

NATIVE LANGUAGE NETWORK

ILI, 560 Montezuma Ave., 202, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

DECEMBER 2004

Report on the "Ancient Voices, Modern Tools" Conference

ILI collaborated with the University of Washington in Seattle to provide digital technology training for tribal language practitioners from August 20-23, 2004 at the University of Washington (UW) campus. There were 86 participants from US and Canada who received one-on-one hands-on instruction on using digital technology to create language materials for use in their educational efforts.

The training was a response to many requests from grassroots community practitioners for technical assistance to develop their own materials for teaching indigenous languages. During the on-site visits to 54 language programs nationwide, ILI found successful programs were using rich information, deep knowledge and human resources from their communities to develop culturally appropriate language materials. Many communities were also creating excellent language materials by harnessing technology. However, in many

Ancient Voices / Continued on page 5



Richard Littlebear (Northern Cheyenne). (Phillip Tuwaletstiwa's photo not available).

New Additions to the Board of Directors

At the March 2004 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board welcomed two new members: Richard E. Littlebear and Phillip Tuwaletstiwa.

Dr. Littlebear (*Northern Cheyenne*) is currently the President and Dean of Cultural Affairs of Chief Dull Knife College in Lama, Montana on the Northern Cheyenne reservation located in southeastern Montana. He is a fluent speaker and proficient writer of the Cheyenne language and has been involved in indigenous language teaching and preservation

efforts for the past 20 years throughout the United States, Western Canada, and internationally. Prior to returning to his home reservation in August of 1996, Dr. Littlebear worked for nine years in Alaska as the director of a Bilingual Multifunctional Resource Center. Dr. Littlebear and his staff provided educational technical assistance to all of the state of Alaska. He is happy to be back on his home reservation where he can talk his own Cheyenne language whenever he wants.

Mr. Tuwaletstiwa (*Hopi*) is cur-

New Additions / Continued on page 8

ILI's Mission: *To collaborate with indigenous communities to revitalize and perpetuate the languages and cultures of the original inhabitants of the Americas.*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Seguli swakweku, (Greetings to you all)

Last year after four years as President of ILI, the two term limit of the ILI By-Laws mandated that I step down. Tess Naranjo was elected and ILI proceeded along nicely under her tactful guidance. I was happy to retire and leave ILI to others with more energy. The primary function of the President of ILI is to be its spokesperson; to tell the world who we are and what we're doing. Sometimes that includes facilitating working with other organizations, both Native and non-Native. Very often it includes hustling for funds to keep the doors of ILI open. This latter is a never-ending demand as those who work for non-profits can attest. One has to thicken one's skin to continual rejection and learn to appreciate the successes one has and to become as resourceful as possible. In a strange way, this process re-traces the steps of the ancestors. The silent enemies of hunger and despondency lurk in the dark shadows of one's fears. No one is guaranteed a living so one ekes out an existence out of what's there. The strange (to assimilated values) powerful result is that one becomes stronger and more determined and finally confident that they will survive and that life is worth living no matter how difficult it may be.

Of course, it is not all energy-draining drudgery. The bits and pieces of accomplishment and inspiration continue to rise up like spring flowers when least expected or beyond our wildest dreams and expectations. ILI's work with Native communities reflects the need for more reinforcing language materials that will assist in the process of helping to produce new speakers of our ancient languages.

During my year as a Board member I was able to spend more time with my language, Oneida, and realized that this was one of the most important things I missed by becoming "too" busy. I was too busy for myself, my community, my language and my family. It took the year to refocus and assure myself that one could devote time to one's work without neglecting other equally important things and people in one's life and that was what we all have to do.

At our March 2004 Board meeting, the Board voted to amend the By-laws omitting the two-term limit to ensure continuity and value institutional memory carried forth by Board members. After resting for a year as a Board member of ILI, I realized that I wasn't as burned out as I thought and when nominated for President again this past November, I accepted. I realize the potential of ILI and its contribution to language revitalization. I am rededicating myself to contributing all I can to keep our languages alive.

That is my long-winded way of saying; I'm back and working for ILI. I'm not sure I ever stopped.

