

Stories in this newsletter



Alumni Homecoming!



Humans of SIL-UND



Steps towards the future



Our specialty – your gain

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

Alumni Homecoming July 5-7!



This is the last summer SIL-UND will all come together in Smith Hall to sweat, laugh, study, play volleyball, and so many more of our favorite things. This summer, we say goodbye to our home for the last 68 years and we want you to be a part of it. Our enrollment numbers are great and we're offering so many classes, this really will be a great summer. So you're invited to our first ever alumni homecoming weekend.

I know that if I weren't teaching there this summer, I would definitely want to come and say goodbye, so we're giving you all the same opportunity. You'll have the opportunity to be involved in a classic skit night, the picnic, volleyball, classes, chats in the cafeteria and so much more!

We'll send out a registration form soon that includes a schedule of events, but for right now, we want you to be able to put it on your calendar for **July 5-7, 2019** and be able to plan on one more hurrah in North Dakota this summer.

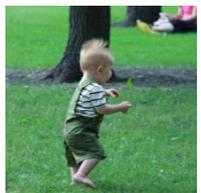
Humans of SIL-UND



For Sanford Helmuth from South Dakota, SIL-UND is a chance to study linguistics close to home. While the classes were challenging, Sanford found ways to lighten the load. "Having a group (of friends) helped to cope with the homework...it was a lot of fun."

His course work at SIL-UND helped Sanford view his mother tongue, Pennsylvania Dutch, in a different light. While doing a project in Acoustic Phonetics, he realized his own language might not be as straightforward as he thought. "I can speak it fine, but actually figuring out how many vowels there are? It's a little bit messy." Sociolinguistic studies showed him that there are a variety of factors that contribute to how he views his own language and how complex a linguistic analysis is. "It takes expertise to do good analysis of a language even though you might be able to speak it and learn it well."

Steps towards the future



You may be wondering what the future holds for our 40+ current MA students. We have worked with UND to develop a plan that will allow all of them to complete their MA degrees. After summer 2019, the MA students will have another couple of years to complete their degrees, and most of our current Graduate Faculty will be staying on to serve as thesis committee members for them.

For the next generation of MA students, there are other good options. The Canada Institute of Linguistics already has an MA program much like ours, and is prepared to accept students who might otherwise have come to UND. Additionally, Dallas International University (formerly GIAL) is preparing to begin a new summer program in 2020, which will carry on many of the traditions of SIL-UND. Both of these schools are also offering to help current SIL-UND students to complete their degrees, if need be.

As for the sign language linguistics program, SIL's Global Sign Languages Team is still considering how and where to provide the training that we've been giving at SIL-UND. There is still a need to train a lot of future sign language linguists!

Our specialty – your gain.



One course we're excited to be offering again this summer is our Language Survey course. The survey course focuses not only on methods for discovering and analyzing dialect variation, but also on understanding the cultural and social systems that all dialects and languages belong to. In years past, this course has inspired countless students to follow a career in survey. And we're excited to say that this year won't be any different. We're glad to welcome five Indonesian students coming this summer with the main purpose of taking our survey course. Survey is the beginning of so many projects and so much development, it's exciting to be able to pass on the skills needed to grow the field.

TL/DR:

We're having an alumni homecoming weekend July 5-7, 2019!

SIL-UND might not be around next summer, but other schools are stepping up to take on our awesomeness.

Our classes and students are really something to be excited about.

silund.org

Click to subscribe to or unsubscribe from our newsletter: subscribe.silund.org

You can donate to the scholarship fund by visiting <https://www.givedirect.org/donate/?cid=13536>