

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

*SSILA BULLETIN*

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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## 93.0 SSILA BUSINESS

### **Reminder: abstracts for Winter meeting due next week**

Abstracts for this winter's Annual Meeting of SSILA (held jointly with the LSA in Chicago, Illinois, January 6-9, 2000) should reach SSILA (P.O. Box 555, Arcata, CA 95518) no later than Friday, September 3. E-mail submissions will be accepted ([gollav@humboldt.edu](mailto:gollav@humboldt.edu))

### **Website temporarily crippled**

As many of you may have noted in recent days, although the SSILA website is accessible the software that drives the search engines for the Directory, Book Announcements, Journal Contents, and Dissertation Abstracts is not working. Our webmaster, Autumn Bouck ([autumn@ucdavis.edu](mailto:autumn@ucdavis.edu)) explains that some changes have been made to the server at UC-Davis, so that it now does not recognize the programming language that we had set up to view the databases. She is doing research on new programming languages, and hopes to have the site fully operating again soon. Meanwhile, our apologies.

### **Nominating committee welcomes suggestions**

The SSILA Nominating Committee welcomes suggestions from members for nominees to the offices to be filled in the 1999 elections. These are (a) Vice-President/President-Elect (2000-02), (b) Member-at-large of the Executive Committee (3-year term), and (c) Member of the Nominating Committee (3-year term). Suggestions may be sent to any or all members of the Committee: Laurel Watkins ([lwatkins@cc.colorado.edu](mailto:lwatkins@cc.colorado.edu)), Pat Shaw ([shawpa@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:shawpa@interchange.ubc.ca)), and John Nichols ([jnichol@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:jnichol@cc.umanitoba.ca)).

## 93.1 CORRESPONDENCE

### Ideas for freshman seminar

- From Michael Darnell ([darnell@csd.uwm.edu](mailto:darnell@csd.uwm.edu)) 20 Aug 1999:

In the Spring, I'll be teaching a 'freshman seminar' entitled "Native American Languages in the U.S." These seminars have a two-fold purpose at our institution, engaging new students in a field of study and introducing them to research, especially Web pages, etc. Given the students' lack of prior experience (there is never a prerequisite for any of these courses) and the short time-frame, there is no way to actually have a seminar on this subject. My plan so far is to introduce them to the diversity of Native American languages, some of the history of Native peoples, and issues surrounding language death and revival programs. I would appreciate any ideas that folks have about additional content, remembering that this course is somewhat of a popularization of the subject, and would especially appreciate information about Web sites and other on-line sources of information. If anyone would be interested in seeing the end product, please let me know. Thanks.

~Mike Darnell  
Dept. of English, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
([darnell@uwm.edu](mailto:darnell@uwm.edu))

### Mahala 'woman'?

- From Emanuel Drechsel ([drechsel@hawaii.edu](mailto:drechsel@hawaii.edu)) 24 Aug 1999:

I recently received a request to identify the source of an apparent Native American name, "Mahala," with the meaning of 'woman.' The gentleman who approached me in this matter believes that "Mahala," a first name combined with the surname of "Fugate" for the sister of an ancestor of his, was derived from some Native American language east of the Mississippi, specifically in Breathitt County, eastern Kentucky. He had already followed a lead that it might be Cherokee, only to find no evidence in support of this suggestion. I have gone through my own Cherokee and other Iroquoian vocabularies, Muskogean dictionaries, several Algonquian and a few eastern Siouan lexica, plus a number of ethnographic sources, with no more success. If anyone can give me a lead or—even better—identify the source of "Mahala," I would appreciate hearing from you.

