Annual Meeting 2006

At the eighth Annual Meeting of the National Museum of Language on Saturday, June 10, 2006, NML Founder and President Dr. Amelia Murdoch opened the proceedings by introducing the Museum's Board Members and the three co-founders in the audience. Thanking all who had a hand in planning the banquet, she noted in particular Mrs. Frances Reed, Vice President Whitney Reed, NML Director Joseph Page, and Treasurer James McFadden. She thanked Mrs. Marty Abbott, an NML Associate and Director of Education of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), for the "Discover Languages" buttons at each table setting.

Dr. Murdoch marked the recent passing of her old friend, colleague, and NML co-founder Ms Katherine (Kay) Swift by relating some of her personal memories. Ms Swift is forever remembered for her cryptographic contributions as a member of the Hall of Honor in the National Cryptologic Museum in Annapolis Junction/Fl. Meade, MD. She was one of a small group of highly respected language analysts who advised senior management at the National Security Agency and was a participant in the 1971 Language Fair there. It was subsequent to this Fair that the concept of a national language museum was born. Ms Swift later became one of the seven founders of the NML.

NML Director Joseph Page introduced the banquet's keynote speaker, Dr. Roger W. Shuy, the "Language Detective." A distinguished Professor Emeritus at Georgetown University, where he taught for 30 years, Dr. Shuy is the author of 30 books and 200 articles on forensic linguistics. One of the founders of the American Association of Applied Linguistics, he has been called upon to testify as an expert witness in court cases for 40 years. In addition to his prolific writings, he participates in the language blog, the "Language Log" at http://itre.cis.upenn.edu/myl/languagelog. A number of his former students were present, and both he and they were delighted to reminisce.

Tongue in cheek, Dr. Shuy began, "I assumed you invited me since you needed a dinosaur". Defining and tying together the terms "detective" and "Forensic Linguistics," Dr. Shuy carefully described his lifetime professional focus as "the Language Detective." An expert at applying linguistic theory and research to real language use in a legal context, he explained the criminal and civil categories of texts with which he has worked in written and oral form. These included confessions, police interrogations, child sex abuse interviews, perjury and false statements, money laundering, price fixing, trade secrets, trademark disputes, product liability, deceptive trade practices, defamation, contact disputes, and copyright infringement. Using the linguist's tools of phonetic, syntactic, semantic, discourse, and sociolinguistic analysis, he was able to ensure transcript accuracy. First, using the UNIBOMBER case as an example, he pointed out his analysis of the letters indicated that the person may have been from Chicago, was about 50 years old and was either Catholic or a fundamentalist Christian. During the John DeLorean (car magnate) drug trial, by tracking the themes and topics separately in 63 hours of tapes of DeLorean vs. the prosecuting attorney, Dr. Shuy was able to show that DeLorean was only trying to get the men (federal agents acting like drug dealers) to invest in DeLorean's company and not in a drug enterprise. He was acquitted.

Dr. Shuy expanded on the various types of analysis that he uses, including topic, response, referencing, conversational strategy and speech act analyses. These include: who introduces and recycles topics, who dominates, what is the conversation flow and what are the speakers' agendas. Do they say nothing or change the subject? Are their pronoun clear or ambiguous? Do they interrupt to avoid or camouflage a topic or response? Do they keep coming back to the topic? Do they talk while the target's out of hearing range? Do they switch topics before the target can respond?

In appreciation, Dr. Murdoch presented Dr. Shuy with a membership in the NML and a set of the "Talkin' About Talk" CDs. She also included a book of cartoons on museums involving language. Thanking all Associates, Members and volunteers, she recognized the special contributions made by Board Member Dr. Pat Barr-Harrison, Mr. Max Pugh, and Mr. Donald Dornbauer, and presented each with a NML Presidential Citation. Mr. Whitney Reed concluded the meeting by noting that Museum membership had increased this year by 10%, with members in 23 states and three foreign countries. He pointed with pride to the Museum's successful efforts this year that included: national-level visibility, expansion of the website, increased networking, and strong relations with the City of College Park and the University of Maryland.

