Annual Meeting 2007

There was much to celebrate as NML members and their guests met for the 9th Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 16th in the Mt. Clare Room of the University of Maryland's University College Inn and Conference Center.

The evening began with lively conversation and refreshments as guests made bids on Silent Auction items and had an opportunity to buy two NML-promoted books: The 5 Minute Linguist and Dr. Roger Shuy’s Linguistics in the Courtroom.

Prior to dinner, President Amelia Murdoch offered a warm welcome to all with special recognition of the Board members—co-founder Dora Kennedy; co-founder Mike Levin and former Director Herman Bostick (who were unable to attend). Dr. Murdoch introduced Nicholas Hartley, a young student intern, and thanked all those whose hard work had made the evening possible, giving special credit to Frances Reed who has worked “year after year” on the Annual Meeting.

Whitney Reed recognized his election committee and announced the results of this year’s election: with regrets, both Glenn Nordin and Burton Scheiner will retire from the Board; all remaining Board members were re-elected. He then welcomed four new Board members: Jack Ingram, Jill Robbins, Alan Turnbull and David Zorc.

Dr. Murdoch introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. J. David Edwards, Executive Director of the Joint National Committee for Languages and of the National Council for Languages and International Studies, whose address was entitled “National Language Policy: Major Changes?” Dr. Edwards, long a champion of the NML and its efforts, offered an overview of foreign language education as it relates to government policy and national security, with a particular emphasis on pre and post 9/11/01.

In 2002, following the tragic events of 9/11/01, a meeting of representatives from government, academia and business met to look for solutions to what was by then recognized as a crisis. Issues of concern were the shortage of foreign language teachers and exchange programs; insufficient language training of military and state department officials; “high utility” languages (Arabic and Chinese, for example); and heritage language vs. a policy of “English only”. A number of government programs, policies and funding resulted from this meeting: Department of Defense and Department of Education programs in foreign language education (particularly in “high utility” languages), study abroad programs, international education, SMART grants which add foreign language requirements to Pell grants, loan forgiveness for foreign language educators. But, of course, Dr. Edwards reminded us, there are still problems: finding and retaining teachers, articulation (students in some settings must be brought to higher levels of fluency) and quality of educators.

A lively question and answer period followed. Nicholas Hartley asked how schools might be motivated to offer more “high utility” languages instead of those traditionally taught (French, Latin). Pat Barr-Harrison and Dr. Edwards suggested that while there is a need for Arabic and Chinese, the need for French and Latin in certain settings and professions remains intact. Dora Kennedy posed a question about the “narrowing of the curriculum” in public schools due to the strict adherence to NCLB. “Does the government understand that the demand for more math, reading, and science is causing art, music and foreign language to be squeezed out of the school day?” Dr. Edwards described it as a matter of insufficient resources and know-how. Dr. Murdoch thanked our guest for his thought-provoking talk and presented him with a year-long membership to the NML.

With much warmth, she then presented plaques to the outgoing board members, Burton Sheiner and Glenn Nordin, describing their devotion to the cause through the years and wondering, in closing, how the museum will manage without them.

Two new board members were introduced and presented with Presidential Citations: David Zorc and Jill Robbins were recognized for the knowledge and expertise they have shared so generously as Associates. They will both serve on the Program Committee.

In her summation of the year’s accomplishments, Dr. Murdoch described a very busy 2006, filled with frequent programs—many of which were offered, she stated proudly, in collaboration with other institutions. She announced an exciting new commitment: the NML plans to open to the public by the end of 2007, offering a cycle of four exhibits. Such a move is critical to the future of the museum as is the search for an interim building, increased funding, and the always present need for community support. In closing, she urged us to continue working together for a bright future.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In any truly vital organization change must always take place. The National Museum of Language is no different. In this issue we welcome a new editor of the Newsletter, Gregory Nedved. In June at the Annual Dinner we announced results of the elections to the Board of Directors. Members honored departing Directors Glenn Nordin and Burton Scheiner for their many years of devoted and distinguished service to the NML. Four new Directors—Jack Ingram, Jill Robbins, Alan Turnbull, and David Zoric—joined the previous members who were re-elected—Pat Barr-Harrison, Sandra Bender, Jack Jones, James McFadden, Amelia Murdoch, Joseph Page, and Whitney Reed. We look forward with confidence to the years ahead under their leadership.

