

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

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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79.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Election results

133 ballots were received at the SSILA office by the announced deadline. The results were announced at the annual Business Meeting, in Philadelphia, December 5. Elected were:

- Sarah G. Thomason - Vice President (1999) and President-Elect for 2000
- Randolph Graczyk - Member-at-large of the Executive Committee (1999-2001)
- Victor Golla - Secretary-Treasurer (1999)
- John D. Nichols - Member of the Nominating Committee (1999-2001)

These newly elected officers assumed their duties at the end of the annual Business Meeting, December 5. At the same time, Karl V. Teeter took office as President for 1999, and retiring President Sally McLendon became chair of the 1999 Mary R. Haas Book Award committee.

Mary R. Haas Book Award for 1998

Robert L. Rankin, 1998 chair of the Mary R. Haas Book Award committee, announced at the annual Business Meeting that the committee has made this year's award to Anne M. S. Berge for her UC Berkeley dissertation, "Topic and Discourse Structure in West Greenlandic Agreement Constructions" (1997). The manuscript will be submitted to the University of Nebraska Press for publication in Studies in the Anthropology of North American Indians.

Ten manuscripts were submitted to the committee this year. In addition to the prize-winning manuscript, the committee gave Honorable Mention to Veronica Grondona for "A Grammar of Mocovi", and to Brian Potter for "Wh/Indefinites and the Structure of the Clause in Western Apache".

SSILA plans 1999 summer meeting at Illinois Linguistic Institute

It was decided at the annual Business Meeting that, if the necessary arrangements can be made in time, the Society will hold a summer meeting in July 1999 at the Linguistics Institute at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. It will be coordinated with a short course on North American linguistic classification that Marianne Mithun will be offering at the LI between July 5 and 16. Further details will be announced as soon as arrangements are made, and a call for papers will be distributed with the January 1999 issue of the SSILA Newsletter.

SSILA will also be a co-sponsor of the conference on "Stabilizing Indigenous Languages" that will be held at the University of Arizona, Tucson, on June 3-5. (See #79.3 below.)

79.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Proto-Chapakuran thesis available

- From Jean-Pierre Angenot (geralda.angenot@lpl.univ-aix.fr) 19 Nov 1998:

My wife, Geralda de Lima Angenot, who is currently working on a dissertation on the More' language of Bolivia, received her Master's degree from the Federal University of Rondonia (Brazil) in 1997 with a thesis entitled "Fonota'tica e Fonologia do lexema Protochapakura", 185 pp. We would like to let readers of the SSILA Bulletin know that copies of this thesis, which contains 310 Proto-Chapakuran reconstructions, are available free of charge, on disc, in Windows 98 format. Contact us at the address below.

--Jean-Pierre Angenot & Geralda de Lima Angenot
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3, Place de Narvik, 13100 Aix-en-Provence, France
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79.2 POSITION OPEN AT ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE CENTER

- From Helen Howard (fyanlp@aurora.alaska.edu) 4 Dec 1998:

The Alaska Native Language Center of the University of Alaska Fairbanks is seeking a specialist in Athabaskan languages and linguistics for a tenure-track appointment at the Assistant or Associate Professor level, beginning in Fall, 1999. A completed Ph.D. in Linguistics or related field is preferred, but an ABD with expectation of completion within the first year of work will be considered.

The position requires field research in a variety of Alaskan Athabaskan languages, leading to publication of grammars, dictionaries, texts, and scholarly papers; work with Native communities and organizations in language revitalization, teacher training, curriculum and materials development; teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels in Athabaskan, Linguistics, Anthropology, Education, and/or related fields. Applicants must be willing to travel to remote villages for research and teaching.

Preference will be given to applicants with demonstrated field experience in Athabaskan, knowledge of synchronic and diachronic/comparative Athabaskan linguistics, experience in working with Native communities and organizations, and proposal writing.

Applications must be postmarked by Monday, March 1, 1999. Please send a letter of interest describing qualifications, a current curriculum vitae, and names and addresses (including e-mail and phone numbers) of three references, to: Search Committee, ANLC, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 218 Eielson Bldg, P.O. Box 757680, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7680 (tel: 907/474-6588; fax: 907/474-6586; e-mail: fyanlp@uaf.edu).

