Volume 36 ■ Number 1 ■ Spring 2012

DSNA

NEWSLETTER

On Beyond Zydeco...

a "shindy" 40+ years in the making

From the *Wall Street Journal* to the *Huffington Post* and the *Daily Beast*, from the *Bangor Daily News* to the *San Francisco Chronicle* with stops along the way at the *Grand Forks Herald* and the *San Antonio Express-News*, pundits, pontificators, and just plain folks have celebrated the concluding volume of the *Dictionary of American Regional English*. The *DARE* staff themselves gathered in early May to mark the occasion. They graciously invited the public along, and three hundred people showed up to join in the celebration.

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Photo: George E. Hall

DARE staff members, led by chief editor Joan Houston Hall, are recognized at the celebratory "shindy."

Staff members from L to R: Lenny Zwilling, Luanne von Schneidemesser, Janet Monk, Joan Houston Hall, Ginny Bormann, Cathy Attig, George Goebel, Roland Berns, Julie Schnebly, Erin Leary, and Elizabeth Blake.

News of Members

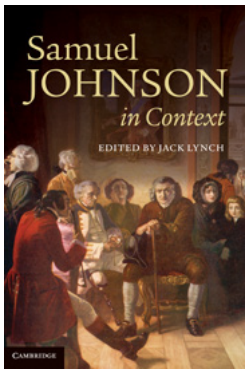
DSNA President **Orin Hargraves** was consulted by Politifact Rhode Island for an article debunking the recently popular idea that an aggregate of baboons is called a "congress." The reporter queried both primate specialists and lexicographers, and determined conclusively that the proper term is "troop." Orin is quoted as saying, "I think real baboons probably behave a lot better." The primatologists concurred.



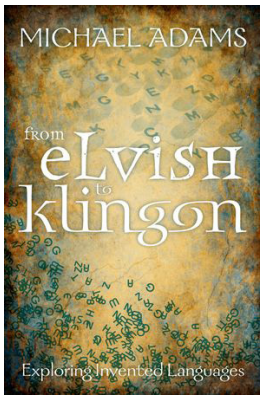
Photo: K.T. Isaacs

A troop of baboons. Or, perhaps, a fascicle of lexicographers (hat tip to Lisa Berglund) in disguise.

Cambridge University Press has published *Samuel Johnson in Context*, a collection of 47 short essays about the great lexicographer and his world. DSNA member **Jack Lynch** edited the volume, and DSNA Executive Secretary **Lisa Berglund** contributed the introductory chapter on his life. Erstwhile member **Lynda Mugglestone** also contributed an article on his dictionaries.



Rounding out our administrators' accomplishments, DSNA vice president **Michael Adams** has edited *From Elvish to Klingon: Exploring Invented Languages*, published last fall by Oxford University Press. The book describes and analyzes languages invented for books, movies, and even video games. The publisher's blurb recommends it to "anyone wanting to understand more fully the intricacies and attractions of invented languages."



DSNA member and lexicographer of Chinese **David Prager Branner** is co-editor of a new collection from University of Washington Press, entitled *Writing and Literacy in Early China*. The long-term continuity and stability of the Chinese written language allows for detailed study of the role literacy played in early civilization. The eleven contributors to this volume inquire into modes of manuscript production, the purposes for which manuscripts were produced, and the ways in which they were actually used.

Columbia University in New York has a new Lexicography Society, courtesy of an eager and apparently endlessly energetic student. The society, launched in November of last year by new DSNA member **Yin Yin Lu,** has already tapped members **Ammon Shea, Jesse Sheidlower, Madeline Kripke, Ben Zimmer,** and **David Barnhart** to give talks on subjects ranging from the history of slang dictionaries, to regionalisms, to 21st-century usage as influenced by the Internet.

Speaking American by the late **Richard Bailey,** DSNA Fellow and former editor of *Dictionaries*, was published by Oxford University Press in December 2011. Visual Thesaurus language columnist Mark Peters writes that *Speaking American* is "one of those books I wish I could make every prescriptivist grouch in the world read."

