

SA Annual Business Meeting

Friday, January 8, 2021 ~ 6:00 – 7:00pm

Held Virtually

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by LSA President Marianne Mithun at 6:05 pm. She began by introducing the former LSA presidents who were present.

The report of Secretary-Treasurer was delivered by Lenore Grenoble, and served as an overview of her written report, which was published in the online handbook for the Annual Meeting, available [here](#). The overview included the report of 2020 Election Results and an In Memoriam observance for the following members who died since the previous observance:

- Göran Hammarström (1922-2019)
- Ferenc Kiefer (1931-2020)
- G. Hubert Matthews (1930-2020)
- Geoffrey Nunberg (1945-2020)
- John Ohala (1941-2020)
- Wayne O’Neil (1931-2020)*
- Paul Platero (1942 -2020)
- Maggie Reynolds (1945-2020)
- Michael Silverstein (1945-2020)

Dr. Grenoble also announced that she intended to step down a year early, by the end of 2021, so she can focus her time on implementing a major research grant that has been awarded to her team. Incoming LSA Vice President John Baugh has agreed to lead a search committee for her successor.

The report of the Program Committee was delivered by Senior co-Chair Ashwini Deo. Please see the online handbook for the Annual Meeting, available [here](#).

The Editor’s Reports were delivered as follows: Language - Andries Coetzee; Semantics & Pragmatics - David Beaver; and Phonological Data & Analysis - Matt Gordon. Please see the online handbook for the Annual Meeting, available [here](#).

Dr. Mithun presented the incoming class of LSA Fellows for 2021:

- Mark Baker (Rutgers University)
- David Beaver (University of Texas at Austin)
- Megan Crowhurst (University of Texas at Austin)
- Colleen Fitzgerald (Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi)

- Sonja Lanehart (University of Arizona)
- Richard Larson (Stony Brook University)
- Anne Lobeck (Western Washington University)
- Ricardo Otheguy (The Graduate Center, CUNY)
- Graham Thurgood (California State University, Chico)

Dr. Mithun invited Ellen Kaisse, Chair of the Honorary Members Committee to introduce the nominees, which have already been approved by the Executive Committee, but are subject to a vote of the members present at the Business Meeting.

Professor **Herman Michael Batibo** is a scholar of African languages and linguistics, best known for his work on the sociolinguistics and phonology of Bantu and Khoisan languages of Botswana and Tanzania. His 2005 book, *Language Decline and Death in Africa: Causes, Consequences and Challenges*, is a masterful survey of the factors that impact languages on the continent. He argues that language shift in Africa is affected by factors that are less common elsewhere, with minority languages under greater pressure than perhaps any other part of the world, primarily from the more widely spoken African languages. His main research interests are the understanding and use of Africa's dominant multilingualism and the investigation of African language endangerment and marginalization.

Born and raised in Tanzania, Professor Batibo studied Bantu linguistics at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle where he earned his PhD in 1977 with a thesis on the morphology and phonology of his first language, Sukuma, culminating in the 1985 monograph *Le kesukuma, langue bantu de Tanzanie: phonologie et morphologie*.

Professor Batibo began his teaching career at the University of Dar es Salaam in 1979, becoming Professor of African Linguistics in 1990. He moved to the University of Botswana in 1994, where he has served as Professor of African Linguistics and Head of the Department of African Languages and Literatures. He is Member of the African Academy of Languages, an Honorary Fellow of the University of London (SOAS) and was named a Knight in the Order of Palmes Académiques by the French government for contributions to the teaching of French in Tanzania. He has held visiting professorship at SOAS, the universities of Bayreuth, Leiden, York, California at Los Angeles and the French National Research Centre. He was President of the Standing Committee of the World Congress of African Linguistics from 2000 to 2009.

Professor **Nicholas Evans** is Distinguished Professor in the Department of Linguistics at the Australian National University. He is also an Australian Research Council (ARC) Laureate Fellow and Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, and a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.