~Emanuel Drechsel  
Liberal Studies Program, Univ. of Hawai'i at Manoa  
([drechsel@hawaii.edu](mailto:drechsel@hawaii.edu))  
808/956-3294

## 93.2 POSITIONS OPEN

### **Visiting Professorship at the U of Sonora, Mexico**

- From Zarina Estrada F. ([zarina@fisica.uson.mx](mailto:zarina@fisica.uson.mx)) 14 Aug 1999:

The Universidad de Sonora, in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, invites applications for a visiting professor appointment in our new M.A. program on Linguistics with special focus on Indigenous Languages. Duties include (a) teaching graduate or undergraduate courses, (b) direction of theses, and (c) original research and publication. Candidates must demonstrate potential for excellence and productivity and a well defined interest in the study of the indigenous languages of Latin America. Duties begin in January 2000. Ph.D. in Linguistics is required. Interested persons should send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, a list of courses they are prepared to teach, sample published or other written work, and three letters of recommendation to: Maestria en Linguística, Division of Humanidades y Bellas Artes, Universidad de Sonora, Apdo. Postal 793, Hermosillo, 83000, Sonora, Mexico. Deadline for application materials is November 29, 1999. Further information can be obtained by e-mail from Zarina Estrada F. ([zarina@fisica.uson.mx](mailto:zarina@fisica.uson.mx)).

### **Chair of Linguistics at the U of Alberta, Canada**

- From Sally Rice ([sally.rice@ualberta.ca](mailto:sally.rice@ualberta.ca)) 22 Aug 1999:

Applications and nominations are invited for the position of Chair of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Alberta. This tenured appointment will be made at the rank of senior Associate or full Professor, effective July 1, 2000. The floor of the salary scale for the rank of Professor for the 1999/2000 academic year is \$65,044.

Candidates should have a distinguished record of scholarship and professional achievement in both experimental and theoretical linguistics, and a research specialization compatible with the continuing research strengths of the department.

The Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta is engaged in an extensive process of renewal, and is committed to ensuring that the substantial number of hirings projected over the next several years will ensure for the future the lively and productive intellectual environment on which the Faculty prides itself.

The Department of Linguistics has a strong commitment to empirical and experimental approaches to linguistic research. Department members are engaged in ongoing research projects, many grant-funded, in experimental phonetics, language acquisition, discourse processing, and the study of the phonological, morphological, and semantic aspects of the mental lexicon. A Chair is sought who has a philosophical commitment to experimental research in the service of theory, and who will act as a bridge builder with allied fields in the cognitive science domain.

The Department offers both graduate (PhD and MSc) and undergraduate degrees, and values its reputation for excellence in teaching and graduate training. It provides an environment of leading-edge research and innovative teaching/learning at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The University of Alberta is committed to the principle of equity in employment. As an employer we welcome diversity in the workplace and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities.

Please send nominations or applications (including CVs and the names of three referees) by 1 November 1999 to: Kenneth Norrie, Dean of Arts, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E5, Canada.

## 93.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **31st Algonquian Conference (West Lafayette, Indiana, Oct. 28-31)**

The organizers of the 31st Algonquian Conference, to be held in West Lafayette, Indiana, Oct. 28-31, have distributed a second call for papers. Anyone wishing to deliver a paper on Algonquian-speaking native peoples -- including but not limited to the subjects of language, history, art, archaeology, ethnography, and anthropology -- is invited to submit a paper title and abstract. Speakers will be allotted 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion. Abstracts (less than one page) should be sent to: Nicholas L. Clark, Executive Director, The Museums at Prophetstown, 22 N. Second St., Lafayette, IN 47901 ([nlclark@prophetstown.org](mailto:nlclark@prophetstown.org); fax: 765/423-4495).

In addition to a title and abstract, presenters should indicate what A/V equipment they need (slide projector, VCR/monitor, overhead, etc.). The deadline for submitting abstracts is September 30.

The 1999 Conference is being hosted by the 23 tribes that belong to the Prophetstown Council for Preservation of Great Lakes Native American Culture. Visits to the museums at Prophetstown will be a featured part of the conference, as will evening cultural events. The registration fee will be \$40 (\$30 for students), with evening banquets extra. The Conference headquarters will be the University Inn and Conference Center in West Lafayette (home of Purdue University). A block of rooms has been reserved at special Conference rates (\$64 standard double, \$69 king-sized bed, \$235 suite). For reservations call 1-800-777-9808. For other information contact Nicholas Clark at the address above.