In August of this year under Tess Naranjo's leadership, ILI cosponsored a Technology and Language workshop with the University of Washington. Ninety + Native language teachers and activists from across Indian Country, including Canada, attended the three day working symposium on the use of state of the art technology for their own community developed projects. These included use of video, audio and power point media. The hands on nature of the symposium resulted in one of the wild successes one only dreams about, i.e. I knew it was going to be good but I didn't know it would be *that* good! Of course, there were other successes such as the 3rd Annual Eastern Algonquian Language Conference at the Mashantucket Pequot Nation in February where ILI Board members, Tess Naranjo, Maura Studie, myself and ILI Executive Director Inée Slaughter presented some of the work of ILI. Maura's husband Wes Studi, renowned Cherokee actor and Honorary Chairman of the ILI Endowment Campaign, also gave a well-received speech about the importance of Native language in today's world. That was another beyond-our-wildest-dreams experience.

The coming year will be a challenge again because of the need of resources to continue our work. ILI has been fortunate to receive a grant from a generous anonymous foundation, a multi-year contribution from IBM, and other donors that gives us some relief.

I am now working with ANA and NMAI on a National Language Repository Initiative. The working group is composed of about 20 Native language teachers, archivists, attorneys and Tribal leaders addressing this important topic. We will be meeting again in Washington, D.C. in January 2005 to come up with a strategy for creating such a repository. It is my hope that ILI can become a prime mover in instigating the powers that be to generate the resources in both people and money to make a National Native Language Repository a reality. We'll see.

I sincerely invite anyone who reads this to contact me by phone, e-mail or post mail on any subject related to Native language and I will do my best to help when I can. In the meantime, thank you and I wish you a wonderful New Year!

Ta ne tho niyole wakalihwahtkweni agaliwayadagwah. Ne ne skaliwaht skanawedawdunyuuhake. Tho gati wi niyoduhake yugwat-niguhl. Tho nigawwnake. (That's as far as I'm going today. It is the way our minds will be. Those are my words.)

Onagiwah,



Jerry Hill, President

IBM Contribution Furthers ILI's Technology Training in 2005

In October this year ILI received contribution from IBM Corporation that enables ILI's Language Materials Development Center (LMDC) to provide regional training workshops on the use of computer technology for language materials development. ILI and its Board of Directors are most grateful for this multi-year gift that will launch a series of two technology workshops each year for the

next six years.

In 2005 ILI will conduct two of the series of technology training through this partnership with IBM, the first one being in Spring 2005 in New Mexico and the venue for the second one to be determined for Fall 2005. The regional workshops bring training opportunities close to communities, thus enabling more community members to take advantage of the training.

We thank you, IBM Corporation, and specifically the individuals at IBM who have been involved in ILI's work: David Daniel, Terry Braun, Bob Moffatt, Ted Childs (IBM Executives), Michele Morningstar (IBM Native American Program Manager, Global Workforce Diversity), Kerry Langford (IBM Rochester, Native American Diversity Task Force).

ILI's Language Materials Development Center researches and develops innovative prototypes of best practices and materials that assist communities with language revitalization. LMDC provides technical assistance in harnessing digital information technology to empower community language practitioners to create their own multimedia language materials. LMDC is also developing its studio facility that would house state of the art technology for tribal language teachers to use to create their materials.

For more information on the Regional Technology Training Series, please contact ILI at ili@indigenous-language.org or by phone 505-820-0311.

New Member of LMDC Technical Advisory Committee

Christopher Harvey joins the Technical Advisory Committee for ILI's LMDC (Language Materials Development Center) as of November 2004. Chris speaks English, French and Welsh; he has studied Spanish, Irish Gaelic, Ancient Greek, Cree, Mohawk, Ojibway, Dinka, Latin, Hungarian, Korean, Innu.

He received the Certificate for Teaching English as a Second Language and a MA in Linguistics from University of Manitoba, a BA in Linguistics from Trent University, Welsh language immersion cer-

tificate from University of Wales in Cardiff, Cree language immersion certificate from University of Regina Summer Centre for International Languages.

He combines his linguistic knowledge and experience with computer technology and calls himself a "language geek". He works with the Cree Nation of northern Saskatchewan, Pechanga Luiseño First Nation and IconNicholson, and W'SÁNEC' First Nation to submit a proposal to the Unicode Consortium for the addition of several new characters used in these languages. His credentials and experience would cover many pages, but we will summarize his impressive resume by mentioning that he has designed Windows and Mac keyboards, assigned and standardized appropriate Unicode encoding for over 30 Native languages.

Upcoming Language Conferences/Symposia

ILI Technology Training Workshop

Spring 2005 [exact dates to be determined] at Pojoaque Training Center, Pojoaque, New Mexico.

Sponsored by IBM Corporation.

Three days of in depth training on digital technology to produce your own language materials. For more information and to get on the mailing list for future announcements, please contact ILI via email: ili@indigenous-language.org.

Giving the Gift of Language: A Symposium and Workshop on Native Language Acquisition,

April 18-22, 2005, Missoula, Montana. Sponsored by SSILC

Upcoming / Continued on page 5

2004 Honoring Event

This year's Honoring Event "Those Who Make a Difference" was held on August 22, 2004 in Seattle, Washington at the Daybreak Star Cultural Center overlooking Puget Sound and Shilshole Bay. Those honored this year were Mrs. Vi Hilbert (*Upper Skagit*) and Mrs. Virginia Beavert (*Yakama*) for their lifetimes of dedicated service to language revitalization. The Honoring was part of the celebration of the "Ancient Voices, Modern Tools" Technology and Language Working Conference at the University of Washington.

Vi Hilbert

"I was born to two people who were very, very traditional, practicing all the ancient traditions of the first peoples of this land. I was their only child - my mother had eight children and I was the only one that lived - so they saw to it that everything that needed to be preserved was passed on to me. As an only child I had the responsibility of learning about the culture that I was fortunate enough to be born into."

Vi Hilbert, whose first language is Lushootseed, has spent the bulk of her adult life researching, documenting and translating the ways and words of Lushootseed. She has been the inspirational voice of the Lushootseed language and its guiding force for the past thirty-five years. She is the principal translator of most of the historical language resources in existence today, having taken it upon herself to transcribe the words of family and friends recorded on tape several decades ago.

She is a member of the Upper Skagit Tribe. She grew up on the Skagit River in northwest Washington, speaking Lushootseed, the native language of the indigenous peoples whose homelands lay between Puget Sound and the Cascade Range. It was the language, the stories and the teachings embedded in them that defined her parents' lives.

Ms. Hilbert began to collect and translate stories and songs told and sung in Lushootseed, and in 1972, she published a two-volume book on the grammar of the language. The same year, she began to teach Lushootseed at the University of Washington. She is the author of two books of Lushootseed traditional stories and she has trained a number of storytellers, both Indian and non-Indian, to continue the telling of these stories. Ms. Hilbert was the recipient of a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1994.

Virginia Beavert

Virginia Beavert is known as "a'ta wit Sapsik w'ata" or *Beloved Teacher*, for her work to preserve the Sahaptin Language. A life-long educator and Master Teacher, she has taught introductory to advanced courses at all levels from kindergarten to college. Born in a cave when her parents were stranded in a snow storm, Virginia traveled with her mother, who was a trader, and learned all area Lushootseed language dialects and spoke five of them. At the age of 14, she became liaison to a cultural anthropologist because of her knowledge of the languages and cultures of the Yakama Nation.

In 1942, she joined the Army, first in the Cavalry, then as a welder. At this time her step-father, Alex Saluskin, started to collect words and write letters with the true sounds of Sahaptin language. She came home and promised to continue his work knowing that legend and stories had to be written so words would not be lost and young people could understand the depth of their language and culture.

Ms. Beavert was one of the 30 participants of ILI's National Clearinghouse Planning Conference held in March 1997 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She and her colleagues were instrumental in developing the plans for the national clearinghouse center for indigenous languages that is one of ILI's mandates.

