ANNUAL MEETING 2004

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, June 19, 2004, at the Mount Clare Café at the Inn and Conference Center of the University of Maryland University College. The program, which began with a reception and silent auction, was praised for its diversity and high interest. The Museum was honored to have in attendance Mr. George Hall, husband of Dr. Hall, the Keynote Speaker, and Dr. Claire Cassidy, daughter of renowned lexicographer Frederic Cassidy, and her husband, Mr. John Rosince.

After the President’s welcome, the program began with a brief speech by Dr. Earl M. (“Rick”) Rickerson of the College of Charleston. Dr. Rickerson has made arrangements with his local National Public Radio station for a brief presentation tentatively titled, “The Six Minute Linguist,” during which he will present a short introduction, for the educated lay audience, on specific linguistic topics. Dr. Rickerson has now joined with the NML to present these segments. He asked the attendees to suggest possible topics for coverage, and possible names for the segment.

During the dinner, an a capella group, “The Suspenders,” provided music, singing several American folk songs and medleys. The group consists of Carolyn Badders, Patrick Lindsley, Christa Kronser, Gabe Maxwell, Paulina Papagianitis, R.J. Sexton, and Erin Winkler, all students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, Maryland. Their contribution was much appreciated by the diners, more than one of whom hummed along with the music.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Joan Houston Hall, Editor-in-Chief of the Dictionary of American Regional English (DARE), who spoke on “American Dialects in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries.” She reviewed the history of the DARE. Often, she reported, people wonder what value a dictionary of regional variant terms has. She focused on two examples. The first, supplied by linguist and former Georgetown Professor Roger Shuy, who frequently serves as a consultant on forensic linguistics, concerned a kidnapping case. Shuy used the DARE to analyze the ransom note, correctly identifying the kidnapper’s place of origin on the basis of the term used for the strip of grass between the sidewalk and street where the container for the money was to be left. This allowed the police to narrow their list of suspects to one who, faced with the information supplied by Shuy, confessed. (Shuy had also used linguistic features to construct a profile of the Unabomber that turned out to be far more accurate than that compiled by the FBI.)

When mental health professionals don’t recognize the difference between incorrect identifications and regional variants, the result can be misdiagnosis, with serious consequences for patients. Dr. Hall pointed out that the Boston Naming Test, used to diagnose cognitive impairment, requires patients to look at pictures of common objects and provide the correct words to identify them. This test assumes that certain terms are uniquely correct and fails to allow for regional or other variants. For example, patients who identify a pair of objects as “tommywalkers” rather than “stilts” will be noted as having given a wrong answer. A patient who writes “funnel” under the picture of the object that people in most parts of the United States would call a “funnel” may appear to the linguistically uninformed medical examiner to be showing signs of a mental disorder; however, “funnel” is a perfectly normal word for “funnel” in some parts of New England.

Dr. Hall finished her talk by taking questions from the audience and discussing plans for completion of the final volume of the DARE. Unfortunately, because of the expense, it is unlikely that the DARE project will be repeated—or that the dictionary itself will be updated. However, it will stand as a vital artifact in the study of language in the 20th century.

The evening closed with presentation of plaques and thanks for their service to the two outgoing Directors, Gene Becker and Linda Coleman, who has also been serving as the Secretary, and with four Presidential Citations. The Presidential Citation is an award given to those who, in the opinion of the President, have rendered extraordinary service to the Museum over the past year. In this case, the Presidential Citations were specifically identified as honoring exceptional service over several years. Recipients were Manuel Guevara, Fran Reed, Jim McFadden, and Michael Judge.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are delighted to usher in a new Board of Directors for the National Museum of Language, welcoming nine members who have served on previous boards, and two new members. Buoyed by the success of our Annual Dinner in June, where we made many new friends, we can approach the coming year with renewed vigor. As we move toward completing long-term projects such as the prospectus and the website, it is encouraging to note that we have an ever-widening horizon of activities.

For the immediate future we are working on three projects. The first is the International Fall Festival sponsored by the City of College Park and the University of Maryland. Formerly produced as an Oktoberfest, this year it is being given a broader scope, “College Park welcomes the World.” The Museum, which has participated in the festival each year since it was inaugurated, is delighted to have this new background in order to highlight two of its present activities: observance of The Year of Languages 2005 and supporting the weekly radio program The Five Minute Linguist.

