

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

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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Correspondence should be directed to the Editor

Number 111: April 12, 2000

111.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Mittelamerika

- From Orin Gensler (gensler@eva.mpg.de) 6 Apr 2000:

It may be useful to point out that, in German, the word “Mittelamerika” never refers to the USA or any part thereof, but is the standard (and only) term to denote what Americans call “Central America” (perhaps including the Caribbean as well). At least among Europeans (and conceivably elsewhere?), this German usage may well have added an extra dose of semantic confusion to the English-language terminology.

~Orin Gensler
MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig
(gensler@eva.mpg.de)

Primers wanted

- From Juris Cibuls (juriscibuls@hotmail.com) 7 Apr 2000:

I am a collector of beginning readers or any other materials for teaching how to read. Would it be possible for you to help me find primers in the native languages of America? I would be happy to reciprocate.

~Juris Cibuls
a/k 147, Riga, LV-1050 LATVIA
(juriscibuls@hotmail.com)

111.2 SUMMER FIELD COURSES IN MAYAN LANGUAGES

Summer Course in Yucatec Maya (June 5-July 15)

A Summer Intensive Introductory Course in Yucatec Maya is offered by the Duke-University of North Carolina Program in Latin American Studies.

It has three components:

- I. Classroom instruction (UNC-Chapel Hill). -- An intensive 4-week introduction to modern Yucatec Maya, 6 hours a day, 5 days a week, and evening practice. Conversation, grammar and classical and modern Yucatec texts will be featured.
- II. Hieroglyphics Workshop (Duke U). -- A weekend workshop focusing on the structure and content of the ancient Maya writing system with comparisons to Yucatec grammar and literature.
- III. A two-week field orientation in the Yucatan (July 3-15). -- In the first week, in Merida, students will continue language classes conducted by native Yucatec speakers, with seminars and lectures led by distinguished historians, ecologists and anthropologists. The second week will be spent in Valladolid with daily trips to the Mayan village of Xocen where students will be placed with families in order to share in their daily lives and practice speaking Maya.

Enrollment is limited to 15. Applications are invited from anyone wishing to study beginning Yucatec Maya. The deadline for all applications and final payment of the program fees is May 1. For further information contact: Sharon S. Mujica, Yucatec Maya Summer Institute, Duke-UNC Program in Latin American Studies, 223 E. Franklin St., CB 3205, Chapel Hill, NC 27599 (tel: 919/962-2414; fax: 919/962-0398; e-mail: smujica@email.unc.edu). Information about the course is also available on the web at: <http://www.duke.edu/web/las/Yucatec/index.htm>

Kaqchikel Mayan Course (June 19-July 28)

A Kaqchikel Mayan Intensive Summer course (Oxlajuj Aj) -- jointly sponsored by the Institute of Latin American Studies of the University of Texas at Austin and the Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane -- will be held again this summer, from June 19 to July 28. The course begins and ends in Antigua Guatemala, but about three weeks will be spent in the Kaqchikel communities of Tecpan (or Iximche') and Juk'an Ya' (a suburb of Panajache'l). The course offers a unique opportunity to learn a Mayan language and develop an appreciation for a rich and vital culture in a congenial setting central to indigenous communities. The goals of the course are threefold:

- (a) to aid American scholars enhance their knowledge of a Mayan language and set of communities;
- (b) to supply Kaqchikel scholars with teaching materials in their languages and with "academic" perspectives on and references to their cultural reality; and
- (c) to provide a forum for the interchange of knowledge between Mayan and non-Mayan students of Mayan languages and culture.

Participation is limited to approximately 10 non-Kaqchikels and 12 Kaqchikel Mayas, so that cultural programming can include visits to communities, sites and institutions without undue disruption of each. The course is co-directed by Judith Maxwell (Tulane) and Walter Little (U of Illinois). For further information contact: Judith Maxwell, Dept. of Anthropology, Tulane Univ., New Orleans, LA 70118 (maxwell@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu)

111.3 SPECIAL SECTION OF MAGAZINE FOCUSES ON LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION

- From Dave Harmon (धारmon@georgewright.org) 10 Apr 2000:

The current (Spring 2000) issue of *Whole Earth* magazine (a quarterly publication by the same people who brought out the well-known Whole Earth Catalogues) has a section of several short articles on language endangerment and revitalization. Called "More than Words," the section features these articles:

- Matt Vera, "Yowlumni: The Path to Revitalization" [an excerpt from News from Native California]
- Rosemarie Ostler, "Disappearing Languages" [overview article with quotes from Stephen Wurm, Michael Krauss, Leanne Hinton, Nick Ostler, and others]
- Richard Littlebear, "Just Speak Your Language: Hena'haanehe" [an excerpt from his 1997 speech at the Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium]
- Poetry by Ofelia Zepeda
- Joshua A. Fishman, "English: The Killer Language? Or a Passing Phase?"
- A Whole Earth Forum of Compassionate Linguists [commentary from Kenneth Hale, Elena Benedicto, Douglas Whalen, Don Ringe, Nora England, and Leanne Hinton]
- Darryl Babe Wilson, "Salila-ti Mi-mu d-enn-i-gu: I Wish You Would Come Home" [a story originally published in News from Native California]

There are also several informational sidebars with names, addresses, books, etc. The cover price is US \$6.85 (CDN \$8.50). For availability, write: Whole Earth, 1408 Mission Avenue, San Rafael, California 94901-1471 (telephone: 415/256-2800; e-mail: info@wholeearthmag.com; website: <http://www.wholeearthmag.com>).

