Oktoberfest

The second annual Oktoberfest sponsored by the City of College Park and the University of Maryland's Department of Germanic Studies gave the National Museum of Language (NML) another opportunity to showcase both the NML mission and the progress made toward achieving our goals. Held on the University's College Park campus on Saturday, October 19, 2002, the event was a part of the ongoing effort by the City and the University to join together in providing cultural and other worthwhile activities in the City. The NML was pleased to again be a part of this effort to enhance the quality of life of the community.

In a festive atmosphere of traditional Bavarian fare, folk dancing and music, compah bands and young voices singing, the NML presented an exhibit of colorful maps, selections of the past year's newspaper articles featuring language in the news, and photographs of the Museum's recent activities. A number of local personalities who are active in supporting the NML appear in the photo displays, demonstrating the strong community support for the Museum and its mission. Copies of our brochure and the various issues of the Newsletter were available for distribution, as were the brochures of the Linguistic Society of America, always a very popular item with the public, and information on other language organizations, such as the Center of Applied Linguistics, who support the Museum.

NML Treasurer Jim McFadden mounted the exhibit and helped serve as "docent." His talent for choosing items from a vast pile of materials and arranging them in an effective display is demonstrated regularly at our annual meetings. Associate Manuel Guevara assisted in transporting and setting up the exhibit, and Associate Dora Kennedy and Special Advisor Don Domogauer and his wife Renee Domogauer served as relief docents.

No count was taken of the people visiting the display, but there was a good mix of general public and students. Particularly encouraging was the real interest shown in the work of the museum. An informal fun survey of the native tongue of the grandparents of the visitors served as an icebreaker for many, leading to discussions of the Museum's future plans for highlighting our linguistic heritage. A surprising number of people were familiar with the subject of endangered languages. Other topics of interest included sign language, the virtual museum, and rare languages.

The NML Board of Directors, after reviewing the possibilities of an even larger display, has approved participation in future Oktoberfests, should the City and the University continue to sponsor the event.

Amelia C. Murdoch

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From left: Amelia Murdoch, Manuel Orellana, Dora Kennedy, Anawati Jimenez, and James McFadden.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the last issue of the Newsletter we tipped our hat briefly to our first five years, and reviewed the accomplishments of the preceding year. As we enter the year 2003, it is appropriate that we look forward to the next five years. It is essential that we understand what we must do in the coming year to usher them in.

Volunteers
We have been fortunate in our recent quest for volunteers and have several promising “recruits.” We need many more. As our plans and projects multiply, we must call on an ever-larger array of people to execute them. And we need them for the long run. An occasional meeting, a hand raised in an enthusiastic vote for a project is worth much less than regular attendance and a hand offered to assist the creation of a display, and all the ancillary work involved in putting it before the public.

Fundraising
The goal of increasing our funding will receive major emphasis in the years ahead. We have done much with volunteers alone, but a permanent, paid staff would be an important step and would enable us to move ahead more rapidly. Exhibits and programs should be based on our collections, still to be acquired. And staff and collections require a home base, an adequate base of operations. Every effort must be made to develop funding for each of these major goals.

Membership
Other than one large gift, our single source of revenue at present consists of membership dues. They are doubly important to us, for not only do they provide our operating expenses, but also they testify to the support that exists for our mission. To those of you who are members, we are most grateful. We urge you to further assist us by recruiting at least one new member. A growing membership is a sign of vitality, a critical signal of a healthy organization that is so necessary if we are to obtain funding. Equally important is broadening our base to encompass more circles than we have heretofore been able to reach. There are many groups, organizations, and businesses to which our message will be of great interest, and which we have yet to identify and address.

Outreach
Needless to say, our outreach to the public will take many forms, our contacts will be made through many media. Here our credibility is at stake. Our vision must become visible, it must become tangible. Our exhibits and programs, our website will become spokesmen for our ideas, they will interpret the world of language to the public. We cannot delay in creating the instruments that will transmit our message in the vivid and fascinating ways we have envisaged.

Prospectus
A critical tool, essential for fundraising and development of membership, the Prospectus is taking shape, although more slowly than we anticipated. In the weeks ahead we will be concentrating on two general areas that are still not adequately treated. Should we come to you and seek your advice and cooperation on this project, please recognize how urgent and important it is that it be completed expeditiously. Your help can make the difference.