In December, a holiday reception for our members and guests will again give us the opportunity to thank our volunteers for their support of the Museum. For this Spring, we are considering having a symposium (topic still to be decided) in place of the workshop we usually hold. For the longer term, in addition to the search for a site for an interim building, we are engaged in a search for space for exhibits and other activities in the near future. Our expanding activities and the need to do even more have made us acutely aware of the limitations of our present space.

Needless to say (but we will say it!) fundraising remains a high priority. Expansion of our programs calls for more resources in terms of skills, knowledge, and time than our volunteers can currently provide. To continue our advances we must engage professionals in a variety of fields. They naturally expect a fair return for their work.

We thank you for your membership, and encourage you to recruit new members for the Museum, at all levels. Many, if not most, of you belong to organizations that have a deep interest in the success of our Museum. We rely on you to help engage them in our enterprise. Tell us who they are, and how you are connected. Loyal member? Past president? We will be happy to send them materials, with the latest news about NML. Again, we are most grateful for your own support, for it tells us that you have faith in the NML and its mission.

Amelia C. Murdock
Amelia Murdock
October 5, 2005
A New Initiative for 2005:
Radio Program on Languages

We are pleased that the series has been endorsed by most of the major language-related professional organizations in the U.S., including:

- The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
- The Linguistic Society of America
- The Modern Language Association
- The Center for Applied Linguistics
- The National Foreign Language Center
- The Joint National Committee for Languages
- The American Translators Association
- The Southern Conference on Language Teaching
- The Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
- The Southwest Conference on Language Teaching
- The South Carolina Council on Languages
- The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

The moving force behind the NPR series is Dr. Rick Rickerson, Director Emeritus of the Division of Languages at the College of Charleston, which has the largest language program in the country among non-PhD-granting universities. Dr. Rickerson, a member and strong supporter of the Museum, is former Deputy Director of the Center for the Advancement of Language Learning.

NML is excited to be a co-sponsor of this creative project, which will not only stimulate interest in language but may have the benefit of raising the Museum’s profile on the national level.

—Rick Rickerson

The Museum has embarked on a joint venture, in partnership with the College of Charleston in South Carolina, to develop a radio program on languages and linguistics, tentatively titled: “The Five-Minute Linguist.” In keeping with our mission, the purpose of the program is to encourage the study of languages, stimulate interest in linguistics, and raise awareness about the nature and diversity of languages.

The project is planned as a series of 52 short essays, which we have offered for broadcast on National Public Radio (NPR). There is a possibility that the series will be given national distribution, and at this writing we are waiting to learn if that will happen. At a minimum, starting in January 2005, it will be heard every week on the four affiliates of NPR in South Carolina as part of “Conversations,” a well-regarded regional program that has been on the air for the past ten years, with an estimated 20,000 listeners.

The 52 programs are essentially radio spots, roughly five minutes long, that discuss a language or language-related subject concisely. They are intended for a general audience, as opposed to members of the language profession, and could best be described as “fascinating facts about language.” The tone will be conversational; presentation style will be light and anecdotal. Each program will answer a question that an educated layman might have about language, such as: How many languages are there in the world? Which language is the oldest? How long does it take to learn a language well? How good is machine translation? Is there a national language crisis? Do all Arabs speak the same language? How do babies learn to talk? Whatever happened to Esperanto?... and even: How can you keep language in a museum? Language professionals of all kinds, including members of NML, have volunteered time and talent to write the scripts.

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF YEARS OF LANGUAGE.

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE- It is the sense of the Senate that foreign language study makes important contributions to a student’s cognitive development, our national economy, and our national security.

(b) DESIGNATION AND PROCLAMATION. The Senate—
(1) designates the years 2004 and 2005 as ‘Years of Foreign Language Study’, during which foreign language study is promoted and expanded in elementary schools, secondary schools, institutions of higher learning, businesses, and government programs; and
(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to—
(A) encourage and support initiatives to promote and expand the study of foreign languages; and
(B) observe the ‘Years of Foreign Language Study’ with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities.
AND THE WINNER IS......