—Sandra Bender

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been very exciting during the past few months as we have moved ahead with plans for a variety of events which will further the goals of the Museum. The following pages bring you up to date on the details, and I hope you will join me in thanking all those who have worked so hard to make this progress possible.

The Programs Committee continues to move ahead with plans for exhibits and lectures. In the immediate future local members can again visit the Museum’s display at the International Fall Festival sponsored by the City of College Park and the University of Maryland, and join us at the Holiday Reception. At the ACTFL convention more distant members may learn the latest details of our progress. Meanwhile, the Committee is selecting speakers and dates for both a lecture series to be launched early next year and our Spring Symposium, to be announced later. The Administration Committee is, of course, equally involved in ensuring the success of these events.

As details for these events are confirmed, they will be entered on our website, very possibly before the next issue of the Newsletter is published. So be sure to check our website, which is of growing interest to the language public.

We continue to increase collaboration with other organizations. ACTFL is represented on the Programs Committee, and the recent visit of SIL International, Inc., representatives has been very rewarding in terms of donation of materials, cooperation on future programs, and a wealth of useful advice and information.

The promise of greater funding is encouraging, including the generous commitment by the editors of the Five Minute Linguist book, Dr. Rick Rickerson and Mr. Barry Hilton.

Membership dues are still the mainstay of our funding. Please be sure to renew your membership and encourage your friends and allied organizations to join. We expect to pass the 200-membership level this year. To our loyal supporters, thank you!

The Board is happy to welcome two new associates, Dr. R. David Zorc and Dr. Steven Huffman. Regrettably, two members of the Board have found it necessary to resign recently. We thank Dr. Wayne H. Slater, Secretary, and Mr. Leonardo De Valoes for their service, and wish them well as they devote themselves to their professional commitments.

We hope you will be able to attend our events and visit our website. We believe we have very loyal members—your ideas and support are important to us, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Amelia C. Murdoch

October 15, 2006
SILENT AUCTION 2006
National Museum of Language’s Fundraiser

The National Museum of Language wishes to thank the following area merchants who helped to make our successful fundraiser possible by generously donating items for our Silent Auction.

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

Insty-Prints  
5000 Lehight Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

AMF Bowling Center  
9021 Baltimore Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

Los Cabos  
8424 Baltimore Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

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

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

Bagel Place of College Park  
7423 Baltimore Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

R. J. Bentley’s Restaurant  
7323 Baltimore Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

The Cakery  
6776 Race Track Road  
Bowie, MD 20715

Sir Walter Raleigh Inn  
6323 Greenbelt Road  
College Park, MD 20740

Calvert House Inn  
6211 Baltimore Avenue  
Riverdale, MD 20737

Taglio  
7319 Baltimore Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

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

Town Hall Liquors  
8135 Baltimore Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

Fred Frederick Chrysler  
43 Washington Blvd.  
Laurel, MD 20707

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

Appreciation is also expressed for the contributions generously donated by the members of the NML Board of Directors: Dr. Pat Barr-Harrison, Sandra L. Bender, Jack D. Jones, James E. McFadden, Dr. Amelia C. Murdoch, Glenn H. Nordin, Joseph E. Page, Whitney E. Reed, Burton S. Scheiner, and Dr. Wayne H. Slater.

—Frances Reed

Two Board Members to Be Inducted into DLIFLC Hall Of Fame

NML Board of Directors members Glenn H. Nordin and Whitney E. Reed have been notified by the Defense Language Institute Hall of Fame Selection Board that they are to be inducted into the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Hall of Fame. The Board considered 38 nominations, including linguists, instructors, military leaders, policymakers and private citizens, and selected 10 to be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the dedication ceremony on November 8, 2006. Selections were based on each individual’s contributions to language training and linguistic employment in the Department of Defense.
SIL International Visits the Museum

A recent call to the Washington office of the Summer Institute of Linguistics International (SIL International), in connection with research for an exhibit on place names, proved doubly fruitful. On a drizzly day in September Dr. Paul Lewis, Editor of Ethnologue, in town from Dallas, and Ms. Marjorie Cook, of the SIL Washington office, made their way to College Park to pay a visit to the Museum. They presented to NML President Amelia Murdoch materials on their organization and a bilingual collection of stories, a cultural anthology of traditional literature from the Philippines, which will be used in NML tabletop displays.

