

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

*SSILA BULLETIN*

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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## 103.0 SSILA BUSINESS

### **Results of the 1999 elections**

190 ballots were received by the announced deadline. Elected were:

- Jane Hill, Vice President (2000) and President-Elect for 2001
- Sara Trechter, Member-at-large of the Executive Committee (2000-02)
- Victor Golla, Secretary-Treasurer (2000)
- Scott DeLancey, Member of the Nominating Committee (2000-02)

## 103.1 CORRESPONDENCE

### **UCPL reprints?**

- From Edward F. Bagley ([edbagley@webtv.net](mailto:edbagley@webtv.net)) 2 Jan 2000:

There was some discussion several weeks ago in the Bulletin about the desirability of seeing the old UCPL titles reprinted. For what it's worth, Coyote Press in Salinas, California, already offers an extensive list of UCPAAE monographs in facsimile reprint at very reasonable prices. These include many of the early and still useful linguistic publications by Kroeber, Sapir, Dixon, Barrett, Goddard, Mason and others. Coyote has an excellent website at: <http://www.coyotepress.com/>

Currently they have only a couple of titles from the UCPL series available, possibly under the impression that there is not much of a demand for them. A "partnership" between Coyote Press and SSILA would seem to be ideal for making this valuable material available again.

~Ed Bagley  
East Boston, Massachusetts

[The SSILA Executive Committee is looking into this possibility. --VG.]

## 103.2 AUSTRALIAN TYPOLOGY CENTER MOVES

- From Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald ([a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au)) 13 Jan 2000:

R.M.W. Dixon and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald have relocated their Research Centre for Linguistic Typology to La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. The Centre has a number of Research Fellows, Visiting Fellows and Doctoral Students who undertake fieldwork, write grammars of languages, and pursue typological generalizations about language on an inductive basis.

We welcome inquiries from scholars of a similar ilk who are interested in spending a sabbatical at RCLT.

--R.M.W. Dixon, Director  
--Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, Associate Director  
Research Centre for Linguistic Typology  
Institute for Advanced Study, La Trobe University  
Bundoora, VIC, Australia 3083  
([a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au))

## 103.3 CALL FOR PAPERS: AAA 2000 PANEL

- From Fazila Bhimji ([fbhimji@ucla.edu](mailto:fbhimji@ucla.edu)) 12 Jan 2000:

Pam Bunte and I are organizing a session for the next AAA meeting on “Language Socialization in Multilingual Communities: The Role of Language Ideologies in Developing Social Identities.” We are looking for papers that address identity and language ideologies in “natural interaction” between children and caregivers or educators in multilingual or bilingual environments. Multilingual communities have a range of linguistic and cultural repertoires available to them which are influenced by local theories of language use that in turn help construct identity. Papers might focus on how language socialization practices are influenced by and influence these theories. Papers could also attend to children’s understanding and displays of knowledge of their cultural and linguistic identity.

Interested contributors may send their abstracts to me via e-mail or snail mail, preferably by Feb. 20, 2000.

~Fazila Bhimji  
1616 Martel Ave. #3  
Los Angeles, CA 90046  
([fbhimji@ucla.edu](mailto:fbhimji@ucla.edu))

#### 103.4 ANTI-"CHIEF" RESOLUTIONS PASS AT LSA

The Linguistic Society of America, at its Business Meeting in Chicago on January 7, passed a resolution and two motions, all sponsored by SSILA, that put the LSA on record as urging the University of Illinois to replace its "Chief Illiniwek" mascot, and promising not to meet again in Illinois until this is done.

The measures (and votes) were:

Resolution: The Linguistic Society of America urges the administration and trustees of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to replace "Chief Illiniwek" with a symbol that does not promote inaccurate, anachronistic, and damaging stereotypes of Native American people, or indeed members of any minority group. [Adopted overwhelmingly.]

Motion #1: The Linguistic Society of America will not return to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as long as "Chief Illiniwek" remains an official symbol at the university. [Passed 57-23.]

Motion #2: The Linguistic Society of America will not return to the state of Illinois as long as "Chief Illiniwek" remains an official symbol at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. [Passed 29-27.]

## 103.5 UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **WAIL-3 (Santa Barbara, CA, April 14-16) [Reminder]**

- From Paul T. Barthmaier ([ptb0@umail.ucsb.edu](mailto:ptb0@umail.ucsb.edu)) 16 Jan 2000:

A reminder that January 30 is the deadline for receipt of abstracts for the Third Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL), to be held at UC Santa Barbara, April 14-16, 2000. WAIL is a forum for the discussion of theoretical and descriptive linguistic studies of indigenous languages of the Americas. Anonymous abstracts are invited for talks on any topic in Native American linguistics. Talks will be 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for discussion. E-mail submissions are encouraged.

For further information contact the conference coordinator by e-mail at [<wail@humanitas.ucsb.edu>](mailto:wail@humanitas.ucsb.edu) or by phone at 805/893-3776, or check out the WAIL web site at: <http://linguistics.ucsb.edu/events/wail/wail.html>

### **Stabilizing Indigenous Languages (Toronto, Ontario, May 11-14)**

- From SILC ([S\\_Languages-Conference@tednet.oise.utoronto.ca](mailto:S_Languages-Conference@tednet.oise.utoronto.ca)) 5 Jan 2000:

Hello and Happy New Year from Toronto!

We encourage you to (re)visit the website for the 7th annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages conference at: <http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/MLC/silc>

You'll find new links having to do with accommodation, tourism, and other information related to the conference. If you would like us to create a link to a relevant website, please let us know. Feel free to create your own link to our SILC and help spread the word.

