

Linguistic Society of America  
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

Friday, January 8, 2010 ~ 5:15 – 7:00pm  
Baltimore Hilton, Maryland

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Sarah Thomason, at 5:20 pm.

Introductory Remarks

Dr. Thomason welcomed the attendees and offered a few brief announcements:

- 1) The LSA will soon be launching a new program offering one year of free membership to new recipients of the PhD. More details will be sent to the linguistics community later this month.
- 2) The North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad is sponsoring an information booth in the Exhibit Hall. Dr. Thomason encouraged everyone to visit the booth and become more involved in this worthy program.
- 3) A drawing for a door prize will be held at the end of the meeting. Ms. Alyson Reed, LSA Executive Director, provided instructions for how the drawing would proceed.

Report of Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Paul Chapin offered highlights from his written report (which was published in abbreviated form in the meeting handbook; a full-length version is attached as Addendum A and may also be found at:

<http://lsadc.org/info/documents/2009/reports/lsa-secretary-treasurer-report-2009.pdf>).

He provided an update on the LSA's finances, membership numbers and related information, including the following slides:

<b>BUDGET</b>			
<b>OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS</b>			
<b>FY08 ACTUAL</b>	<b>FY09 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY09 ACTUAL</b>	<b>FY10 BUDGET</b>
<b>(207,921)</b>	<b>(152,588)</b>	<b>(59,145)</b>	<b>11,822</b>

<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	
<b>FUNDS</b>	<b>VALUE 12/31/2009</b>
GENERAL	226,193
LINGUISTIC INSTITUTE	223,327
KEN HALE	198,388
OTHERS*	231,612
TOTAL	----- 879,520
*Program Development & Committee Activities; Financial Assistance & Student Support; Collitz, Bloch, and McCawley Funds	

Dr. Chapin noted that his report in the Annual Meeting handbook had mis-stated the value of the LSA's investment accounts, but that the information on the above slide was accurate.

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>		
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>11/24/09</b>
REGULAR US	1412	1330
REGULAR NON-US	<u>941</u>	<u>710</u>
REGULAR TOTAL	2353	2040
STUDENT US	1356	1400
STUDENT NON-US	<u>205</u>	<u>238</u>
STUDENT TOTAL	1561	1638
OTHER INDIVIDUAL	590	636
INDIVIDUAL TOTAL	----- 4504	----- 4314
INSTITUTIONAL US	897	922
INSTITUTIONAL NON-US	<u>506</u>	<u>440</u>
INSTITUTIONAL TOTAL	1403	1362
TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	5907	5676

#### Report of 2009 Election Results

Dr. Chapin confirmed the results of the LSA election:

- Vice-President/President-elect: Sandra Chung
- Executive Committee (At-Large): Eric Potsdam, Maria Polinsky

- Constitutional Amendments: All proposed amendments to the LSA constitution were approved, with the exception of the proposed changes to the composition of the Nominating Committee.

Dr. Chapin thanked the outgoing members of the Executive Committee, Ellen Prince, Jennifer Cole and Tom Wasow, for their service to the LSA over the past three years.

### In Memoriam

Dr. Chapin requested a moment of silence in memory of the following LSA members who passed away since the last Annual Meeting: George N. Clements; Gordon Buell Ford; Paulette Hopple; Dell H. Hymes (President, 1982); Herbert Izzo; Eleanor H. Jordan; Toru Kono; Sige-Yuki Kuroda; Walter Lehn; Samuel Martin; Michael Noonan; Eva Sivertsen; and Laurence Urdang.

### Program Committee Report

Dr. Larry Horn offered highlights from his written report (which was published in the meeting handbook: [http://www.lsadc.org/info/pdf\\_files/2010Handbook.pdf](http://www.lsadc.org/info/pdf_files/2010Handbook.pdf); and is also attached as Addendum B).

### Editor's Reports

#### 1.) *Language*

Dr. Greg Carlson offered highlights from his written report (which was published in the meeting handbook: [http://www.lsadc.org/info/pdf\\_files/2010Handbook.pdf](http://www.lsadc.org/info/pdf_files/2010Handbook.pdf); and is also attached as Addendum C).

#### 2.) *eLanguage*

Dr. Dieter Stein offered highlights from his written report (which was published in the meeting handbook: [http://www.lsadc.org/info/pdf\\_files/2010Handbook.pdf](http://www.lsadc.org/info/pdf_files/2010Handbook.pdf); and is also attached as Addendum D).

### Report on National Science Foundation (NSF) Activities

The report was presented by Dr. Joan Maling, Director of the Linguistics Program at the NSF. Dr. Maling reported that the program had received a one-time infusion of funds as a result of the federal stimulus legislation. She does not anticipate any reductions in funding for the program in FY2011. She reported that the program has experienced a 50 percent increase in proposal submissions during the Fall 2009 review cycle, creating additional pressure on limited funds. She invited applications for the soon-to-be-vacant rotating Program Officer position, currently held by Eric Potsdam. In response to a query, Dr. Maling noted that U.S. citizenship is not a requirement for submitting proposals to the NSF Linguistics Program, but that such proposals must come through a U.S. institution. In response to a query, Dr. Maling commented that she did not think the program was at risk of significant funding cuts.