DSNA Fellow and *DARE* chief editor **Joan Houston Hall** gave the 2012 Commencement Address at The College of Idaho, her alma mater. C of I President Marv Henberg called her "the world's foremost expert on American regional English." ◈

Dictionary Society News

DSNA Executive Secretary: Call for Nominations

Lisa Berglund will retire as the Society's Executive Secretary — an office she has occupied for six years with energy, insight, patience, and grace — after the XIXth Biennial Meeting at the University of Georgia, in June 2013. We cannot thank Lisa enough for her service to the Society, though from this point forward, we will try our best. In the meantime, we must find a successor for her, not only to manage the Society's routine business, but to join with the Society's other officers and members generally to meet the many challenges small learned societies will confront during the next decade.

The Society's constitution describes the Executive Secretary's duties as follows:

> The Executive Secretary shall keep the records of the Corporation. The Executive Secretary shall also prepare and circulate such publications as are not in the province of an editor, including agendas for meetings and the biennial report, and shall collect the dues and administer the financial affairs of the Corporation.

Without a doubt, this constitutional description underestimates the Executive Secretary's central role in leading and managing the Society. Also, the Executive Secretary is a member of the Conference of Administrative Officers (CAO) of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). Participation in the CAO and in ACLS meetings is a perquisite of the office, as well as a great support in learning to conduct the Society's affairs and a stimulus to considering the Society's public and professional roles.

The Nominating Committee would welcome any member's expression of interest in serving the Society as its next Executive Secretary, as well as any nominations of members by other members. We ask that all nominations be received by the Committee no later than 30 June 2012.

Nominees should be members in good standing with a demonstrated interest in the Society and should have the following credentials:

* some administrative or managerial experience;
* sound judgment, high ethical standards;
* excellent organizational and communications skills;
* some experience with online publishing (with an eye to maintaining our website and blog at dictionarysociety.com) and social media (our presence on Twitter, Facebook, etc.);
* willingness to work cooperatively with others (even those with different or competitive points of view);
* and a capacity for work on multiple tracks, each with its own deadline.

In serving as Executive Secretary, there are probably advantages to working in a college or university setting, but all members are eligible for nomination. Those nominating themselves or others should rest assured that the Society supports a paid student assistant for the Executive Secretary.

—The Nominating Committee
Michael Adams, Chair
David K. Barnhart, Ed Finegan, Ben Zimmer ◈

The DSNA Executive Board has approved the following mission statement for the Society:

The Dictionary Society of North America promotes the development, practice, and study of lexicography, and the use, compilation, curation, marketing, maintenance, and scholarly examination of dictionaries and related reference works. It provides forums for discussion and dissemination of information on all of these topics, including a peer-reviewed journal, a newsletter, a blog, and biennial meetings. ◈

Reinhard's References XI: Networks

by Reinhard Hartmann

What do lexicography conferences, library dictionary collections and dictionary travelling exhibitions have in common (other than being mentioned in the last issue of the *DSNA Newsletter*)? They are all 'networks,' defined in *Wikipedia* as "(social) structures made up of individuals or organizations connected by one or more specific types of interdependency.…"

When I started planning the LEXeter'83 conference nearly 30 years ago, I could not have predicted that it would establish EURALEX which became an influential international association (see "R's Refs X" in *Newsletter* 35.2). There were local implications of this, too. Fortunately, the surplus from the conference allowed us to set up a 'dictionary research centre.' Success of a new unit like this depends not only on its name and structure, but its leaders and activities (see "R's Refs V" in *Newsletter* 33.1). The DRC brought in numerous links, but when I retired from Exeter, it was moved to Birmingham University, where there was also an established tradition for the new EFL learner's dictionary *COBUILD* and a new Centre for Corpus Research.

In the more interdisciplinary and international settings of such centres, three dimensions of 'interdependency' seem to be essential:

▸ the **types of institution** within and between which networks can be found, ranging from private bodies to commercial and academic bodies such as workshops, publishers, libraries, language boards, schools, academies of sciences, and universities and other public bodies. University-based lexicographic centres need to choose appropriate practical and theoretical activities such as training facilities and research topics (dictionary history, dictionary criticism, dictionary typology, dictionary structure, dictionary use, and dictionary IT) that distinguish them from others.