## 93.4 NEWS FROM HAWAII

- From Bill Wilson ([pilaw@leoki.uhh.hawaii.edu](mailto:pilaw@leoki.uhh.hawaii.edu)) 20 August 1999:

Aloha!

Two significant events in school-based language revitalization occurred this summer in Hilo, Hawai'i— (1) the graduation of the first seniors from total Hawaiian immersion, and (2) the hosting of the World Indigenous People's Conference on Education (WIPCE.)

(1) Eleven seniors in all graduated, 6 from Anuenue School on O'ahu and 5 from Nawahiokalani'opu'u School in Hilo, the laboratory school of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. In May the College and its consortium partner the Native Hawaiian educational organization 'Aha Punana Leo held a special graduation ceremony and lu'au at Nawahiokalani'opu'u attended by the six students from O'ahu and over 500 guests from as far away as Canada and New Zealand. The ceremony and a week-long series of events were conducted entirely in Hawaiian and based on Hawaiian ceremonial practices. Among these events were a march by students and parents documenting the history of contemporary Hawaiian-medium education from an initially illegal preschool to a boycott kindergarten, a state elementary school, a boycott intermediate school, and finally to the present laboratory school run as a public/private partnership.

The five seniors at Nawahiokalani'opu'u, like all students there, follow a college preparatory curriculum conducted entirely in Hawaiian. English is taught as a second language course through Hawaiian. Most high school credits are completed by the end of the junior year and the school provides students the opportunity to participate in college courses their senior year. The five seniors enrolled in no less than 10 credits each at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo in subjects ranging from Japanese and Political Science to Agriculture and Mathematics. Their college grade point averages ranged from 2.9 to 3.5 and all passed the qualifying examination for English 100, an examination often difficult for Native Hawaiian students.

The Hawai'i public school system was once entirely Hawaiian-medium and included the first high school program west of the Rocky Mountains. In 1896, all Hawaiian-medium public and private schools were forceably closed as part of the annexation of Hawai'i. Use of Hawaiian as the medium of education faced legal barriers in Hawai'i until 1986 when parents who had started the Punana Leo preschools succeeded in changing the legislation against their schools. When the movement began in 1983, almost all Native Hawaiian children spoke English as their main language. There were only 35 children under 18 who were fluent in Hawaiian. In the 1998-99 school year there were 1,857 children enrolled from pre-school through grade 12 in Hawaiian-medium schools, with about 100 first language speakers.

(2) In August, some 2,500 WIPCE delegates arrived in Hilo. The strand with the largest number of presentations focused on language education issues. There were large delegations from New Zealand, Canada, and Australia, as well as the US mainland. A number of SSILA members made presentations, including Lucille Watahomagie (Hualapai), Ofelia Zepeda (Tohono O'odham), and Edna McLean (Inupiaq.) Languages with well-developed programs in indigenous-medium schools represented were Hawaiian, Maori, Saami, and Mohawk. Emergent immersion programs

represented included Blackfeet, Cree, Washoe, Central Yup'ik, and Gwich'in, as well as many other groups interested in starting. Many presenters used quite a bit of their indigenous languages during presentations, some following a College of Hawaiian Language practice of team presentations with partners providing simultaneous translation for each other. Simultaneous translation was facilitated in one of the workshop venues with professional equipment. Besides workshops, participants had two excursion days where they could choose from approximately fifty different cultural/educational sites including the Punana Leo preschools, awahiokalani'opu'u Laboratory School, and the curriculum/technology development center of the 'Aha Punana Leo and College. The next WIPCE conference is expected to take place three years from now in Canada.

### 93.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Alaska Nat Lg Center ..... [fyanlp@uaf.edu](mailto:fyanlp@uaf.edu)  
Chavez-Cappellini, Yolanda..... [ychavcap@hotmail.com](mailto:yhavcap@hotmail.com)  
Croft, William ..... [croft@eva.mpg.de](mailto:croft@eva.mpg.de) [to 9/1/00]  
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