During the annual meeting, we offered guests a quiz on DARE words, with the promise of a year’s free membership to the winner. And the winner is.....Richard Kline, who had 10 out of 25 answers correct. Dennis Cook came in second, and there was a tie for third between Board Member Jennifer DeCamp and Rachel Oxford. Board Member Joseph Page got a whopping 21 out of 25, which would have made him the hands-down winner if it hadn’t been for the fact that he went to the library and looked up the answers. So, like Joe, hiking back to grade school and the dreaded vocabulary assignments where we were taught that the best way to learn a new vocabulary word was to use it in a sentence, I decided that that would be the best way to report the answers. Hence, here they are, in a story concocted to help remember the words.

—Kathleen Miller

Jed had had a bad day. He was still nursing the mouse (jemb cause by a blow) he got from having his hat combed (to whip, beat) the night before by the local welder (moonshiner). Seems he stifled him too many iron men (dollars) over the years. And he was in such a hurry to get away, he knocked his pick-up’s muffler on the kiss-me-quick (sudden dip in the road) over on Rte. 15. But now, here he was, chancin’ (eating noisily) on hoppin’s (fried bread dough) and keekling’s (pastries) at his pin basket’s (youngest siblings) infare (celebration for newly-weds). It was a mean crummy (exceedingly cold) day, but the parish hall was so full of election pink (rhododendrons) and baby’s breath, he no longer noticed. Besides, she was here, the one he got his nose open (infatuated with) over this past summer. Although he’d known Betty since she was just as shy as a lep-py (orphanned call) playing sky blue (hopscotch) out in the schoolyard, he hadn’t really noticed how pretty she’d become. He’d been jewelarkin’ (courting) round her since the fourth, getting nowhere. Made him feest (disgusted with) how she was out there fish tailin’ (jazz step) with that boy from town. It was a case of pausancy (urgent necessity) that he get to dance with her. Sure the nobby (snooply) old gals would have lots to talk about if he got to. “That Jed boy, the one with the farm full a’ goose nests (sink holes) and swamp land tryin’ ‘dance with Betty O’Malley? Tsk,” but he was determined. He carefully walked past the old men skeetin’ (to squirt) tobacco juice on the floor. He cautiously hid the runaround (fingernail infection) he had growing on his right hand, cleared his throat, and asked if she’d like to dance. “Arigato,” (Thank you) she said, “I’d love to.”

SILENT AUCTION 2004

The Silent Auction held in conjunction with this year’s Annual Dinner can be counted as a resounding success. More than $800 was received as attendees at the Annual Dinner bid against one another for the many fine donations offered. The numerous donations from local merchants and a number of anonymous donors included a wide variety of items, and the bidding for them was lively.

We are very grateful to everyone who provided items for the Silent Auction. We wish to especially thank the following businesses, as well as those businesses which preferred to remain anonymous.

Alario’s Pizzeria/Restaurant
9204 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Golden Bull Restaurant
9107 Riggs Road
Adelphi, Maryland 20783

AMF Bowling Center
9211 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Lupo’s Italian Cophouse
7416 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Applebee’s Grill & Bar
7242 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Moose Creek Steakhouse
(Holiday Inn)
10000 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Hagel Place
7423 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Muvico Egyptian 24 (C-1)
7000 Arundel Mills Circle
Hanover, MD 21076

Bowie Baysox Baseball
4101 NE Crain Highway
Bowie, MD 20716

Plato’s Diner
7150 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Calvert House Inn
6211 Baltimore Avenue
Riverdale, MD 20737

Dolores Scheiner
Watercolors
Bowie, MD 20715

Dr. Claire M. Cassidy, Ph.D.,
Dipl Ac, Lac
Natural Solutions Wellness Center
Bethesda, MD
301-656-4660

Town Hall Liquors
8135 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

College Park Exxon Servicenter
7110 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Wood’s Flowers & Gifts
9223 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740
INTERNATIONAL FALL FESTIVAL

The National Museum of Language is pleased to participate once more in the annual fall festival to be co-sponsored by the City of College Park and the University of Maryland on November 6. This year its planners have broadened its “look” and converted the “Oktoberfest” of past years into an “International Fall Festival.” The Museum, always happy to seize an opportunity, will include in its display information about “The Year of Languages 2005” and the “Five Minute Linguist” weekly radio program.

The Festival will be held in Ritchie Coliseum, a convenient University of Maryland venue on U.S. Route One in College Park. A family-oriented event, it will feature singing and dancing with an international flavor, as well as activities for children, and good food for all. As usual, a variety of organizations and vendors will be taking part. Plans are also underway for the University of Maryland’s Student Government Association to sponsor carnival-type activities in front of Ritchie Coliseum, facing U.S. Route One.