(UAF is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational institution. Applications for employment with the U of Alaska are subject to public disclosure under the Alaska Public Records Act. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.)

79.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

Chicago Linguistic Society (Chicago, IL, April 22-24):

- From Aaron Michael Griffith (amgriffi@midway.uchicago.edu) 7 Dec 1998:

The 35th Regional Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society will take place at the University of Chicago, April 22-24, 1999.

Invited speakers for the main session will be Beth Levin (Northwestern U) and Paul Smolensky (Johns Hopkins U). Original, unpublished papers are invited on any topic of general linguistic interest. In addition, papers are invited addressing one of the following panel topics:

- Language, Identity, and the Other (Thursday, April 22): Language serves as a means to unite as well as to exclude groups or individuals. This panel will explore the linguistic mechanisms by which this is accomplished in different speech communities. Invited Speakers: Robert Greenberg (U of North Carolina), and Michael Silverstein (U of Chicago).
- ChiPhon 99: Multi-Disciplinary Approaches to Basic Units of Speech (Friday, April 23): This panel seeks to synthesize findings from linguistics and other fields which investigate linguistic behavior, to determine whether these can be used as evidence for a unified theory of basic units of speech processing. Invited Speakers: John Ohala (UC- Berkeley), and Joseph Perkell (MIT).
- Theory and Linguistic Diversity (Saturday, April 24): Approximately five thousand languages are spoken throughout the world today. This panel seeks to explore the ways in which linguistic theories attempt to account for such variety. Invited Speakers: Mark Baker (McGill U), Joan Bresnan (Stanford), and R.M.W. Dixon (ANU).

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is February 1, 1999. Guidelines for abstracts may be obtained by visiting the CLS website at:

<http://humanities.uchicago.edu/humanities/cls/cls.html>

or by e-mailing CLS at cls@diderot.uchicago.edu.

Stabilizing Indigenous Languages (Tucson, AZ, June 3-5)

- From Akira Y. Yamamoto (akira@ukans.edu) 7 Dec 1998:

The 6th annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Conference (SILC) will be held at the University of Arizona, Tucson, in conjunction with the 20th annual American Indian

Language Development Institute (AILDI). It will take place June 3-5, 1999, and is being co-sponsored by SSILA.

The conference will produce strategies for heightening awareness of the importance of indigenous languages, extending existing language environments, and creating a new generation of speakers. The goal is to inspire indigenous communities to continue to develop and expand the circle of native language speakers.

Proposals are being accepted for workshops, panels, paper presentations, roundtable discussions and policy planning groups promoting the theme "One Voice, Many Voices: Recreating Indigenous Language Communities". Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

1) Workshops/Panels/Presentations

- Model activities for reversing language shift
- Technology in language transmission
- Developing community- and family-based language teaching strategies and materials
- Using multi-media language teaching techniques
- Teaching strategies
- Documentation of indigenous languages
- Indigenous literacies and literatures

2) Roundtables

- Creating and recreating language communities
- Orthography issues and development
- Curriculum and language materials development
- Language immersion programs
- Language planning and policy development
- Language variations
- Community-based programs
- Language surveys and assessments
- Grant proposal writing

For forms and guidelines on submitting proposals, contact AILDI by phone at 520/626-7555, or by e-mail at SIILC@u.arizona.edu.

The deadline for submission of proposals is January 15, 1999. The registration fee will be \$125 (if received by March 31), and \$150 after April 1. Registration fee for students (with proof) is \$50.

More detailed information will be posted shortly. If you have any questions, contact Akira Yamamoto (akira@ukans.edu), Ofelia Zepeda (zepeda@linguistics.arizona.edu), or Teresa McCarty (tmccarty@mail.ed.arizona.edu).

Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education (Hilo, Hawaii, August 1-7)

- From Bill Wilson (pila_w@leoki.uhh.hawaii.edu):

Please join us for the 5th triennial World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education (WIPCE HAWAII), to be held in Hilo, Hawai'i, from August 1 to 7, 1999. Na Po'e Hawai'i, the indigenous people of Hawai'i, invite you to participate in this unique assembly, dedicated to learning by traditional methods and stimulating discussions.