### Report on the Endangered Language Fund (ELF)

The report was presented by Dr. Douglas H. Whalen, President of ELF.

The Endangered Language Fund provides grants to support the scientific study and maintenance of endangered languages. It relies on donations to make this possible; many such donors were present in the audience, and they were thanked for their contributions. This past year, Whalen reported, saw the largest number of applications of the 13 years of the competition, 90 proposals. There was not a commensurate increase in available funding, so the success rate was low (even lower than NSF's). The second ELF grant program, the Native Voices Endowment, is open to tribal members of the tribes contacted by the Lewis & Clark Expedition of 1804-1806. It is separately endowed and has also been generating a strong set of proposals. ELF also sponsored a symposium at the meeting, "Findings from Targeted Work on Endangered Languages: 13 Years of the Endangered Language Fund's Projects," co-organized by Whalen and ELF Vice-President Lenore Grenoble. Whalen also acknowledged the kind words that President Thomason had for the ELF tee shirt, on sale at the ELF booth in the book exhibit.

#### Report of the Resolutions Committee

The report was given by Committee Chair Dr. Joan Maling. She invited Dr. Carol Genetti, representing the Committee on Endangered Languages and their Preservation, to the podium to present its proposed resolution for consideration as the Sense of the Meeting, entitled Recognizing the Scholarly Merit of Language Documentation. A copy of the resolution was provided to meeting attendees for review:

**"Whereas** the practice of linguistic fieldwork is shifting to a more collaborative endeavor firmly based on ethical responsibilities to speech communities and a commitment to broadening the impacts of scholarship; and

**Whereas** this shift in practice has broadened the range of scholarly work to include not only grammars, dictionaries, and text collections, but also archives of primary data, electronic databases, corpora, critical editions of legacy materials, pedagogical works designed for the use of speech communities, software, websites, or other digital media; and

**Whereas** the products of language documentation and work supporting linguistic vitality are of significant importance to the preservation of linguistic diversity, are fundamental and permanent contributions to the foundation of linguistics, and are intellectual achievements which require sophisticated analytical skills, deep theoretical knowledge, and broad linguistic expertise;

**Therefore** the Linguistic Society of America supports the recognition of these materials as scholarly contributions to be given weight in the awarding of advanced degrees and in decisions on hiring, tenure, and promotion of faculty. It supports the development of appropriate means of review of such works so that their functionality, import, and scope can be assessed relative to other language resources and to more traditional publications."

Following a brief discussion, a motion to endorse the resolution was approved. A motion to refer the resolution to the membership for a formal vote during the electronic balloting in the fall of 2010 was also approved.

Dr. Maling then invited Dr. Jeff Good, Chair of the Technology Advisory Committee, to the podium to present its proposed resolution for consideration as the Sense of the Meeting, entitled Cyberinfrastructure. A copy of the resolution was provided to meeting attendees for review:

“Whereas modern computing technology has the potential of advancing linguistic science by enabling linguists to work with datasets at a scale previously unimaginable; and  
Whereas this will only be possible if such data are made available and standards ensuring interoperability are followed; and

Whereas data collected, curated, and annotated by linguists forms the empirical base of our field,

Therefore, the LSA encourages members and other working linguists to:

- make the full data sets behind publications available, subject to all relevant ethical and legal concerns;
- annotate data and provide metadata according to current standards and best practices;
- seek wherever possible institutional review board human subjects approval that allows full recordings and transcripts to be made available for other research;
- work towards assigning academic credit for the creation and maintenance of linguistic data bases; and
- when serving as reviewers, expect full data sets to be published (again subject to legal and ethical considerations) and expect claims to be tested against relevant publicly available datasets

In addition, the LSA recognizes the importance of creating further computational tools for supporting analysis and collaboration in the field, including:

- standards
- analysis tools
- portals that bring together linguistic data and tools to analyze them.”

There were questions raised about the role of the LSA Ethics Committee in interpreting this resolution. Dr. Good indicated that he supported the Ethics Committee’s authority to address the ethical issues raised by the resolution. There were also concerns expressed that the resolution combined too many related issues that deserved further delineation. Following this discussion, the Sense of the Meeting resolution was approved. A motion to refer the resolution to the membership for a formal vote during the electronic balloting in the fall of 2010 was also approved.

Dr. Maling also presented a Resolution of Thanks:

“Whereas the work of the LSA goes on all year long, culminating in the Annual Meeting, and is supported by many people, people who put their energy and time towards furthering the work of the LSA and its members,

Therefore be it resolved that the Linguistic Society of America offers its gratitude to the following individuals:

