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# SGL Newsletter

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Society for Germanic Linguistics Vol. 18, No. 2, Fall 2006

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## SGL News and Reports

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### GLAC 2006

The Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference XII took place at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on April 28–29, 2006. There were 32 paper presentations and an invited plenary lecture by Greville Corbett of the University of Surrey. His paper was entitled “Features: Germanic and Typological Aspects.” Registered conference participants numbered 44 and there were numerous walk-ins. There were international participants representing the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, South Korea, and Canada. The conference was generously supported by the Society for Germanic Linguistics and the FLB-Fund. On the last night of the conference the Executive Committee of the SGL was treated to a dinner by Orrin Robinson of Stanford. (*Frederick Schwink*)

### SGL Annual Business Meeting

At the 2006 Annual Meeting David Fertig reported that the update of the website is going smoothly, though there are some issues with the firewall and questions of access. All new information is added as it is received. He also said that information about upcoming conferences and job openings could be posted.

GLAC-13 will be held at the Pennsylvania State University. Future sites will be Madison (2008) and Calgary / Banff (2009).

There was discussion of holding a joint meeting with SHEL again, possibly with the FGLS. (*Robert Howell*)

### SGL Elections

At the 2006 annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the SGL, David Fertig was appointed to serve the last year of Mark Southern’s term on the Executive Committee.

The upcoming round of SGL elections will fill two seats on the Executive Committee (as David Fertig and Joe Salmons step down), as well as the office of President (Sarah Fagan). You can expect to receive e-mail soon with information about the elections, as well as about solicitation of nominations. (*Neil Jacobs*)

### Diebold Prize

The Society for Germanic Linguistics awards the Diebold Prize annually for an outstanding student paper presented at GLAC. The 2006 Diebold Prize was awarded to Angela Bagwell and Mike Olson, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, for their paper entitled “*I got my knife yet: German Imposition on Wisconsin English.*” Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to Thomas F. Shannon, Laura Catharine Smith, and John Sundquist, who served on the committee that judged the submissions. (*Sarah Fagan*)

## *Journal of Germanic Linguistics*

*JGL* remains on schedule. 18.3—now on its way to your mailboxes—contains a contribution by Susi Wurmbrand entitled “Licensing Case,” along with reviews of B. W. Fortson’s *Indo-European Language and Culture: An Introduction* (Pierluigi Cuzzolin), S. Mohr’s *Clausal Architecture and Subject Positions: Impersonal Constructions in the Germanic Languages* (Ilana Mezhevich), L. Mikkelsen’s *Copular Clauses: Specification, Predication, and Equation* (Timothy Osborne), and K. McCormick’s *Language in Cape Town’s District Six* (Paul Roberge). 18.4 presents a new OT-based interpretation of Sievers’ Law by Marc Pierce, and two reviews: J. R. te Velde’s *Deriving Coordinate Symmetries: A Phase-Based Approach Integrating Select, Merge, Copy, and Match* (Timothy Osborne), and W. Abraham’s *Focus on Germanic Typology* (Michael Putnam).

Your loyal editor is attempting to have a more stimulating Discussion Notes section in the *Journal*. This goal, in principle, should not be too difficult, given that presently we have no discussion at all! Please consider the possibility of contributing a Discussion Note—these can be responses to articles previously published in *JGL*, or squib-like contributions.

As always, the editor encourages members of the Society for Germanic Linguistics and the Forum for Germanic Language Studies to continue submitting their highest quality work to the *Journal*. (Robert Murray, Editor)

### **Obituary: Mark R. V. Southern**

by Jeannette Denton

Mark R.V. Southern, 45, died March 15, 2006, at his home in Middlebury, Vermont. An active member of the Society for Germanic Linguistics since its inception, Mark was a regular participant at GLAC conferences and served on the Society’s Executive Board since 2001.

Born in Cambridge, England, in 1961, Mark attended Eton and graduated in 1983 from Balliol College, Oxford, with an Honors B.A. in Classics. After earning an M.A. in Germanic languages and literatures from Princeton University, he attended Harvard as an Exchange Scholar where he focused on Indo-European linguistics. He returned to Princeton to earn his Ph.D. in Germanic languages and literatures in 1997. Mark held positions at Princeton, Harvard, Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and the University of Texas at Austin prior to joining the faculty of Middlebury College in 2003 as a Visiting Assistant Professor of German and Linguistics. Active in German, Linguistics, and in the Program in Classical Studies at Middlebury, he had held concurrent appointments at UT’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Center for Asian Studies and served in a number of programs devoted to the teaching of foreign languages and cultures.

Mark’s research interests were also interdisciplinary, encompassing language and culture, modern German and the early Germanic languages, Indo-European phonology and morphology, the pre-Islamic Middle East, Indo-Iranian, Greek and Latin, language contact, Yiddish dialectology, Indo-European poetics, and language acquisition. His most recent book, *Contagious Couplings: A Study of Yiddish Expressive shm- and Contact-driven Transmission* appeared last year (Praeger Publishers, 2005) and his *History of the German Language* was

under consideration for the *Cambridge Language Histories Series* by Cambridge University Press.

Immensely popular among his students for his breadth of knowledge, effervescent enthusiasm, and fostering care, Mark significantly increased the ranks of young linguists and was honored at UT with two major teaching awards. He will be remembered by students, colleagues, and friends for his warmth; humility; keen, dry wit; and his perpetual willingness to serve.

He is survived by his wife, Lauri London; two daughters, Maya and Zara; his father, Eric Southern; his sister, Jane Southern; and three nieces. An education fund has been established for Lauri and Mark's children through The Addison County Jewish Congregation: Havurah and the National Bank of Middlebury. Checks may be sent to the "The Maya and Zara London-Southern Education Fund" care of Havurah, P.O. Box 823, Middlebury, VT 05753

## **GLAC-13**

### **13<sup>th</sup> Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference**

Location: Penn State University

Abstract Deadline: January 3, 2007

Conference Dates: April 13–15, 2007

Faculty, graduate students, and independent scholars are invited to submit abstracts for 20- or 30-minute papers (plus 10 minutes of discussion) on any linguistic or philological aspect of any historical or modern Germanic language or dialect, including English (to the Early Modern period) and the extra-territorial varieties. Papers from a range of linguistic subfields, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, language acquisition, contact, and change, as well as differing theoretical approaches, are welcome. Please specify whether you would prefer a 20-minute or a 30-minute slot for your presentation.

Please submit a single-spaced one-page abstract (in .pdf, .doc or .rtf format) online at our website: <http://www.psu.edu/dept/glac/>. Include only a title but no author information in the abstract itself. All abstracts will undergo anonymous review. Submissions should be in pdf format if any specialized fonts are used. The deadline for submissions is January 3, 2007. Notifications of acceptance will be distributed by February 1, 2007. Further information can be found on the conference website.

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## Program Profile

### German Linguistics at Pennsylvania State University

by Carrie Jackson and Richard Page

As part of the Department for Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, the German Program at Penn State University offers a wide range of courses in German literature, culture, linguistics, and applied linguistics at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Faculty members are active researchers and teachers in their respective fields, with specializations including all epochs of German literature, cultural studies, intellectual history, and, of course, Germanic linguistics. We currently have two faculty members specializing in linguistics and applied linguistics, and will add a third linguist to the faculty in the near future. The current faculty members are Richard Page, whose research interests include older Germanic dialects, historical linguistics, language change, language contact, Pennsylvania German, and phonology, and Carrie Jackson, whose research focuses on psycholinguistics, language acquisition, second language syntax and foreign language pedagogy. Both faculty members are also affiliated with the Linguistics Program and the Center for Language Sciences, an interdisciplinary research group focusing on a variety of research areas, including language learning, bilingualism, psycholinguistics, language contact, and language disorders.

Undergraduate students majoring in German can choose from five different academic tracks—the German Studies option, the German Literature option, the German Teaching option, the German Business option, and the German Engineering option. Most of our undergraduate students also take advantage of semester- or year-long study abroad programs in Germany (Marburg, Berlin, and Freiburg) and Austria (Vienna). Each year several students also have the opportunity to complete 3–4 month business internships in Berlin in cooperation with WISTA Management. As of Spring 2006, there were over 50 undergraduate students majoring in German at Penn State.

As part of our Ph.D. in German, students have the option of specializing in Germanic Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. Students who choose this option take a range of courses on all aspects of Germanic linguistics, including phonology, syntax, language acquisition, foreign language pedagogy, historical linguistics, and sociolinguistics. Students are also encouraged to take courses and work with faculty in other departments on campus, including the other language departments, psychology and linguistics. Current graduate students are working on projects in areas such as Pennsylvania German, technology and online foreign language learning, vocabulary acquisition among L2 learners of German, and rhetorical strategies in the Luther Bible.

More detailed information can be found at our departmental website (<http://german.la.psu.edu>) or by contacting Richard Page ([brp3@psu.edu](mailto:brp3@psu.edu)) or Carrie Jackson ([cnj1@psu.edu](mailto:cnj1@psu.edu)).

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## News and Announcements

### New web site on American languages

The Max Kade Institute (Madison, Wisconsin) has a new website devoted to languages spoken in the United States including English and German dialects. This is part of the American Languages project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The site is available at: <http://csumc.wisc.edu/AmericanLanguages>. Visitors are encouraged to complete a brief user survey, linked under "Evaluation".

## Conference Report

### ICEHL 14

by Elly van Gelderen

From August 21–25, the 14th International Conference on English Historical Linguistics took place in Bergamo, Italy. Over 250 scholars from around the world attended plenary lectures, papers, and workshops in a wonderful setting in the Città Alta. Many of the attendees were GLAC members. The main organizers were Marina Dossena, Maurizio Gotti, and Richard Dury, who did a wonderfully efficient and elegant job coordinating four days of papers in five (!) parallel sessions.

Some interesting trends were the now wide-spread use of corpora in almost all the papers, the discussions across theoretical frameworks, and the increased interest in Celtic influence on English. There were presentations of new corpora, e.g. the Corpus of English Dialogues (<http://www.engelska.uu.se/corpus.html>) and the Middle English Medical texts ([http://www.eng.helsinki.fi/varieng/team4/1\\_4\\_4\\_3\\_p-corpus.htm](http://www.eng.helsinki.fi/varieng/team4/1_4_4_3_p-corpus.htm)), and workshops on prescriptivism and the use of letters. For more information on the actual titles, please see [http://www.unibg.it/struttura/struttura.asp?cerca=14icehl\\_intro](http://www.unibg.it/struttura/struttura.asp?cerca=14icehl_intro). The opinion of most attendees was that this was an exciting conference, with lots of young scholars and new ideas. The 2008 ICEHL will be in Munich, Germany, and the 2010 conference will be in Pécs, Hungary.

## Conference Calls

### The Future of Historical Sociolinguistics

One of the main aims of HiSoN, the Historical Linguistics Network, is building bridges between the "founding fathers and mothers" of historical sociolinguistics and junior/senior researchers currently involved in the discipline. A colloquium is planned for December 2, 2006 in Bruges (Belgium) to help achieve this goal. There is a heavy Germanic focus to both HiSoN and the colloquium. Invited speakers are: Terttu Nevalainen (Helsinki), Rosita Rindler Schjerve (Wien), Suzanne Romaine (Oxford), Ingrid Tieken-Boon van Ostade (Leiden), Peter Burke (Oxford), Ernst Håkon Jahr (Kristiansand), Klaus Mattheier (Heidelberg), and Richard Watts (Bern). In order to allow for maximal discussion, the number of attendees will be limited to 50. As this event is explicitly aimed at establishing contacts between researchers, all participants are asked

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to present a poster on their research in socio-historical linguistics. All posters will be displayed throughout the colloquium and a special poster session has been included in the program. For more information, see the HiSon website (<http://www.philhist.uni-augsburg.de/hison/>) or contact Wim Vandebussche at [wvdbussc@vub.ac.be](mailto:wvdbussc@vub.ac.be).

### **22nd Comparative Germanic Syntax Workshop**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> GGSW will be held at the Institute of English Linguistics, University of Stuttgart, June 8–9, 2007. Abstracts are invited for papers on any aspect of comparative Germanic syntax, including diachronic syntax and the interface between syntax and other components of the grammar. Invited speakers are Anna Cardinaletti (Venice) and Gisbert Fanselow (Potsdam). Abstract deadline: Feb. 1, 2007. Contact [cgsw@ifla.uni-stuttgart.de](mailto:cgsw@ifla.uni-stuttgart.de) for further information or consult the website at: <http://ifla.uni-stuttgart.de/~cgsw/>.

### **18th International Conference on Historical Linguistics**

The 18<sup>th</sup> ICHL will take place from August 6–11, 2007 in Montréal, Québec, Canada (UQAM). Abstracts are invited on any aspect of historical linguistics, with one of the proposed focus areas being “origins of Germanic”. Abstract deadline: Feb 1, 2007. For more information, write to the organizers at [ICHL2007@uqam.ca](mailto:ICHL2007@uqam.ca) or ICHL Organizing Committee  
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Montréal, QC Canada H3C 3P8

**and it's never too early...**

### **The Society of Historical English Language and Linguistics International Conference**

The Society of Historical English Language and Linguistics (SHEL) will hold its biennial conference from September 7–9, 2007. All events will take place in the School of Letters of Nagoya University, Higashi-yama Campus, Japan. Abstracts are solicited for any topic in historical English linguistics. Abstract deadline: April 30, 2007. Detailed information can be found at: <http://www.nagoya-u.ac.jp/en/index2.html>. Contact Masachiyo Amano ([mamano@lit.nagoya-u.ac.jp](mailto:mamano@lit.nagoya-u.ac.jp)) or Tomoyuki Tanaka ([tanakat@lit.nagoya-u.ac.jp](mailto:tanakat@lit.nagoya-u.ac.jp)) for further questions.

### **Message from the Editors**

Thanks to our colleagues, we have been able to feature a number of programs in our new Newsletter section “Program Profile”. Additionally, we’ve regularly included our “Conference Reports” feature. Please consider volunteering for a write-up on your program or on a conference you attended! Additionally, we solicit news and other information that may prove valuable to Germanic linguists including but not limited to job postings, conference announcements, and departmental news. Please send your information to Amanda Pounder ([apounder@ucalgary.ca](mailto:apounder@ucalgary.ca)). The deadline for the next Newsletter is February 15, 2006.

To join the SGL or report a change of address, fill out the form below and send it with a check, money order, or transfer receipt to:

Robert Howell  
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818 Van Hise Hall  
1220 Linden Drive  
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MADISON, WI 53706-1558

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a member of the Society for Germanic Linguistics.  
 Please note my address change.

Membership category:

- regular member (\$40.00)
- student member (\$15.00)
- joint membership (\$45.00)
- emeritus member (\$15.00)
- sustaining member (\$60.00)

*Members in Europe: Please pay Euro 15,00 (student), Euro 30,00 (regular), Euro 40,00 (joint), Euro 15,00 (emeritus), or Euro 50,00 (sustaining) to Volksbank Freiburg, Routing Number 680 900 00, Account 25598202. Submit your payment receipt with this form.*

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