Indigenous educators, artisans, political activists, healers, and community members are invited to propose presentations. Each presentation must have a cultural base, show how the past is bridged into the present, and have a proven impact on the presenter's people. We ask presenters not to rehash the validity of indigenous learning structures or philosophy. Instead, we wish to focus on past, present and future projects -- ideas that strengthen beliefs and practices and offer direction and guidance as we enter the new millennium. Presenters are encouraged to deliver their presentation in their native tongue (please be ready to interpret). The deadline for proposals is December 31.

The fee for participants who register before December 31 will be \$295. After January 1 it will be \$400, and no registrations will be accepted after April 30.

For further information visit the conference website:

<http://wipcehawaii.org>

Or contact WIPCE HAWAII by e-mail at wipc@hawaii.edu; by phone at: 808/934-7722; by fax at: 808/974-7692; or by regular mail at P.O. Box 6159, Hilo, HI 96720-8923.

I Congreso de Lenguas Indigenas de Sudamerica (Lima, August 4-6)

- From Pilar Valenzuela (pvalenz@darkwing.uoregon.edu) 23 Nov 1998:

As part of the activities celebrating its 30th anniversary, the Universidad Ricardo Palma, in Lima, Peru, is organizing the "I Congreso de Lenguas Indigenas de Sudamerica", to be held on August 4-6, 1999. Ten sessions are being organized: Fonología, Gramática, Semántica y Lexicografía, Análisis del Discurso, Sociolingüística y Dialectología, Educación Bilingüe e Intercultural y Política Lingüística, Estudios Histórico-Comparativos, Lenguas en Contacto, Filología Amerindia, and Onomástica. Those interested in presenting a paper must submit a one-page double-spaced abstract by May 30th. For further information, please contact Luis Miranda, Secretario (lmiranda@Li.urp.edu.pe).

[Pilar adds: I was asked by the organizers of the above event to let SSILA members know about it through our Bulletin. As you know, Peru has a very large indigenous population and great linguistic diversity. However, for various socio-political and

economic reasons it is very hard for us to organize linguistic events. As a student, I had the chance to attend my first linguistic congress in Peru in 1984. I had to wait ten years for the next event to take place! It's great that another linguistics conference concentrating on indigenous languages of the region is being organized after ONLY five years.]

79.4 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

People and Plants Online

- From Gary Martin (peopleandplants@cybernet.net.ma) 23 Nov 1998:

We have now completed the new design of People and Plants Online, the website of the *People and Plants Initiative*, dedicated to ethnobotany, conservation, and community development. The address is

<http://www.kew.org.uk/peopleplants>

We look forward to receiving any comments on the design and contents of People and Plants Online. Please note that there is a Notice Board where you can post items of ethnobotanical interest. In addition, there are Feedback and Opinion options that allow you to share your ideas on the People and Plants Initiative, or on ethnobotany in general.

We are now working hard on putting various People and Plants publications online, including our series of Discussion Papers, Handbooks, and Working Papers. We are always looking for appropriate material for the People and Plants Handbook, including new organizations to profile, letters to the editor, and articles for the Advice from the Field section. Let us know of your suggestions.

In addition, we would like to receive contributions for the Research Techniques section, a forum for ethnobotanical researchers to share their insights on methodology.

--Gary Martin
People and Plants Initiative
B.P. 262, Marrakesh-Medina, Morocco
(peopleandplants@cybernet.net.ma)

Taino language project

- From Don Pedro Guankeyu Torres (ttcj@dandy.net) 25 Nov 1998:

I am the Principal Elder (Chief) of the Jatibonicu Taino tribe and a teacher and researcher of our tribal history and language. Through a New Jersey nonprofit corporation our tribe sponsors a Taino Language Project to restore our language, which is part of the Arawakan linguistic group from South America.

Information on The Taino Language Project is on the web at:

<http://www.hartford-hwp.com/taino/docs/proj-5.html>

79.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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