

## DEL 2014 Awards

A complete list of the 2014 NSF and NEH DEL awards are listed after these highlighted projects:

- *Advances in Linguistic, Ethnobotanical, and Botanical Sciences through Documentation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge* (3 years, \$649,942, Jonathan Amith of Gettysburg College and botanist John Kress of the Smithsonian Institution) taps into the ways that endangered languages have encoded information on how communities have historically interacted with their environments, thus providing clues to environmental changes over generations of speakers, increases or decreases in biodiversity, and sustainable practices adapted to particular environments. Linguists and botanists will collaborate to document the botanical diversity of the Sierra Nororiental de Puebla, Mexico. The inventory of flora created through the use of innovative DNA-bar coding technology will be mined in tandem with linguistic analysis of interviews and monologues from the Mesoamerican languages Nahuatl and Totonac. Comparative botanical information across geographically proximate villages will be used to uncover historical patterns of migration, cultural contact, and language change.
- *Making Pacific Language Materials Discoverable: Identifying and Describing Indigenous Languages* (2 years, \$122,317, Andrea Berez of the University of Hawaii, Manoa) will improve the catalog records of endangered language materials in the Pacific Collection at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Hamilton Library. The library holds one of the largest collections of written materials in or about Micronesian, Polynesian, and Melanesian languages, including dictionaries, grammars, and field notebooks, as well as religious texts, government documents, children's books, and public health brochures. Yet access to many of these materials is hindered due to inadequate or incomplete descriptions in the current library catalog. The geographic region covered by the collection is one of the most linguistically diverse in the world, meaning that accurate language information is critical for the usefulness of the collection. The project will complete cataloging for parts of the collection, making this information accessible to language communities, linguists, other catalogers, and the public.
- *Community Directed Audio-Visual Documentation of Ayöök* (2 years, \$258,316, Daniel Suslak of Indiana University and Ben Levine of the non-profit company, The Speaking Place) will create digital documentation of Ayöök, a Mixe-Zoquean language spoken in Mexico, using an innovative technique called "facilitated-feedback filming", which stimulates groups of community members to recall long forgotten events, share ideas, and engage in frank discussions about what they are viewing. The process will create unique language data of Ayöök and will reawaken Ayöök traditional ecological knowledge that will be used by biochemists from the UC Davis Plant Sciences Department to expand on their maize genetics research.
- *Digitization, Transcription, and Publication of Sauk Narratives* (1 year, \$90,996, Manatowa Bailey of the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma) will build a rich corpus of personal stories in the Algonquian language Sauk based on legacy materials that

record growing up in traditional Sauk homes during the 1920's and 1930's, the Sauk migration to Oklahoma, descriptions of traditional practices such as procedures for building houses, and other remembrances of the knowledge, values, and customs of the speakers' parents and grandparents. The collection will be of immediate use to linguists working on the reconstruction of Algonquian, as well as cultural anthropologists and to those studying traditional environmentally sustainable practices. This historic digital audio and video collection with full transcription will also be valuable in the continuation of Sauk language revitalization efforts.

- *Understanding Prosody and Tone Interactions through Documentation of Two Endangered Languages* (3 years, \$340,456, Christian DiCanio of Haskins Laboratory) takes advantage of accurate automated alignment of spoken-word to text in order to investigate the complex interactions of tone (i.e. high or low pitch) and prosody (i.e., stress, rhythm, and pauses between phrases) in Itunyoso Trique and Yoloxóchitl Mixtec, both Mixtecan languages from eastern central Mexico. The resulting prosodically segmented and tagged corpora for these two languages will be a first of its kind for an endangered language, useful for both the speaker-community and the broader scientific community. The project will test and improve on new computational technology in automatic speech recognition.
- *Documenting the languages of Manipur: Clues to the prehistory of Sino-Tibetan languages* (3 years, \$312,722, Scott DeLancey of the University of Oregon Eugene) will survey 14 closely related languages each spoken by fewer than 10,000 speakers in the Northeast Indian state of Manipur and will create a comprehensive description of one of these languages, Monsang. Comparing the Monsang data with other related languages in the region will help build an accurate picture of the development of Kuki-Chin, the language subgroup to which they belong. It has recently been discovered that these languages preserve ancient elements from the ancestral Proto-Sino-Tibetan language – features which have been lost in all of the neighboring languages. A better understanding of these ancient linguistic features will improve theories on the prehistory and origin of Sino-Tibetan languages such as Tibetan, Burmese, and Chinese. Questions of linguistic and ethnic origin and relatedness are at the center of many disputes in region where Sino-Tibetan languages are spoken.
- *Procedures for the Rapid Documentation of Language Acquisition in an Endangered Language Context* (3 years, \$260,426. Clifton Pye of the University of Kansas) will engage an international team to document language acquisition of Northern Pame, an Otomanguan language spoken by approximately 5,000 people in the state of San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Pye and his team will develop a prototype procedure for the rapid documentation endangered language acquisition helping scientists understand the nature of input required for language acquisition.

