

# Child Language Bulletin

*International Association for the  
Study of Child Language*

*Vol. 20 : January 1999*

## **IASCL ELECTIONS: NOMINATIONS SOLICITED**

At the Business Meeting during the San Sebastian Congress, officers and Executive Committee members will be elected. The IASCL has four officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) with three year terms, and a 15 member Executive Committee with staggered six year terms, so that approximately half are elected at each Congress. As specified in the Governing Statute of the Association, as amended at the Budapest Congress, a slate of candidates is prepared by a Nominating Committee, which consists of Paul Fletcher (Hong Kong, chair), Jean Berko-Gleason (Boston), and Sven Stromquist (Goteborg). The committee invites members to nominate themselves or others for any of these positions. Please send NAME, ADDRESS (including email if possible), a brief statement of QUALIFICATIONS, and an ASSURANCE OF WILLINGNESS TO SERVE for each person suggested. Please keep in mind that the Executive Committee may contain no more than 3 members (out of the 15 total) from any one country. In addition, as specified in the Governing Statute, "the effort shall also be made to have broad representation of different disciplinary orientations, including linguistics and the language sciences; psychology and other human sciences; biological and medical sciences; and education." Send nominations by **March 30th 1999** to:

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## **REPORT FROM SAN SEBASTIAN**

Dear colleagues,

Preparations for our next tri-annual Congress are well underway. Just like its predecessors, the Congress in San Sebastian in July 1999 promises to be a very memorable event indeed. Two preparatory meetings with the local organisers in San Sebastian (Donostia in Basque) - the first in June with our President, Philip Dale, in addition to ourselves, and the second in October where we, sadly, had to meet without Philip - have convinced us that the VIIIth Congress of the IASCL will be a great success. Our friends in San Sebastian who are preparing for the meeting are doing everything to make sure that all congress participants will be able to look back on a most enjoyable and well-managed conference. The new conference center that will be the site of our congress has all the latest facilities, and its exquisite location right on the beach ensures that between working sessions the sea breeze and the Spanish-Basque sun will stimulate many new creative ideas and much animated discussion. Furthermore, the town of Donostia/San Sebastian is quite charming and pleasant, but perhaps a bit dangerous for credit-card carrying colleagues who decide to venture beyond the conference site - the many beautiful objects in the shop windows are hard to resist!

During our preparatory meetings we had occasion to sample some of the excellent food and drink that Donostia has to offer, and for those of you who like to continue with the conversations started earlier in the day, there are plenty of places that will welcome you long after the sun has gone down. And many conversations there will be - at least, that is, judging from the many hundreds of abstracts and proposals that were received. The main portion of these were accepted for presentation at the conference - leading to a total of 30 symposia and some 360 individual presentations (posters and papers combined) in all the

subareas of our field. Together with the plenary lectures, we feel this program will be representative of the major strands in child language research today.

Through our meetings and frequent correspondence with our colleagues in the Basque country we have come to know Itziar and her team as most gracious hosts, competent organisers, and dependable friends. We hope you will all come to San Sebastian to meet them, and to make the congress happen! We look forward to seeing you.

Steven Gillis and Annick De Houwer

**IN MEMORIAM: CHARLES A. FERGUSON (1921-1998) BY CAROL STOEL-GAMMON**

The field of language acquisition has lost one of its pioneers with the death of Charles Ferguson at the age of 77. Ferguson, known to students and colleagues as "Fergie," had a long and varied career in linguistics involving both applied and academic pursuits. After receiving a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania (where he became acquainted with Roman Jakobson), his first job was with the Foreign Service Institute, part of the State Department, where he was primarily responsible for the teaching of Arabic. He later served as the first director of the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington D.C. In 1967, he was hired by Stanford University as the first full-time linguistics appointment and then served as the first chair of the linguistics department.

Charles Ferguson was one of the first American linguists to recognize that an understanding of language acquisition was essential to linguistic theory. In 1964, he published a paper entitled "Baby Talk in Six Languages." In 1967, he began teaching a course in language development, an unusual offering for linguistics department at that time. He subsequently co-edited, with Dan Slobin, a book of readings on language acquisition, published in 1973, and was a founding member of the International Association for the Study of Child Language. He was the driving force behind the Stanford Child Language Research Forum and Stanford's Papers and Reports in Child Language Development. Although he was interested in all aspects of language acquisition, his major focus was in the area of phonological acquisition. In addition to publications on this topic, he co-edited two books on phonological development (Yeni-Komshian, Kavanagh, & Ferguson, 1980; Ferguson, Stoel-Gammon & Menn,

1992) and was the director of the Child Phonology Project at Stanford from its inception in 1969.

