



Stories in this newsletter



From a recent graduate: Kate



Humans of SIL-UND



Support SIL-UND,
Look Cool Doing It



That baby can do what?!
a week with John Esling

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

From a recent graduate: Kate



Summer 2018 was the hardest and best summer of my SIL-UND life. As I hid away from people to work on countless edits to my thesis, I started to actually learn what community is about. Throughout the last five years, I came to love SIL-UND not just for its intensive, hands-on learning, but because of the people. This summer just proved my theory on another level. Thesising is hard. You write 100 pages, you care for it, you grow with it, help it to mature and stand on its own. Then you send it off to be judged and you can't help but feel like a part of you is being judged, too. But my friends at SIL-UND, both staff and student, helped me in more ways than I can count. Some friends would read parts of the paper and give me positive feedback. Others would pass by with a "You can do it!" And still others would hand me a tissue and sit next to me when it became too much. But most importantly, they made me feel loved. They reminded me that I am more than my paper and that I mean more than a thesis. We come together as one to encourage and motivate and improve as people and as linguists.

Thesising is hard. But it was one of the most rewarding times of my life.

Humans of SIL-UND



Aidan Aannestad thought he was an introvert before he came to SIL-UND. It turns out that he was just looking for people who had the same interests that he has. "I've known for a very long time that linguistics is what I'm designed to do," he says. In fact, he points to seventh grade as the start of his interest, when he read *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien and was inspired to create his own languages. Aidan is still interested in constructed languages and published an article about tone in the constructed languages archive, *Fiat Lingua*.

Aidan completed his bachelor's degree in linguistics but points out a fundamental difference between his undergraduate work, which was historically focused, and SIL-UND, with its emphasis on language description. He says that at SIL-UND "we want to understand how languages work by understanding how language works."

Next year, Aidan will be doing linguistics consulting with SIL in Papua New Guinea. He plans to complete one more summer of classes and then defend his thesis.

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All your wildest dreams are about to come true! We have partnered with an awesome small-town business to bring you new merch all year long! If you visit the Shirt Shack's website, you can buy new shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, blankets, and much, much more! We will be slowly adding to the list of available items, so if you have an idea, send it our way! The best part about buying SIL-UND swag is that it supports our program and students since all profit goes to our scholarship fund!

Buying merch is an easy way to show off your favorite school. I think the Beach Boys said it best: "So, be true to your school now, just like you would to your girl or guy. Be true to your school now, let your colors fly." Visit the shop today: <https://hiawathashirtshack.com/collections/sil-und>

That baby can do what?! A week with John Esling



We were all excited for John Esling to arrive this summer, but none of us realized just how excited we needed to be! He stayed with us for a week, visiting classes and presenting at two special colloquiums. These colloquiums were a treat and the talk of the program for the rest of the summer, making their way into skit nights and Wilkerson chats.

It's elements like our guest speakers that get people excited about coming to SIL-UND every summer and John Esling did not disappoint. He fascinated us with down-in-the-mouth movies of the larynx in action and examples of the way it can be used to vary voice quality overall or produce individual consonants and vowels. It is the first articulator that we can use--imagine a formal lecture in which we listened to cute baby noises for 15 minutes! One student brought his whole family (5 kids) to the second evening talk. Fascinating, entertaining, and thoroughly enjoyable!

TL/DR:

People come to SIL-UND and learn so much more than linguistics!

We've partnered with the Shirt Shack to provide merch year-round. <https://hiawathashirtshack.com/collections/sil-und>

Our guest speakers are always a treat and John Esling did not disappoint.

silund.org

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