- The officers of the LSA: Sally Thomason (President), Paul Chapin (Secretary-Treasurer), David Lightfoot (Vice President/President-Elect), for their leadership and service.
- Larry Horn and Keren Rice, for leading the program committee in delivering another successful Annual Meeting, a process which takes all year long.
- Greg Carlson, Natsuko Tsujimura and Dieter Stein for their editorial leadership of Language and e-Language.
- The Local Arrangements Committee, for their assistance with the local logistics, and with recruiting volunteers to help staff the meeting. The committee members were: Geraldine Legendre (Johns Hopkins University), Chair; David Cox (Interagency Language Roundtable); Kat Kramer (Center for Applied Linguistics); Ceil Lucas (Gallaudet); Victoria Nier (Center for Applied Linguistics); Amy Weinberg (U Maryland); Steven Weinberger (George Mason).
- Inge Stockburger (Georgetown University), Volunteer Coordinator, for helping to recruit such an enthusiastic cadre of student volunteers.
- The sister societies of the LSA, for their contributions in making the Annual Meeting a more vibrant and dynamic gathering of linguists.
- Andrew Garrett and the University of California at Berkeley, for organizing and hosting the biennial Linguistic Institute.
- The LSA Executive Committee, including those concluding their service at this meeting: Jennifer Cole and Tom Wasow.
- The Secretariat staff: Alyson Reed (Executive Director), for providing proactive leadership of the LSA towards the development and implementation of an ambitious strategic plan; David Robinson (Director of Membership and Meetings) for his enthusiastic and efficient running of the LSA meetings, and his work on increasing the membership of the LSA and the benefits to members; and Rita Lewis (Executive Assistant) for the many kinds of support rendered during the week of the Annual Meeting on site here in Baltimore, and second for the many and varied support services she has rendered to the Secretariat throughout the calendar year, especially through the recent transitions that the LSA has experienced. “

A motion to endorse this resolution was approved by acclamation.

#### Approval of Honorary Members

The following individuals were recommended by the LSA Executive Committee to receive honorary life memberships in the LSA: Guglielmo Cinque; Lucy Seki and Theraphan Luangthongkum. The following citations were presented for each nominee:

1) **Guglielmo Cinque** is Professor of Linguistics and Head of the Department of Language Sciences at the Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia and is a leading figure generative syntactic theory and typology who specializes in Italian and other Romance languages. He has published over a half dozen books including *Types of A'-Dependencies* (MIT Press, 1990), *Italian Syntax and Universal Grammar* (Cambridge University Press, 1995), and *The Syntax of Adjectives: A*

*Comparative Study* (MIT Press, forthcoming 2010); he has edited or co-edited almost a dozen more, including several volumes in the Oxford series, *Cartography of Syntactic Structures*; and published over 100 articles over a wide range of linguistic topics. He has held visiting posts at MIT, Harvard, and UCLA in the US and in numerous universities all over Europe, and has supervised many doctoral students. He was honored as Professor *honoris causa* by the University of Bucharest in 2006.

2) **Lucy Seki** received her PhD in philology in 1973 from People's Friendship University (Patrice Lumumba) in Moscow. She is Professor of Linguistics at the Universidade Estadual de Campinas, where she has taught since 1973. She has made substantial contributions to a number of research areas in linguistics, especially those directly relevant to the documentation of South American Indian languages, contact phenomena in Amazonian languages, linguistic typology, history of linguistics in Brazil and indigenous education. Seki's major contribution is her exemplary *Gramática do Kamaiurá: Língua Tupi-Guarani do Alto Xingu* (2000), based on extensive field work in the Upper Xingu, Brazil, which led as well to comparative and typologically-oriented studies of ergativity, verbal categories, relative clauses, word classes, reduplication, and a range of other phenomena in Kamaiurá and other Tupi languages. She has also written on the Upper Xingu as a linguistic area, and has carried out field work and primary descriptive and classificatory work on Tupari (Tupi) and Krenak (Botocudo, Macro-Jê). As Professor of Linguistics in the University of Campinas, where she has taught since 1973, she has trained more than twenty postgraduate students working on languages from the Guaicuruan, Tupí, Jê, Mapudungan, Carib and Arawakan language families. Likewise, Seki has been a dedicated contributor to indigenous education in Brazil by offering training courses for indigenous teachers in the Parque Xingu, Rondonia, and other areas throughout her career. She is also the founder and principal editor of the journal *Línguas Indígenas Americanas*, published at UNICAMP.

3) **Theraphan Luangthongkum** is Professor of Linguistics at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. As a phonetician, dialectologist, field linguist, lexicographer, and historical linguist, she has written more than forty influential articles on varieties of Thai and on minority languages of the Tai-Kadai, Mon-Khmer, and Hmong-Mien families spoken in Thailand, Laos and southern China. She has contributed to the study of prosody in Thai, voice register in Mon-Khmer languages, and tone properties and tone evolution in Southeast Asia. She has done extensive mapping of the languages spoken in Thailand and Laos, and has developed materials to train field workers and standards for recording Thai dialects and minority languages of the area. She has compiled three dictionaries, *Bru-Thai-English* (1979), *Nyah Kur (Chaobon)-Thai-English* (1984), *Dictionary of the 15 Languages Spoken in Nan Province* (2007), and has collected and published lexical data gathered in conjunction with numerous other field surveys. Her historical work includes a reconstruction of Proto-Mjuenic (Proto-Yao), contributions to the history of the Katuic and Bahnaric subfamilies of Mon-Khmer, and articles on the history of Thai and the Tai subfamily of Tai-Kadai. Professor Theraphan's work has won outstanding research awards from the Thailand Research Fund and the National Research Council of Thailand, and she is frequently invited to speak at conferences in Asia and around the world.

