

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

*SSILA BULLETIN*

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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## 105.0 SSILA BUSINESS

### **Call for papers: 39th CAIL (San Francisco, Nov. 15-19, 2000)**

The 39th meeting of the Conference on American Indian Languages (constituting the Annual Meeting of SSILA for 2000) will be held in San Francisco, California, November 15-19, 2000, as part of the 99th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. As in previous years, SSILA will organize multiple sessions of CAIL papers around topics reflected in individual submissions. Any topic dealing with American Indian languages and linguistics is acceptable. Groups of papers on special topics are welcome. SSILA members who wish to have a paper considered for a CAIL session must submit a formal AAA proposal and abstract, together with an advance registration form, to the 2000 SSILA Program Committee (NOT directly to the AAA) by Friday, March 17, 2000. Copies of the appropriate AAA forms are enclosed with the January 2000 SSILA Newsletter, which will reach most members within the coming week. Forms can also be downloaded from the AAA website: <http://www.aaanet.org>

Beginning this year, SSILA welcomes the presentation of papers in Spanish. If your paper will be in Spanish, an English translation of the abstract should be submitted as well as the Spanish original.

To deliver a paper at a CAIL session you must be a member of SSILA and also a current member of the American Anthropological Association. If you plan to give a paper at the 2000 CAIL and are not at present a member of the AAA you should apply for membership at this time, or no later than April 1. For a membership form and schedule of dues contact: AAA, 4350 N. Fairfax Dr., Suite 640, Arlington, VA 22203 (tel:703-528-1902, ext. 1). A waiver from the AAA membership requirement is usually granted to participants who live outside the U.S. or Canada. For further information contact: Victor Golla, SSILA 2000 Program Committee, Dept. of Native American Studies, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California 95521 USA ([golla@ssila.org](mailto:golla@ssila.org)).

### **The Mary R. Haas Award**

SSILA annually presents the Mary R. Haas Award to a junior scholar whose unpublished manuscript is deemed to make a significant substantive contribution to our knowledge of native American languages. The selection committee is now accepting submissions for the Haas Award for 2000. Submissions should be monographs reflecting substantial empirical research, including descriptive and issue-oriented grammars, topical studies, dictionaries, and text collections. No academic affiliation is required but holders of tenured faculty positions will not normally be eligible. Submissions must be in English.

The award does not carry a financial stipend, but the winning manuscript will be eligible for publication under the Society's auspices by the University of Nebraska Press.

The deadline for receipt of submissions is June 1, 2000. Five full copies of the manuscript should be submitted, accompanied by a short letter describing the circumstances of the work. These should be sent to the chair of the Committee: Karl V. Teeter, 14 1/2 Woodbridge

Street, Cambridge, MA 02140-1220 USA.

Inquiries should be directed to Prof. Teeter at the address above, or by e-mail at:

[kvt@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:kvt@fas.harvard.edu)

The decision of the 2000 selection committee will be announced at the annual meeting of SSILA in San Francisco November 15-19, 2000. In addition to Prof. Teeter the members of the selection committee include Louanna Furbee, Sally McLendon, Douglas Parks, and Anthony C. Woodbury.

## 105.1 CORRESPONDENCE

### **French-speaking experts on peopling of the Americas sought**

- From Michel Keable ([mkeable@montreal.src.ca](mailto:mkeable@montreal.src.ca)) 31 Jan 2000:

I recently had the pleasure to present a series of eight radio programs, "Le Premier Monde", on the CBC French radio network in Montreal. In these programs, I discussed the subject of human origins with specialists from Europe and Canada.

I am at the moment thinking of a new series that would explore the peopling of the Americas. I'm trying to widen my contacts with French-speaking specialists outside Quebec to eventually do an interview on the subject of language and the peopling of the Americas. Are there any readers of the SSILA Bulletin who would be interested in participating?

~Michel Keable  
Radio-Canada, Montreal, Quebec Canada  
([mkeable@montreal.src.ca](mailto:mkeable@montreal.src.ca))

### **Computer simulation of historical change**

- From Wallace Chafe ([chafe@humanitas.ucsb.edu](mailto:chafe@humanitas.ucsb.edu)) 30 Jan 2000:

I wonder if anyone is aware of a PC application that easily changes historical underlying forms in a polysynthetic language into current or surface forms by applying ordered rules that reflect historical changes.

