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LSA Centennial 2024-2025 Planning Update

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July 27, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The Linguistic Society of America will be celebrating 100 years of advancing the scientific study of language in 2024-2025. The efforts to create a Linguistic Society began in earnest in 1924 and led to the first meeting being held in December of 1924, and to the first issue of *Language*, the flagship journal of the Society, appearing in March of 1925.

The purpose of this memo is to update you, the LSA membership at large, as to what is going on regarding the LSA's Centennial and to invite input and suggestions from you.

Centennials are a time when the past, present, and future come together. They offer opportunities to reflect on where we have been and where we are heading. We can review and celebrate the history of the Society and what has been accomplished over the first 100 years, take stock of where the Society is today, and help to chart a course for the next 100 years, envisioning the future of the LSA and of our field.

The LSA has empaneled a special committee to plan events in connection with the Centennial, with most activities focused on the 2024 and 2025 Annual Meetings and the 12 months between them.

The current membership of the committee is as follows:

Molly Diesing (Cornell University)

Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State University, Committee Chair)

Alyson Reed (LSA Staff liaison)

Anna Taylor (B.A. 2021, The Ohio State University)

Margaret Thomas (Boston College)

Sarah Thomason (University of Michigan)

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Tracy Weldon (University of South Carolina)

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We will be adding a few members this fall; if you are interested in being considered for the Committee, please let Brian Joseph or Alyson Reed know.

Plans in place at present include:

- producing a video on the LSA and on language and linguistics past, present, and future, under the direction of Walt Wolfram and his videography team, to be premiered at the 2024 Annual Meeting; details, especially as to specific topics to be covered, are still being worked out.
- continuing and expanding the LingStoryCorps initiative that was piloted at the 2019 Institute and the 2020 Annual Meeting, capturing the voices of LSA members of all demographics talking for c. 15 minutes about their life in linguistics, broadly speaking, e.g. on how they got into the field, memorable people and moments, etc. — if you are interested in taking part and being recorded or recording linguists of your acquaintance (colleagues, students, etc.), please contact Brian Joseph directly ([joseph.1@osu.edu](mailto:joseph.1@osu.edu)).
- staging various lectures and events both at the Annual Meetings and throughout the Centennial year; among suggestions for topics we have received to date are: evolving methodologies and technologies in our field, the role of the linguist in public life, where linguists and linguistics fit within academia, etc.

We expect to develop more events in the coming months. Note that we continue to think quite affirmatively about future-facing programs and we hope to engage younger emerging scholars in those activities.

We welcome your suggestions and ideas for events and themes – please share your thoughts on the Centennial celebration with any of the committee members. Alternatively, there is a “Comment” function on the page on the LSA website for the Centennial Planning Committee (<https://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/centennial-planning-committee>) as well as an e-mail link ([Isa@lsadc.org](mailto:Isa@lsadc.org) “Centennial Planning Suggestion”).

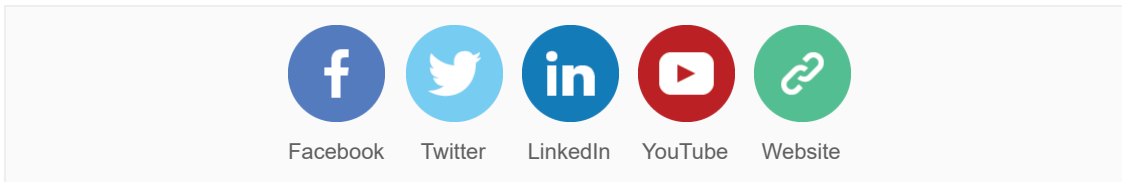
More updates to come by and by.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joseph  
on behalf of the LSA Centennial Planning Committee

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