The honorary memberships of the three individuals cited above were approved.

#### Induction of LSA Fellows

Dr. Thomason, presented the 2010 class of Fellows for induction: Peter Culicover (The Ohio State University); Susan Goldin-Meadow (University of Chicago); Brian Joseph (The Ohio State University); Mark Liberman (University of Pennsylvania); John Ohala (University of California, Berkeley); Stanley Peters (Stanford University); Ellen Prince (University of Pennsylvania); John Rickford (Stanford University).

The Fellows were presented with certificates and rosettes by Dr. Thomason.

#### New Business

There was no new business conducted.

#### Prize Drawing

The following individuals won their choice of books available at the joint book exhibit: Peter Culicover, Chris Potts, Brian Joseph and David Lightfoot.

#### Adjournment

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Thomason at 7:00pm.



## Addendum A

### SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2010

Paul G. Chapin

As Secretary-Treasurer, I am pleased to present this report to the membership of the Linguistic Society of America on the Society's business activities during 2009.

#### **Budget and Finance**

Thanks to the efforts of many people, but especially Alyson Reed, David Robinson, and Rita Lewis at the Secretariat, the LSA's budget situation has improved substantially since last year.

We ended Fiscal Year 2009 on September 30, 2009 with an operating budget deficit of \$59,145 (subject to final audit). This compares very favorably with the deficit of \$207,921 that was recorded in FY08, and also with the projected deficit of \$152,588 appearing in the FY09 budget.

For FY2010, which began October 1, 2009, we are working with an operating budget, based on conservative assumptions in all categories of income and expenses, that is balanced, and actually projects a small surplus of just under \$12,000. I hope that at this time next year I will be able to report to you that we in fact achieved that goal.

The audited LSA financial reports and current budget are available on the LSA website for inspection by any member.

During 2009 we carried out a major restructuring of LSA's investment portfolio. We consolidated a scattering of small accounts into four major investment accounts: General Fund, Program Development and Committee Activities Fund, Linguistic Institute Fund, and Ken Hale Fund. We also restructured the investments within each account to tailor them to the specific purpose of that fund. Our plan is for each fund to generate income sufficient to support the activities for which the fund is designated, without having to meet those needs within our regular annual operating budget. That will help to even out our budgeting between Institute and non-Institute years, and will provide dedicated sources of funding for significant continuing LSA commitments.

Like most individuals and institutions, LSA's investments continued to lose value through March of 2009. Since the market bottom at that time, we have seen some growth in the portfolio, the total value of which stood at \$879,520 as of December 31, 2009, and has increased since that time. The new investment structure is designed for much less volatility in the accounts than we had previously experienced.

We have recently constituted a Fundraising Committee, which began its activities in November. The Committee is investigating ways of enhancing LSA's revenues through grants, corporate outreach, planned giving, and fundraising appeals. While we hope and intend to keep our regular expenses and income in balance, additional funds that we can raise enable us to undertake new initiatives and offer new services to our membership and to the public. I ask you all to consider contributing to the growth and effectiveness of the LSA beyond your membership dues, with your participation in our annual fund drives and your ideas of new and better ways for the LSA to enhance its resources. You can send such

ideas to me or to the Secretariat by e-mail at any time.

### **Membership**

The LSA continues to be challenged by declining membership numbers. As of the end of FY09, the total number of individual memberships was 4,110, as compared with 4,504 in 2008, a decline of 8.7%. Since the end of the fiscal year more than 200 additional individual memberships have been registered, reducing the disparity but not eliminating it.

Within that overall total, we enjoyed an increase in student memberships, as is normally the case in Institute years, and stable or increased numbers in the Emeritus, Life, and Honorary membership categories. The decline was entirely in regular memberships, and was most pronounced in non-US memberships, which suffered a nearly 25% decline during the year.

Institutional memberships in the US increased modestly during the year (2.8%), reversing a long-term decline. However, non-US institutional memberships also declined significantly (-13%). It may be that the growing strength of professional linguistic societies in other countries has lessened the need for linguists and institutions in those countries to maintain membership in the LSA. Your thoughts and suggestions on this topic and others relating to LSA membership would be most welcome. They can be addressed to David Robinson, Director of Membership and Meetings, at the LSA Secretariat.

The Executive Committee has recently approved a new program of offering one year of free regular membership to anyone who has just completed a PhD in linguistics or a related field. We will be notifying linguistics departments and programs of this opportunity, and invite you to help spread the word.

Every member can help sustain and grow our membership numbers, and will benefit from doing so by enjoying a stronger LSA that can provide additional value to its members. If you find your LSA membership worthwhile, and you know that some of your colleagues are not members, bring it up in conversation with them sometime and encourage them to become members. Refer them to the LSA website for more information about the Society, its aims and activities.

A table showing LSA membership in various categories by year, from 1994 to the present, is available for viewing on the LSA website.

### **Election Results**

On-line voting was open to all LSA members from September 7 to November 7, 2009. As a result of the voting, the Society elected Sandra Chung, UC Santa Cruz, as Vice-President/President-Elect, and Maria Polinsky, Harvard U, and Eric Potsdam, U Florida, as members at large of the Executive Committee for three-year terms.

