The Endangered Language Fund is happy to announce that we will be managing and distributing a new $1.6 million grant program, the Native Voices Endowment. This money comes from the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council, which received the revenues from the U.S. Mint’s sale of the 2004 Lewis & Clark Commemorative Coin. Grants through this program will be available to the Native American tribes that came in contact with the Lewis and Clark Expedition between 1804–1806. The Lewis and Clark expedition was sent across the American West by President Thomas Jefferson in 1804, to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase. During their journey, they crossed through the territory of more than 100 Native American nations. A list of these nations and more information about the expedition can be found at the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council website at www.lewisandclark200.org.

President Douglas H. Whalen and Nick Emlen traveled to St. Louis in October to meet with the members of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council’s Circle of Tribal Advisors (COTA) and the Missouri Historical Society, and to finalize the stipulations of the grant program. The investment will be managed by the Oregon Community Foundation. It will generate an estimated $75,000 in interest each year, which will be available to enrolled tribal members, tribal government language programs, tribal community language programs and tribal schools and colleges. Proposals will be accepted for Native American language education programs, individual study by Native American language students, and research efforts to document and record Native American

The Native Voices Endowment will be used to fund projects in the Native North American languages contacted by the Lewis and Clark expedition between 1804-1806.
Bill Bright was appointed the first honorary member of the Karuk tribe for his contributions to their language revitalization and documentation efforts.

Languages for future preservation and education. To learn more about this grant program, to find the request for proposals, and to view a list of eligible tribes, please visit our website at endangeredlanguagefund.org or email emlen@haskins.yale.edu.


Bill Bright was appointed the first honorary member of the Karuk tribe for his contributions to their language revitalization and documentation efforts.

Bill’s family requested that memorial contributions be made to the Endangered Language Fund in his honor, and we have set up the Bill Bright Memorial Fund to commemorate his work in the field. This money will fund projects consistent with Bill’s own interests: language description, language and culture, sociolinguistics, writing systems, the creation of culturally acceptable orthographies for minority languages, differences between written and oral language, oral literatures and their poetics, and onomastics, toponyms, and naming in general. Since his death, we have received donations from over 50 of his friends and colleagues—thank you to everyone who has chosen to remember him in this way. To learn how to make a donation in Bill’s honor, please visit our website.

On October 1, 2006, Nick Emlen ran in the Portland, Oregon marathon to raise money for the Endangered Language Fund. Nick finished in 4:14:17, placing #2,547 of 7,709 runners. This was, as far as we can tell, the first ever benefit marathon to raise money for endangered language work. Thanks to the more than 30 people who sponsored Nick’s race.
In September 2006, the Mexican National Institute of Indigenous Languages (Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indígenas, INALI) invited ELF to Mexico City to participate in a joint conference with the Mexico-North Research Network, which facilitates education, outreach, and research on the relationship between Mexico and the United States. The purpose of the conference was to establish a national advisory committee charged with the maintenance and documentation of Mexico’s indigenous languages.

Nick Emlen traveled to Mexico City on behalf of ELF to consult with dozens of indigenous leaders from every part of Mexico on the future of their languages. The conference participants elected the leaders of the advisory committee and assigned responsibilities to each of its commissions. The work of these commissions will benefit the speakers of every endangered Mexican language. We thank INALI and the Mexico-North Research Network for offering ELF the opportunity to take part in the meetings.

After two years of dedicated service, Lyn Traverse has stepped down from the Endangered Language Fund board of directors. Lyn’s insights into fundraising and her experience in the world of non-profit organizations have been an important resource for the Endangered Language Fund in an exciting and challenging transitional period, and we owe her a debt of gratitude for her commitment and support. We wish Lyn the best in her new position as campaign director at the Friends Seminary school in New York City.

The participants in the INALI and Mexico-North conference established a national advisory committee charged with the maintenance and documentation of Mexico’s indigenous linguistic heritage.
NOAM CHOMSKY
BENEFIT LECTURE

On November 15th, ELF founding board member Noam Chomsky delivered a benefit lecture on the subject of “Why are there so many languages? Diversification from an underlying unity.” The event took place at the New Haven Lawn Club, and over 70 people from Connecticut, New England, and beyond gathered to hear the lecture. It was an important fundraising event for the Endangered Language Fund, and we thank Dr. Chomsky and everyone who was able to make it to the talk for their support of endangered language work. A recording of the lecture is now available on our new website at endangeredlanguagefund.org.

NEW ELF WEBSITE

ELF is proud to announce the launch of our new website at endangeredlanguagefund.org. This is the latest change in a series of transformations of our visual identity. The designers from PopKitchen, Inc. and Newswanger Media redesigned our website, newsletter, stationery, and promotional brochures over the course of the last year.

You will find several changes on our website, including an expanded endangered language materials archive, a link to our colleagues at the Linguapax Institute, information about the Native Voices Endowment, an archive of our recent newsletters, an updated request for proposals, and a list of new ways to donate to ELF. We are happy to offer archiving service at the ELF archive, and we invite endangered language groups to submit their materials for digitization and safe keeping.