Besides being ordered, the rules need to refer to classes of consonants and vowels, e.g. laryngeal consonants or back vowels, which are specified by the user. It's an obvious thing to do and the logic of such a program is quite simple, but before I try to implement it myself I'm wondering if it has already been done. There's no need to reinvent the wheel.

~Wallace Chafe  
UC Santa Barbara  
([chafe@humanitas.ucsb.edu](mailto:chafe@humanitas.ucsb.edu))

### **Old UC publications still available**

- From Ira Jacknis ([jacknis@uclink4.berkeley.edu](mailto:jacknis@uclink4.berkeley.edu)) 3 Feb 2000:

In regard to the on-going discussion of University of California publications in linguistics, SSILA members should be interested to know that the Hearst Museum still has a relatively large stock of out-of-print UC Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology, and the Anthropological Records. Some of the issues are completely sold out, but many of the original linguistics volumes are still available at good prices. These are listed on the publications page of the museum's web site: <http://www.qal.berkeley.edu/~hearst/publication.htm>

~Ira Jacknis  
Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology  
UC Berkeley  
([jacknis@uclink4.berkeley.edu](mailto:jacknis@uclink4.berkeley.edu))

### **Greenberg in the NY Times**

- From Ives Goddard ([goddard.ives@nmnh.si.edu](mailto:goddard.ives@nmnh.si.edu)) 9 Feb 2000:

Readers may be interested to know that the rather tame letter that appeared over my name in The New York Times (Feb. 8), commenting on the long article on Joseph Greenberg's claims (NY Times, Feb. 1), resulted from a limitation to 150 words and negotiation with the editor, who thought it was not fit to print the original wording of my last sentence referring to Greenberg's methodology as "completely discredited."

~Ives Goddard  
Smithsonian Institution  
([goddard.ives@nmnh.si.edu](mailto:goddard.ives@nmnh.si.edu))

[The article that Ives Goddard refers to -- "What We All Spoke When the World Was Young," by Nicholas Wade -- was the lead story in the "Science Times" section (page D1) for Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2000. Although Wade noted that Greenberg's classification of the world's languages into "a small number of clusters based on their similarities" is "controversial," the tone of the article was generally favorable.

Wade was particularly impressed by the fact that Greenberg's groupings "roughly coincide with clusters of genetically similar people and point to a close relationship between genetic and linguistic evolution." -- VG.]

## 105.2 STABILIZING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES: CONFERENCE UPDATE

- From Barbara Burnaby ([silc@oise.utoronto.ca](mailto:silc@oise.utoronto.ca)) 2 Feb 2000:

We are hoping that you will be interested in joining us at the Seventh Annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Conference to be held in Toronto, Canada, on May 11 to 14, 2000. As you may know, this conference has been held in various cities in the United States for six years now and has attracted a wide range of people working in the area of Aboriginal language revival, maintenance and development. Its main feature has been a focus on practice--how things actually get done in communities. The work of many participants has been in the field of schooling, but others have brought information about projects in writing in the community, language research such as dictionary making, the role of language in traditional practices, language policies, the electronic media and so on.

Since Canadians (and people from other countries as well) have attended this conference in the past, it seemed a good idea to have the conference in Canada this year to encourage the participation of people in Canada and the more northern parts of the United States.

We are still in the process of putting together the program, but we can at least give you a taste of what will be involved. On the first evening there will be an informal reception so that people can get to know one another. The following day will begin with a plenary speaker, two sets of five sessions by presenters, then lunch (included in the conference fees), two more sets of sessions, and a plenary speaker. In the evening, two films by Aboriginal film makers will be shown at an Open House where participants can get together informally. The following day has more or less the same program except that participants are on their own for lunch but are invited in the evening to a banquet (included in conference fees) with entertainment. The final day has two more sets of sessions and a plenary speaker. So far, we anticipate that the plenary speakers will address an overview and history of Aboriginal education in Canada, a talk about Aboriginal language immersion programs, and an announcement of a new national initiative in Aboriginal language promotion in Canada.

The fourth speaker has yet to be determined, but will probably be from the United States. The sessions will have presentations by individuals and groups, and there will be poster sessions as well where people can show materials or projects they have done and explain them. We also hope to arrange for educational or sightseeing tours that participants can take on Sunday or Monday, May 14 and 15. Materials to help participants get around Toronto, alternative places to stay, and materials about Aboriginal organization in Toronto are now being developed.

