

Spring Newsletter April-June 2009

Living Tongues Institute Director Dr. Greg Anderson delivered two papers at the Oklahoma Workshop on Native American Languages at Northeastern State University in Cherokee country in Tahlequah, OK in April 2009. One paper was entitled "North American Perspectives on the Global Language Extinction Crisis: The Oklahoma and Western North America Language Hotspots" co-authored by the Institute's Research Director Dr. K. David Harrison, with technical and map assistance by Enduring Voices Project Manager Jeremy Fahringer. The other paper was "Building the Siletz Athabaskan Talking Dictionary" chronicling the Institute's work the past few years on developing the on-line resource available only to enrolled tribal members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to help in the revitalization effort of the Siletz Dee-Ni Athabaskan language for the Siletz community in Oregon. The paper was co-authored by K. David Harrison and Alfred "Bud" Lane III, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Director of Research Dr. K. David Harrison continued his torrid pace of discussions and screenings of the film *The Linguists*. His winter tour included stops at University of Georgia, the National Science Foundation in Arlington, VA, Brigham Young in Utah, University of Texas, Arlington in January, UCLA and USC (on the same day!) in Los Angeles, CA and Brown University in Providence, RI in February. Dr. Harrison did further screenings/discussions at Rutgers-Camden in NJ, and then University of California, San Diego and San Diego State University and Rutgers main campus in New Brunswick, NJ on three successive days in April, culminating with Vancouver, BC at the University of British Columbia in May. Dr. Anderson's added screenings and discussion at University of New Mexico, University of Oregon and the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Nevada City, CA and the Salem Cinema Festival in Oregon during this same period.

May welcomed an Enduring Voices trip to the southern part of the Central Southern America Language Hotspot (formerly called Southern Central South America). We visited three communities there, the Ybytoso Ishir [aka Chamacoco] (Zamucoan), the Maka (Matacoan) and the Toba-Qom (Guaicuruan). The first two communities number around fifteen hundred speakers and the last named about half of that. Several hundred words and sentences were recorded for each language and a 2-3 short narratives in digital audio and video. We made multiple bound copies of a first year textbook for the Ybytoso Ishir communities of Puerto Diana and Karcha Bahlut (14 de Mayo). We also delivered a variety of school supplies to the Maka community. A member of the Ybytoso Ishir community that resides in Asuncion who has been slowly self-financing a dictionary of the language has been given a Language Technology Kit [LTK]. Living Tongues Institute Fellow, University of Montréal doctoral candidate in anthropological linguistics Anna Luisa Daigneault remained in Paraguay until the end of June assisting in this training and LTK delivery.

Living Tongues Institute Fellow Anna Pucilowski, a doctoral candidate in Linguistics from University of Oregon, returned from her field trip to India last fall/winter and continues to work on the Ho (Munda) Talking Dictionary Project funded by the Genographic Legacy Fund. The public version of this should be running by the year's end.

Dr. Anderson and Dr. Harrison were featured speakers on a panel at a private evening lecture during the Explorer's Symposium at National Geographic's Washington, DC headquarters on June 10, 2009. Also on the panel were noted marine biologist Dr. Enric Sala, conservationist Dr. Mike Fay and geographer/author Dr. Jared Diamond.

Kafote (aka Crispulo Martinez), speaker of Ybytoso-Ishir, Bahia Negra, Paraguay May 26, 2009



photo by Anna-Luisa Daigneault, courtesy of Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages