6.1 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN BRAZIL

The Linguistics Division of the Museu Goeldi in Brazil is offering a fellowship for an Associated Researcher. This type of fellowship has a stipend (except from Brazilian or US taxes) from US$1,220 to US$2,930, dependent on qualifications. The fellowship is for a minimum of two years and can be renewed. The Museu Goeldi is a Brazilian federal research center located on the Amazon region. It is located in Belem, a city with about one million inhabitants near the mouth of the Amazon River. The linguistics division has modern linguistics computer, video and audio equipment, e-mail, a growing library, excellent students, and a wealth of research opportunities. Candidates for the fellowship must have a Ph.D., possess a strong general knowledge of linguistics, and have the intellectual and fieldwork skills necessary to analyze and describe Amazonian languages. Duties include (1) helping develop the Linguistics program through supervision of students, teaching, administration, and audio-video documentation, and (2) original research. It is approved for a proposed large scale project to develop the study of Amazonian languages, the fellowship holder would participate in its implementation. Prior experience in Brazil is not necessary, but candidates must be able to learn Portuguese and adapt to Brazil, as well as to contribute to the development of scientific linguistics in Brazil and to practical assistance for indigenous communities. Inquiries should be addressed to: Museu Goeldi-DECA, Rua de Belém, 9, 65050-900, Belem, Para, BRAZIL (fax: 55-91-249-0466; e-mail: MOORESACI.SECOM.UFPA.BR - Keep trying).

6.2 AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGES AT 1995 LINGUISTIC INSTITUTE

The 58th Linguistic Institute, sponsored by the LSA and co-sponsored by Gallaudet University, will be held at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, from June 26 to August 4, 1995. The focus of the 1995 LI will be cross-linguistic perspectives on grammar, discourse, acquisition, and processing, with special emphasis on Southwestern languages and signed languages.

The following courses on American Indian linguistics have been scheduled:
--Comparative Kiowa-Tanoan (Laurel Watkins, Colorado College)
--Comparative Phonology of Athapaskan (Jeff Leer, U of Alaska)
--Dine Language (MaryAnn Willis, U of Arizona)
--Structure of Athapaskan (Keren Rice, U of Toronto)
--Issues of Hopi Linguistics in Theoretical and Typological Perspective (Kenneth Hale, MIT, and LaVerne Jeanne, U of Nevada-Reno)

For further information on institute offerings, especially the June 1994 issues of Linguistic Institute News, or contact: Linguistic Institute, Dept. of Linguistics, Humanities Bldg., 826, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-0003; phone: 505-277-5095; fax: 505-277-8925; catalog, available in the fall of 1994, will be mailed upon request. Information may also be requested by e-mail: LingInst@carina.unm.edu.

In addition, a number of American Indian language groups will be meeting during the institute. The tentative list includes:
--June 26-27 (Monday and Tuesday), Kiowa-Tanoan-Keresan Conference Contact: Laurel J. Watkins (lwatkins@cc.colorado.edu)
--June 28-29 (Wednesday and Thursday), Athabaskan Languages Conference Contact: Sally Midgette (smidgett@carina.unm.edu)
--June 30-July 2 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), Symposium on Language Loss and Policy Contact: Garland Bills (gbills@boots.unm.edu)
--July 3-4 (Monday and Tuesday) Friends of Uto-Aztecan Contact: Jane H. Hill (jhill@anthro.arizona.edu)

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

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Number 6: June 20, 1994
6.3 ANY SUGGESTIONS?

Monica Macaulay writes:

Next fall I'm going to be teaching a course called "Survey of North American Indian Languages." Since I've never taught this before, I'd be very interested in any ideas and/or suggestions anybody might have. This could include suggestions for readings, project and paper topics, syllabi, etc.

The class is going to include students from all sorts of backgrounds (from undergraduates with no linguistics training to grad students in linguistics), so I'm looking for suggestions at all levels.

I'll be happy to send a summary of what I get to anyone who wants it. (Or I could post it in a future bulletin.)