▸ the **disciplinary specialisms** on which they decide to concentrate, ranging from dictionary projects (such as those at Oxford, Glasgow, and Aberystwyth), the study of language history and various national and minority languages (*e.g.* English at London, Welsh at Bangor, and Irish Gaelic at Belfast), dialectology (Edinburgh *et al.*), and onomastics (Nottingham *et al.*) to languages for specific purposes and technical terminology (Swansea *et al.*), translation (Surrey *et al.*), corpus linguistics (Birmingham *et al.*), and other aspects of computing (Sheffield *et al.*).

▸ the **hierarchical levels** that characterise networks, from personal contacts and local professional activities to wider regional, national, and international collaboration, ranging from training courses (such as EMLex based at Erlangen-Nürnberg), Conference Series (such as the one on Historical Lexicology and Lexicography started at Leicester), and research networks (such as the Natural Language Processing Research Group based at Sheffield) to national societies (such as the British Association for Terminology and Lexicography and the Publishers Association), from language promotion groups (such as the Forum for Research on Languages of Scotland and Ulster) to international ventures (such as the International Celtic Congress at Dublin), and from regional initiatives (such as the Nordic Terminology Network at Helsinki) to global ones (such as the Terminology Committee 37 of the International Organization for Standardization).

Finally, an intriguing question occurs to me: is there anyone out there who can depict these complex relationships in the form of a multidimensional diagram?

For my survey paper on networking in European lexicography, please see the forthcoming issue of *Dictionaries*, for my regular list of forthcoming conferences see the EURALEX Newsletter in the *International Journals of Lexicography*, for a list of relevant reference portals see euralex.pbworks.com/f/Reference+Portals+aug+2010.pdf ◈

Taking Part in Humanities Advocacy Day

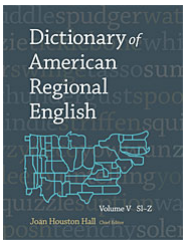
March 20, 2012

DSNA is a member of the National Humanities Alliance. DSNA Fellow Luanne von Schneidemesser attended their annual meeting this March as a representative of the *Dictionary of American Regional English (DARE)*. She filed the followed report about the experience.

Founded in 1981, the National Humanities Alliance is a non-profit organization to advance national humanities policy in the areas of research, education, preservation, and public programs. It monitors and takes action on a range of federal funding and policy issues that affect work in the humanities, including support for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Historical Publications and Records Commission, International Education Programs, and the Library of Congress. NEH funding in particular is a direct concern for many lexicographers. Dictionary projects that have received funding from the NEH include *DARE*; the *Dictionary of Old English*; the *Historical Dictionary of American Slang;* and the *Middle English Dictionary*; as well as dictionaries dealing with, for example, Coatec Zapotec, Huon Peninsula Languages, Mescalero Apache, Pisaflores Tepehua, sino-Tibetan, Eastern Han Chinese, Potawatomi, Aramaic, and Plains Apache.

To further those ends, the Alliance has established Humanities Advocacy Day. To quote from the NHA website:

> Humanities Advocacy Day was established by the National Humanities Alliance in 2000 to increase public support for the humanities. As part of this event, participants receive detailed issues briefs and background material on the current status of federal humanities funding in preparation for Congressional Hill Visits coordinated by the NHA staff.... Timed to coincide with the Congressional appropriations process, the event provides a unique opportunity for more than 100 individuals representing a diverse range of organizations and institutions from across the country to speak with a unified voice to Congress and other key stakeholders. (www.nhalliance.org/events/index.shtml)



To illustrate the usefulness of the humanities beyond the borders of humanities, I was asked to speak as a representative of the *Dictionary of American Regional English* in a "lightning rod" panel at the annual meeting of the NHA in Washington, D.C., March 19, the day before Humanities Advocacy Day. This was to be a six- to seven-minute presentation. *DARE,* with its applications for teachers, librarians, and historians, of course, but also for writers, actors and dialect coaches, translators, doctors, natural scientists, forensic linguists, and lawyers, lends itself well to demonstrating such usefulness; the problem was to explain what *DARE* is and show how it is useful in those fields within six to seven minutes!

After the NHA meeting, I chose to stay on for Advocacy Day. Training was provided before the event. In an hour and a half session, we learned, for example, that NEH authorization is handled by the House of Representatives Committee on

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Dictionaries Online: DSNA and Project Muse

A year ago, *Dictionaries: The Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America*, joined Project Muse, a leading provider of digital humanities and social sciences content. *Dictionaries* 31 (2010) was the first issue available online. In April 2012, the entire run of *Dictionaries*, extending back to 1979, was added to the Project Muse collection. Now all members of DSNA, and all subscribers to Project Muse, can access decades of valuable scholarship on practical lexicography, the history of dictionaries, and other topics.