Four constitutional amendments were also on the ballot, all relating to LSA committees. Three of the amendments passed, reconstituting the membership of the Audit Committee and removing the constitutional mandates for the Honorary Members Committee and the Committee on Member Services and Information Technology (COMSIT). A proposed amendment to reconstitute the membership of the Nominating Committee was defeated.

### **In Memoriam**

I regret to report the deaths of the following LSA members:

George N. Clements  
Gordon Buell Ford

Paulette Hopple  
 Dell H. Hymes (President, 1982)  
 Herbert Izzo  
 Eleanor H. Jordan  
 Toru Kono  
 Sige-Yuki Kuroda  
 Walter Lehn  
 Samuel Martin  
 Michael Noonan  
 Eva Sivertsen  
 Laurence Urdang

Our condolences go to their families, friends, and colleagues.

### **Appreciation**

Many of you are aware that the Society went through a period of considerable turmoil in the Secretariat. It gives me great satisfaction to report that those days are truly past. We are now fortunate to have a skilled, energetic, and dedicated team working for us on 18<sup>th</sup> Street Northwest.

Alyson Reed, our Executive Director, combines a keen grasp of non-profit management with excellent people skills and an extraordinary work ethic. She is totally organized, always prepared, and procrastinates the least of anyone I've ever known. Before coming to LSA she had no prior exposure to linguistics or to linguists, so as you can imagine this job has been a special kind of learning experience for her, to which she has responded with aplomb.

David Robinson went from managing the business of one linguist, Deborah Tannen, to managing for several thousand of us. He has managed that scaling-up with grace and confident skill. Whatever you like about the Annual Meeting is mostly thanks to David, and what you don't like he plans to fix. On top of that, his negotiating skills have resulted in the Annual Meeting showing up in the LSA budget as a profit source rather than a loss item. In between Annual Meetings, he keeps our website running and our membership rolls in order, among many other things.

Rita Lewis anchored the Secretariat through the tumultuous times, provided the essential institutional memory for the new management, and has taken over keeping the LSA's books, at a considerable savings in money and increase in convenience to the Society. She is also the friendly voice you hear when you call the Secretariat, and the friendly face you see when you walk into the office.

All three of these people have made my job as Secretary-Treasurer immeasurably easier, and my appreciation for their efforts is boundless.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Paul G. Chapin  
 Secretary-Treasurer  
 Linguistic Society of America

## Addendum B

**LSA Program Committee Report**

Laurence Horn and Keren Rice

December 11, 2009

**Other committee members:** Hana Filip, Heidi Harley, Sharon Inkelas, Jeffrey Lidz, Anna Papafragou, Eric Potsdam, Sali Tagliamonte

**Annual Meeting***Parallel sessions*

This year, the Program Committee (PC) oversaw the evaluation and selection of the abstracts submitted to the Annual Meeting in Baltimore. We received a total of 497 submissions, which were divided into three distinct types (determined by the authors): '20-min' (to be considered only as a 20 minute paper presentation), '20-min OR poster' (to be considered as a paper, and then as a poster if not accepted as a paper), and 'poster' (to be considered as a poster only). The breakdown of submissions for this year appears in Table 1, with totals from recent years included for comparison.

**Table 1: Poster and paper submission and acceptance 2001-2010**

(15-min. and 30-min paper categories for years 2001-2005 are collapsed.)

Year	City	Posters			Papers			Total		
		subm	acc	%	subm	acc	%	subm	acc	%
2010	Baltimore	185 <sup>1</sup>	82	44%	480 <sup>2</sup>	222	46%	497	304	<b>61.2%</b>
2009	San Francisco	182 <sup>1</sup>	80	44%	511 <sup>2</sup>	222	43%	534	302	<b>56.5%</b>
2008	Chicago	169 <sup>1</sup>	78	46%	527 <sup>2</sup>	222	42%	542	300	<b>55.4%</b>
2007	Anaheim	38	28	74%	419	261	62%	457	289	<b>63%</b>
2006	Albuquerque	25	22	88%	370	248	67%	395	268	<b>68%</b>
2005	San Francisco	25	25	100%	392	250	64%	417	275	<b>66%</b>
2004	Boston	16	16	100%	349	177	51%	365	194	<b>53%</b>
2003	Atlanta	13	11	85%	258	148	57%	271	159	<b>59%</b>
2002	San Francisco	12	9	75%	325	151	46%	337	160	<b>47%</b>
2001	Washington	11	9	82%	388	187	48%	399	196	<b>49%</b>

Note that this year's submissions are down a bit from the previous two years, a fact we attribute to the downturn in the economy, given its impact on both personal finances and

<sup>1</sup> This number is the sum of the 'poster' submissions and the '20-min OR poster' submissions that were not accepted as 20-min papers.

<sup>2</sup> This number combines the total number '20-min' and '20-min OR poster' submissions.

institutional support for those contemplating attending the Annual Meeting. We also speculate that Baltimore is not as attractive a meeting site as Chicago or San Francisco, but there's no way to know to what extent this is a factor. We retained the target of 222 20-minute papers as the cutoff point for selection for the Meeting, reflecting the decision made by the Executive Committee at the 2007 Meeting to limit the total number of parallel regular sessions in each block of talks to 6. This results in arriving at the percentages of accepted papers indicated in the table. The cutoff for accepted posters remained essentially the same as in the two previous years, at 82 acceptances (of which two were disqualified for specific reasons).

