

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-- <---

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191.0 SSILA Business

* Submissions for the 2003 Mary R. Haas Award
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SSILA annually presents the Mary R. Haas Award to a junior scholar for an unpublished manuscript (often a dissertation) that makes a significant substantive contribution to our knowledge of the indigenous languages of the Western Hemisphere. To be considered for the Haas Award manuscripts should be of monograph length and reflect substantial empirical research. Typically, these are descriptive and issue-oriented

grammars, topical studies, dictionaries, and text collections. No academic affiliation is required of the author but holders of tenured faculty positions will not normally be eligible. Manuscripts must be in English.

The award does not carry a stipend, but the selected manuscript is eligible for publication in the University of Nebraska Press series, Studies in the Native Languages of the Americas, which is designed specifically for the Mary R. Haas Award. The series is published in association with the American Indian Studies Research Institute at Indiana University, and is edited by Douglas Parks.

The selection committee, under the chairmanship of the Immediate Past President, Leanne Hinton, is now accepting submissions for the 2003 Haas Award. In order to be considered, five full copies of the manuscript must be sent to the committee, accompanied by a short letter indicating the circumstances under which the work was prepared. (If submitting five copies will cause financial hardship, special arrangements can be made.)

Manuscripts should be mailed to:

Leanne Hinton
Dept. of Linguistics
1203 Dwinelle Hall
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-2650

Inquiries can be sent to Prof. Hinton at <hinton@socrates.berkeley.edu>. The deadline for receipt of submissions is August 25, 2003.

The 2003 Haas Award will be presented to the winner at the annual meeting of SSILA, in Boston, January 2004. In addition to Prof. Hinton the members of the selection committee are Aaron Broadwell, Jane Hill, Paul Kroeber, and Douglas Parks (ex officio).

191.1 Correspondence

* Language inquiry

From Martha Foster (mfoster@mtsu.edu) 24 Apr 2003:

I teach American Indian history at Middle Tennessee State University and get various questions and requests from my students. One student is trying very hard to trace words used by her deceased father. It has been suggested that readers of the SSILA Bulletin might be able to help. The words seem to be "pet" names or nicknames for female members of the family. She remembers "woudts-woudle" and "dee-dee-woudts" (I am trying to spell them phonetically). The group is unknown--probably, but not certainly, southern Great Lakes, Ohio, or Pennsylvania. If any Bulletin reader has an idea about the origin of these names, that would be great.

--Marty Foster

Middle Tennessee State University
(mfoster@mtsu.edu)

* Help with recordings?
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From Linda Redmond (lindaredmond@earthlink.net) 6 May 2003:

I'm doing research for a traveling exhibition and am trying to locate recordings of stories or conversations in Native American languages. I've spent a lot of time on the language learning section of the SSILA site, which was very helpful, but what I'm looking for is a little different. Do you have any recommendations of who I might contact?

--Linda Redmond
(lindaredmond@earthlink.net)

191.2 1700-Mile "Spirit Walk" this Summer in Support of Lakota Language

From Tammy Van (dialabob@harborside.com) 29 Apr 2003:

On July 11th, a group of concerned people will take the first steps of a 1700 mile journey they call "Spirit Walk" to help raise donations for The Seven Fires Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the Lakota people preserve their culture and language by bringing elders and children together to teach their native language.

Besides raising money, the goal for the Spirit Walk, according to John LaFountaine, President of the Board of Directors, is to show the world "what the Lakota people have given to this Nation and to humanity and the desperate situation in which their culture, their language and their way of living is at risk right now."

Less than 25% of the Lakota population currently speak or understand their native tongue and fewer than that are fluent. The Oglala Lakota College predicts that within the next generation more than 90% of the population will no longer be able to speak or understand Lakota at all. The Seven Fires Foundation believes that the imminent loss of the Lakota language has important consequences for the Lakota Nation both today and in the future.

With the right support, The Lakota language has a realistic chance for long-term survival due to the available documentation and the fact that there are still people alive who speak the original language. Because most of these people are elders, the time to act is now.