During the first month in which the entire backlist was available, 492 different IPs were used to access the database, and those users viewed 1,434 articles and 680 tables of contents. The five most frequently viewed articles were "Gay Slang Lexicography: A Brief History and a Commentary on the First Two Gay Glossaries," by Gary Simes in Vol. 26 (2005); "James Boswell (1740–1795) and his Design for *A Dictionary of the Scot[t]ish Language*, 1764–1825," by James J. Caudle in Vol. 32 (2011); "18th Century American English according to Noah Webster" by Herbert Penzl, in Vol. 12 (1990); "Defining Racial Labels: Problems and Promise in American Dictionaries," by M. Lynne Murphy, Vol. 13 (1991); and "Dictionary Activities in the Elementary Classroom: News for Lexicographers," by Erin McKean in Vol. 21 (2000). Again, this survey represents activity just during the month of April 2012.

Who is accessing the material from *Dictionaries* is unclear, as the vast majority of IP addresses are listed in the Project Muse reports as "unknown." The roughly 20 percent of users whose country of origin is identified are mostly in the United States, Ireland, Canada, and Australia, although there are one or two users in two dozen other countries, including Germany, El Salvador, Lebanon, and Denmark.

It is difficult to extract definitive answers from this preliminary information, but the results are extremely promising. It seems fair to conclude that *Dictionaries* online has attracted considerable interest, both from DSNA members and from other scholars. Articles perused or downloaded include lexicons, historical studies of dictionaries, studies in practical lexicography, and analysis of usage — suggesting that there is a new and growing audience (worldwide, principally in English-speaking countries) for the diversity of topics to which *Dictionaries* is devoted.

And one extremely important benefit remains to be mentioned: DSNA is earning royalties. In the year ending March 2012 — a year in which the only journals available to Project Muse readers were Volume 31 (for one year) and Volume 32 (for three months) — DSNA earned $3,646.83. Given that DSNA's annual expenditures average $18,000, this sum is a significant addition to our income and will give the Society increased flexibility in pursuing our goals.

Members of DSNA may access *Dictionaries* online using a DSNA login and password. If you require this information, please contact the DSNA Office at <dsnaoffice@gmail.com> ◈

—Lisa Berglund

DSNA Membership Renewal

You can now renew your DSNA membership online! For links and more information, see www.dictionarysociety.com/2011/09/2010-dsna-membership.html

To renew DSNA membership by regular mail, print and fill out the 2012 Renewal Form (available from the webpage above) and mail it with a check in US or Canadian dollars.

We also accept wire transfers through Western Union. Please contact the executive secretary at dsnaadmin@gmail.com if you wish to use this payment method. ◈

A Shindy for the Ages *...continued*

Founding editor Frederic Cassidy's children and grandchildren were there to lend familial support, and the presence of several of the original fieldworkers added institutional memory to the mix. Current staff, alumni, and longtime volunteers on the project mingled with professional lexicographers and academics from across the country, and with interested bystanders from near and far. I spoke to one such bystander, who had driven with her husband from northern New Hampshire just to come to the party. Susan and Chip — I believe they were foresters by profession — explained that they had always been fascinated by the project and had decided sometime around volume 3 that "if they ever finish this thing, and they have a party, we should go."

The first event was a "mini-conference" featuring prolific and internationally-renowned author Simon Winchester, as well as DSNA's own Michael Adams and Erin McKean. Attended by 120 people, the lectures were sponsored by the University Lectures Committee, the Anonymous Fund, and the UW Regents award for academic staff excellence (presented to *DARE* in 2011).

Simon Winchester, most famous in lexicographic circles as the author of *The Professor and the Madman*, gave a wide-ranging talk on the history of dialect and slang lexicography, somehow managing to include side excursions into the sex lives of elephants (as imagined by Samuel Johnson) and the number of possible pronunciations of *lingerie* as listed in *Webster's Third* (Winchester claimed 123 possible permutations, although that figure was disputed by the Merriam-Webster editors in the audience). He lauded *DARE* as "one of the most romantic word-gathering expeditions in history," and summed up with the idea that the *Oxford English Dictionary* asked people to read; the *English Dialect Dictionary* asked people to listen; but *DARE* took a leap and asked people to speak.