Monica Macaulay (macaulay@agee.cc.purdue.edu)
Department of English, Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1396

6.4 CALL FOR PAPERS FOR LSA SESSION ON FIELD REPORTS/ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

A session on Field Reports/Endangered Languages has been proposed for an organized session for the January 1996 LSA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The organizers (Tony Woodbury & Ken Hale) are circulating the following announcement:

The documentation of languages and language use is a central mission of the discipline, and higher order generalizations about human linguistic competence, communicative competence, and linguistic prehistory all depend on it. The current state of the art is an urgent mission because overall linguistic diversity is declining dramatically. Michael Krauss (in Language 68:4-10, 1993) estimates that the 6000 or so languages spoken now may be reduced to 200 or so in as few as a hundred years. Yet, while the regular LSA session categories accommodate certain results of field documentation, they still fail to support the enterprise itself, or to provide a forum for its most immediate results and products. This failure tends to diminish awareness of field work and document as an ongoing enterprise within the discipline at a time of unprecedented urgency. Worse, it places a heavy or even prohibitive burden on documenting linguists who have made a commitment to the documentation and revitalization of endangered languages, but who, in addition, must tailor their work to existing session categories if they want to present it at all.

Therefore, the Committee on Endangered Languages is soliciting abstracts for a proposed organized session at the January, 1996 LSA Meeting titled Field reports/Endangered Languages. The organizers are Ken Hale (MIT) and Tony Woodbury (Texas, Austin). If this session is successful, a similar one will be proposed for the 1996 LSA Meeting, with the eventual goal of establishing Field reports/Endangered Languages as a self-sustaining regular session category at future Meetings.

Abstracts are invited on results of recent field work, especially (but not necessarily) languages that are endangered, including:

- Squibs presenting fact patterns that are interesting in some general (e.g., theoretical or historical) sense, or new for a given language area (e.g., a verb paradigm not noted in earlier descriptions, or tone in a region where tone languages are not expected).
- Descriptions of new phenomena (cf. such past field 'discoveries' as clicks, vowel harmony, echo words, ergativity, whistled speech, ritual registers, and convergence).
- Presentations of new findings on issues of language endangerment (e.g., the distribution and speaker strength of languages or dialects in a given area, language preservation or revitalization efforts, attitudes toward language death, or the sociolinguistics of endangered language communities).
- Field methodology (e.g., field techniques, dictionary making, natural text collection/representation, speaker census and survey methods, linguist-community cooperation).
- General issues of concern for field workers (e.g., the intellectual roles of linguist and consultant, the responsibility of linguists to the communities in which they work, or the role of field work in linguistic theory).

As in regular LSA Meeting sessions, papers will be 15 minutes long, with five minutes for discussion. There are eight slots. Please submit abstracts by August 30, co: Tony Woodbury; Dept. of Linguistics; Calhoun Hall 2101; University of Texas; Austin, TX 78712-1197; email aw@wsmx.cc.utexas.edu. Submitters must be LSA members. Each submission should conform to the guidelines for abstracts given in this issue of the LSA Bulletin and should consist of a completed Abstract Submittal Form (p. 6), a short abstract of no more than 300 words, a long abstract as specified. Please also include a phone number or email address where you can be reached on the meeting date. In that way, you can be notified about your abstract in time for the September 10 deadline for regular LSA abstracts.

Abstracts will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the Committee on Endangered Languages. To the extent possible, the eight abstracts will be chosen so as to represent languages of most or all major world
regions, with an emphasis on languages that are endangered; to
demonstrate the range of topics possible for LSA Field Reports; to
emphasize the work of younger, less established members of the
profession, including especially graduate students; and to showcase
field results of importance and interest to linguists generally.
An electronic copy of the (preliminary) proposal for this session to the
LSA Program Committee is available from Tony Woodbury at
acw@pax.cc.utexas.edu.