If you are able to attend, do be sure to visit the NML display. The lucky winner of our raffle will receive a basket of international goodies. We invite local NML members to volunteer to help staff the Museum’s display. Please email or telephone us if you are interested (naml@juno.com/301-864-7071). The hours of the festival are 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., on Saturday, November 6. We have found that a one- or two-hour stint at the NML display always provides a great opportunity to acquaint students and the general public with the goals and activities of the Museum, as we learn from them their own favorite topics about language. Try it, you'll like it!

CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY OF LANGUAGES HOSTS NATIONAL LANGUAGE CONFERENCE

A National Language Conference was held on June 22-24 at the University of Maryland under the sponsorship of the Department of Defense and the University’s Center for Advanced Study of Languages (CASL). Several NML members were among over 300 participants from a broad spectrum of government, educational, and business organizations who addressed the language requirements of the 21st century: the greater need for citizens with foreign language competence, the increasing globalization of industry, and providing government services to a diverse and multilingual population in the United States.

Among the findings the following needs were noted:

- The requirements of increasing language skills and cultural awareness, though national, will be filled largely at state and local levels.
- An affordable language strategy.
- The multilingual Americans in our heritage communities should participate in this national initiative.
- Greater awareness of career opportunities for those possessing language skills, and recognition of these skills as valuable for business and government.
- Government and industry must increase their emphasis on the value of foreign language competency, in order to attract students and encourage allocation of funds for education in languages.

In summing up, Rep. Rush Holt, keynote speaker for the Conference, declared, “We need a national commitment to languages on a scale of the [1958] National Defense Education Act (NDEA) commitment to science, including improved curriculum, teaching technology and methods, teacher development, and a systemic cultural commitment.”

A. Murdoch, W. Reed & E. M. Rickerson

H. Bostock & J. Page

A. Murdoch & The Suspenders
WELCOME TO THE NEW BOARD

One of the highlights of the Annual Meeting came when Vice-President Whitney E. Reed announced the results of the June election for the NML Board of Directors. Current members Dr. Herman F. Bostick, Ms. Helen L. Carpenter, Dr. Jennifer DeCamp, Dr. Amelia C. Murdoch, Mr. Glenn Nordin, Mr. Joseph E. Page, Mr. James E. McFadden, Mr. Whitney E. Reed and Dr. Wayne H. Slater were re-elected to the Board. Brief biographies of the re-elected Directors may be found in the last newsletter that contained the 2003 Annual Report. Sketches of the two new members of the Board are given below. The outgoing Directors were Mr. Eugene J. Becker and Dr. Linda K. Coleman, neither of whom ran for re-election. We thank Mr. Becker and Dr. Coleman for their loyalty, contributions and dedicated service to the NML over the past three years.

Sandra Bender entered the National Security Agency (NSA) in 1982 and served in various positions: a language analyst, the first National Cryptologic School’s (NCS) French instructor, an NCS Branch Chief, an NCS Language Division staff officer, and President of the Cryptologic Association. For the past five years, Sandra has been Senior Outreach Officer for the NSA/CSS Senior Language Authority. She is responsible for improving foreign language readiness through increased national awareness and educational reform, e.g., she led the NSA team that successfully created the first-ever Language Exhibit in the National Cryptologic Museum.

Burton S. Scheiner has a BS in Chemistry and Microbiology from Cornell University. He served in the US Army Medical Corp. After receiving a JD degree from Catholic University of America, he was admitted to the bar in 1974. Burton is a member of the bars of the District of Columbia and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He is also a member of the American Intellectual Property Law Association. After practicing in the fields of patent, trademark, copyright and unfair trade practices law, Burton retired in 2002. He is presently serving as counsel to the intellectual property law firm of Dennison, Schultz, Dougherty & McDonald, in Alexandria, Virginia.

At the first meeting of the new Board of Directors, Dr. Amelia C. Murdoch was re-elected President and Mr. Whitney E. Reed re-elected as Vice-President. Mr. James E. McFadden was appointed as Treasurer. Dr. Wayne H. Slater was later appointed as Secretary.