They were encouraged by the progress the Museum has made. Dr. Lewis recalled that he had first learned of the Museum in its earliest days, at a meeting of the Georgetown University Language Round Table (GURT), and had since wondered about its subsequent growth. SIL International has several language-related museums, and these can serve as models for NML displays. In the exchange of ideas that ensued, Dr. Lewis offered suggestions as to other experts who might be excellent collaborators in other aspects of the Museum’s work. He also promised to see if a SIL representative could participate in a proposed NML symposium in the Spring. The visit included a tour to the area adjacent to the College Park Metro where the NML is seeking to obtain a site for an interim building.

In the follow-up to their visit, Dr. Lewis was able to suggest a SIL representative who might be able to be a panelist in the Spring Symposium. Negotiations are now in progress to determine dates and speakers for this important event. In a second visit Ms. Cook brought the Museum a 2-volume copy of the 14th edition of Ethnologue and the accompanying CD. They will facilitate basic research involving these materials; the online version of the 15th edition can then be consulted to confirm the current status of the information.

We are pleased and honored to have had this opportunity to demonstrate the current status of the Museum to representatives from SIL International. And we are especially fortunate to have the cooperation of this distinguished organization that, for over 70 years, has played a distinctive role of leadership in the study, recording and teaching of the languages of the world.

—Amelia Murdoch

Holiday Reception

We are pleased to invite our members and friends to our annual holiday reception that will be hosted by the Board of Directors of the National Museum of Language on Sunday, December 3, 2006, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the NML offices, 7100 Baltimore Avenue, College Park. This is the second year that the Museum will host the reception in our expanded display/lecture room. As always, there will be an abundance of delicious refreshments and we will be able to show the current displays that we have been taking to the public, and to discuss our plans for the future. And of course this is our chance to thank 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, please email us at info@languageuseum.org, or telephone 301-864-7071. Please come, and bring friends who may be interested in the future of languages and the NML.

—James McFadden

Frances Reed, Sandra Bender

Joseph Page, Roger Shay
The Five Minute Linguist In Book Form

Equinox Publishing and its North American distributor, The David Brown Book Co. (www.oxbowbooks.com), have announced publication of Dr. Rick (E.M.) Rickerson and Barry Hilton’s The Five Minute Linguist: Bite-Sized Essays on Language and Languages, an innovative book aimed at bringing up-to-date knowledge to the student and general reader alike. Adapted from the scripts of a series on language co-sponsored by the College of Charleston and the National Museum of Language and aired on radio, this book sells for $12.95. It is available also from Amazon Books at www.amazon.com. To our great surprise and pleasure, Dr. Rickerson has informed us that the royalties that he and his fellow editor receive from sale of the book will be donated to the NML after their expenses have been deducted. So buy, buy, buy! This will make a great gift! You can view a selected Table of Contents by visiting www.equinoxpub.com. This is a book that you don’t want to miss.

Needless to say, the members of the Board of Directors are most grateful to Dr. Rickerson and Mr. Hilton. Responsible for the creation and execution of the original series, they expanded the series and prepared the revisions necessary to make it suitable for the reading public. Thus the printed version will reach a far larger, worldwide audience and will be more easily available and accessible for years to come. At the same time we would like to express our deep appreciation to the scores of language professionals whose pro-bono contributions to this work are bringing the results of their years of scholarship and experience to a general audience.

—Whitney Reed

International Fall Festival

The National Museum of Language is once again pleased to announce its participation in the annual fall festival co-sponsored by the City of College Park and the University of Maryland on Saturday, November 4, 2006. This is third year of the International theme, which took the traditional Oktoberfest and broadened its appeal. This year, for the first time, the NML is a monetary supporter of the festival, which provides the Museum a good opportunity to tell its story.