Photo: Peter Sokolowski



Erin McKean, Simon Winchester, and Jesse Sheidlower at the conference.



Photo: George E. Hall

Michael Adams, Erin McKean, and Joan Hall at the shindy.

In the second lecture, DSNA vice president Michael Adams (in traditional bowtie) called *DARE* "a bold synthesis of historical lexicography and linguistic geography." His talk touched on *DARE*'s use of literature and other print sources, and focused primarily on the relationship between language and regional identity.

Erin McKean, lexicography's most prominent seamstress, spoke about the "taxonomic joy" of collecting words. As she pointed out, the evocative metaphors encapsulated in regional language are lost if not collected in places like *DARE*, and with them are lost entire world views. As Erin urged the audience, "We should not stop collecting; we should not stop exploring." And indeed, the work of *DARE* is not complete. A volume of appendices and maps is forthcoming next year, and plans are afoot to put the whole shebang online sometime in 2013.

The "shindy," held the next evening, was sponsored by the UW-Madison Chancellor, the American Dialect Society, DSNA, Harvard University Press, and PMR Communications. It featured regional delicacies, wide-ranging conversation, and many acknowledgements of

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Cordell Corner

by David Vancil

Dr. Yongwei Gao arrived from Fudan University in Shanghai on May 22 to begin a two-week Cordell Collection research fellowship. Gao, an associate professor of English, is a member of the College of Foreign Languages and Literature. He is an editor of the fourth edition of *A New English-Chinese Dictionary*, a copy of which he presented to me for addition to the Cordell Collection of Dictionaries. He is interested in the development of the English-Chinese dictionary as well as English idioms and regional expressions as they can be expressed in Chinese. Dr. Gao also writes a column on language for an academic newsletter and maintains a blog on vocabulary. No doubt he has made use of the *Dictionary of American Regional English* in his research.

Gao is the first recipient of a Cordell research fellowship from the People's Republic of China. In fact, he is the first Asian recipient. While there have been lexicographers from Asia who have worked in the collection prior to my tenure with the collection, he is the first in my 25 years. We are very excited about his research and his plans for publication. Gao is a long-standing member of the DSNA and spent a year at the University of Illinois more than seven years ago.

Mira Podhajecka, whom many of you will know, is scheduled for a one-week research fellowship in August. Dr. Podhajecka has taken up the study of Calepino dictionaries containing Polish. To the best of her knowledge and mine, no one has done any research in this area. For such a famous work, Calepino's original dictionary and those which emanated from it appear to have received little scholarly attention. The Cordell Collection has one of the largest collections of Calepino dictionaries in the world, so it's a good fit for Mira's research interests.



Mira last conducted research in the collection in 2005. We are glad to have her return. We encourage other researchers who have continuing research interests that can make good use of the collection to apply for repeat fellowships. There is no limit on the number of fellowships. Some Cordell Collection research fellows have visited us as many as three times. We are interested in supporting viable research in our holdings. Remember, while the fellowships are for research in the Cordell Collection, we have many other language-oriented collections which may be consulted in support of such research.

In other news, the Special Collections Reading Room has been relocated to my former office area. The natural lighting is superior in the new location to that of the Cordell Room, which relies on indirect lighting to protect the books housed in it. The Cordell Room will be used by classes and for meetings. The former department entrance or lobby, which many of you will remember from your tours in 2009, is being converted to an exhibit area and will have four exhibit cases for viewing examples from our many collections,

Scholars enjoy the natural light in the new Special Collections Reading Room.



photos courtesy of David Vancil

including the Cordell Collection. As for using the Cordell Room for classes and meetings, we have found that the Cordell Room creates a very favorable impression — its ambiance has a calming effect on harried academicians who hold meetings there. Meanwhile, planning is underway to expand storage space for the Special Collections Department as a whole. The University Archives and Special Collections have recently been combined into one department, and the Archives staff has been relocated to an area formerly dedicated to storage for the pre-1901 Cordell Collection and the Indiana Collection. As a result, very little storage capacity remains. There are potential donations of hundreds if not thousands of lexicographical materials, not to mention holdings in other areas, which must be accommodated, possibly in the near future. For example, a recent gift to the department was several large boxes of books and other items belonging to Coach John Wooden. Wooden began his college coaching career at Indiana State University before moving on to California, so his family wanted his alma mater (he also earned a master's degree at Indiana State) to have some of his books and other items.