Amelia C. Murdoch
Amelia C. Murdoch
Spotlight on Joseph E. Page

A member of the NML Board of Directors, Joseph E. Page brings the experiences from a lifetime of service to his country and his community to enrich his contributions on the Board. After a recent Board meeting, one of our newer Board members exclaimed, "How lucky you are to have Joe Page on the Board!" With each passing month we have new cause to echo this sentiment. The following tour d'horizon of his life and career will explain to some extent why he was invited to serve on the Board. Our personal observations will help you understand why he is in such great demand.

A native of New York City, he was attending Brooklyn College when he volunteered for the Army in World War II. Starting as an enlisted man, he served in the Southwest Pacific (Australia, New Guinea, the Philippine Islands) and was honorably discharged in 1945 as Second Lieutenant, a direct commission he received in the Philippines. After two years as a civilian working for the Bank of America in San Francisco, Page returned to active duty in 1948 in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In his subsequent military career he alternated assignments overseas and in the United States. An enumeration of his overseas posts clearly qualify him as well-traveled: occupation duty in Japan, the conflict in Korea, peacetime service in France/Western Europe, Japan again, and the Republic of Mali. Old Army hands can identify with his tours at Ft. Belvoir, VA; Ft. Geo. G. Meade, MD; Schenectady, NY, Army Depot; Ft. Lee, VA (two tours).

Education is a theme throughout his life. He was initially assigned as a faculty member at the Officer Candidate School at Fort Belvoir and later as Operations Officer at the Engineer School there. While stationed at Ft. Meade he received his Bachelor's degree in Military Science (with honors) from the University of Maryland. Not satisfied with this, and clearly addicted to education, on his second tour in Japan he obtained a B.A. in General Studies (with honors) at the University of Maryland in Tokyo. Later he pursued graduate work at Ft. Lee.

Upon his retirement as Lt. Colonel in 1967 Page moved to College Park and began civilian life as an official at the Baltimore Department of Housing and Community Development. Since 1985 he has been deeply involved in many aspects of community service through memberships in numerous civic and veterans organizations. Elected to the City Council of College Park, he subsequently served two terms as Mayor. His retirement from that post took place in 1997, the year of the founding of the National Museum of Language (NML).

Because of his well-known love of language, his service abroad and his distinguished career as a public servant, Page was encouraged to become a candidate for the Museum's first Board of Directors. Cherished for his tact and diplomacy, famed for the multitude of friends and contacts who respond so willingly when he seeks their help, he stands out for his wisdom, good advice and hard work. His experiences in learning and using French and Japanese, as well as coping with the multi-lingual world of Mali, often illuminates his work with NML. In the world of language he stands out not as a theorist or a teacher, but as a practitioner. He embodies the ideal that linguists so often praise: the individual who promotes international understanding and good will through language. He has lived the life.

Amelia C. Murdock

Spring Workshop March 22, 2003

According to the American Association of Museum publication "Organizing Your Museum: The Essentials," a firm financial base must underlie the successful operation of a museum. Without a reliable source of funds a new museum in the modern world faces a very uncertain future. It is therefore critically important to ensure the availability of funding for its existence and survival. Towards this end the NML is planning to conduct a “Spring Workshop” to develop initial strategies to identify funding sources as soon as possible.

Preliminary plans for the workshop are as follows:

Date and Time: Saturday, March 22, 2003, beginning at 11:30 AM and ending at 4:00 PM.

Place: The Old Parish House at 4711 Knox Road, College Park, Maryland. Free parking.

General Program: The event will begin with an “International Pot Luck” luncheon starting at noon and ending at 1:30 PM. The luncheon will consist of “international” recipe dishes to be prepared by willing NML members, and will be coordinated by Vice President Whitney Reed, member Fran Reed, Associate Yuki Onoe, and Associate Jane Page.

At 1:30 PM, following the luncheon, welcoming comments will be given by President Amelia Murdoch. After these comments, we hope to have brief substantive presentations on membership and other potential funding sources.

Commencing at approximately 2:00 PM and ending at 4:00 PM, we plan to have a two-hour session, including participation by attendees, on strategies and actions necessary for conducting successful fundraising. This portion of the program will be facilitated by Peggy Higgins, the City of College Park department head who so ably facilitated our Strategic Planning sessions two years ago and who has graciously volunteered to do so again this spring.

Final details will be disseminated to NML members shortly before the scheduled workshop.

We urge you to join us in this unique luncheon adventure and important program.

Joseph E. Page
Why I Support the National Museum of Language

As Interim Chair of a Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, a card-carrying member of the Modern Language Association, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, College Language Association, Southern Conference on Language Teaching and a host of state and local language associations, why do I belong to the National Museum of Language?