~Damian McShane  
SILC WebMaster  
([S\\_Languages-Conference@tednet.oise.utoronto.ca](mailto:S_Languages-Conference@tednet.oise.utoronto.ca))

### **Endangered Languages and Literacy (Charlotte, NC, Sept. 21-24)**

- From Nicholas Ostler ([nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk](mailto:nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk)) 15 Jan 2000:

The Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL) will host an international conference on "Endangered Languages and Literacy" at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, September 21-24, 2000. This will be the fourth in a series of annual workshops and conferences hosted by FEL to provide a forum for researchers and activists working for the maintenance of indigenous languages that face an uncertain future. In keeping with the theme of this year's meeting, it will be held near the homeland of Sequoyah, the father of Cherokee literacy.

The organizers are: Blair Rudes (UNC-Charlotte); Nicholas Ostler (FEL, Bath, England); Christopher Moseley (BBC); Karen Johnson-Weiner (St. Lawrence U); and Hassan Ouzzate (Ibn Zohr U, Morocco). The aim of the conference is to assess the usefulness of focusing on literacy in language preservation efforts, with special attention to cultural obstacles and unforeseen consequences.

Suggested topics include (among others): how literacy alters or interrupts the oral transmission of a community's knowledge and beliefs; the difficulty of selecting one of several dialects on which to base a written language; the lack of lexical or syntactic structures to replace suprasegmental, kinetic, and paralinguistic components of face-to-face communication. Also considered will be the ways in which modern technologies have brought additional choices to endangered language communities (for example, "talking" dictionaries), and the problems these technologies in turn engender.

Participants at the conference are required to be members of FEL, or to join at the time of registration for the meeting. The current annual membership fee for FEL is 20 pounds sterling (approx. US \$34) or 10 pounds sterling for students and unemployed (US \$17). For more membership information contact Nicholas Ostler, Batheaston Villa, 172 Bailbrook Lane, Bath BA1 7AA, England ([nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk](mailto:nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk)).

Presentations will be 20 minutes, with a further 10 minutes for discussion. All presentations should be in English. There will be a preliminary volume of proceedings distributed at the Conference.

Abstracts (500 words maximum) must be submitted by March 21, and camera-ready text will be needed by July 21. Submissions can be made either in hard copy (including fax) or by e-mail. Abstracts should be sent to: Blair A. Rudes, Department of English, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28223-0001 (fax: 1-704-547-3961; tel: 1-704-547-4230; e-mail: [BARudes@email.uncc.edu](mailto:BARudes@email.uncc.edu)). The abstract should have a title, but should not identify the author(s). On a separate sheet, please provide: names of the author(s); title of the paper; and the postal, e-mail, and fax addresses of the first author.

## 103.6 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

### **The Endangered Languages page**

- From Martha Ratliff ([martha\\_ratliff@wayne.edu](mailto:martha_ratliff@wayne.edu)) 3 Jan 2000:

In order for the LSA Committee on Endangered Languages and their Preservation (CELP) to be able to respond to requests for information on the documentation and preservation of endangered languages and related issues, it has acted on a suggestion made by the moderators of the LINGUIST list to create a web-page on endangered languages at the LINGUIST site.

So far, only a shell exists for the EL page, which can be visited at: <http://www.linguistlist.org/el-page/>

Subpages have been designated on the following topics:

- Support Organizations
- Community Organizations
- Fieldwork Training (academic programs, course materials, non-academic programs)
- Conferences and Calls for Papers
- Online Resources (mailing lists, online conferences, corpora)
- Publications and Reviews
- Fieldwork Tools (word lists, questionnaires, grammar and dictionary templates, software)
- Field Linguists by Area (South America, the Pacific, etc.)
- Funding Opportunities
- Fieldwork Opportunities

In response to an e-mail call, about half of these subpages have been claimed by volunteers who have agreed to serve as their “curators”. The curators will forward to LINGUIST new information appropriate to their subpage category for posting as they discover it. We still need to identify curators for the other pages. The new chair of CELP (Jerry Sadock) will serve as a “super-curator” for the page, and will be in contact with the moderators of LINGUIST about changes to the page that seem appropriate with the passage of time. Questions and comments about the page should be sent to him at [<jsadock@midway.uchicago.edu>](mailto:jsadock@midway.uchicago.edu).

### **Technology in cross-cultural education**

- From Jeffrey Harlig ([harligj@indiana.edu](mailto:harligj@indiana.edu)) 15 Jan 2000:

I just got around to scanning in (with permission) an article discussing the use of a computerized distributed learning and discussion system for Inuit students throughout the Baffin Bay region (“Virtual Teaching on the Tundra”, by Alexander McAuley). The author is the distance learning coordinator for the NWT Department of Education in Yellowknife. If you are interested in reading it, you can find it at: <http://home.bluemarble.net/~consult/baffin.htm>.

Caveats:

1. It was OCR'ed and I proofed it only lightly;
2. There are four large pictures in it that take a long time to download. I suggest you start reading the text and scroll back to see the illustrations later;
3. I'm basically skeptical about claims that modern technology can preserve indigenous culture, but if it works, it works!

~Jeff Harlig  
([harligj@indiana.edu](mailto:harligj@indiana.edu))

### **“Merry New Year”, etc.**

Bill Caswell, an engineer employed by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, has an avocational interest in languages. For several years he has been building a multilingual list of Christmas and New Year greetings, and now has over 330 languages represented. He has collected the greetings in a number of indigenous American languages, but is not certain of the accuracy of some of these. He would appreciate it if you would visit his “North and South American phrases” page at <http://users.aol.com/WSCaswell/x-amer.htm> and check out the information there for languages you know. Additions, corrections, and comments can be sent to him at <[WSCaswell@aol.com](mailto:WSCaswell@aol.com)>.

### 103.7 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Feenstra, Jaap ..... [jaapf@ssimicro.com](mailto:jaapf@ssimicro.com)  
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