~Dave Harmon, Terralingua
Hancock, Michigan
(धारmon@georgewright.org)

111.4 UPCOMING MEETINGS

Accommodation at the Athabaskan Language Conference (June 9-11)

- From Sharon Hargus (sharon@u.washington.edu) 7 Apr 2000:

A block of rooms has been set aside for Athabaskan Language Conference participants at the Hudson Bay Lodge, in Smithers, BC. A limited number of rooms are reserved for June 8, and a larger number for June 9-11. The rooms will be held until May 8, at which time they will be released. To make a reservation, call the Hudson Bay Lodge at 1-800-663-5040 and say that you are with the Athabaskan Language Conference.

The Hudson Bay Lodge is only one of the motels in the Smithers area that attendees may wish to stay at. It is by no means the only option. For a complete list of accommodation options, please see the conference web site: <http://faculty.washington.edu/sharon/ALC2000/>

It would be a good idea to make your accommodation arrangements early, rather than late. Early June is the beginning of the tourist season in the Smithers-Moricitown area.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the Workshop on Athabaskan Prosody or Athabaskan Language Conference, please do not hesitate to write.

The Last (?) Hokan-Penutian Workshop (UC Berkeley, June 17-18)

- From Leanne Hinton (hinton@socrates.berkeley.edu) 6 Apr 2000:
The Workshop on Hokan and Penutian Languages will be held Saturday June 17 through Sunday June 18, 2000 at UC Berkeley, Room 370 Dwinelle Hall.

Please come, one and all, for this may be the last Hokan-Penutian workshop. For the last two years, the workshop was cancelled due to insufficient response; but those of us who have attended and loved this workshop for the past 25 years and more do not want it to go out with a whimper; let's have a celebration!

E-mail titles and abstracts, or just your intentions, to Leanne Hinton at [<hinton@socrates.berkeley.edu>](mailto:hinton@socrates.berkeley.edu), or snail-mail them to her at: Dept. of Linguistics, 1203 Dwinelle Hall, Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-2650. For questions, e-mail her or call her at 510/643-7621.

For the sake of this workshop, "Hokan" and "Penutian" means any language that has ever been proposed to be Hokan or Penutian by any linguist. If you do not believe in the Hokan or Penutian hypotheses, come anyway, and talk about the language you love regardless of its true history. The first session on Saturday morning will consist of presentations by the participants in the "Breath of Life Language Restoration Workshop" for California Indians whose languages have no speakers, which will have taken place the week preceding the Hokan-Penutian Workshop.

35th Salish Conference (Mt. Currie, BC, August 16-18)

- From Henry Davis (henryd@interchange.ubc.ca) 31 Mar 2000:

The 35th International Conference on Salish and Neighboring Languages will be held August 16-18, 2000, at Xit'slacw Community School, Mount Currie, BC, hosted by the Mount Currie Cultural Center and the UBC Department of Linguistics. Papers on all aspects of the study, preservation, and teaching of Salish and neighboring languages are welcome.

Mount Currie is close to the town of Pemberton, about two and a half hour's drive from Vancouver, on Highway 99. BC Rail runs from North Vancouver to Mt. Currie daily, if you prefer to take the train. There is a range of accommodation in the Pemberton area, ranging from campsites to bed and breakfast and hotel facilities. An accommodation list will be mailed when you preregister. A registration fee of \$35 CDN will be charged to cover on-site costs (students \$25, elders no charge).

This year the conference preprints will be printed and distributed by the UBC Working Papers in Linguistics. If you are submitting a paper, contact the editors regarding style -- Sun-Young Oh (sunyoh@interchange.ubc.ca), Kayono Shiobara (kayono@interchange.ubc.ca), or Suzanne Gessner (gessner@interchange.ubc.ca). Papers are due by Monday, June 12. Papers received after this will not be included in the volume.

Papers should be submitted to: The editors, ICSNL 2000, UBCWPL, c/o Dept. of Linguistics, UBC E-270, 1866 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1, Canada.

Orders for a copy of the conference proceeding must be received by June 20. Only a limited number of copies of ICSNL 35 will be available for purchase at the conference.

If you plan to attend the conference, submit a paper, or order preprints, please e-mail Henry Davis (henryd@interchange.ubc.ca) at your earliest convenience.

111.5 POSITIONS OPEN

One year position at Miami (Ohio)

- From James Hamill (hamilljf@muohio.edu) 7 Apr 2000:

Miami University, Department of Sociology, Gerontology, and Anthropology, seeks a visiting linguistic anthropologist for nine-month appointment at the rank of Visiting Assistant Professor or Visiting Instructor beginning in August, 2000. The successful candidate will show evidence of teaching excellence. The candidate must be able to teach a sophomore level survey course in linguistic anthropology that is required of all anthropology majors. Other teaching duties will include an introductory level world cultures course, as well as the possibility of an advanced course in speciality. ABD required in Anthropology; Ph.D. preferred. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Applicants should send a letter, vita, selected evidence of teaching excellence, and names/addresses/phone numbers/e-mail addresses for three (3) references immediately. Please express mail or fax your materials to:

Visiting Anthropologist
Dr. Linda Ade-Ridder, Chair
Dept. of Sociology, Gerontology, and Anthropology
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio 45056
fax: 513/529-8525
e-mail: aderidl@muohio.edu
telephone: 513/529-2628.

Screening will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

111.6 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Grupo de Trabalho em Historiografia da Linguística Brasileira

- From Cristina Altman (altman@netcomp.com.br) 6 Apr 2000:

Readers of the SSILA Bulletin may be interested in the website maintained by our Brazilian History of Linguistics group. The address is: <http://www.fflch.usp.br/dl/Anpoll2/ANPOLL.htm>

~Cristina Altman

Depto. de Linguística, Universidade de São Paulo

111.7 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Miyaoka, Osahito omiyaoka@utc.osaka-gu.ac.jp