I have been involved, interested and enthusiastic about the NML since 2001. The NML has a broad view of language that one does not always exercise as an academic teaching foreign languages. Yet on the level of culture and identity—language is everything. The NML connects my rather narrow academic perspective as a professor of Spanish, with a much broader point of view. Language is the cornerstone of human development, the key to human exchange and glue of cultural legacy. It connects my academic perspective on language to greater societal issues. The NML offers a way to be involved in language as a macroissue. This appeals to me greatly, since the narrow context in which this practitioner moves must be complemented by the big picture. This panorama is provided and is being developed by the NML.

The general importance of language in the United States has yet to come to fruition. With the NML’s vision of an important bricks and mortar institution as one of the many, many goals of the NML—enhanced visibility is palpable. The online potential of the NML is mind-boggling in terms of domestic outreach which will bridge age, geography, literacy levels, languages, dialectics, etc. The promise of global outreach is inevitable. Recent NML sessions on language-related initiatives such as SCOLA (foreign languages brought to us via satellite and the Internet) and machine translation are strong examples of programming. I look forward to many more opportunities to learn and grow along with the infrastructure at the NML.

Whether I am speaking my native English, my near-native Spanish, or my novice-level Portuguese, language has always been an end and a means for me professionally and as an individual who reaches out to others to learn and foster a greater understanding of the human condition. Whether I am teaching literature or culture, it all boils down to language and our unique human ability to express ourselves. The NML embodies and acknowledges the possibilities of language. It advocates the essential showcasing of language, and that is why I am proud to be a member of the NML. I look forward to continued success of the organization with its inspirational leadership for many years to come.

Sven Sparte Long, Ph.D.

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Mark Your Calendar!
Annual Meeting Announcement

The Annual Meeting of the National Museum of Language will take place on Saturday, June 28. The Dinner will be held at the University of Maryland University College Inn and Conference Center. As those who attended last year’s dinner know, this venue was most satisfactory, and the food delicious. We hope to have similar accommodations this year. Further details on time and cost will be announced as soon as they become available.

The NML has always been fortunate in having excellent speakers contribute their services at this annual affair, and we are again this year. Everette Jordan is a multi-linguist who has a twenty-year record of service in our nation’s intelligence community. With his impressive range of assignments and ever-increasing responsibilities, it is not surprising that he was one of 24 investigators appointed as a member of the Joint 9/11 Inquiry Staff working for the House and Senate Intelligence Committees of the 107th Congress. His future will surely reflect the breadth of his experience. His thought-provoking topic for the Annual Meeting—“Is America up to the Foreign Language Challenge?”—will be of immense interest to all of us.

New Appointments

ASSOCIATES

Associates play a very important role in the work of the Museum, serving on and chairing committees and providing assistance and advice on all aspects of our work. We are therefore pleased to announce the appointment of several new associates, recognizing their efforts thus far. While their term ends in June 2003, they may be reappointed. We hope they will be able to continue their interest and contributions towards the goals and work of the Museum.

Chris Estes, whose area of expertise is website development, serves on the Web Committee and has been assisting Director Helen Carpenter design volunteer databases. We look forward to his future contributions as the work on the NML website advances.

Kathleen E. Miller, Research Assistant to William Safire, is actively pursuing several avenues to assist in developing NML programming. Her major interest in lexicography is inspiring several projects now under consideration by the Museum Programs Committee. Along with her strong interest in dictionaries and dialects, she brings a broad background, much energy, and a wealth of ideas to this Committee and to the Museum as a whole.
Intern Program in Action

The Board of Directors of the National Museum of Language approved an Intern Program for the Museum early in 2001, but it had not been activated until recently. NML President Amelia Murdoch, Director Joseph Page and Julie Gowan, Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Communications of the University of Maryland College Park, met in December to discuss the possibility of developing a cooperative program of benefit to both the Museum and students. Happily, Gowan judged the NML program to be a good match for the program that she guides for the one thousand students in the Communications Department. At present, the NML program provides no stipend, a disadvantage for many students. Gowan's program, however, provides course credits, giving the student a tangible benefit for participation. Ten hours per week of volunteer work or the completion of a specific project are required. The Museum offers a variety of areas and numerous projects that a student may choose from, and an opportunity to be a part of the process of realizing the vision for a unique institution.

National Museum of Language Intern Program
Adopted March 21, 2002

Purpose
The purpose of the National Museum of Language (NML) Intern Program is threefold:
1. To enlist interns to assist in the development of the NML, providing the Museum with critical labor in the early stages of shaping the institution. Such a program will provide the NML with a wider base of workers, in terms of both labor and ideas.
2. To provide these interns with official acknowledgement of their services, describing the kind of duties they performed, and evaluating their performance.
3. If appropriate, to provide formal procedure for link with an academic program.