6.5 ATHABASKAN LANGUAGE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The 1994 Athabaskan Language Conference was held on June 16th and
17th at the Elders’ Potlatch House on the Stoney Creek Reserve (about 65
mi north of Calgary, British Columbia, on Pen-Highway 16). Elders
participated throughout the conference in a variety of ways, including
story-telling between talks.
Papers included:

Myron H. Miller (U of New Mexico) and Eloise Jelinek (U of Arizona),
"Subjects in Navajo: Psych Verbs"
Ferdinand de Haan (U of New Mexico), "Negation and Scope in OV Languages:
Evidence from Navajo"
Alice Taft (U of Washington), "Deg Xing Verbs: Hypercard Language
Learning Project"
Leslie Saxton & Jacqueline deBruin (U of Victoria), "Dogrib First Person
Dual Subject Inflection"
James Kari (ANLC), "Local versus Regional Place Naming-Conventions in
Athabaskan Languages"
Sharon Margus (U of Washington), "D-Classifiers in Mts'witi'en"
Bill Poser (Stanford U), "The Latin Hymns in the Carrier Prayer Book"
Chris Gunlogson (U of Washington), "A Comparative Look at Agreement in
Athabaskan Languages"
Dagmar Jung (U of New Mexico), "Functions of the Nominalizer -i in
Jicarilla Apache"
Siri G. Tuttle (U of Washington), "Metrical Evidence for the Full-Reduced
Vowel Distinction in Galice Athabaskan."

6.6 AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGES SESSIONS AT MID-AMERICA CONFERENCE

The 1994 Mid-America Linguistics Conference will take at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, October 14-15. While the Conference will continue
its tradition of accepting papers on all linguistic topics, special emphasis will be put on (1) African languages, African-American English,
and/alternatives used by people of African descent, and (2) Muskogean, Caddian,
and other southeast Indian languages, in recognition of the long-standing
interest in Native American languages at the University of Kansas. The
plenary speaker will be Stephen Anderson, Johns Hopkins University.

Contributed papers will be allowed a maximum of 20 minutes for presentation.
Papers presented at the conference will be published in the conference
proceedings. Instructions for the preparation of manuscripts will be sent
along with notification of acceptance.

Abstracts are to be submitted in both a short and long version. The short
abstract is to be prepared for photocopy reproduction in the meeting
handbook. It must fit within a space 4.5 wide and 9 high. If you use
proportional spacing, the font must be no smaller than 12 point. If you use
fixed spacing, it should be no more than 12 characters per inch. On
the same page, give your name and affiliation as you wish it to appear in
the handbook. Also include your mailing address, telephone number, fax
number and E-mail address where applicable.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is Monday, August 29,1994.
E-mail submissions will not be accepted. Faxed submissions must be
received immediately by mailed abstracts on regular
paper. Mail abstracts to the MALL Program Committee at the Linguistics
Department address given below.

For additional information about program content, contact: Frances
Ingenman, The University of Kansas, Linguistics Department, Lawrence,
K 66045 Telephone: 913/864-3450 Fax 913/864-5288 E-mail:
frin@kuvm.bitnet or frin@kuvm.mm.cc.ukans.edu

Published proceedings of the conference will be available; ordering
information will be provided in September.

6.7 A BIT OF HISTORY

One hundred years ago this month, June 7, 1894, WILLIAM DWIGHT WHITNEY
died at New Haven, Connecticut. One of the leading Sanskrit scholars of the
nineteenth century, Whitney was born in Northampton, Massachusetts,
in 1827, and rose to become Professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology at
Yale. His landmark work, "The History of the Sanskrit Language" (1879) was the standard work
in its field, and his popular volume, "The Life and Growth of Language,"
first published in 1878, went through several editions. Whitney's elder
brother, Albert G. Whitney (after whom Mt. Whitney was named), was an
historical geologist and served for many years as Professor of Geology at Harvard
University.

Whitney encouraged the study of American Indian languages and supported
efforts by John Wesley Powell and others to set up the Bureau of American
Ethnology. He also helped Powell devise a standard phonetic orthography
for Indian languages.
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