Abstracts were evaluated by members of the PC and by a panel of 79 external reviewers ("XRs") covering a range of subfields. Each abstract received at least three reviews, and most received four or five. No external reviewers were asked to review more than 19 abstracts, and all external reviewers who had served two consecutive years were exempt from service. A note for future years: because of the relatively large number of XRs who served in 2008 and 2009, there will have to be a greater turnover for next year. One goal of the committee is to make sure of a balance between senior and junior scholars; in principle, anyone with a permanent teaching position was deemed eligible to serve as a reviewer.

As in previous years, the proportion of subfields for submitted papers to subfields for accepted papers were essentially equivalent, with the major subfields including

***Top fifteen primary fields (determined by authors)***

*(Accounts for 462 [93%] of submitted abstracts)*

<b>LingField</b>	<b>% of abstracts submitted</b>	
<b><i>Top five LingFields</i></b>	<b>60.8%</b>	<b>(302)</b>
Syntax	17.1%	(85)
Phonology	14.7%	(73)
Sociolinguistics	10.5%	(52)
Semantics	9.9%	(49)
Phonetics	8.7%	(43)
<b><i>LingFields 6-10</i></b>	<b>21.7%</b>	<b>(108)</b>
Psycholinguistics	7.0%	(35)
Language Acquisition	4.0%	(20)
Morphology	4.0%	(20)
Historical Linguistics	3.6%	(18)
Pragmatics	3.0%	(15)
<b><i>LingFields 12-15</i></b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>(52)</b>
Discourse Analysis	3.0%	(15)
General linguistics	2.4%	(12)
Applied linguistics	2.0%	(10)

Linguistic theories	1.6%	(8)
Cognitive science	1.4%	(7)

### ***Organized sessions***

*Invited Session on Morphological Phenomena in the Indigenous Languages of the Americas*  
Following the success of the invited session on inflectional contrasts in the languages of the Northwest Coast that took place at the 2009 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, the PC invited Richard Rhodes and Heidi Harley to organize a special invited 3 hour workshop on ‘The analysis of morphological phenomena in the indigenous languages of the Americas’ jointly sponsored by SSILA (the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas) and the LSA.

#### *Plenary Session on Documentary Linguistics*

Continuing with the tradition established over the past three meetings that featured ‘state of the subfield’ invited plenaries on phonology, sociolinguistics, and computational linguistics, the PC invited Kenneth Rehg, Lise Dobrin, and Adrienne Dwyer to organize a plenary session focusing on documentary linguistics and research on linguistic endangerment and preservation. The resulting two-part symposium, comprising a 1.5 hour plenary session on Friday evening and a follow-up 3 hour invited session Saturday morning, focuses on the interactions between work on documentary linguistics and descriptive, theoretical, and experimental linguistics. Additional sponsorship for these sessions is provided by the Committee on Endangered Languages and their Preservation.

#### *Special Poster Session on Linguists in Government*

Prompted in part by the Baltimore meeting site for the conference, the LSA solicited abstracts for a special poster session on Linguists in Government that welcomed submissions by those holding linguistics-related positions in agencies at the federal, state, and local government levels. Abstracts for this special session were not reviewed anonymously, but were still screened for relevance and not all the submissions were accepted. We anticipate that students seeking employment will find this session particularly useful.

### ***Proposals for organized sessions***

In addition to the invited sessions above, April the PC evaluated 11 preliminary organized session proposals that were submitted by the membership (and in one case, the Secretariat), providing detailed constructive feedback on all of them, and recommending extensive changes to two of them. 12 organized session proposals were submitted in final versions for the August 1 deadline. This figure includes nine resubmissions and two new submissions; one submission for which we recommended major changes was not resubmitted and another submission was withdrawn. After extensive deliberation, the Committee deferred acceptance for the two new submissions as well as one of the resubmissions, encouraging revisions of these proposals for reconsideration next year.

Titles and organizers of the accepted proposals are as follows (when not otherwise specified, the sessions are symposia/panels):

1. 'Medialingual: Representing language in film and television' (3 hrs), Walt Wolfram
2. 'A comparison of models for meter: Corpora and other sources of evidence for metrical theory and method' (3 hrs), San Duanmu and Nigel Fabb
3. 'Tutorial: Archiving ethically: Mediating the demands of communities and institutional sponsors when producing language documentation' (3 hrs), Jeff Good and Heidi Johnson  
'Interdisciplinarity and current trends in undergraduate education' (1.5 hrs), Gulsat Aygen and Nassira Nicola (Sponsored by the Undergraduate Programs Advisory Committee/Linguistics in Higher Education Committee)
4. 'Contributions from linguistics to educational challenges (1.5 hrs), Carolyn Adger
5. 'Evidentials and evidential strategies in social interaction' (3 hrs), Lev Michael and Janis Nuckoll
6. 'Issues in the study of sociolinguistic variation and sexuality', Penelope Eckert and Robert Podesva (Sponsored by the Committee on the Status of Women in Linguistics)
7. 'Workshop: Towards a linguistically motivated annotation scheme for information status' (3 hrs), Cathy O'Connor and Annie Zaenen
8. 'Findings from targeted work on endangered languages: 13 years of the endangered language fund's projects' (3 hrs), Doug Whalen and Lenore Grenoble

### ***Plenary Speakers***

The PC invited Colin Phillips, Ted Supalla, and Deborah Tannen to present plenary lectures at the Annual Meeting. Sarah Thomason will give the Presidential Address.

