 75.4 UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **Celebration of Indian Language and Culture (Norman, OK, October 23)**

The Intertribal Wordpath Society invites all interested people in the Norman, Oklahoma, area (and beyond) to an evening of education and entertainment, Friday October 23, 6:30-11 pm, at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, 615 E. Robinson. Admission is free.

This "Celebration of Indian Language and Culture" will feature traditional singers and storytellers performing in their native languages. Each performance will be accompanied by an English translation and an explanation of the cultural importance of the language to the art. Margaret Mauldin (Creek), Board Chair of the Intertribal Wordpath Society, will also give a demonstration of different styles of speaking in the Creek language.

Surrounding the performance area will be a series of booths where various Indian language organizations will be selling language tapes, music, books, t-shirts, and other items relating to Oklahoma Indian language and culture. Indian tacos and other food will be available for purchase.

The event is being made possible with the assistance of the Norman Arts and Humanities Council Grant Program.

The Intertribal Wordpath Society is a non-profit educational corporation founded in 1997 to promote the teaching, awareness, use, and status of Oklahoma Indian languages. For further information about its activities contact Alice Anderton, Executive Director, 1506 Barkley St., Norman, OK 73071 (tel: 405/447-6103).

### **California Indian Conference (San Luis Obispo, October 1999)**

- From Lee Davis ([davislee@sfsu.edu](mailto:davislee@sfsu.edu)) 6 Oct 1998:

The next California Indian Conference will be held on October 15-16, 1999 (next year) at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, CA. Information about the conference, including the Call for Papers, will appear in upcoming issues of *\_News from Native California\_*. The CIC conference coordinator is William Fairbanks, Social Sciences Division, Cuesta College, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8106 (tel: 805/546-3163; fax: 805/546-3904).

## 75.5 THE ENDANGERED LANGUAGE FUND: CALL FOR 1999 PROPOSALS

- From ([elf@lenny.haskins.yale.edu](mailto:elf@lenny.haskins.yale.edu)) 8 Oct 1998:

The Endangered Language Fund is now accepting proposals for its 1999 round of grants. The ELF provides grants for language maintenance and linguistic field work for the endangered languages of the world. The work most likely to be funded is that which serves both the native community and the field of linguistics. 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 for one year periods, though extensions may be applied for. Grants in this round are expected to be less than \$2,000 in size.

There is no application form, but specific information in a standard format is required from applicants. An outline may be obtained from the ELF at the address below, and can also be found at the ELF website:

<http://sapiir.ling.yale.edu/~elf/index.html>

Also at the website is a list of recipients of the first round of grant awards (1997-98), with descriptions of their projects.

Applications must be received by April 20th, 1999. Decisions will be delivered by the end of May, 1999.

Address inquiries to: The Endangered Language Fund  
Dept. of Linguistics  
Yale University  
P. O. Box 208236  
New Haven, CT 06520-8236, USA  
([elf@haskins.yale.edu](mailto:elf@haskins.yale.edu))



## 75.6 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Altman, Heidi ..... [haltman@bulldog.unca.edu](mailto:haltman@bulldog.unca.edu)  
Gray, John ..... [jgray@wolfden.com](mailto:jgray@wolfden.com)  
Haspelmath, Martin ..... [haspelmath@eva.mpg.de](mailto:haspelmath@eva.mpg.de)  
Johnson, John ..... [jjohnson@sbnature2.org](mailto:jjohnson@sbnature2.org)  
Laury, Ritva ..... [ritval@csufresno.edu](mailto:ritval@csufresno.edu)  
Silverthorne, Joyce..... [dxn3224@montana.com](mailto:dxn3224@montana.com)