She received a Baccalaureate degree from Central Washington University in 1974 and a Master's degree in Bilingual/Bicultural Education from the University of Arizona in 2002. Today, while teaching at Heritage College, Virginia teaches her advanced classes and is continuing work on her father's dictionary. Her work reaches young adults and youth who, in turn, are re-instilling the Sahaptin Language in their parents. She has developed an extensive video language archive and takes great joy in witnessing the Language kept alive in the Nation's children.

Roger Fernandez was our Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and Julian Argel offered the Invocation. Gerald Hill, Board member of ILI was Master of Ceremonies for the Honoring Event. Northern Star Dance Group, Makah Canoe Family Dancers and Haida Heritage Dancers provided beautiful performances of the traditional dances and songs of the Northwest Coast region.

"Thank you!" to the evening's sponsors: AMERIND Risk Management Corporation, Keybank Native American Financial Services, OneFamily Foundation, and The Yakama Nation. We also wish to thank Elese Washines and Rose Butterfly and the volunteers from First Nations @ the UW for organizing the Salmon Bake banquet.

Ancient Voices / Continued from 1

cases, technology had been provided to communities, but there was not enough training in how to maximize their capacity to create language materials.

UW generously reached out to ILI through the initiative of Dr. Sue Ellen Jacobs, Professor Emerita of the Department of Women Studies. In collaboration with Martha Dietz, Assistant Vice President for Corporate and Foundation Giving, and Dr. Stacy Waters, Director of the new Digital Arts Experimental Media, UW provided the venue, equipment, instructors, materials and volunteers to conduct this national training conference. A core planning team from UW and ILI communicated regularly between March 2003 to August 2004.

There were several courses offered:

Capturing Images for Use in Language Projects: Participants brought photos, documents, slides, and other images to create high quality electronic image archives and to use these archival images to build PowerPoint presentations, websites, interactive CD-ROMs and other learning tools.

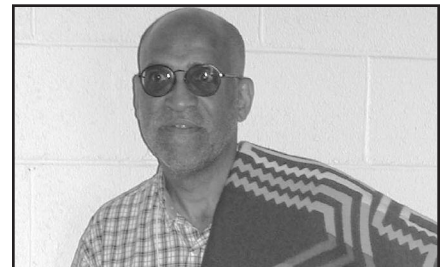
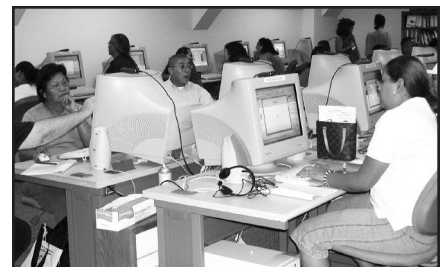
Capturing Sound for Use in Language Projects: Participants learned to digitize existing tape recordings and to capture sound spoken directly into computers.

Working with PowerPoint: Participants learned to use PowerPoint for creating presentation materials or web page content.

Video Capture: Participants learned to put video images onto an interactive CD-ROM or DVD.

We were honored to have Tom Colonese (*Santee Sioux*), Director of the American Indian Studies Program at UW as our Master of

Ancient Voices / Continued on page 7



Clockwise from top: Dancers at Salmon Bake; Honoree Vi Hilbert; Computer Camp; Dr. Stacy Waters (DXART); Training Session; Jerry Hill presenting Martha Dietz and Sue Ellen Jacobs with blankets; Honoree Virginia Beavert

Upcoming / Continued from 3

(Strengthening & Sustaining Indigenous Languages & Cultures), The Daghida Project, University of Alberta and Cold Lake First Nation in Canada, The University of Montana.

For additional information contact S. Neyooxet Greymorning at 406) 243-4409, or email; neyooxet.greymorning@mso.umt.edu.

12th Annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages

**Symposium (SILS 12)
"Weaving Language and Culture Together"**

University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, June 2-5, 2005.

Hosted by The First People,s Cultural Foundation and the University of Victoria.

Please see the conference web site at <http://www.fpcf.ca/SILS2005/> for the call for presentations, registration forms, and other information or contact Ivy Charleson, Tel (250) 361-3456, fax (250) 361-3467.