In the coming months, changes at the Museum will be even more significant. Opening the doors of the Museum to the public will bring to us a far different audience from the one we now have. We must be more mindful of the need to explain clearly the NML mission to our new friends. And I believe that our members and longtime friends will find that there is greater interest and support for our work when the public is able to view and appreciate the results of our vision.

As our workload expands we must increase the number of people who are actively participating—people who can act as docents and who will assist in the many tasks that are involved in designing and running a busy museum. So we urge those of you who live in the local area to come forward, to offer your services. We are most fortunate that our efforts to open the Museum have garnered the support of several talented and dedicated volunteers who are already making a difference. We are grateful for the talents and experience they bring to us.

The search for a new site goes on, for our limited space restricts the kinds and number of exhibits we can prepare today and prevents us from planning expansions in the near future. A major factor in the search for space is of course cost, but the search for an appropriate location and a suitable building is a daunting task.

We depend largely on membership dues to supply operating costs. Thus it is important that our members renew their membership promptly, persuade new members to join, and lead the way in our efforts to gain recognition of the value of our mission and the success of our endeavors thus far. When you pay your membership, why not move to a higher level to celebrate the opening of the Museum? A special contribution at this time might be made in honor of or in memory of a mentor, friend, or loved one. Such contributions will be recognized appropriately.

Fundraising efforts are being greatly expanded. Grants have been received in support of the exhibit to open the Museum, and the opening of the Museum to the public on a regular basis will be an important element in our favor in additional applications for grants. We believe that, at this stage, we must make every effort to increase our institutional memberships. It is essential that language organizations not only recognize the value of our mission, but actively support it. Does your language organization know about the Museum? Do your part and help us persuade it to join.

At this time of year we as a nation give thanks. Let those of us who support the Museum and strive for its success join together in recognizing how fortunate we are to have so many friends who believe in us and wish us well. May you all have a happy Thanksgiving.

—Amelia C. Murdoch

Amelia C. Murdoch
The NML Newsletter

The NML Newsletter has played a large role in the history and development of the Museum. Sent to every member and distributed widely to other audiences, it records NML events and announces "coming attractions." Through its pages our members learn who is involved in our work, who is responsible for decision-making, and what their qualifications are. We reach out to our members through its pages, seeking comment assistance and funding. We celebrate our successes with you, we share our needs—for it is you who have supported us and kept us going over the years. It carries our Annual Report, giving you the essential details of our operation. We are expanding our activities, and the Newsletter will keep you abreast of developments. As we do so, a new editor, Gregory J. Nedved, will be responsible for its publication. We are pleased to introduce him to you in the following biography.

—Amelia C. Murdoch

Gregory J. Nedved, NML member since early 2007, has been named newsletter editor, taking over the position held for many years by President Amelia Murdoch. Editing the newsletter of a museum dedicated to language would seem to be a natural step for Greg who has enjoyed a long and colorful career immersed in language and culture.

It all began at St. Vincent College in Pennsylvania when Greg's undergraduate program required that he study a language. Not at all enticed by French or Spanish or even Russian, he accepted the college's offer to send him to their language facility in Taiwan to study Chinese Mandarin. After completing his studies there, he joined the Army where, as he says, he "finally got good at Chinese." His Chinese Mandarin expertise brought him to NSA, where for 20 years he has worn many hats: instructor, translator, curriculum manager, to name only a few.

NML members and friends will remember Greg as the presenter of the Mi'kmaq language film, "The Little Boy Who Lived with Bearwoman," at the Spring 2007 Symposium. His interest in endangered languages led to his paying for the translation into Mi'kmaq of this award-winning animated film. His contribution included the addition of English subtitles, making the film accessible to English viewers. He is particularly proud of the project and hopes that it will further the preservation of this Native American language.

Greg's writing and editing experience is quite extensive. Not only did he edit an NSA online language newsletter for many years, but in his free time he has written about the history of his native South Dakota, e.g., a presidential trivia book, articles on an international incident on board a Missouri River steamboat, the first known lynching in Dakota Territory—all of which have been published. When he isn't immersed in language professionally, Greg does some acting. While living in Hawaii, he enjoyed a brief and successful film career. He acted in a film showcased at the Hawaii International Film Festival and even did a Sprite commercial. No stranger to museums, Greg works as a docent at yet another small museum: the Flag House and Star Spangled Banner Museum in Baltimore.

Greg feels that the editorship is a good fit for him. "I want to do something for NML; I believe in it," he said, "it's the best contribution I can make."

We welcome Greg and look forward to watching the growth of the newsletter as NML moves into a very exciting new phase.

—Renee Donogher

Advance Notice - Opening the Museum

Plans are well under way to open the National Museum of Language to the public in the Spring of 2008. Exhibits, which will address various aspects of the topic "Writing Systems," will be multimedia presentations for a general audience, with special hands-on activities for students at the sixth grade level. The Museum will be open on ten days each month.

We are seeking volunteers to act as docents and to assist in other capacities in connection with the opening. Readers in the Metropolitan Washington area who may be interested in participating are asked to contact Dr. Amelia Murdoch either by telephone at 301-864-7071 or by email at acmurdoch@languagemuseum.org.

The Museum has received a Community Services Grant from the City of College Park in support of this exhibit, and the Center for Heritage Studies of the University of Maryland is also providing funding. These contributions are greatly appreciated but there are many expenses not covered by these grants. Members are encouraged to renew their membership promptly, and, if possible, to renew at a higher level. Special contributions to celebrate the opening of the Museum will be most welcome. We encourage contributions in honor of any mentor, a loved one; major donations will be suitably recognized. All such contributions will be published in the Newsletter as appropriate.

Joseph Page, Nicholas Hartley, and Sandra Bender

Mr. and Mrs. J. David Edwards
NML Welcomes Dr. Rebekah Sobel

We are pleased to report that plans for opening the Museum continue to attract new volunteers. An advertisement for possible interns caught the attention of Dr. Rebekah Sobel, Project Manager for Gallagher & Associates, an exhibition design firm in Bethesda, MD (local museum projects include the International Spy Museum, National Archives, and Gettysburg Visitor Center). Several members of the NML Board of Directors and of the exhibit planning group welcomed her as she paid her first visit to the Museum recently. After touring the premises and an informal briefing by the planning group on the status of plans for the initial exhibits, she indicated her interest in assisting us.

In a follow-up meeting with President Amelia Murdoch she made suggestions as to how we might proceed with our plans and achieve a successful exhibit in time for a Spring opening. These suggestions will be presented to the planning group for review and discussion.

The Museum is most fortunate to have Dr. Sobel participating in our work. Her background in anthropology, language and museum studies and a career embracing work at numerous area museums in a variety of capacities provides much-needed expertise to the Museum. Her teaching experience at George Washington University ensures that the Museum’s educational goals will be advanced. The Administration Committee is very pleased that she has accepted an invitation to join the Committee. As our work expands our need for professional advice will increase enormously. We greatly appreciate Dr. Sobel’s willingness to help guide us along the way.

SILENT AUCTION 2007 - National Museum of Language’s Fundraiser

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

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Appreciation is also expressed for the items 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 Nordin, Joseph E. Page, Whitney E. Reed, & Burton S. Scheiner.
CLA Awards Ceremony and Banquet

The Crypto-Linguistic Association (CLA), the professional association of linguists at NSA/CSS, held its annual awards ceremony and banquet in July and October 2007 respectively. This year CLA gave away more awards than ever—there being four winners of the Jaffe Award, given to a senior civilian linguist at NSA/CSS. There were also individual winners of the Rochefort Award (to a senior military linguist), the Wild Award (to a junior civilian linguist) and the Lasswell Award (to a junior military linguist). CLA also had two winners this year of the Rashbaum Award, given to CLA board members specifically. Finally, the CLA president gave away several presidential awards, recipients chosen at his discretion.