Professor Evans' research focuses on the diversity of human language and what this can tell us about the nature of language, culture, deep history, and the possibilities of the human mind. His book *Dying Words* (2010) outlines the situation of endangered languages and the

consequences that follow from our planet's dwindling linguistic diversity for our understanding of the human situation. Major co-edited volumes in linguistic typology include *The Oxford Handbook of Polysynthesis* (2017), *Insubordination* (2016), and *Reciprocals and Semantic Typology* (2011).

Professor Evans is a fieldwork linguist who has worked in many sites in Australia, New Guinea, and the Pacific. He has published grammars of Kayardild (1995) and Bininj Gun-wok (2003) and dictionaries of Kayardild (1992) and Dalabon (2004). He is currently studying multilingual speech communities in indigenous Australia and New Guinea with a view to seeking the seeds of macro-diversity in community-level micro-diversity.

Professor Evans is deeply engaged in the communities in which he has worked, including working with community members on Native Title, vernacular literacy, and indigenous art and music. He has directed the work of indigenous scholars to the Ph.D. and postdoctoral levels. His online open-access dictionary of Nen (2019), a member of the Yam family of southern New Guinea, was produced in collaboration with the community's Nen Language Committee.

Professor **Bruna Franchetto** is Full Professor in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Anthropology (National Museum) at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), from which she received her PhD in Social Anthropology in 1986. Her linguistic and ethnological research focuses on the description, documentation, and analysis of Kuikuro, a variety of the Upper Xingu Carib language spoken in southern Amazonia, and on the oral traditions and verbal arts of the Kuikuro people. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on the phonology, morphology, syntax and verbal arts of Kuikuro and the other varieties of the Upper Xingu Carib language and has organized an extensive documentary archive on Kuikuro housed at the DoBeS Program of the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics. She has coordinated the Program for the Documentation of Indigenous Languages at the Museu do Índio in Rio de Janeiro since 2009 and, in collaboration with the Kuikuro Indigenous (AIKAX), the Group of Kuikuro filmmakers (CKC), and the anthropologist Carlos Faust, she coordinates the Project Documenta Kuikuro (DKK), which creates lasting records of Kuikuro life and culture.

For over four decades, Prof. Franchetto's goal has been to assist indigenous communities in developing the tools they need to ensure their own linguistic and cultural self-sufficiency. Thanks to her continuing mentorship and support, the Kuikuro people now have their own teachers, grammarians, and film directors, and she is currently cultivating a second generation of young linguists who live and work in their communities, create pedagogical materials, and collaborate on dictionaries, grammatical descriptions, and cultural documentation. She is an incredible role model for linguists who wish to scrupulously document understudied and endangered languages, to involve community members as equal partners in this task, and to ensure that the work of linguists benefits the communities with which they work.

Professor **Liliane Haegeman** is Odysseus Professor of English (retired) at Ghent University, the institution from which she received her License (1976) and Ph D (1981). She is one of the foremost syntacticians in Europe working in the generative framework, recognized not only for

her strong administrative and organizational activity, but also for her contributions to linguistic pedagogy and language description. From the time of her appointment as Professor of English Linguistics in the University of Geneva in 1984, she played a major part in the re- invigoration of linguistics there and the emergence of Geneva as a center of syntactic studies in Europe. She remains an honorary professor there. After a stay in Lille (Habilitation, 1997) she returned to Ghent, in 2009, where she played a similar role in stimulating a new generation of productive young scholars in Belgium. She continues to guide research and to advise students actively since her recent retirement. She is a member of the Belgian Royal Academy and also of its Flemish equivalent.

In the area of pedagogy, her 1991 *Introduction to Government and Binding* long served as the basic text for that theoretical framework. Her 2005 book *Thinking Syntactically* has played a similar role in later work. Apart from theoretically informed work on a variety of languages, she is perhaps best known for innovative description and analysis of West Flemish, her native language, which she has single-handedly brought to a central position in the literature on a number of important areas of syntactic discussion, including agreement, verb-second and adverbial structure. On the basis of a solid descriptive background, she has played a major role in the development of the cartographic approach to sentence structure and the analysis of the left periphery.

The new class of honorary members for 2020 were approved unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

*Dr. O'Neil's death was inadvertently omitted from the list of names reported during the meeting.