At long last, I am happy to report, the search for a cataloger is underway. I met one of the applicants a few days ago and was impressed with her enthusiasm. By the time this newsletter appears, someone should be ensconced in that position and learning the ropes. With any luck, work on cataloging the Cordell Collection should be underway again by next fall. Not only will the cataloger be involved with cataloging holdings, but he or she will be providing access to the increasing number of electronic versions of dictionaries and other works that are being digitized on a continuing basis in the department.

Finally, I want to announce that the next Cordell Corner column will be my last. My contract as a half-time employee of the university library will conclude at the end of December. If anyone has a topic he or she wants me to address in that last column, please let me know. ◈

Humanities Advocacy Day

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Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce training; in the Senate it is the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. NEH funding, on the other hand, is the task of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. We were told of the Caucuses supporting the humanities and which of the members of Congress were members; of the support records of members of Congress; and of the decline in NEH support from its peak in 1979, with a cut of almost 40% from 1995 to 1996 alone — and the declines continue.

Participants were given pointers on how to communicate effectively. This part of the session was excellent; most of us felt we were in over our heads by this point. A few examples of the tips: Allow plenty of time for security (one of our 3-person WI delegation had to wait 40 minutes to get into the Rayburn building). Have business cards ready to immediately hand out (crucial! Sometimes they wanted more than one.). Ask how long the meeting will be (also crucial so you can pace yourself to get all your points made — most meetings seem to be 10 to 20 minutes, although they may be 5 minutes, or over half an hour. One of our meetings was held in a hallway, since all the rooms in the member's suite of offices were occupied). Explain how you and other constituents have benefited from NEH. Don't use acronyms. Follow up with thanks and promised materials.

The Advocacy Day meetings were all with Legislative Assistants, 20-somethings whom I found to be very knowledgeable in the topics they are responsible for, very efficient, and to the point. I was impressed by these assistants. Since they collect information and communicate their knowledge to their bosses — the members of Congress — they might well be running the country behind the scenes.

I would recommend the experience of lobbying to you. ◈

—Luanne von Schneidemesser

Lexicographic Opportunities and Announcements

2012

Africa:

AFRILEX 2012 is to be held in Pretoria, South Africa on July 3–5, 2012. Deadline for early registration is June 1, 2012.
afrilex.africanlanguages.com

Asia:

The International Conference on Language, Literature and Linguistics is to be held in Singapore on July 9–10, 2012.
l3-conference.org

Europe:

The 6th International Conference on Historical Lexicography and Lexicology will be held July 25–28, 2012 in Jena, Germany.
www.le.ac.uk/ee/jmc21/ishll.html

The 7th Congress of the International Society of Dialectology and Geolinguistics will be held July 23–28, 2012 in Vienna, Austria, under the auspices of the Institute for Lexicography of Austrian Dialects and Names (DINAMLEX) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences.
sidg.oeaw.ac.at/en/congress/about

EURALEX 2012 will be held August 7–11, 2012, in Oslo, Norway. The congress is organized by the Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies, University of Oslo, and the Language Council of Norway.
euralex.org

Lexicom 2012 Europe will be held September 24–28, 2012 in Galtür, Austria. Deadline for early registration is June 1, 2012.
nlp.fi.muni.cz/lexicom2012eu

2013

DSNA XIX will be held in Athens, Georgia on May 23–25, 2013.
ASIALEX 2013 will be held in Bali, Indonesia on August 20–22, 2013.

2014

EURALEX 2014 will be held in Bozen-Bolzano, Italy. Date to be announced.

Links and more information about these and other conferences can be found at ***pangaealex.org***. ◈

LSA Summer Institute 2013

DSNA president Orin Hargraves will once again be teaching a class sponsored by DSNA at the Linguistic Society of America's Summer Institute. This year's course is on Natural Language Processing; the Institute will be held June 24–July 19, 2013; more information at lsa2013.lsa.umich.edu.