Your Gifts Can Help Native People Revitalize Languages Into the Future

With the help of new individual, foundation, corporate and public donors...and many old friends, 2004 was a significant year for the Indigenous Language Institute and, more important, for the Native people it serves in Tribal communities throughout North America. In 2004, ILI strengthened its operations, offered new resources and services, and gained the momentum to help carry the Native Language Movement into the future.

The year began with a generous grant from the Christensen Fund, an independent foundation committed to preserving cultural and biological diversity and heritage. This bolstered ILI's capacity and allowed it to go forward on new initiatives.

With Ford Foundation support, ILI published the first eight handbooks in its *"Awakening Our Languages"* series, a collection of best practices ILI observed in language programs nationwide. Three more titles will complete the series. ***With your support, ILI will publish those Handbooks in 2005.***

ILI presented its 2004 Youth Language Fair in May. This joyous event brought together Children and Youth from all over New Mexico, who radiated with pride as they sang, danced, read poetry and stories, played traditional games and joked in their Native language. ***IBM highlights the Youth Fair on its First Peoples website <http://firstpeoplesnet.net/v2/>, so that Tribes and Native organizations can learn about its positive impact and how they can replicate it in their community.***

ILI collaborated with the University of Washington to train 86 community language practitioners in digital media technology this summer. Participants gained skills to create language materials that advance Tribal language programs and shared ideas on making this training an ongoing component of ILI's Language Materials Development Center (LMDC). IBM is partnering with ILI through support for its training efforts in two regions, annually. ***Your gift can help make the LMDC fully operational in 2005, so ILI can offer expanded training to capture and revitalize Tribal Elders' languages, voices and stories, and develop a critical mass of teaching materials.***

ILI entered into creative new contracts with the New Mexico State Library and the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Under the Library contract, ILI

is coordinating translation/production of the State Department of Cultural Affairs' website in Navajo and Apache languages and will expand this site over the next two years. Under YCC, ILI will focus on two endangered cultural resources in the Pueblo of Nambé: Native language and its bison herd. To accomplish this, Nambé youth will create a language-rich prototype DVD. The project is designed to motivate youth to become involved in language and cultural revitalization through digital media. ***ILI welcomes inquiries from organizations or businesses that might benefit from our ability to identify resources and create digital materials and websites in Native languages in 2005.***

Requests for ILI's consultation and direct services to Tribes grew during 2004. ILI is honored to work closely with a broad variety of institutions and individuals to provide best solutions and models to assist Tribal language efforts. In 2004, ILI was a major presenter at Native education and language conferences and workshops. Its Board of Directors set priorities to increase its overall research and development capability and to convene more of its RELATE Interdisciplinary "Think Tank" Seminars. ***Support for ILI's services and consultation comes from unrestricted gifts and ensures ILI can continue to meet the growing demand for these essential services in 2005.***

Language is the heart and soul of a culture. If a language dies, the unique cultural identity of a people is lost forever. Because Native American languages are so fragile — with the aging of Native speakers — ILI's work takes place in a critical setting where time is of the essence.

Through your generosity, ILI can continue to research and disseminate information on effective language practices and facilitate Tribal efforts to create and sustain language programs. ILI will continue to build Tribal capacity and stimulate innovative language projects that, in turn, can lead to self-sufficiency and cultural continuity. As more Native children and youth gain language skills and cultural knowledge, they also acquire the potential to teach subsequent generations and promise a bright future.

In this time of giving, please think about supporting ILI and helping to ensure that future.

May the New Year bring special blessings on you all!

Ceremonies for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Julian Argel (*Tsimshian/Haida*) gave the invocations at our Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Dr. Argel is Assistant to the Vice President for Minority Affairs at the UW.

