

in their own departments, and many lack the resources to locate LGBTQ anthropologists at conferences and other universities. In 1997, at the AAA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, SOLGA organized a lunchtime roundtable on LGBTQ students in anthropology. Speakers and members from the audience shared stories of being closeted about both their sexuality and their fieldwork interests. Several students marveled at their "luck" in attending a school where a prominent anthropologist in LGBTQ research taught or in hunting down an author at a conference who graciously commented on their own research. From the personal testimonies of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as other junior scholars, it became increasingly clear that there was a need for improved mentorship and access to mentors among LGBTQ anthropologists.

In response, the SOLGA Mentor File was developed to offer an opportunity for professors, applied anthropologists and students to provide leadership, academic advice, job opportunities and inspiration to undergraduate students, graduate students and others studying or applying LGBTQ anthropology. The Mentor File is an online resource at [www.solga.org](http://www.solga.org) that allows students and junior scholars (as well as publishers, granting organizations, journals and conference organizers, according to some mentors) to get an overview of scholars' educational background, areas of expertise, major publications and the like. Students may then use the contact information provided to get in touch directly with potential mentors who share their interests.

SOLGA would like to recognize and show our appreciation for those who have served as mentors through this program during the past five years: Maureen Aston, Dawn Atkins, Evelyn Blackwood, Gracia Clark, Lawrence Cohen, Christa Craven, Jason Cromwell, Amy Donovan, James M Donovan, Deborah A Elliston, Douglas A Feldman, Joseph R Hawkins, Benjamin Junge, William Leap, Ellen Lewin, Martin Manalansan, Heidi Minning, Karen Nakamura, Mary Porter, Frank Proschan, Susan Seizer, David Valentine and Mary Weismantel. Also, we would like to extend a warm thank you to Todd White, who has done a fantastic job with the Mentor File on the SOLGA website. Most recently, Todd has divided the growing Mentor File to give each mentor an individual page.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, the brief form and information are available on our website ([www.solga.org](http://www.solga.org)). And if anyone is interested in adding a publicity (or just plain fun!) shot to their file, please feel free to email them to Todd directly at [ctw@usc.edu](mailto:ctw@usc.edu).

Finally, I have very much enjoyed my tenure as coordinator of the SOLGA Mentor File for the past four years. In the future, I hope to see the SOLGA Mentor File work in collaboration with the mentor programs that are beginning in many of the other sections of the AAA. It seems that there is a wonderful opportunity for dialogue among seasoned scholars and students to continue the development of cutting edge work in LGBTQ anthropology. Thank you to all who have offered

helpful advice and contributed your talents to making this project a valuable resource for budding LGBTQ scholars.

*Please send your comments, new column ideas or other information to Barb West at [bwest@uop.edu](mailto:bwest@uop.edu). To sign up for the SOLGA listserv, send a message to [listserv@american.edu](mailto:listserv@american.edu) with "subscribe solga-l" in the body of the message.*

## Society for Linguistic Anthropology

MARK ALLEN PETERSON AND JAMES STANLAW,  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

### SSILA Withdraws from AAA Meeting

The growing separation between linguistic anthropology and mainstream linguistics was highlighted this spring, when the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA) decided to cancel its plans to meet at the 2002 AAA Annual Meeting in Nov, and perhaps permanently.

SSILA Board members said the costs of being affiliated with the AAA had become too high. The organization will meet instead with the Linguistics Society of America.

"This is a very sad situation for the AAA organization as a whole and a rather dire one for the Society for Linguistic Anthropology, because of the role that research on American Indian languages has played since the inception of anthropology in this country," SLA President Elinor Ochs wrote in a memo to AAA President Don Brenneis. "SSILA's absence will be hard felt by the SLA."

At the time of SSILA's decision, Leanne Hinton, chair of the Dept of Linguistics at UC-Berkeley and president of SSILA, was one of the nominees for president of the SLA. One of the primary reasons for her nomination had been to tighten the relations between the two organizations, and to build stronger links between the two organizations and linguistics in general.

Hinton won the election, an indication of how highly SLA members value the contributions of SSILA and the common commitment of the two organizations to documenting and supporting indigenous languages and cultures.

The SSILA decision came about after Board members learned that the AAA would charge them \$500 for the use of a meeting room for their business meeting at the New Orleans AAA Meeting—up from \$200 in 2000.

The fee comes on top of the \$130 meeting registration fee (which participants must pay in advance, at the time of abstract submission), and the obligation that members of SSILA who are not AAA members join the AAA (minimum dues \$140).

SSILA was especially concerned about the financial burden facing graduate student members, most of whom have no connection with academic anthropology.

In addition to the high costs, members of the SSILA Board complained that "the AAA meetings are too large and expensive, everyone hates the fact that abstracts have to go in so early, and furthermore, most of the SSILA members aren't AAA members, or sign up only in order to attend the meeting," according to Hinton in a letter to Ochs. "SSILA attendance at AAA has been going down, while it goes up when we meet at the LSA."

"It's all very interesting, because 20 years ago we always met at the AAA, and the LSA was the group that seemed inhospitable," Hinton wrote. "This is a vivid part of the process of the separation of linguistics from anthropology that you were concerned about in the first place when you nominated me."

Hinton and Ochs said they will work on rebuilding ties between the organizations. SSILA's departure will be the main focus of the coming SLA Board and Business Meeting in New Orleans. Ochs has also been in touch with AAA President Don Brenneis about the significance of the departure, and particularly the financial reasons behind it.

### Student Essay Prize

The Society for Linguistic Anthropology is pleased to announce the cowinners of the 2001-02 Student Essay Prize—Eleanor Culley (U of Virginia) and Jonathan Larson (U of Michigan). Culley's winning paper is titled "Learning to Listen: Confronting Two Meanings of 'Language Loss' in the Contemporary White Mountain Speech Community." Larson's paper is titled "Ambiguous Transparency: Resume Fetishism in a Slovak Workshop."

The SLA invites graduate and undergraduate students to submit papers for next year's prize. Graduate student winners will receive \$100, an invitation to submit their papers for review in the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, and have their names and abstract published in *AN*. An undergraduate prize also will be awarded if the quality and number of entries merits it. Undergraduates will receive \$100 and will be recognized (along with the faculty member for whom the paper was written) in *AN*.

Submission guidelines appear elsewhere in this issue. The deadline for submissions is Jan 6, 2003.

*Please send your comments, contributions, news and announcements to SLA Contributing Editors Jim Stanlaw ([stanlaw@ilstu.edu](mailto:stanlaw@ilstu.edu)) or Mark Peterson ([peterston@aucegypt.edu](mailto:peterston@aucegypt.edu)).*

## Society for Medical Anthropology

ANN MILES, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

### Envisioning the SMA as a Network

By Mark Nichter (U of Arizona)

It is customary for each incoming SMA president to provide a vision statement reflecting what

