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# SGL Newsletter

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Society for Germanic Linguistics Vol. 19, No. 2, Fall 2007

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## SGL News and Reports

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### GLAC 2007

The Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference XIII took place at Penn State University April 13–15, 2007. There were 56 papers presented, with presenters from throughout the United States and Canada, as well as Japan, Sweden, The Netherlands, Italy, Norway, Belgium, Germany and France. The first plenary talk titled “The functional neuroanatomy of word order phenomena in German” was given by Matthias Schlesewsky from Phillips Universität–Marburg. The second plenary talk titled “Contrast maintenance and contrast neutralization: Implications of initial velar sound change in Germanic” was given by Juliette Blevins from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig. There was also a conference workshop on Pennsylvania German organized by Mark Loudon (University of Wisconsin–Madison), B. Richard Page (Penn State University) and Joshua Brown (Penn State University). Conference funding was generously provided by the Society for Germanic Linguistics, the Max Kade Foundation, and the following programs and departments at Penn State: The Max Kade Institute, the Center for Language Acquisition, the Center for Language Science, the Department of French and Francophone Studies, the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, the Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, and the

Linguistics Program. On the Friday evening of the conference, the SGL executive committee, the conference planning committee, and all plenary speakers were invited to a dinner hosted by Orrin Robinson of Stanford University. We would like to thank all conference presenters and participants for helping to make GLAC 13 a success. (*Carrie Jackson and Richard Page*)

### SGL Annual Business Meeting

Webmaster David Fertig is working on the website: <http://germaniclinguistics.org>. The web pages and abstracts of past GLACs will be posted there. Future GLAC meetings will be held in the following cities:

2008 Madison (May 1–4)

2009 Calgary/Banff (April 30–May 3)

2010 Milwaukee

2011 Austin (*Robert Howell*)

### Diebold Prize

The Society for Germanic Linguistics awards the Diebold Prize annually for an outstanding student paper presented at GLAC. Congratulations to Angela Bagwell and Mike Olson, from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, who received the 2007 Diebold Prize for their paper entitled “Understanding German influence on Wisconsin English: Van Coetsem’s Stability Gradient.” The SGL would like to thank the members of the judging committee: David Fertig, Regina Smith, and Tracy Alan Hall. (*Sarah Fagan*)

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## *Journal of Germanic Linguistics*

### **1. Status Report.**

All JGL issues over the past year have been delivered to Cambridge University Press on, or very near, the deadline.

### **2. Changing Faces and Notes of Gratitude.**

#### *2.1. Editorial and Production Assistant.*

Ashley Burnett, a doctoral student at the University of Calgary, is replacing Ilana Mezhevich as Editorial and Production Assistant. I am extremely grateful to Ilana for her efforts over two and a half years. Her critical assessments of submissions to the JGL, and her truly impressive proofreading and editing skills, will be greatly missed.

#### *2.2. Review Editor.*

Richard Page continues to provide a wonderful service to the JGL and, more generally, to the discipline of linguistics. His efforts have ensured that there is a steady stream of timely reviews.

#### *2.3. Web Page.*

We have updated the JGL portion of the SGL web site. Our thanks to webmaster David Fertig.

### **3. JGL Style Sheet.**

As part of my JGL editorial duties, I attend the informal Editor's Circle held each year at the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. This meeting—chaired by Brian Joseph, editor of *Language*—is usually attended by a dozen or so editors representing various linguistics journals. At the past meeting in Anaheim (January 2007), a draft version of a Linguistics Style Sheet was approved, with the goal of moving toward a common set of conventions for all linguistics journals. The final version, which the JGL has adopted, is now available at <http://linguistlist.org/pubs/tocs/index.html>. Our sincere thanks to Joseph Salmons, whose efforts were instrumental in securing a consensus on the common style sheet.

### **4. Cambridge University Press.**

Cambridge University Press has recently concluded an agreement with the electronic archiving initiative called *Portico* (<http://www.portico.org/>) that will allow for the availability of all back volumes of Cambridge journals, even in the unlikely event, for example, that Cambridge can no longer provide access. Cambridge has also concluded a consortia deal with the Max Planck Institutes that will further facilitate access to the JGL. (*Robert Murray, Editor*)

## GLAC-14

### 14<sup>th</sup> Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference

University of Wisconsin–Madison  
May 1–4, 2008

Call for Papers Abstract Deadline: Friday, January 4, 2008

Faculty, 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 (especially to the Early Modern period) and the extra-territorial varieties. Papers from any linguistic subfield—including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, language acquisition, contact, and change—and from a wide range of theoretical approaches are welcome. Please specify whether you would prefer a 20-minute or a 30-minute slot for your presentation, or would be willing to accept either as available.

Please submit a single-spaced one-page abstract (in .doc or .rtf format, or .pdf if the file includes special characters or complex formatting) online at our website (see below). Include a title but no author information in the abstract itself. All abstracts will undergo anonymous review. The deadline for submissions is January 4, 2008. Notifications of acceptance will be distributed by February 4, 2008.

For overseas colleagues who need notification of acceptance before February 2008 for the sake of funding requests: please note that you need an early decision and submit prior to the January deadline. We will expedite notification.

Submit abstracts to: [jsalmons@wisc.edu](mailto:jsalmons@wisc.edu)

GLAC 14 Website: <http://mki.wisc.edu/GLAC/GLAC14.htm>

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## Program Profile

### German Linguistics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison

by Robert Howell

The Department of German at the University of Wisconsin–Madison has a long tradition of strength in Germanic linguistics, counting among its former faculty and doctoral students names such as Eduard Prokosch, Leonard Bloomfield, W. Freeman Twaddell, Martin Joos, R.M.S. Heffner, Lester W. Seifert and Winfred P. Lehmann. With four faculty members in linguistics (Chavez, Howell, Loudon, Salmons) and two additional faculty contributing to the graduate program (Calomino, James), as well as guest professors from Germany, the department offers an extraordinarily broad range of course work and research groups to the approximately 25 graduate students in Germanic linguistics enrolled at any given time.

Faculty in the program represent a wide range of research interests including:

- historical linguistics
- applied linguistics/second language acquisition
- phonological, morphological and syntactic theory
- language contact
- socio(historical) linguistics

Courses are regularly offered on a wide variety of modern and ancient languages, some of which are fairly common (Gothic, Old High German, Old Saxon, Middle High German; modern German and Dutch), others of which are quite unusual (Old Frisian, Middle Dutch; Yiddish, Pennsylvania German). Departmental offerings are supplemented by linguistics courses taught in the Departments of Scandinavian Languages and Literatures, English, and Linguistics. Faculty and students in the department also benefit from extensive library and archival resources in Germanic linguistics across the UW campus, as well as from close relationships to the program in Second Language Acquisition and to the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, home of the North American German Dialect Archive.

Graduate students participate in a number of collaborative research groups sponsored by departmental faculty and funded by such agencies as the National Institutes of Health, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. From the very beginning of graduate study students are encouraged to develop research interests and to present results at professional conferences or in journals. Doctoral students also have the opportunity to participate in teaching practica in our undergraduate program in German linguistics, a program which gives students valuable experience teaching actual content courses to our undergraduate majors.

Currently the journal *Diachronica* is edited in the department (Salmons), and Loudon has served as editor of the *Journal of Germanic Linguistics*. Madison hosted GLAC-2 in 1996 and will again host the upcoming GLAC-14 in May 2008.

## Conference Report

### ICHL 18

by Jeannette Denton

The 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Historical Linguistics met in Montréal, Canada August 6–11, 2007. Hosted by the University of Québec at Montréal, the conference attracted over 250 international scholars to the downtown university campus, which enjoyed pleasant Canadian summer weather.

Twelve workshops ran concurrently with main session talks. Unfortunately, an inconsistent schedule characterized by as many as nine and as few as two parallel sessions made for an array of choices that was at times either overwhelming or impoverished. Across sessions the fields of syntax and morphology seemed especially well addressed, while workshops on Creole Genesis, Quantitative Approaches to Comparative Linguistics, and presentations on new research tools were also popular among participants. Mornings and afternoons were punctuated by plenary talks including those of William Labov, Theo Vennemann, Gillian Sankoff, Claire Lefebvre, Lyle Campbell, Richard Kayne, and María Luisa Rivero. The last morning was devoted to a tribute to French historical linguist, Christiane Marchello-Nizia.

The SGL was well represented, as was Germanic as a whole, with nine papers in a workshop devoted to the Origins of Germanic and over forty in other sessions. Of further relevance to the field was Theo Vennemann's engaging plenary paper on the origins of the Germanic runes. For more information on the program and presentation abstracts, visit <http://www.ichl2007.uqam.ca/>.

## Upcoming Conferences

### **2nd International Symposium on Historical English Lexis (HEL-LEX2)**

HEL-LEX2 will take place from April 25 to 28, 2008 in Lammi, Finland. The papers cover a range of topics in lexical studies and there is a focus on new research methods in this area of English historical linguistics. Plenary speakers will be Dieter Kastovsky, University of Vienna, Julie Coleman, University of Leicester, and Elizabeth Knowles, Oxford University Press. For more information, see the website at: <http://www.helsinki.fi/varieng/HELLEX/> or contact Roderick McConchie at [hellex-2008@helsinki.fi](mailto:hellex-2008@helsinki.fi).

## Conference Calls

### Berkeley Germanic Linguistics Roundtable

The annual Berkeley Germanic Linguistics Roundtable will take place from April 5 to 6, 2008, University of California, Berkeley. Papers are invited on Germanic Linguistics, its near and/or distant related languages, diverse approaches, synchrony and/or diachrony. For more information, contact Irmengard Rauch at [irauch@berkeley.edu](mailto:irauch@berkeley.edu).

### Romanisch-deutscher und Innerromanischer Sprachvergleich

The Sixth International Conference on German-Romance and Intraromance Contrastive Linguistics will be held in Innsbruck, Austria, from September 3 to 5, 2008. Abstracts are invited on theoretical or applied topics, and overview presentations on subject areas such as Intercultural Pragmatics, Contrastive Syntax, Contrastive Phonetics/Phonology, Contrastive Lexicology/Semantics. For a complete list of subject areas, consult the conference website at <http://www.uibk.ac.at/translation/rd-sprvgl/>. Abstracts should be submitted in German or a Romance language. Abstract Deadline: February 15, 2008. The conference organizers can be reached at the following addresses: Prof. Dr. Eva Lavric: [eva.lavric@uibk.ac.at](mailto:eva.lavric@uibk.ac.at); Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Pöckl: [wolfgang.poeckl@uibk.ac.at](mailto:wolfgang.poeckl@uibk.ac.at).

## Message from the Editors

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our “Program Profile” and “Conference Reports” sections. We encourage you to consider providing an overview of your program for our “Program Profile” feature. 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, 2008.

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:

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

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