A series of lecture and project demonstrations featured successful digital projects, including:

"Going Beyond the ARCTIC Experience" by Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle (*Inupiaq*, Nome Alaska Public Schools) and Sarah Jones (Adjunct Faculty, University of Alaska)

"Creating a Digital Story Together" by Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle and Sarah Jones

"San Juan Pueblo Tewa Language Project" by Elviria Aquino (*San Juan Pueblo*, San Juan Pueblo Education Department) and Sue Ellen Jacobs (Professor Emerita, UW Women Studies Department)

"The Boy and The Turtle" by

John Rusin (Edmonds Community College, WA) and Sue Ellen Jacobs

"Accessing UW Archival Collections" by Carla Rickerson (Head, Special Collections, UW Libraries) and Gary Lundell (Library Specialist, UW Libraries)

"An Integrated Suite of Multimedia Resources for Tsimshian Sm'algyax Developed for the Ts'm-syen Sm'algyax Authority, Prince Rupert, BC" by Margaret Anderson

"Oneida Language Video" by Gerald L. Hill (*Oneida*)

"Fonts and Keyboards Enablement" by Kerry Langford (IBM)

"Copyright Laws: Protect Yourself and Your Materials" by Robert Anderson (*Chippewa*, Asst. Professor, UW Law School)

Among other activities, the Burke Museum of Natural History and its Director, Jim Nason, sponsored a reception and tour of the museum on the first night. The second night featured Native Voices Film Night, which screened recent

productions by students in the Indigenous Documentary Film Program, including *A Century of Genocide*, *A Dream for Water* and other films. The event was sponsored by the Canadian Studies Center of the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. Thanks, Nadine Fabbi!

The third night was a traditional Salmon Feast and ILI's Honoring Event at the Daybreak Star Cultural Center overlooking Puget Sound and Shilshole Bay in Seattle. Honorees were Mrs. Vi Hilbert (*Upper Skagit*) and Mrs. Virginia Beavert (*Yakama*) for their lifetimes of dedicated service to language revitalization. The banquet was organized by Elese Washines and Rose Butterfly and the volunteers from *First Nations @ the UW*.

ILI wants to publicly acknowledge and thank its Sponsors:

- Amerind Risk Management Corporation
- An Anonymous Foundation
- The Christensen Fund
- Fairfield Language Technologies/The Rosetta Stone
- Jeffris Wood Foundation
- KeyBank Native American Financial Services
- OneFamily Foundation
- Quinault Beach Resort and Casino

- Simple Meetings
- University of Washington
- American Indian Studies Center
- Anthropology Department
- Canadian Studies Center of Jackson School for International Studies
- Center for Digital Arts and Experimental Media (DXARTS)
- Communication Department
- First Nations @ the UW
- Graduate School Fund for Excellence and Innovation
- Information School (iSchool)
- Native American Students in Advanced Academia

- Native Voices Graduate Program for Documentary Film Making
- Office of Development/Corporate and Foundation Relations
- Office of Minority Affairs
- University Libraries Special Collections
- University Relations
- Women Studies Department

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UW/ILI Core Organizing Team

Sue Ellen Jacobs, UW

- Martha Dietz, UW
- Stacy Waters, UW
- Nadine Fabbi, UW
- Tom Colonnese, UW
- James Nason, UW
- Tessie Naranjo, ILI
- Inée Yang Slaughter, ILI
- Carol Guzman, ILI

UW Planning Committee

- Geneva Becenti
- Emily Bender
- Jeanette Bushnell
- Rose Butterfly
- Charlotte Cote
- Rosemary Gibbons
- Daniel Hart

Ancient Voices Continued on page 8

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DECEMBER 2004

The Indigenous Language Institute

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New Additions / Continued from 1

rently working on a book on the prehistory of the American Southwest under a grant from The Lannan Foundation. He is an engineer in geodetic science by profession and is working in that capacity with the Hopi Nation on a comprehensive Land Information System. He has worked as consultant to NASA for geodetic control surveys in Chaco Canyon, NM. He was Deputy Director of Department of Ecology in Washington State, Commissioned Officer in the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to mention just a few of his accomplishments.

We are very honored to have these distinguished professionals on the Board to guide ILI's mission and future.

Ancient Voices Continued from 7

Ellen Kaisse
Augustine McCaffery
Vicki Pinkham
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Carla Rickerson
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Conference Coordination

Simple Meetings