If you live outside of Canada, please remember that the Canadian dollar is worth about 2/3 of the U.S. dollar so that your costs while staying here will be relatively low. The spring weather in May should be around 60 to 75 degrees F, 17 to 21 degrees C. The hotel is one block from Canada's most famous shopping mall and just behind Toronto City Hall.

The transportation system is clean, safe, and reasonably priced. Airline flights come in to Toronto from all over the world. We greatly hope that you will be able to join us. Please contact us through e-mail at <[silc@oise.utoronto.ca](mailto:silc@oise.utoronto.ca)>, visit our website at:

<http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/MLC/silc> or write directly to me at the address below. Deadlines for proposals for presentations is March 31, 2000.

~Barbara Burnaby  
Modern Language Centre, OISE/UT  
252 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1V6  
Fax: 416/926-4769  
([bburnaby@oise.utoronto.ca](mailto:bburnaby@oise.utoronto.ca))

P.S. -- On early versions of the information sheet and application form, the fax number was incorrect. The correct number is as above.

## 105.3 3RD NORTHWEST INDIAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE AT U OF OREGON

The third annual Northwest Indian Language Institute will be held at the University of Oregon, Eugene, from July 19 to July 27. Designed for teachers and others involved in community-based language programs in the Pacific Northwest and adjacent areas, the Institute offers training in basic linguistics, language teaching, and computer technology. This summer the Institute offers two course levels to accommodate both new and continuing students.

### Level I:

- Introduction to Language Teaching for Teachers in Native Language Programs (3 credits)
- Introduction to Linguistics and Northwest Languages for Teachers in Native Language Programs (3 credits)
- Teaching and Learning Languages with Technology: Computer and Internet activities for teaching indigenous languages (1 credit)

### Level 2:

- Advanced Language Teaching: The Basics of Second Language Acquisition; Teaching Strategies; Language Assessment - How to evaluate your language learners (3 credits)
- Morphology and Linguistic Analysis of Northwest Languages: Directed independent research and analysis of your language (3 credits)
- Materials development using the internet and computers (1 credit)

There will also be one-day workshops on grant writing, Oregon State Standards, Northwest Languages Proficiency Benchmarks, and Working in Partnership with your School District. All classes carry U of Oregon credit. Tuition for 7 credit hours is approximately \$850, plus a \$50 computer lab fee. Some tuition scholarship aid is available. Housing in University dormitories will be available for approximately \$800 per person.

For further information contact:

Scott DeLancey ([delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu); 541/346-3109)

or Janne Underriner ([jlu@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:jlu@darkwing.uoregon.edu); 541/346-3199)

## 105.4 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

### For laughs

- From Yvonne Yazzie ([yazzie@stanford.edu](mailto:yazzie@stanford.edu)) 10 Feb 2000:

Check out this website for Native American humor: <http://nativeamerican.net/Humor.html>

### Choctaw Nation to offer language class over Web

The Choctaw Nation is extending the reach of its educational programs by offering Choctaw language instruction by computer. The new class will begin Feb. 22 and has a Feb. 16 enrollment deadline. Student need a computer with Internet access, with a sound card and speakers. The class includes segments on history and culture and beginning grammar.

For information on costs and broadcast times, and on how to enroll in the class, visit the Choctaw Nation's website: <http://www.choctawnation.com/> or contact the Choctaw Nation at PO Box 1210, Durant, OK 74701 (tel: 580-924-8280, fax: 580-924-4148).

### Comanche Language & Cultural Preservation Committee

The official site of the Comanche Language and Cultural Preservation Committee, which was formed in 1993 "with the vision of reviving the Comanche language into a living language once again." The site features a list of accomplishments during he past seven years, including a recently developed Master-Apprentice program. The address is:  
<http://www.skylands.net/users/tdeer/clcpc/index.htm>

## 105.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Curnow, Timothy J. .... [T.Curnow@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:T.Curnow@latrobe.edu.au)

Groth, Christa ..... [crigro@objetivonet.com.br](mailto:crigro@objetivonet.com.br)

Hinkson, Mercedes Q. .... [mercedes@az.com](mailto:mercedes@az.com)