The tempting course description:

Determining what words mean is the core skill and practice of lexicography. Determining what words mean is also a central challenge in natural language processing (NLP), where it is usually classed under the exercise of word sense disambiguation (WSD). Until the late 20th century, lexicography was dominated by scholars with backgrounds in philosophy, literature, and other humanistic disciplines, and the writing of dictionaries was based strongly on intuition, and only secondarily on induction from the study of examples of usage. Linguistics, in this same period, establish itself as a discipline with strong scientific credentials.

With the development of corpora and other computational tools for processing text, dictionary makers recognized first the value, and soon the indispensability, of using evidence-based data to develop dictionary definitions, and this brought them increasingly into contact with computational linguists. The developers of computational linguistic tools and resources eventually turned their attention back to the dictionary and found that it was a document that could be exploited for use in the newly emerging fields of linguistic inquiry that computation made possible: NLP, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and machine translation.

This course will explore the computational tools that lexicographers use today to write dictionaries, and the ways in which computational linguists use dictionaries in their pursuits. The aim is to give students an appreciation of the unexploited opportunities that dictionary databases offer to NLP, and of

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Opportunities and Announcements

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the challenges that stand in the way of their exploitation. Students will have an opportunity to explore the ways in which dictionaries may aid or hinder automatic WSD, and they will be encouraged to develop their own models for the use of dictionary databases in NLP. ◈

OUP Job Opportunity

The Faculty of English Language and Literature at the University of Oxford is looking for a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (vacancy ID 102775) who will pursue a research project in English Language Lexicography (*i.e.*, the academic study of dictionary-making — the practice, its products, their histories, and their relationship to their cultural contexts) under the mentorship of Charlotte Brewer. The proposed research project may be in any topic in English Language Lexicography, but applications are particularly encouraged in areas relating to the OED, in dictionaries of current English, and in related areas of language technology such as language corpora.

The Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in English Language Lexicography will take up appointment between 1 September 2012 and 1 January 2013 and receive a salary in the range (as at 1 January 2012) of £29,099–£30,870.

For further information about the job posting, view the PDF for vacancy ID 102775 at www.recruit.ox.ac.uk. ◈

DSNA Freelancer List

The DSNA Office keeps lists of freelancers and of members willing to be contacted with questions from the general public, news media, and so forth. If you would like to be added to either list, please contact Lisa Berglund at <dsnaadmin@gmail.com>

Shindy

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the hard work done by so many people over the years. The Cassidy family and the fieldworkers were recognized, and rounds of applause were encouraged for the many people in attendance who have played a part — large or small — in the success and completion of *DARE*. A drawing was held for a signed copy of *Volume V*, and Joan Hall was presented with a commemorative print. Before, after, and in between the speechifying, the highlight was clearly the food from all corners of the country: squeaky cheese curds from Wisconsin, bear claws from the Pacific coast, red velvet cupcakes from the Mississippi delta, lefse from the Scandinavian-influenced upper Midwest, Cuban sandwiches from Florida, and many more. And as an encore, each attendee was presented with a piece of chocolate embossed with the iconic DARE map as we left the building. It was a party for the ages, and I think all involved felt it was worth the countless hours it took to get there.

Congratulations to all! ◈

—Katherine Isaacs

This newsletter has been brought to you by the Letter "Z".

With a nod to *DARE* founder Frederic Cassidy's "On to Z!" mantra, this "Z" print from the Robert Cottingham alphabet series from Tandem Press was presented to *DARE* chief editor Joan Houston Hall by UW-Madison Interim Chancellor David Ward in honor of *Volume V*. ◈



Photo from news.wisc.edu

DSNA Newsletter
Return Address (***for Post Office use only***):
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Publishing Information

The *DSNA Newsletter* is published twice a year, in the Spring and Fall. The editor is Katherine Isaacs. News of members and other items of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send ***Newsletter*** correspondence, such as items for publication, etc., to the editor at <editor.dsnan@gmail.com>.

DSNA Web Site
www.dictionarysociety.com

Members with web sites of lexicographical interest who would like to be linked from our website can send URLs for consideration to the DSNA office at <dsnaadmin@gmail.com>.

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Regular, joint, institutions:	$50	$70
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Send correspondence re membership, etc. to
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