The Spirit Walk will start on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Porcupine, South Dakota and will travel through Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, and Virginia before landing in Washington D.C. in late September, where the organizers will meet with government representatives and request assistance for all programs that preserve Lakota and other indigenous cultures in the United States. The walkers

University in Arcata, California, June 5-7, 2003. Presentations will include:

David Engels (Alaska), "Regaining the Lower Tanana Language"
Ted Fernald (Swarthmore), Ellavina Perkins (Flagstaff) & Carlotta Smith (Texas), "Generalizing in Navajo"
Victor Golla (Humboldt), "Two Morphological Innovations in California-Oregon Athabascan"
Sharon Hargus (Washington), "Compensatory Lengthening in Deg Xinag"
Gary Holton (ANLC), "Tone Marking, Literacy, and Language Revitalization"
Jack Ives (Alberta Provincial Archaeologist), "The Apachean Departure from the Subarctic: Archaeological Evidence"
Jack Ives & Sally Rice (Alberta), "The Apachean Departure from the Subarctic: Linguistic and Human Biological Evidence"
Jim Kari (Dena'inaq' Titaztunt, Alaska), "30 Years of Language Work and Linguistic Prehistory in Athabascan" and "Shem Pete's Alaska"
Aliko Marinakis (Victoria), "Reduction of Syllables in Dogrib"
Joyce McDonough (Rochester), "The State of Phonetic Research in Athabascan Phonetics"
Julia Colleen Miller (Washington), "An Acoustic Analysis of Tone in Doig River and Blueberry River Beaver."
Patrick Moore (UBC), "Kaska Vowel Harmony" and "A Kaska Course at UBC"
Keren Rice (Toronto), [Title TBA]
Sally Rice & Jack Ives, "The Comparative Athapaskan Lexicon Project"
Leslie Saxon (Victoria), "The Nominalizing and Adverbial Suffixes in Proto-Athabascan: Grammar and Meaning"
Martin Thiering & Valerie Wood (Alberta), "Semantic Loss in the Encoding of Spatial Predications: Language Attrition and its Impact on the Encoding of Spatial Expressions in Dene"
Jacob Wegelin (UC Davis), "Quantitative Analysis of Intonation in Endangered Languages"
MaryAnn Willie (Arizona), "At the Crossroads: Linguistics and American Indian Languages" (Keynote address)

The meeting will have sessions on "Research in Athabaskan Phonetics and Phonology," "Morphological Change in Athabascan Languages," and "Athabascan Prehistory." The thematic general session on "Adaptation and Change" will focus on the interface between traditional language use and the codification of Athabaskan languages by linguists and educators, and will feature a keynote address by MaryAnn Willie. All sessions will be scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 6-7. Thursday June 5 is being reserved for tours to local Native American sites of interest.

Last-minute additions to the program will be considered. Travel stipends are available, particularly for students and community-based language workers. For further information contact Victor Golla at <golla@ssila.org> or phone 707-826-4324.

For information on registration, travel, and accommodations visit the Athabascan Conference website at:

<http://www.uaf.edu/anlc/alc/>

* FEL VII (Broome, W Australia, September 22-24)
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From Nicholas Ostler (nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk) 12 May 2003:

The 7th international conference hosted by the Foundation for Endangered Languages, "Maintaining the Links: Language, Identity and the Land," will be held in Broome, Western Australia, September 22-24, 2003. A website for the conference has just been launched at:

<http://www.ogmios.org/conference/index.htm>

The site includes conference and registration information, the program, details of excursions, and the call for papers.

For further details contact Joe Blythe (dubala@myplace.net.au) or (jungurra@yahoo.com.au).

191.5 Websites of Interest

* Yinka Dene site has moved
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From William J Poser (wjposer@unagi.cis.upenn.edu) 8 May 2003:

The Yinka Dene Language Institute web site has moved, and now has its own domain. The main page is now:

<http://www.ydli.org>

and the First Nations Languages of British Columbia page is:

<http://www.ydli.org/fnlgsbc.htm>

--Bill Poser
University of Pennsylvania
(billposer@alum.mit.edu)

* Chilean Indigenous People portal site
^.....^

From Chilean Indigenous Portal (info@beingindigenous.org) 5 May 2003:

We invite you to visit and experience the new Chilean Indigenous People portal:

<http://www.beingindigenous.org>

The main goal is to promote the customs, values, and languages of the indigenous peoples of Chile. The project is supported by the Chilean Indigenous People Department, which is part of the Ministry of Culture of Chile - MINEDUC.

The portal is available in English and Spanish versions. We have included historical and cultural information about the Aymaras, Kollas, Rapa Nuis, Diaguitas, Mapuches, Selknams, etc. There is information about native language dictionaries, digital books, music, videos, and a interesting directory of web links.