### **Other accomplishments and developments in 2009:**

#### **1. Regularizing the transition and membership**

Continuing the process begun in the two previous years, the current co-chairs in the spring of 2009 designated a member of the PC, Heidi Harley, as incoming junior co-chair for 2010; she made substantive contributions to our deliberations over the course of the year and, having been granted co-chair status for the review of Annual Meeting abstracts, facilitated our labors in many ways, especially through her participation in the programming meeting in September. When she is elevated to serve as junior co-chair after Larry Horn rotates off the committee following the Annual Meeting, a new junior co-chair designate will be named. In addition, to correct irregularities in staffing the Committee, we sought and were granted the possibility of maintaining the membership in the PC at 9, with three members rotating off and three new members joining the Committee every year, although this cannot be fully phased in until 2011. Scott Schwenter and Alan Yu are the newly appointed members, with terms beginning in 2010. A list of members and terms of service appears at the end of this document.

#### **2. Expanded abstracts**

During the last two years, the co-chairs and members of the PC, along with the Executive Committee and Secretariat, have discussed the desirability and feasibility of a proposal originating with Dieter Stein, the founding editor of eLanguage, to allow for the electronic publication of expanded versions of abstracts corresponding to the papers and posters presented at the Annual Meeting. Several other societies provide for the publication of meeting abstracts in paper or electronic form, and we agree that making four-page abstracts electronically available to a global audience would enhance the visibility of the work presented at our meetings. After considerable debate both within the PC and among the PC, the Executive Committee, and the Secretariat, a consensus was reached under the leadership of Secretary-Treasurer Paul Chapin which provides that the Society will operate an automated Expanded Abstracts service without a designated editor. Authors will certify that the content of the four-page expanded abstract is essentially a more detailed version of the original (one-page) abstract submitted for evaluation by the PC. An ad hoc committee will be appointed to review the process and make recommendations for changes in the procedure as necessary.

**We would be happy to discuss this matter at the Executive Committee meeting, but it no longer constitutes an action item, since action has already been taken.**

### **3. Public relations committee liaison**

The PC was invited to appoint a member of the Committee to serve as liaison from the PC to the newly established Public Relations Committee, founded by the Secretariat in response to the LSA Strategic Plan. This committee is designed to facilitate the role of the Society in informing public discussion of the role of language in society and in particular to help educate the news media and scientific organizations on linguistic matters. Hana Filip has agreed to serve in this capacity as liaison to the PRC.

### **4. Professional development**

The PC endorses the proposal by the Secretariat that we encourage the submission of organized session proposals dealing with professional development, especially in the absence of summer meetings with their workshops devoted to these goals. While recent years have seen several sessions on such issues as professional ethics, human subjects panel requirements, journal assessment, and language in the schools—often emanating from LSA Committee submissions—we agree that we should do what we can to ensure a sufficient quality and quantity of such proposals at future meetings. Discussion of how this might be facilitated will take place at the meeting of the PC to be held during the Annual Meeting.

### **5. New organized sessions deadline**

The PC has concluded, based on the experience of the last several years, that all organized sessions proposals must henceforth be submitted in preliminary form in April. Past practice (merely) recommended, rather than mandating, such early submission, but we have found that those proposals newly submitted at the general



August 1 deadline and thus not benefiting from the earlier round of critiques and revisions are not sufficiently worked out to be assessed favorably at the final deadline. **We are not sure if this is an action item needing approval of the EC, but if so we seek such approval.**

## 6. Thanks

The PC, through Director of Meetings and Membership David Robinson, has continued to work with Linguist List to upgrade the abstract submission/review interface. Thanks to both David and the Linguist List staff for their prompt response to requests, and thanks to the Secretariat, without whose collaboration none of our work would be possible. We are also grateful to co-chairs emeriti Cathy O'Connor and Chris Kennedy for the elderwisdom they provided.

### Members of the Program Committee

Below we provide a chart of the members projected through 2012 with their years of service indicated. One point that may not be obvious is that with two members rotating off in Jan. 2010 and four members rotating off in Jan. 2011, one member will need to be appointed next who will be asked to serve a two-year (rather than three-year) term, thus rotating off along with Schwenter and Yu in Jan. 2013. This will enable us to establish and maintain a nine-member committee going forward. **These changes have already been approved by the EC.**

#### Table 2: members of Program Committee (with years of service)

Laurence Horn (2007-2009) [co-chair, 2008-09]  
Jeffrey Lidz (2007-2009)

Sharon Inkelas (2008-2010)  
Eric Potsdam (2008-2010)  
Keren Rice (2008-2010) [co-chair, 2009-10]  
Sali Tagliamonte (2008-2010)

