



Stories in this newsletter



From the Director's Desk



Humans of SIL-UND



Partners in Language Development



Through the Eyes of a Student

TL/DR? See a summary at the bottom of the newsletter.

From the Director's Desk



SIL-UND 2018 (my 40th summer in Grand Forks) is underway, and going smoothly, aside from the usual hiccups. The new students are a very lively bunch. As I write this, they are planning their skit night outside my office, apparently unaware that I'm eavesdropping on their plans! We have many returning students too, including half a dozen who hope to finish their MA's. In July, we will host SIL's entire Global Sign Languages Team (about 30 extra people) as they meet together in one place for the first time. Our guest speaker was John Esling, past president of the IPA, with presentations about the many ways that adults and babies use their larynx in speech. Imagine: fifteen minutes of colloquium devoted to cute baby sounds!

Humans of SIL-UND



Jasmin Pitcher is a veteran at SIL-UND though she hasn't taken a class yet. Her first summer was in 2002 when she was two years old. Her very first memory is from that summer, getting a popsicle in the cafeteria. Jasmin has since returned three more times with her parents and is working in childcare for the second time this summer.

When asked where she grew up, Jasmin can't give a straightforward answer. She spent parts of 7th and 8th grade in France and recently graduated from high school in Cape Town, South Africa. Her family moved several times to several countries when she was young, and SIL-UND was a welcome landing-place. "Grand Forks is the place I come back to the most", she says.

Jasmin enjoys the eclectic community at SIL-UND. She says that every conversation with people is a learning opportunity because the people who come to SIL-UND have very diverse interests and occupations. Jasmin hopes to come back to Grand Forks again in 2019 as a Package A student.

Partners in Language Development



Last summer, the Language Consortium visited SIL-UND. Since then, our relationship has grown. For those that don't know, the Language Consortium is working with indigenous people of North America to reawaken their respective languages. One way they go about this is offering Lakota language institutes in North and South Dakota. This spring, they asked us if their courses could be listed under SIL-UND, so that their students could receive UND credit. We are happy to report that after working with UND, we are able to partner with the Language Consortium in this way!

During the second week of SIL-UND, a couple of our staff headed to Bismarck, ND, to help students register for UND credit and to witness a few of the classes. This program is really great! How exciting to see a language project have so much life in our "home." We are looking for other ways to partner with the Language Consortium in the future.

Through the Eyes of a Student: **Bridget**



My first summer at SIL-UND was in 2016. I spent most of last year in South Sudan and was excited to return to SIL-UND. Orientation was much different as an older, wiser Package B student than my first year. I had time to notice the wide eyes and stunned looks of the Package A students when they enrolled in classes and realized they had fifty pages of reading due the first day; I had already steeled myself for the barrage. As I filled in my planner with the first week's assignments, I contemplated my decision to return.

One reason people come back year after year and take ~~three~~ six summers to complete a Master's degree is because of SIL-UND's unique community. Where else can you live, eat, and study with all of your classmates, professors, and their families? Learning is not confined to 50-minute class periods—you can sit down in the cafeteria to continue conversations and flesh out ideas. No morphology problem seems completely insurmountable when you can ask your suitemate for advice.

With all our jokes about 'stress', this is a special place. A place to learn theory, develop practical skills, grow relationships, and find your own place in the world of linguistics. It's good to be back.

TL/DR:

We're having a great time this summer with lots of great experiences underway!

We've partnered with the Language Consortium to provide graduate credit for their language classes.

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