Qualifications
Applicants should provide evidence of the following:
1. Training or experience in a field appropriate to the mission of the NML.
2. Two letters of recommendation.
3. If appropriate, an identified/approved faculty supervisor/advisor.

Terms of Service
The period of service may be three months, six months, or one year, each term to be renewable.
1. Each intern shall be under the supervision of a Director or Associate of the Museum. If a professional or technical expert is assisting in the endeavor, such experts will also supervise the work of the intern.
3. Satisfactory performance of duties shall include either the completion of a certain number of hours of work or the completion of a specific project, and submission of a paper or description of the project involved.

Acknowledgement of Service
Recognition of the contribution of the intern shall be provided in two forms:
1. A certificate from the National Museum of Language recognizing the work of the intern.
2. A letter of recommendation from the Museum, suitable for use in conjunction with a resume.

Stipend
Internships may or may not carry a stipend. No internships with a stipend are available at the present time.

Fields
At present, internships are available in the following fields:

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<td>Publications Assistant</td>
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For further information, please contact Amelia C. Murdoch, 301-864-7071 or 301-864-4999.
Report from the Committees

Administration Committee

The Administration Committee continued work on planning for the 2003 Spring Workshop (Ed. Note: see also article by Director Page, page 3). The Committee members are confident that this year's workshop will be another success and prove to be worthwhile experience for all attendees.

Efforts also continued on the implementation of the Museum's Intern Program. Director Page contacted the University of Maryland's Communications Department and determined that there is university interest in the program. Citing the mutual benefits, Julie Gowin, who is in charge of the Department's Outreach Program, expressed support and provided details on what needed to be accomplished to ensure that the Intern Program satisfied credit requirements for the students. The museum hopes to be able to implement the arrangement with the University during the next semester, and for the summer term as well. (Ed. Note: see also Intern Program Outline, page 5).

The Prospectus continued to be the focus of the Committee, with all striving to finalize and publish what will be a major fund-raising tool for the Museum. In an effort to provide more "concrete" to the Prospectus, the Administration Committee has begun an effort to obtain architectural renderings, plans, and a model of the Museum's proposed conservation, research, and storage facility. Contacts with Dr. Richard Wagner, a partner of the Baltimore architectural firm of David H. Cleason Associates, may result in the facility design becoming the thesis project for a graduate student at Morgan State. Exploration of possible sites near the College Park Metro station has begun in earnest with preliminary discussions with the City's Planning Department. Having plans and possible sites will ensure that readers of the Prospectus understand our commitment to the Museum and its ultimate success.

Finally, the Committee was pleased to learn that Associate Yuki Onoe's research paper entitled "Computational Linguistics and the National Museum of Language" was accepted at Georgetown University as her Master's thesis. It is now being reviewed for use by the Museum.

James E. McFadden

Programs Committee

We regret to report the recent resignation of Associate Lauren Raivel as Chair of the Museum Programs Committee (MPC). Citing health problems and increased demands in her job as a teacher at a new school as the reason for her decision, Raivel promises to keep in touch with the work of the Committee and hopes to be able to resume a more active role in the future. She has long been associated with the Committee, and in view of her extensive knowledge of its history and goals, her departure represents a real loss to us. We wish her well and look forward to hearing from her.

Despite cancellation of its last meeting because of snow, the Committee looks forward to reviewing and prioritizing the numerous concepts and projects it has formulated up to the present. Continuation and completion of the office conversion should be a major effort. Other items to be considered are a program of conversations with linguists, possible co-sponsorship of a dictionary program, and possible acquisition of the library of a prominent linguist. Among the newer activities to be discussed are the preparation of the NML's new portable display board, and a role for the Committee in the completion of the Prospectus now being drafted by the Administration/Prospectus Committee.

Ever conscious that we are establishing a museum, the Committee is particularly interested in obtaining the participation and assistance of individuals who have the skills necessary for creating and building displays. Come to our meetings and get involved!

Amelia C. Murdoch

Web Committee

The Web Committee has made significant progress in constructing the National Museum of Language web site. The Web Committee encourages all readers and interested parties to review the progress of the construction by accessing the site at http://www.languagemuseum.org/dcv/index.html.

Components of the site include a posting of current NML events, NML newsletters, an NML membership form, a history of NML, and a links section that lists relevant web links to language-related groups and organizations. Currently, the web links section is in place. Review it by clicking on Links and checking out the current listing.