— Whitney Reed

ANNUAL MEETING 2004 (continued from P.1)

Manuel Guevara’s contributions, like those of his fellow honorees, are of a sort that often go unheralded. Yet they are an essential part of the fabric of any organization. Guevara has assisted at virtually every event since he has been associated with the Museum. He played a significant role in setting up the office, painting the office, helping in the search for furniture and donating the desk that is still in use. He has helped cater the spring workshops, organize and set up venues, chauffeured honored guests, and helped out at Oktoberfest. Guevara has taken responsibility for photography at our various events and for establishing a photographic record for the Museum. Newsletter readers are familiar with the pictures that help them get to know the Museum staff and participants at events.

Fran Reed has worked for many years on the annual meeting and spring workshop, arranging catering and organizing the innumerable practical aspects of the event, including organizing and expanding the silent auction that has now become a regular feature of the annual meetings. She has long served as secretary for the Administration Committee. With her husband, Vice President Whitney Reed, she has helped to maintain the membership rolls and has served as a member of the internship committee. As with Guevara, Reed’s service extends back to the very start of the Museum, and she has worked quietly behind the scenes, eschewing titles or public notice.

James McFadden, currently serving as Treasurer, likewise has a long history of supporting the Museum in a variety of ways, beginning as a member of the first Board of Directors. He has served on a variety of committees, and his expertise in financial matters and interest in fundraising have been of enormous benefit to the Museum. He is also a man who can be counted on when there is basic hard labor to be done: McFadden has painted the office (not once, but twice), moved furniture, organized displays, helped to cater meetings, prepared exhibits, and assisted at every event. (He also bakes some of the best cookies NML members have had the pleasure of sampling.)

Michael Judge’s contributions, like those of the other honorees, span both the practical and the visionary. Early on, he volunteered to come in after work and help the Museum manage the flow of paper. Later, he served with distinction as a member of the Programs Committee, proposing that the Museum could, with some slight reorganization of the office, arrange to present at least one exhibit, to be open to the public on a limited basis. The first exhibit is on the Smith Island dialect, which can be seen at the Museum office.

Special thanks were also expressed to Jane Page, who has worked to manage registration for the Annual Meeting since the beginning of the Museum, and to Katy Miller, who, as chair of the Programs Committee, was responsible for the evening’s activities.

This year’s annual meeting provided an impressive indicator of how far the Museum has come during its short existence. For those of our members who were unable to attend, we hope to meet you at a future Museum event—perhaps next year’s annual meeting.
**MEMBERSHIP**

We have been fortunate this year in seeing our membership continue to grow. As the end of the year approaches, however, we still need five more members to reach our goal of a 10% increase in membership. We urge you once again to help us by recruiting new members. If we get just this small increase, it will be the fourth year in a row in which our membership has increased by 10%. Perhaps you could approach your friends, relatives and colleagues and encourage them to join the NML (Application Form can be found in this NML Newsletter). Perhaps you might consider giving a gift membership to someone you think would be interested in the goals of the NML. These are great ways to show your continued support.

In late November we will be sending out membership renewal letters for calendar 2005. We appreciate your past support and hope that you will continue to support the NML through your membership next year also.

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Make checks payable to:
The National Museum of Language

Annual Membership (calendar year)
- Patron ..............................................$5,000 and up
- Benefactor ......................................$1,000 - $4,999
- Sustainer ...........................................$500 - $999
- Supporting Member ............................$250 - $499
- Contributing Member ..........................$100 - $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.
Revised January 2000

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**HOLIDAY RECEPTION**

We are pleased to invite our members and friends to a holiday reception that will be hosted by the Board of Directors of the National Museum of Language on December 5, 2004, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the NML headquarters, 7100 Baltimore Avenue, College Park. We will be using adjacent office space to accommodate the many guests we hope to receive. As at last year's successful event there will be delicious refreshments in abundance. We will also be able to show off the displays we have been taking to the public, and talk about our thinking and planning for the year to come. And of course it enables us to say thank you to our members and volunteers.

This is a volunteer activity for which we seek help in setting up the reception and obtaining donations for the refreshment tables. We welcome a variety of goodies, beverages, and party supplies for this festive occasion. If you wish to offer assistance or a donation of food or supplies, you may email us at natmuslang@juno.com, or telephone 301-864-7071. Please come, and bring friends who may be interested in the future of language and languages.
## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Photos**

- [Image 1]: E.M. Rickerson, W. Reed, J. McFadden & E. Becker
- [Image 2]: M. Guevara & A. Murdoch

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**National Museum of Language**

**Administrative Offices**

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**