The above awards are all named after giants in the professional language field. Sydney Jaffe was the founder of CLA in 1965 and laid the foundation for the language professionalization program currently in place at NSA/CSS. Captain Joseph Rochefort and Colonel Alva Lasswell were famous for their codebreaking work during World War II. The former led the effort which broke the code revealing the Japanese planned attack on Midway Island in 1942—resulting in the U.S. ambush of the Japanese Fleet there. The latter is recognized for determining through codebreaking the exact flight path of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the man who planned the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor—so that the United States was able to shoot down his aircraft. Norman Wild is a brilliant multi-linguist who could learn a language fast and well. Harry Rashbaum was CLA’s most energetic member and a president in its earliest years.

The event is always a pleasant one since it allows CLA members to see old friends again. Harry Rashbaum, Whitney Reed, and Amelia Murdoch were among those invited guests attending the annual event. The special guest was Mrs. Annette Jaffe, wife of Sydney—who had not missed an awards ceremony since 1965. The CLA leadership this time arranged for a courtesy call for her with the NSA/CSS deputy director and chief of staff. The conversation piece was a 60th birthday card for Sydney Jaffe from 1972 signed by many NSA/CSS VIPs at the time. The card was recently uncovered in the CLA archives and was later presented to Mrs. Jaffe.

The 42nd CLA Banquet was held on 23 October 2007 at the Canine Suite at NSA/CSS. This year’s featured speaker, Dr. K. David Harrison of Swarthmore College, spoke about “Endangered Languages and Knowledge Systems.” A specialist in Tuvan and other Siberian languages, Dr. Harrison has conducted field research during which he lives and travels with nomadic people, accompanying them on their seasonal migrations as they herd camels, horses, yaks, and sheep. He has received extensive media coverage for his work, being mentioned in the New York Times, Washington Post and Baltimore Sun and in such international papers as The Independent in South Africa and Great Britain’s The Telegraph. In his talk, Harrison explained that human knowledge is slowly being lost when the languages used to convey it disappears. It is far more than just a loss of a cultural heritage in his view—the disappearance of a language is a loss for our common human knowledge of mathematics, biology, geography, philosophy, agriculture, and linguistics.” Following his address, he fielded questions from the audience and signed copies of his book, When Languages Die: The Extinction of the World’s Languages and the Erosion of Human Knowledge. Roughly 100 individuals attended the banquet which included door prizes. As with the awards ceremony, it was “a good time for all.”

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 9, 2007, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the NML offices, 7100 Baltimore Avenue, College Park. As always, there will be an abundance of delicious refreshments and we will be able to discuss with our guests our plans for opening the museum 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 to make a donation, please email us at info@languagesmuseum.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

Whitney Reed and Glenn Nordin at ILR

J. David Edwards and Amelia Murdoch at NML Annual Dinner
My Summer Internship at the NML

This past June, I was privileged to meet a group of people who have spent their lives studying and researching language and all of its fascinating aspects. Just being able to spend a short time with these energetic and enthusiastic people, as well as learning about how people come together to build something they think is important, was quite inspiring to me. Dr. Amelia Murdoch made quite an impression from the first day I met her. I hope I have her energy when I leave for college next fall.

For most of my life, music has been my focus and interest, along with a general thirst for knowledge. I began to take piano lessons at the age of four and I still do today - age 16. I regularly compete and excel in local competitions. I plan to continue piano in college either as a minor or as a second major.

In school, I became active in the band playing clarinet and mellophone in several venues. A senior, I am a member of the C. E. Jordan High Marching Band and the C. E. Jordan Wind Ensemble. In addition, I play clarinet in the Triangle Youth Philharmonic, an ensemble made up of serious young musicians in the central North Carolina area.

I have recently discovered an interesting parallel between my musical ability and language ability. In my sophomore year, I enrolled in Latin 1 and 3, reaching the top of the class in each. It was my first real experience in learning a foreign language, and I loved every minute of it. This past year, I completed the highest level of Latin my school offers, AP Virgil, which demands a comprehensive study of The Aeneid. I am very interested in Latin because of its similarities to many other Proto Indo-European based languages. I find it fascinating to see the connections among those languages and to try to figure out what those relationships might have been in Proto Indo-European in their original forms. Similarly, I like looking at how similar grammatical constructions in the romance languages evolved from Latin.