* Mi'gmaq Online Talking Dictionary
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From Diane Mitchell (dmmitchell@rogers.com) 21 Apr 2003:

I am the project leader for the Mi'gmaq Online Talking Dictionary. Readers of the SSILA Bulletin are invited to visit our site:

<http://mikmaqonline.org>

The site has been in existence for over 5 years. We use Shoebox for our data and a custom software application to dynamically generate web pages from the database. We are more than half way to building a 6,000 word talking dictionary in Mi'gmaq.

--Diane Mitchell
Mi'gmaq Online
(dmmitchell@rogers.com)

* Smithsonian library URL changed
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From James Haug (haugj@si.edu) 24 Apr 2003:

This is to inform you of a change in a URL for the Smithsonian Libraries. The web page for the Smithsonian's Anthropology library (the John Wesley Powell Library of Anthropology) is now to be found at:

<http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/anth-nl.htm>

Note that a hyphen separates "anth" from "nl."

--James D. Haug
John Wesley Powell Library of Anthropology
(haugj@si.edu)

191.6 Classes and Workshops

* U of Washington Native American languages archives workshop
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From Alice Taff (rnat@uaf.edu) 9 May 2003:

"Breath of Life", the Pacific Northwest native languages archives workshop, will be held at the University of Washington, September 8-12, 2003.

This workshop is designed to assist people working in indigenous language revitalization efforts in using the University of Washington language archives. Mornings (8:30-12:00) will be devoted to learning the basics of linguistics. In the afternoons (1:00-4:00) participants, with assistance from linguists, will explore the material on their languages that is stored in University of Washington archives.

Those interested in participating should preregister by June 1 (we need to know which languages and how many people to prepare for). The workshop will be closed after 30 registrants.

Estimated UW housing expenses for the week are \$246 per person double occupancy and \$323 single. This includes 5 nights lodging, 5 breakfasts, and 4 dinners.

For more information or to preregister, e-mail Dr. Alice Taff at <taff@u.washington.edu>, or write her at: Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Washington, Box 354340, Seattle, WA 98195-4340. Information is also available at the workshop website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/lingweb/events/bol.html>

* Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian classes

From Roy Iutzi-mitchell (roy.iutzimitchell@sealaska.com) 6 May 2003:

Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) is pleased to announce that spaces are still available in some of our Alaska Native language courses this summer, 2003. Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian languages are taught using communicative teaching methods at two-week courses in Ketchikan and Juneau, Alaska.

In Ketchikan, Alaska, 19-30 May 2003, courses are available in Haida Communication for Beginners, Haida Communication for Beginners II, Tsimshian Communication for Beginners, Tsimshian Communication for Beginners II, and teacher training in Designing Communicative Lessons for Alaska Native Languages.

In Juneau, Alaska, 4-15 August 2003, courses are available in Tlingit Communication for Beginners, Tlingit Communication for Beginners II, Tlingit Public Speaking for Dormant Speakers, Tsimshian Communication for Beginners, training in Teaching Language Immersion Curriculum, and Master-Apprentice Language Team Training.

Additionally, the federal Administration for Native Americans (ANA) has awarded a grant to SHI for Tlingit immersion retreats, 2003-2005. SHI will hold the 10-day camps 2-3 June 2003 in Sitka and 8-19 September 2003 in Glacier Bay National Park. Our goal is to increase Tlingit fluency and to mentor aspiring Tlingit teachers as well as to train individuals in how to replicate the immersion retreat model in their home villages. Generally, participants will be expected to have at least Low Intermediate conversational ability with Tlingit before the retreats. The retreats allow for complete immersion in language, culture and society, which we believe to be the most effective way of learning to speak an indigenous language.

Sealaska Heritage Institute is a private, non-profit, Native organization whose mission is to perpetuate and enhance the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian cultures and languages. For more information, e-mail Roy Iutzi-Mitchell, SHI Sociolinguist (roy.iutzimitchell@sealaska.com) or look at our website:

<http://www.sealaskaheritage.org/programs.htm>

--Roy Iutzi-Mitchell
Sealaska Heritage Institute, Juneau, Alaska
907.586.9272

191.7 E-Mail Address Updates

The following additions or changes have been made to the SSILA mailing list since the last Bulletin:

Epps, Patience epps@eva.mpg.de
Fischer, Rafael r.w.fischer@uva.nl
Galvis, Renee galvis@att.net
Maloney, Alexandra A. [Kim] afaam@uaa.alaska.edu
Ospina Bozzi, Anamaria aospinab@yahoo.es
Palancar, Enrique palancar@uaq.mx
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