Hana Filip (2009-2011) [liaison to Public Relations Committee]  
Heidi Harley (2009-2011) [co-chair, 2010-11]  
Anna Papafragou (2009-2011)

Scott Schwenter (2010-2012)  
Alan Yu (2010-2012)

## Addendum C

*Language* Annual Report for 2009

Changes. This past year saw a transition of editors, with myself (Greg Carlson) taking over for Brian Joseph in January 2009. During this year, the book review editorship also changed hands, with Natsuko Tsujimura replacing Greg Stump, who consented to serve an extra half year. The board of Associate Editors saw the departures of Ted Gibson, Farrell Ackerman, Nick Evans, and Laura Michaelis. Joining the Associate Editors were R. Harald Baayen, Jürgen Bohnemeyer, Jen Hay, Jason Merchant; Jennifer Cole consented to serve on the board for an additional year. The year also included the decision to change companies that print and distribute the journal. Implementation of that transition is well underway.

Volume 85 of *Language* for the year 2009 consists of four issues comprising 959 pages. The volume contains 16 articles, 2 discussion notes, 2 review articles, 3 short reports and 67 book reviews.

Papers submitted in 2009. In all, 63 new submissions were received between January 15 and November 15 of 2009. Of those 63, 6 were accepted, and 3 were returned for revisions with invitation to resubmit, 16 were rejected, one was withdrawn and 37 are currently under review. Percentage accepted rate for these new submissions (which does not include the 37 under review) is 23 percent. Length of time between submission and decision for new submissions that were acted on by November 15 ranged from one to nine months; the average length of time to decision was 4.4 months.

Topic areas of the 2009 submitted papers were distributed as follows:

- Syntax 14
- Semantics 9
- Language acquisition 8
- Psycholinguistics 7
- Morphology 5
- Sociolinguistics 4
- Phonology 4
- Computational linguistics 2
- Phonetics 2
- Pragmatics 2
- Typology 2
- Morphophonology 1
- Discourse Analysis 1
- Lexicography 1
- Writing 1

Total papers acted on in 2009. Including the backlog of papers submitted in 2008 but remained under review as of January 15, a total of 68 papers were acted on in the January 15-November 15 time period. In all, 16 papers were accepted, 16 were returned for revision with suggestion to

resubmit, and 36 were rejected. Percentage accepted rate of all papers acted on in 2009 is about 23 percent.

Referees. Requests for referee reports were sent to 155 different scholars this year, 102 accepted, and 75 have submitted their reports (the rest are pending). People serving as referees will be listed and officially thanked in the annual report which will appear in the June 2010 issue of *Language*.

Many thanks to outgoing editor Brian Joseph for his years of service to the journal, and for his extraordinary cooperation and support in making the editorial transition. Thank you to Associate Editors: R. Harald Baayen, Mark Baker, Jürgen Bohnemeyer, Jennifer Cole, Cleo Condoravdi, Jennifer Hay, Jason Merchant, D. Gary Miller, Joe Pater, Sali Tagliamonte, and to Greg Stump and Natusko Tsujmura for their support and excellent work.

Audra Starcheus and Hope Dawson deserve special recognition for their essential, continued work in copy editing and proof reading. Thanks to Kerrie Merz in the journal main office for her excellent work. They have all gone above and beyond in the past year.

Agenda for 2010. The coming year will focus on completing the publishing transition from Maryland Composition to Dartmouth Journal Services, and on significantly improving time to decision for submitted papers. The developing relationship between the journal and the LSA's web presence via eLanguage is underway and we look forward to further developments in the coming year.

## Addendum D

**Report on eLanguage 2009-11-1**

eLanguage has continued to develop on several fronts. New sections have been opened and existing sections have been elaborated.

## 1 Co.journals:

- A new co-journal on syntax is still missing.
- A new co-journal "African Linguistics" was admitted.
- Existing co-journals are increasingly receiving submissions and publish under the principle that quality comes before quantity: I prefer to go for quality contributions at the expense of showing "many articles published".

2. A new section on "Back issues and conference volumes" is being opened by BLS and the Journal of Pragmatics. It is anticipated that retrodigitization will be of major importance for eLanguage. LSA's interest in this process together with the incumbent financial consequences should be discussed at the EC level.

3. A new section "Expanded Abstracts" will undergo its first pilot run with publication of the Baltimore AM meeting abstracts. After reviewing experience with the first pilot runs modifications may be made and the range of abstracts extended to other types of AM – related content. The issue of a special editor for this section is currently under discussion.

4 A section on "Grapevine" is ready to go in principle and should be launched soon.

5. The book notices, a section run by Language and its editorial staff, require urgent attention. The search for an editor has been opened. The book notices are amongst the type of content that draws the widest attention globally and is highly instrumental in popularizing eLanguage.

6. As another facet of the cooperation between Language and eLanguage, the next section to open will be empirical materials that are part of Language articles and is more easily represented and accessed on eLanguage.

7 Discussions are going on to draft an author contract that is in accordance with the Open Access philosophy of eLanguage and the Creative Commons Attribution license. The preparatory work by the legal counsel of LSA is gladly acknowledged. Currently a draft is being developed in concert with experts from Creative Commons' staff.

Dieter Stein and Cornelius Puschmann