The following is a complete list of the DEL 2014 awards:

**Institutional Grants** (awarded by NSF or NEH, as indicated):

- Jonathan D. Amith**, Gettysburg College and Co-PI **John Kress**, Smithsonian Institution. *Documenting Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the Sierra Nororiental de Puebla, Mexico, in Synchronic and Diachronic Perspectives*, \$449,942 (NSF) and \$200,000 (NEH).
- Andrea Berez**, University of Hawaii, Manoa, *Making Pacific Language Materials Discoverable: Identifying and Describing Indigenous Languages*, \$122,317 (NEH)
- April Counciller and Co-PI Alisha S Drabek**, Alutiiq Heritage Foundation. *The Alutiq Language Archive and Speaker Registry*, \$399,058 (NSF).
- J. Andrew Cowell**, University of Colorado at Boulder. *Arapahoe (ARP) Lexical Database and Dictionary*, \$177,213 (NEH).
- Scott DeLancey**, University of Oregon Eugene. *Documenting the languages of Manipur: Clues to the prehistory of Sino-Tibetan languages*, \$312,722 (NSF).
- Christian T. DiCanio**, Haskins Laboratories, Inc. *Understanding Prosody and Tone Interactions through Documentation of Two Endangered Languages* \$340,456 (NSF).
- Jeffrey C. Good** and Co-PI **Jan Chomicki**, SUNY at Buffalo. *Language Documentation, Fieldwork Training Models, and Computational Tools for Understanding Linguistic Stability and Change*, \$406,186 (NSF).
- Lenore Grenoble**, University of Chicago. *Understanding spatial determiners, complex predicates, and case marking through traditional narratives in endangered languages*, \$239,955 (NSF).
- Jacob Manatowa-Bailey**, Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma. *Digitization, Transcription, and Publication of Sauk Narratives*, \$90,996 (NSF).
- Micheal Oltrogge** and Co-PI **Alice Saunsoci**, Nebraska Indian Community College. *Discovering Omaha Linguistic Structure through the Documentation of Fluent Omaha Elders' Voices*, \$85,568 (NSF).
- David Peterson**, Dartmouth College. *Documentation of Rengmitca (Tibeto-Burman)*, \$175,635 (NSF).
- Clifton L Pye**, University of Kansas Center for Research Inc., *Procedures for the Rapid Documentation of Language Acquisition in an Endangered Language Context*, \$260,426 (NSF).
- Carmel O'Shannessy**, University of Michigan Ann Arbor. *Documentation and acquisition of Light Warlpiri and Warlpiri*, \$255,891 (NSF).
- Daniel F. Suslak**, Indiana University and Co-PI **Benjamin Levine** of Speaking Place. *Community Directed Audio-Visual Documentation of Ayook (ISO 939-3 MTO) and Development of an Online Ayook Language Portal*, \$258,316 (NEH).

**Fellowships** (awarded by NEH, \$50,400 each):

- Emiliana Cruz**, University of Massachusetts Amherst, *Language Description: Chatino [ISO 693-3 CTP] place names and local knowledge: Description with a multimedia documentary corpus*.

**Keri Eggleston**, *The Next Critical Step in Documenting Tlingit (TLI)*.

**Jeffrey E. Davis**, University of Tennessee Knoxville, *Plains Indian Sign Language (PSD) Digital Corpus Linguistics Project*.

**John M. Keegan**, *Sara-Bagirmi Languages Database Project*.

**Hiroko Sato**, University of Hawaii, *Preliminary field investigation of the Bebeli language (bek), Papua New Guinea*.

**Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants** (awarded by NSF)

**Clare S. Sandy** under the direction of Andrew J Garrett, University of California-Berkeley, *The Phonology and Morphology of Karuk*, \$15,120.

**Lajos S Szoboszlai** under the direction of Martha J. Macri, University of California-Davis, *Mutsun reclamation continued: Three years in a learner's efforts to acquire language*, \$6,830.

**Adam J Tallman** under the direction of Patience Epps, University of Texas at Austin, *Investigating complex word reanalysis through endangered language data*, \$14,493.

**Conferences and Workshops** (awarded by NSF)

**Darryl Baldwin**, Myaamia Center, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, *Archival Institute for Indigenous Languages*, \$167,650.

**Andrea Berez**, University of Hawaii, *WORKSHOP: Enriching Theory, Practice, and Application: Classes and Special Sessions at the 4th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation*, \$43,600

**Damir Cavar**, Eastern Michigan University, *19th Lexical-Functional Grammar Conference*, \$12,199

**Jeffrey Good**, SUNY at Buffalo, *ComputEL: A workshop to explore the use of computational methods in the study of endangered languages*, \$25,007.

**Jason Kandybowicz** and Co-PI **Harold Torrence**, University of Kansas Center for Research Inc., *Africa's Endangered Languages: Documentary and Theoretical Approaches*, \$24,601.