The Festival will be held in Ritchie Coliseum, a convenient University of Maryland venue on U.S. Route One in College Park. This is an event for the entire family, featuring singing and dancing with an international flavor, as well as activities for children, and good food for all. As in past years a variety of organizations and vendors will be taking part. If you are able to attend, be sure to visit the Museum’s display. The lucky winner of our raffle will receive a basket of international goodies. Again this year, we will have a demonstration of Japanese calligraphy.

We invite local NML members to volunteer to help staff the Museum’s display. Please email or telephone us if you are interested (info@languemuseum.org/301-864-7021). The hours of the festival are from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., on Saturday, November 4. 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. Try it, you’ll have a great time.

—James McFadden
Look for Us at Nashville!
ACTFL Convention, November 16-19

We are happy to announce that the National Museum of Language (NML) will again be an exhibitor at the annual meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), which will be held this year in Nashville, Tennessee, on November 16-19 at the Nashville Convention Center. The Meeting and Exposition is one of the largest conferences in the US (approx. 4000 people) on the teaching of world languages. This year the theme of the convention is “Discover the Future...Discover Languages.”

A special table for the National Museum of Language will display items from the Museum consisting of official NML brochures, Newsletters, a table tripod that has information on the three themes of the Museum- THE UNIVERSAL ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE, LANGUAGE IN SOCIETY, AND LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD. In addition to the readable items, there will be a few hands-on artifacts, and a technology presentation. The presentation will consist of the power point on “The Museum’s Past, Present, and Future,” and a new work. The new work shows World Languages on a map with vital statistics. The World Languages Project is a work in progress and the NML website will carry more information on the project in the future.

Members are urged to visit the NML display and bring their friends to meet the Museum representatives, Dr. Pat Barr-Harrison and Rafael Flores. Dr. Barr-Harrison, who is a member of the NML Board of Directors and Co-Chair of the Programs Committee, will have the latest information on the plans for exhibits, lecture series, a Symposium, and other exciting events to take place during the coming year.

—Pat Barr-Harrison

Visit the NML Website!

Readers of the Newsletter are urged to visit the NML website at www.languagemuseum.org. We are very proud of this website. Much work was put into creating the site, and we have updated it every few months. It is well worth while visiting, and if you have not yet had a chance to see it, we urge you to do so. The NML Webmaster, our Associate Donald Domogauer, is providing us with a monthly accounting of “hits” on the website, and we note with pride that the number of visits to the website is increasing steadily. Tell your friends, relatives and colleagues about it — they will enjoy it also.

—Whitney Reed

A. Murdoch & Donald Domogauer

Roger Shay & A. Murdoch
Over the Top on Membership Again

It is a pleasure to report that for the fifth straight year the Museum has had a 10% increase in membership. Each year, achieving that goal has been a little more difficult, but once again we are over the top, and we still have several months to go to recruit even more members. So sound out your friends and colleagues, recruit your relatives, give memberships as a birthday or holiday gift. This Newsletter has an application form that can be used to sign them up. And of course our website www.languagemuseum.org has an application form that may be downloaded. The Museum is still relying on membership dues as the principal means of financial support, so recruitment of new members is of tremendous importance to us. We welcome also your tax-deductible donations as an additional means of supporting the Museum.

—Whitney Reed

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

Amelia Murdoch, Max Pugh

Administration Committee
Front row, from left: J. Page, A. Murdoch
Not pictured: Frances Reed
### UPCOMING EVENTS

**NML MEETINGS**

- **Board of Directors**
  - December 14
  - February 8

- **Museum Programs Committee**
  - October 17
  - November TBA

- **International Fall Festival**
  - November 4

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**National Museum of Language**

**Administrative Offices**

7100 Baltimore Avenue  
Suite 202  
College Park, Maryland 20740

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED