

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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246.0 SSILA Business

* 2006 elections

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The 2006 Nominations Committee has submitted the following slate of candidates for the SSILA offices to be filled in the 2006 elections:

Vice President (2007) and President-Elect for 2008: Donna B. Gerdt  
Executive Committee member (2007-09): Verónica Vásquez Soto  
Secretary-Treasurer (2007): Victor Golla  
Nominations Committee member (2007-09): John McLaughlin, Yolanda Lastra.

A ballot will be enclosed with the October issue of the SSILA Newsletter, which will be mailed by November 10. To be counted it must be received at the SSILA mailbox by Saturday, January 30.

\* Time and place of the Annual Business Meeting

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The Annual Business Meeting of SSILA will be held at the Anaheim Hilton on Saturday, January 6, 2007, from 12:15 to 1:45 pm. Members who wish to place items on the agenda should contact the Secretary-Treasurer (golla@ssila.org) by December 15.

246.1 Correspondence

* In opposition to adopting Ethnologue's language codes for ISO 639-3

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From Pattie Epps ([pepps@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:pepps@mail.utexas.edu)) 24 Oct 2006:

We, the undersigned researchers at the University of Texas at Austin, working with indigenous languages of Latin America, want to express our concern regarding the points that were raised by Dr. Hein van der Voort in SSILA Bulletin #242 (August 22, 2006) and show our support for the general position taken by Dr. van der Voort.

Dr. van der Voort describes the recent decision to adopt the Ethnologue's language codes as the reference standard for the languages of the world (also called ISO 639-3), and to place the SIL, the religious organization that sponsors the Ethnologue, in charge of setting up and maintaining the standard. This decision was not discussed with the world community of linguists. He questions the validity of this decision on ethical grounds (should a religious organization be in charge of such an effort?) and accuracy (while extensive, Ethnologue is also replete with errors). He proposes that efforts like UNESCO's Redbook of the Endangered Languages of the World be considered as an alternative to the SIL's Ethnologue.

Under the current arrangement, the only way scholars can contribute to improvements in the ISO 639-3 is by providing information to the SIL. This raises a central question for Dr. van der Voort: "Should we as scientists collaborate so directly with a proselytizing organization, lending it legitimacy and potentially contributing to its ultimate goal -- that of replacing indigenous cultures with a specific Western one?" As an ethical matter, we feel strongly that we should not. It is important to us that the ISO 639-3 standard and a possible permanent ISO 639-3 commission be clearly separated from the Ethnologue and the SIL in general, making it possible for any linguist to contribute to the ISO standard without contributing, directly or indirectly, to the religious goals of the SIL.

Therefore, we request that the current state of affairs with respect to the ISO 639-3 be reviewed, and that another, purely academic institution (possibly a committee or commission to be created) be responsible for maintaining and revising the ISO list of languages and their codes. The academic commission of SSILA assigned to evaluate proposals for changes to the survey of South America may serve as an example for other regions, and some coordination of regional commissions could be established in order to assure similar criteria and standards. Such a structure would allow all scientists to participate freely, and while it would certainly be a time-consuming project, the final product

will be also a more reliable and sensible one.

With this motion, we join with linguists and others working in Latin America and other parts of the world, and invite others who share this view to make this position clear in their local academic associations and to start a worldwide discussion about a possible different solution for the ISO 639-3.

Sincerely,

|                 |                     |                    |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Patience Epps   | B'alam Mateo-Toledo | Taryne Hallett     |
| Nora England    | Hilaria Cruz        | Brianna Rauschuber |
| Tony Woodbury   | Kayla Price         |                    |
| Megan Crowhurst | Stephanie Villard   |                    |

\* Call for essays on Native American translation  
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From Brian Swann (swann@cooper.edu) 5 Oct 2006:

I have been asked by the University of Nebraska Press to put together a collection of essays on the translation of Native American literatures.

Topics could include not only linguistic and aesthetic aspects, but also, for example, the actual process itself, whether archival or in the field, as well as the ethical or political dimensions of Native American translation.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please send me a brief proposal (a page will suffice) as soon as possible, and no later than the end of 2006. If you'd like to talk, please give me a call at (212)-353-4279. I look forward to hearing from you.

--Brian Swann
H&SS, Cooper Union
Cooper Square, New York, NY 10003-7120
swann@cooper.edu

* ELF establishes Bill Bright Memorial Award
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From Nick Emlen ([emlen@haskins.yale.edu](mailto:emlen@haskins.yale.edu)) 17 Oct 2006:

We are saddened by the passing of Bill Bright, a long-time colleague and a prolific scholar. Bill's family has requested that memorial contributions be made to the Endangered Language Fund. We have created a fund that will enable the creation of the Bill Bright Award. This will help memorialize his many years of contributions to linguistics and his service to the profession as editor of *Language* (1966-87), *Language in Society* (1992-99), and the first edition of the *International Encyclopedia of Linguistics*, and as founding editor of *Written Language and Literacy* (1998-2003). From among the annual applications to the Endangered Language Fund's grant program, one successful project from those dealing with languages in the Americas or in South Asia will be selected. This will be the project that best combines Bill's areal interests -- North and Central America, South Asia -- with his topic interests:



From Suzanne Kemmer ([kemmer@rice.edu](mailto:kemmer@rice.edu)) 17 Oct 2006:

The Linguistics Department at Rice wants to call your attention to the one-year faculty fellowships described below, for faculty at least three years beyond receipt of Ph.D. Recipients will be Humanities Center fellows, but will select a host department to interact with. The Humanities Center is in the same building as the Linguistics Department, just upstairs.

These are NEH fellowships, and can be billed as such on your CV. If you have a chance to spend a year somewhere else besides your own university, Rice is a great environment to do so.

We have a doctoral program in Linguistics, a great library collection and computer facilities, an Electronic Texts center with lots of linguistic corpora, and a beautiful campus with more trees than people. In addition to 7 full-time faculty and other teaching faculty, and 22 Linguistics Ph.D. students, we will also have 2 postdocs in Linguistics next year. There are fewer than 5,000 students at Rice and a faculty-student ratio of about 9 to 1.

Our department regularly runs conferences and hosts a weekly colloquium series with many well-known visitors. In Spring 2007 the department will host one of our biennial Symposia on Language, this one organized by Matt Shibatani. See <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~ling> for more info on our department.

If you are interested in interacting outside the classroom with our first-rate undergraduates, we can pursue possibilities for housing in faculty accommodation in the residential colleges, which includes free room and board.

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#### Rice Humanities Research Center External Faculty Fellowships

Application Deadline: December 18, 2006

Rice University's Humanities Research Center will award up to four external faculty fellowships during the academic year 2007-2008. Fellows will be in residence at the Center for one semester, give a series of three lectures OR teach one course, and participate in the Center's intellectual life. Both junior and senior faculty with appointments at universities other than Rice are eligible but must be at least three years beyond receipt of the PhD by the beginning of their fellowship term. Fellows are awarded a stipend ranging from 40K to 75K, depending on rank, and a moving allowance.

Application information is available at <http://hrc.rice.edu>

These fellowships are generously funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Lynette S. Autrey Endowment.

\* CELCNA 07 (Salt Lake City, April 13-15)

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From Nancy Valeria Garcia (nancy.garcia@utah.edu) 27 Oct 2006:

The 3rd annual Conference on Endangered Languages and Cultures of Native America (CELCNA) will be held on April 13-15, 2007, at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah. The co-sponsors of CELCNA are the Smithsonian Institution (Department of Anthropology of the National Museum of Natural History) and CAIL (Center for American Indian Languages, University of Utah)

The keynote speakers will be Marianne Mithun (UCSB) and Christine Sims (Acoma Pueblo/University of New Mexico)

Papers are invited on any aspect of endangered Native American languages, in particular on documentation or revitalization. Native American participants are especially invited. Papers are 20 minutes each in length, with an additional 10 minutes for discussion. Abstracts for posters are also invited -- past poster sessions have contributed significantly to the conference's success.

Abstracts should be no more than 500 words long (and can be just a paragraph or two). They should include paper title, name (or names) of author/authors, author's/authors' affiliation. Abstracts should be submitted by e-mail, in Microsoft Word document, RTF, or PDF. Include contact details: author's name, e-mail address for the period of time from January to April 2006, and telephone. Only one abstract per person (except where a paper has multiple authors). E-mail abstracts to: Nancy García (nancy.garcia@utah.edu).

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is January 16, 2007. The Program Committee will announce results by January 30th.

There will be a registration of \$25 (students \$15) to cover the cost of conference rooms and refreshments.

Accommodations will be available in the University Guest House, a two minute walk from the meeting venue (Heritage Center) and CAIL. To book accommodations, contact the Guest House directly (mention CELCNA):

University Guest House University of Utah
110 South Fort Douglas Blvd.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113-5036
Telephone: 1-888-416-4075 (or 801-587-1000)
Fax: 801-587-1001
Website: <http://www.guesthouse.utah.edu>

(Please make reservations early; rooms will be held for the conference only until early March.)

For additional information contact Nancy García (nancy.garcia@utah.edu), for particular questions Lyle Campbell (lyle.campbell@linguistics.utah.edu). If you need information not easily arranged via e-mail, please telephone 801-587-0720 or 801-581-3441 during business hours, or Fax 801-585-7351.

* 18th Int'l Conference on Historical Linguistics (Montréal, August 6-11)
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From J C Smith ([johncharles.smith@st-catherines.oxford.ac.uk](mailto:johncharles.smith@st-catherines.oxford.ac.uk)) 23 Oct 2006:

The 18th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL 2007) will be held August 6 to 11, 2007 at the Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal, Canada.

The deadline for submission of abstracts for papers (20 min. + 10 min. for discussion) is February 1, 2007, and decisions will be e-mailed to authors by March 15. Those who need an earlier decision on an abstract should contact the conference organizers (see below). Abstracts (no more than 250 words) should be submitted on our website:

<http://www.ichl2007.uqam.ca/>

ICHL 2007 invites papers on any aspect of historical linguistics with special emphasis on the following topics:

- Native American historical linguistics
- Linguistic theory and language change
- Socio-historical linguistics (contact and culture)
- Language acquisition and language change
- Corpora and computational tools
- African historical linguistics
- Diachronic semantics and pragmatics
- Language change in real time
- Evolutionary phonology
- Origins of Germanic
- Nouvelle-France: le français de la colonisation
- Historical grammar and Spanish dialectology.

For additional details (including on travel, lodging and registration), please visit our website, or contact:

ICHL Organizing Committee  
Département de linguistique et de didactique des langues  
Université du Québec à Montréal  
C.P. 8888, succursale Centre-Ville  
Montreal, QC H3C 3P8  
E-mail: [ICHL2007@uqam.ca](mailto:ICHL2007@uqam.ca)

This conference is supported by the following projects and institutions: Major Collaborative Research Initiatives Modéliser le changement: les voies du français, Université d'Ottawa. Institut des sciences cognitives, Université du Québec à Montréal. Département de linguistique et de didactique des langues, Université du Québec à Montréal.

--John Charles Smith  
Secretary, International Society for Historical Linguistics  
St Catherine's College, Oxford, OX1 3UJ, UK

\* Rare Lakota dictionary turns up on PBS antiques program  
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In the Tampa, Florida, "Antiques Roadshow" that was rebroadcast on October 23 (it was filmed during the summer of 2005 and first broadcast last January), appraiser Thomas Lecky was handed a book in near-perfect condition called "Lahcotah: Dictionary of the Sioux Language." The book, bound with staples, was written in December 1866 by army officers and Indian guides at Fort Laramie, an important stop on the Oregon Trail.

"This is the first book printed in Wyoming," Thomas, a rare manuscript specialist at Christie's in New York, told the owner, who is the great-great-nephew of William Sylvanus Starring, one of the book's authors....Thomas put the dictionary's value between sixty and eighty thousand dollars.

-- For the complete story, visit the Antiques Roadshow website:

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/roadshow/series/highlights/2006/tampa/fts_hour2_2.html

246.5 E-Mail Address Updates

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

Barrie, Michael mbarry@interchange.ubc.ca
Corbett, Terry carbath@yahoo.com
Granadillo, Tania granadt@muohio.edu
Gregory, George Ann holabitubbe@gmail.com
Harnisch, Molly mollyharnisch@yahoo.com
Tamburro, Paul ptamburro@tru.ca
Turner, Kathy kstv@berkeley.edu

When your e-mail address changes, please notify us (golla@ssila.org).

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

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The SSILA Bulletin is distributed electronically to all members of SSILA. Non-members may subscribe free of charge by sending their e-mail address

to the editor (golla@ssila.org).

SSILA also publishes a quarterly hard-copy Newsletter that contains book reviews, notices of journal articles and recent dissertations, and other news and commentary. The Newsletter and other publications of the Society are distributed only to members or to institutional subscribers.

SSILA welcomes applications for membership from anyone interested in the scholarly study of the languages of the native peoples of North, Central, and South America. Dues for 2006 are \$16 (US) or \$20 (Canadian) and may be paid in advance for 2007 and 2008 at the 2006 rate. Checks or money orders should be made payable to "SSILA" and sent to: SSILA, P.O. Box 555, Arcata, CA 95518. For further information, visit the SSILA website (<http://www.ssila.org>).
