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### MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Linguists to Gather in San Francisco for National Conference

(Washington, DC) – Hundreds of linguistic scholars from across the U.S. will convene in San Francisco for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) this January. Members of the news media are invited to observe and report on the proceedings.

The meeting is scheduled for January 8-12, 2009, at the San Francisco Hilton. The meeting provides a forum for the presentation of cutting-edge research focused on the scientific study of language. In addition to the LSA program, the meeting also features concurrent programs sponsored by the American Dialect Society, the American Name Society, the North American Association for the History of the Language Sciences, the Society for Pidgin and Creole Languages, and the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas.

The meeting typically attracts more than 1,000 linguists who attend various sessions and workshops. For its 2009 meeting, the LSA received the greatest number of research abstract submissions in its history. Of those submitted, approximately 220 papers and 80 posters were approved for presentation at the meeting. For a detailed listing of all meeting sessions, please visit the LSA website: <https://lsadc.org/info/meet-annual.cfm>.

In addition to the research presented, the meeting also features a number of awards, including the annual designation of the “**Word of the Year**” by the American Dialect Society. Other awards include:

***Induction of the 2009 LSA Fellows:*** The following members of the Society will be recognized for their distinguished contributions to the discipline:

Stephen Anderson, Yale University; Sheila Blumstein, Brown University; Andrew Garrett, University of California, Berkeley; Bruce Hayes, University of California, Los Angeles; Edward Keenan, University of California, Los Angeles; Michael Krauss, University of Alaska,

Fairbanks; Joan Maling, Brandeis University; Shana Poplack, University of Ottawa; Keren Rice, University of Toronto; Roger Shuy, Georgetown University, Emeritus; Dan Slobin, University of California, Berkeley; Gregory Ward, Northwestern University.

***Linguistic Service Award:*** will be given to Deborah Anderson for her services to the Society and the discipline as LSA liaison to the Unicode Consortium and director of the Script Encoding Initiative, and to Katha Kissman for her services to the Society, first as consultant and later as Interim Executive Director.

***Linguistics, Language and the Public Award:*** is given for a body of work that has had a demonstrable impact on the public awareness of language and/or linguistics. In 2009, it will be given to Language Log (<http://www.language-log.com>), a collaborative science blog devoted to linguistics and written by a team of more than a dozen prominent linguists, almost all members of the Linguistic Society of America. The award will be accepted on behalf of the Language Log team by two of its members: University of Pennsylvania professor of phonetics Mark Y. Liberman (who founded Language Log in 2003 along with Geoffrey K. Pullum, who is now at the University of Edinburgh) and Stanford professor of linguistics Arnold M. Zwicky (who has been a prolific and prominent contributor since shortly after the blog was started).

***Leonard Bloomfield Book Award:***

*The Bilingual Child: Early Development and Language Contact*, by Virginia Yip and Stephen Matthews (Cambridge, 2007), presents interesting new data and insightful analyses of bilingual development. Based on the most extensive bilingual corpus yet assembled and drawing on both generative and typological theoretical perspectives, the authors provide an extensive, informed and data-rich treatment of a difficult problem. The book sets a new standard for the study of childhood bilingualism, and shows how this study bears on many different areas of linguistics, including monolingual acquisition, language contact, syntactic theory, typology, and historical linguistics.

In addition to the awards, the meeting will also feature a ***Reception in Honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)***. A private, nonprofit organization working to improve communication through better understanding of language and culture, CAL has earned a national and international reputation for its contributions to the fields of bilingual, English as a second language, literacy, and foreign language education; dialect studies; language policy; refugee orientation; and the education of linguistically and culturally diverse adults and children.

To obtain a press badge for the meeting, please contact Alyson Reed.

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