The NML web site is being designed as a world-wide virtual museum space that will present the universal nature of language and its impact on human affairs in the past, the present, and the future. We are encouraging anyone interested in constructing this virtual museum space to join the Web Committee. We need language experts, media experts, web designers and editors, and anyone else with a creative spirit to contribute to our mission to build a cutting edge language space that captures the best that we know about the human race's single greatest achievement language.

If you are interested in working with us, contact Wayne Slater, NML Web Committee Chair, at wslater@umd.edu.

Wayne Slater
From Our Readers

Reginald Lee Hefner, a longtime member of the NML and currently language instructor at the Gettysburg Campus of Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), has offered us contact information for Carol R. Gerkin, the Director of Workforce Development and Continuing Education at HACC. We hope that the NML promotional packet that was sent to Gerkin will be passed on to other language instructors and students to generate interest in the Museum outside the DC metropolitan area. We want to thank Mr. Hefner for the lead as well as his continuing support of the Museum.

An NML Associate and Associate Professor of Spanish at the University of Alabama, Sheri Spaine Long, Ph.D., has been selected as a Fulbright member of the Executive Council of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. The Executive Council serves as the Board of Directors for the organization. We hope Dr. Long will enjoy her fourth term on the Council. We offer our congratulations and trust that she will remember to put in a good word for the NML.

Appointments continue from page 4 ...

Yuki Onoe, who has just completed her Master’s degree in computational linguistics at Georgetown University, is contributing to the work of both the Museum Programs Committee and the Administrative/Prospectus Committee. A dedicated participant in the work of both Committees, she is developing a good general understanding of the work of the Museum as she increases her own ability to forward that work effectively. (End Note: see also Administration Committee Report, page 6).

Natalie Schilling-Estes, Assistant Professor of Linguistics at Georgetown University, has made numerous contributions to the Prospectus now being drafted by the Administration Committee. In view of her expertise on the subject of dialects, her advice will be of great value as we pursue the creation of exhibits on Maryland regional dialects and related subjects. Her comprehensive linguistic background will help ensure that our work is sound and reliable, her creativeness will ensure that it has range and imagination.

Newsletter Editor

Nikoleta Dineen, currently Assistant Editor of the NML Newsletter, will become Managing Editor of the Newsletter beginning with the next issue. All those who have been involved in its publication have been most appreciative of her creativity, initiative, and professionalism. Her knowledge about the Museum’s activities now under way and her acquaintance with the many “mothers and shakers” who keep things going are both steadily increasing, thus making her considerable contribution even more valuable. (End Note: see also Newsletter Summer/Fall 2002).

Amelia Murdoch

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Make checks payable to:
The National Museum of Language

Annual Membership
Patron ...........................................$5,000 and up
Benefactor ......................................$1,000 to $4,999
Sustainer ..........................................$500 to $999
Supporting Member ..........................$250 to $499
Contributing Member .........................$100 to $249
Dual/Family Member ..........................$50
Individual Member ...........................$30
Student/Senior Member .....................$15
Corporate Member .............................$1,000
Institutional/Organizational Member ............$300

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City/State/Zip ________________________
Telephone __________________________
E-mail ______________________________

The National Museum of Language is officially recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a "non-profit" organization; membership gifts are therefore tax deductible to the full extent authorized under the law.

The Museum is active in the community of College Park as well as in the general language community, where it strives to gain the support of a broad range of organizations and individuals. The interns will play a role in this effort and have the benefit of contacts with the many leaders of various segments of the language world who are working with the Museum. Maryland students will find it convenient to intern at the NML, since its administrative offices are within easy walking distance of the University campus, as well as the College Park Metro Station.

We have described here the proposed cooperation with University of Maryland’s Department of Communications intern program. Interns from other institutions are of course equally welcome, as are those not affiliated with any academic program.

The outline of the NML Intern Program is published in this issue (page 5). Interns will be able to select not only their area of specialization, but also what particular Museum project they are interested in. Publications such as the Newsletter, the Prospectus, the Annual Report, and brochures; the creation of databases for membership development and fundraising; exhibits on Maryland regional dialects, the Young Linguist Program, the virtual Museum; and the more mundane aspects of creating a new museum, such as designing and organizing NML records, development of documentation and the like.

Please call our office at 301-864-7071 or email us at natmuse.org@nn.com for further information or an interview.

Amelia C. Murdoch
UPCOMING EVENTS

NML MEETINGS

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CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS

NML Associate Dr. Marion Fines will discuss "A Language Museum, an Unlikely Institution of Learning?" at the NECTFL meeting in Washington, D.C., this spring. Her vivacious and creative vision for the Museum make this presentation a must for all Museum supporters.

Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages  April 10–13