Last summer, I traveled to Austria with my orchestra for the celebration of Mozart's 250th birthday. I studied the basics of German a week before the trip, and by the time I arrived there, I was able to speak it with some competency. I continued to learn German in school this past school year as an independent study and successfully placed into and enrolled in fifth semester German at the University of North Carolina for my senior year in high school.

A family member, aware of my budding interest in languages, brought to my attention the existence of the NML and its close proximity to her home. I began corresponding with the museum in late spring and created the internship I held during the summer with the assistance of Mr. Whitney Reed. During the internship, I helped in several administrative tasks such as finalizing the preparations for the Silent Auction at the Annual Dinner and creating an up-to-date inventory of everything the museum owns.

I had intended to do research for an exhibit on Latin for display at the NML. While I was in the preliminary planning stages of this, Mr. and Mrs. Reed very kindly took me to the National Cryptologic Museum and to the College Park Airport Museum to show me how museum-quality exhibits were planned and constructed. Through conversations with President Murdoch, the Reeds, and others, the idea of a physical exhibit on Latin evolved into a power point presentation (to be integrated into the NML website) geared to encourage high school students to take Latin. I successfully created the power point and presented it to the programs committee at its meeting in July as the conclusion of my internship. The internship with the NML and its connection to so many interesting people was an extremely positive experience for me and certainly reaffirmed my growing interest in languages. I am most grateful for the opportunity.

--- Nicholas Hartley

(Editor's note: Nick reports that he has since used the Latin presentation in a freshman orientation at his school, where it was received very enthusiastically by both his peers and teachers. He has re-recorded the presentation but, ever the perfectionist, feels that it can be done even better!)
NML Participates in ILR Showcase

On June 15, the NML participated in the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) Showcase 2007 in the Marvin Center of George Washington University. The theme of the Showcase was “Advances in Language Learning and Cultural Understanding.” The invitation to participate was sent to the NML by Dr. Jill Robbins, Associate Project Director of the National Capital Language Resource Center. Always eager to advertise itself, the NML joined with numerous other language organizations in presenting displays of their work. The other organizations with displays were the Foreign Service Institute, the National Foreign Language Center, the National Capital Language Resource Center, the Center for Applied Linguistics, SCOLA, and the University of Maryland Center for the Advanced Study of Language.

The NML display was put up and staffed by Whitney Reed, NML Vice-President, and his wife Frances Reed. Visitors to the NML display were plentiful and the large pile of NML informational brochures displayed as handouts quickly disappeared. It was clear that the NML table was one of the most popular displays at the Showcase. In a separate session later in the afternoon, Mr. Reed gave a briefing on the history and activities of the NML to a group of interested attendees. Notable among the many visitors to the NML display on that day were Directors Sandra Bender and Glenn Nordin, as well as Associate Dr. Jill Robbins.

This ILR Showcase was sponsored by the National Cryptologic School and hosted by the George Washington University/National Capital Language Resource Center. In addition to the displays, the Showcase throughout the day featured an extensive variety of presentations by representatives of various language organizations in six different sessions. The Plenary Session of the Showcase in the morning was fortunate to have as its speaker Dr. Nina Garrett, Director of Language Study and Director of the Center for Language Study at Yale University. Her presentation, which received wide acclaim, was entitled: “The Complexities of the Situation: Academia and Advanced Language Learning.” Overall, the Showcase was a resounding success and an excellent opportunity for the NML to tell people about its activities.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Make checks payable to:
The National Museum of Language

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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
UPCOMING EVENTS

**NML MEETINGS**

**Board of Directors**
- December 13
- February 14
- April 10

**Museum Programs Committee**
- November 2
- December TBA
- January TBA

**Executive Committee**
- TBA

**Administration Committee**
- November 22
- December 20
- January 17

**Holiday Reception**
- December 9

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*Harold Jimenez and James McFadden*

*David Zorc and Amelia Murdoch*

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National Museum of Language

**Administrative Offices**
- 7100 Baltimore Avenue
- Suite 202
- College Park, Maryland 20740

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED