



language legacies

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ELF

NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT



PRESIDENT MONICA MACAULAY

In January of this year, Douglas H. Whalen, the founder of ELF, handed over the reins to a new team. Monica Macaulay (University of Wisconsin-Madison) will serve as President of ELF and Claire Bowers (Yale University) will serve as Vice President. Doug will stay on as the Chair of the Board of Directors. Monica, Claire, and the rest of the ELF Board are deeply grateful to Doug for his many years of service to the cause of endangered languages the world over and are very excited to start a new chapter in ELF history. (See p. 3 for more about Doug and the history of ELF.)



VICE PRESIDENT CLAIRE BOWERN

NATIVE VOICES ENDOWMENT GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2014

The Endangered Language Fund is pleased to announce the following awardees from the 2014 competition for Native Voices Endowment grants. These grants are for language projects by enrolled tribal members, tribal language programs, and tribal schools or colleges whose ancestors came into contact with the 1803-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The 2015 competition will be announced in August. For further details and lists of eligible tribes and languages, see http://www.endangeredlanguagefund.org/native_voices.php.

Valerie Switzler
(Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs)
"Working With Kiksht Legacies"

This project will develop a strong base of volunteers to produce materials for future scholarship and teaching in the Kiksht language. It will give Kiksht learners the ability to make use of over 200 audio and video recordings left by elders to create another generation of speakers and teachers.

Kiksht (ISO 636-3 chh) is a sleeping language and the remaining speakers are not currently well-equipped to teach Kiksht effectively in terms of technology, curriculum, or documentation. With only two speakers of advanced Kiksht proficiency, the need for teacher training and a robust, organized curriculum and corpus of learning materials is of immense importance, especially to the Wasco children of Warm Springs.

The project has three specific objectives: (1) Gain the knowledge to access and utilize existing Kiksht materials and learn techniques for further documentation, in part by sending four Kiksht community members to the 2015 Northwest Language Institute (NILI) summer workshop; (2) Develop a learning plan for current adult learners of Kiksht, to be modified as needed for subsequent programs focused on children and families; (3) Supply Kiksht language leaders with

the equipment and training necessary to create and maintain a curriculum and accessible body of materials for language education programs. All materials will then become part of the archival holdings of the tribe.

This year sees exciting changes to the ELF leadership! Monica Macaulay and Claire Bowers are taking over as president and vice president, respectively.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

MONICA MACAULAY

*PRESIDENT
LINGUIST, UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN - MADISON
MADISON, WI*

DARYL BALDWIN

*DIRECTOR, MYAAMIA CENTER,
OXFORD, OH*

CLAIRE BOWERN

*VICE PRESIDENT
LINGUIST, YALE UNIVERSITY
NEW HAVEN, CT*

PHIL CASH CASH

*LINGUIST,
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA,
TUCSON, AZ*

C. J. CHERRYH

*AUTHOR AND CLASSICIST,
SPOKANE, WA*

NOAM CHOMSKY

*LINGUIST, MASSACHUSETTS
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE, MA*

STEPHANIE FIELDING

*MOHEGAN TRIBE,
UNCASVILLE, CT*

ROBERT FRANK

*LINGUIST, YALE UNIVERSITY,
NEW HAVEN, CT*

CYNTHIA HENDERSON

*TREASURER
SAN FRANCISCO, CA*

TONY JOHNSON

*CHINOOK NATION
WILLAPA BAY, WA*

JOHANNA NICHOLS

*LINGUIST,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY, CA*

JANINE SCANCARELLI

*LINGUIST AND ATTORNEY,
SAN FRANCISCO, CA*

BOBBY WINSTON

*SECRETARY
SAN FRANCISCO, CA*

HANNI WOODBURY

*ANTHROPOLOGIST,
WELLFLEET, MA*

DOUGLAS H. WHALEN

*FOUNDER/CHAIR OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HASKINS LABORATORIES,
NEW HAVEN, CT*

**Clyde Tyndall (Indian Center, Inc.)
"Ponca Language Dictionary"**

This project proposes to work with fluent speaker Louis Headman to develop a dictionary of the Ponca language (ISO 639-3 oma). The Ponca Tribes of Oklahoma and Nebraska believe that successful completion of this Ponca Language Dictionary will provide a resource from which both tribes can restore and revitalize the language. The focus of the project will be on the language as it is spoken today and in relation to its oral literature, which will furnish examples for the dictionary.

The Ponca language has less than five fluent speakers, all over the age of 75. The community is geographically divided, which has made joint language preservation efforts difficult. However, recent developments in technology have provided the tribes with new opportunities to collaborate in preserving the Ponca language, which will be enhanced by the Ponca Language Dictionary.

**Robert Brave Heart, Sr.
(Red Cloud Indian School)**

**"Mahpiya Luta Lakol
Wauspe Wicakiyapi –
Teaching Lakota to Red
Cloud Students"**

ELF is providing continued support of Red Cloud Indian School and their efforts to develop and implement a comprehensive K-12 Lakota (ISO 639-3 lkt) curriculum. Although there are an estimated 6,000 fluent speakers of Lakota, the average speaker age is nearly 65 years, so the language is endangered.

The focus of this year's project is on the development of a complete set of readers for grades K-12 and an expansion of community outreach, including the following goals: (1) Develop Lakota language-based literature; (2) Provide professional development opportunities for Lakota language teachers in curriculum materials, second language acquisition techniques, lesson planning, assessment, and data analysis; (3) Increase the use of the Lakota language in students' homes and in the community; (4) Begin building a Lakota library by gathering, transcribing, and translating materials.

*"Now my brother
and I make a point of
speaking the language
to each other. It makes
us feel proud to be
Lakota. Because of the
language program at
Red Cloud, I have a
better understanding
of my culture."*

With past funding, the project held their first Lakota Language Summer Camp. In addition, the first graduating class completed four full years of high school level Lakota language classes with 86% of students showing improvement throughout the year. Students felt more motivated and comfortable with their Lakota identity in and out of school, and taking science, math, and art classes in Lakota helped to reinforce the importance of the language.

**Marsha Wynecoop (Spokane Tribe of Indians)
"Spokane Language Dictionary 2nd Edition"**

This project will complete and publish the second edition of the Spokane Language (ISO 639-3 spo) Dictionary to assist in the tribe's language revitalization program. It will aid teachers and trainees, second language learners, elders, and students, but also other Salish-speaking tribes. The increased interest in the language and abilities of speakers will encourage appreciation of the language and will promote recognition of elder speakers. In addition, it will help prepare the community for the future Language Nest Immersion School.

There are currently only 11 fluent speakers of Spokane Salish. The community is working to keep the language alive by holding adult

classes as well as teaching young people. The Spokane Tribe's Language/Culture Department is working to increase the number of fluent speakers, train teachers, implement an immersion program in tribal schools, and utilize community outreach to promote interest in language use.

**Cynthia L. Catches
(Oceti Wakan "Sacred Fireplace")**

**"Lakota Language Learning Stations/Elder
Interaction"**

To create a "safe place" for young people to practice simple, conversational sentences, 44 'Lakota Language Learning Stations' (LLSs) were built with the help of an earlier ANA grant. These stations allow students to listen to recordings and record themselves speaking Lakota. The current ELF grant will allow for an elder to work as a Lakota teacher and also to continue the program, so students will have both Lakota classes and time working at the LLS stations. Additionally, continuing this program will give insight into students' progress in learning and

using the language. ELF support will allow for further development of the program with a long-term goal of sharing it with other schools to encourage children to start speaking a little bit more every day.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ELF

The Endangered Language Fund (ELF) was established in 1996 as a non-profit organization by Douglas H. Whalen. It was, and is, dedicated to the documentation and revitalization of languages in danger of falling silent. In the ensuing years, ELF has become one of the few sources of funding for language documentation and, even more importantly, one of the very few for funding revitalization efforts. Hosting the first national Breath of Life workshops expanded the offering and the recently launched [Healing Through Language](#) initiative holds the promise of even greater scope.

Doug has this description of how ELF started: “I got the idea for ELF at the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in Boston in 1994. At a meeting of the Committee on Endangered Languages (as it was known then; it is now the Committee on Endangered Languages and their Preservation, or CELP), I heard about the dire situation of a vast proportion of the languages of the world and how much was being lost without a trace. I asked where the money was coming from for the efforts that were obviously needed, and I was looked at like I had three heads. I figured that if I was not receiving a weekly request for money for language documentation (as I was

for, say, saving retired race horses), then there was a need for an organization to start collecting money.

“The first person I asked about this was Floyd Lounsbury, the legendary anthropological linguist at Yale University. If he had thought it was a bad idea, I would have stopped right there. Fortunately, he thought otherwise and agreed to be my first Board member.

“My plan was to start small and see what happened. I did not have a major donor lined up and did not know how to find one. Nonetheless, we raised \$10,000 that first year, allowing us to make 10 awards to some outstanding projects. (One went to Ofelia Zepeda, a future MacArthur fellow; the following year another went to Monica Macaulay, ELF’s second president.) Because we were an independent non-profit, we could establish our own criteria. This included being much less demanding in the grant application itself (two pages of description were recommended) and in its coherence (we could make allowances for non-academics who might be submitting their first application ever). This has indeed allowed us to provide a nice balance between academic awards and community-based ones.

“Our first Secretary/Treasurer, Dennis Holt, designed a beautiful logo. It adapts one of the few non-orthographic symbols for speech, the Mayan speech scroll.

“ELF has been a great part of my life. It has allowed me to meet some of the greatest people on earth; you need dedication to work on language revitalization, and that dedication comes with greatness. It has been an honor to have ELF be a part of that effort.”

ELF has two grant programs which provide funds for individuals or groups doing language documentation and revitalization. It has also established a biennial National Breath of Life workshop in Washington, D.C., allowing Native American groups to access national archives. In addition, the Healing Through Language initiative will allow ELF to support and evaluate language revitalization programs by emphasizing the direct health benefits that they generate. (Continued on the following page.)

*Thank you to
Doug Whalen,
ELF founder and
outgoing president,
for 19 years of
hard work and
language support.*



DOUG WHALEN AT THE MOHEGAN WIGWAM, UNCASVILLE, CT, AUGUST, 2003

LANGUAGE LEGACIES:

HANNAH KING

EDITOR

THE ENDANGERED

LANGUAGE FUND,

NEW HAVEN, CT

VOLUME 19, No. 1,

JULY 2015

PRINTED IN NEW HAVEN,

CT

©2015,

ENDANGERED LANGUAGE

FUND, INC.

The first and continuing grant program, now called Language Legacies grants, covers the globe. Academics and language activists from any country are eligible to apply. Revitalization efforts are particularly encouraged. ELF has given out 206 grants for work in 57 countries as of 2015.

The second grant program is the Native Voices Endowment, begun in 2007. It is made possible by an endowment generated from the sale of the nickels that the US Mint created for the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition of 1803-1806. There was a Council of Tribal Advisors (COTA) to the Bicentennial, representatives of various Native American tribes contacted by the Expedition. COTA decided that their share of the funds would go to language revitalization for the tribes they represented. They solicited plans for the use of the money, and ELF's proposal was selected. The income generated by the original \$1.6 million endowment continues to fund this grant program, which has given out 54 grants to date.

FOLLOW US!

ELF is now on Twitter! Follow us for endangered language news @EndLangFund. We can also be found on Facebook; search for Endangered Language Fund.



CONTRIBUTE TO ELF

Your donation will continue work towards documentation and revitalization of some of the world's most threatened languages. Send any amount today to make a difference and be part of the work we do at ELF!

Checks made payable to ELF can be sent to:

Endangered Language Fund
300 George Street, Suite 900
New Haven, CT 06511

Or donate online at:

<http://www.endangeredlanguagefund.org/donate.php>

ELF IS GOING GREEN!

In order to conserve resources (both environmental and financial), this is the last year that ELF will be sending out a paper newsletter. In order to continue receiving the newsletter, please be sure to go to <http://www.endangeredlanguagefund.org>, fill in your email address below the heading, "e-newsletter," on the left side of the page, and click the "subscribe" button.

CORRECTION

In the November 2014 ELF newsletter, Caleb Brucks was incorrectly listed as Caleb Brooks. We apologize for the error.



the
endangered
language
fund

300 George Street, Suite 900; New Haven, CT 06511

p : 203.865-6163, ext. 265 f : 203.865-8963 www.endangeredlanguagefund.org