Fergie's contributions to his students are equally remarkable. His enthusiasm for the topic of child language was so evident in his teaching and personal interactions that students and junior colleagues were attracted to working with him. Those of us fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to spend time with him remember his quiet conversational style, his amazing breadth of knowledge, and his strong encouragement for our endeavors. He was truly a scholar, a gentleman, and a gentle man. His presence will be sorely missed.

**REFERENCES**

- Ferguson, C.A. (1967) Baby talk in six languages. *American Anthropologist* 66, 103-114.  
 Ferguson, C.A. & Slobin, D.I. (1973). *Studies of Child Language Development*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.  
 Yeni-Komshian, G., Kavanagh, J., & Ferguson, C.A. (1980) *Child Phonology*, vol 1,2. New York: Academic Press  
 Ferguson, C.A., Stoel-Gammon, C., & Menn, L. (1992). *Phonological Development: Models, Research, Implications*. Timonium, MD: York Press.

**ADDENDUM**

**In Memoriam: Margreet van Ierland**

The authors' names of Margreet Van Ierland's obituary were inadvertently omitted from the last issue of The Bulletin. The authors were Annick de Houwer and Folkert Kuiken

**BOOK NOTICES**

Michael Tomasello (Ed.) 1998. The new psychology of language: Cognitive and functional approaches to Language Structure. Erlbaum.

**1999-2002 BULLETIN EDITOR**

The Bulletin is our main communication channel between the triennial congresses. It is published approximately 4-5 times during the period between Congresses, with news of meetings and publications, a membership directory, and other IASCL activities. If you are interested in becoming Bulletin editor, or know someone you would like to nominate, please contact me for more information: Gillian Wigglesworth, Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University, NSW 2109, Australia  
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**FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES**

9-11 April, 1999: Stanford Child Language Research Forum, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University, California CA 94305-2150. Website: <http://hypatia.stanford.edu/~clrf/>

14-17 April, 1999: Second International Symposium on Bilingualism, Department of Speech, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. This conference includes three symposia on bilingual child language acquisition/input. Website: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/speech/isb2.htm>

15-18 April, 1999, Society for Research in Child Development, Albuquerque, NM, U.S.A. Website: <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/SRCD>.

2-6 August 1999, World Congress of Applied Linguistics, Tokyo, Japan. Website: <http://langue.hyper.chubu.ac.jp/jacet/AILA99>  
Fax: 81-3-3586-4531.

NB: Annick de Houwer is Convenor for the AILA Scientific Commission on Child Language. IASCL members interested in AILA activities can contact Annick at: [vhouwer@uia.ac.be](mailto:vhouwer@uia.ac.be), or at PSW-UIA, Universiteitsplein 1, B2610 Antwerpen, Belgium, fax +32-3-8202882.

2-4 September 1999 Child Language Seminar, Department of Language and Communication Science, City University, London, UK. Website: <http://www.city.ac.uk/ccs/cls99.htm> or contact:  
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**MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR IASCL**

Membership is for three years, and expires on the first day of the triennial Congress. Members are invited to make an optional, additional contribution to the Fund for Support of Programs in Countries with Currency Restrictions. Members may pay either in US dollars or Belgian francs:

(1) In US dollars: send check or money order for US\$35.00 (regular members) or US\$20.00 (student members) to Philip Dale, President IASCL, Dept. Psychology, Box 351525, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA. Make checks payable to IASCL.

(2) In Belgian francs: fees are 1100 Belgian francs (regular) or 600 Belgian francs (student). You have 3 payment options:

(i) Eurocheque (made out to Annick De Houwer NOT to IASCL). Please send to A. De Houwer Treasurer IASCL, UIA-PSW, Universiteit-splein 1, B2610 Antwerpen, Belgium.

(ii) direct bank transfer to postal account number 000-1595604-51 in the name of Annick De Houwer, Hoge Aardstraat 97, B2610 Antwerpen, Belgium. Please ensure bank charges are already paid. If this is not possible, please add 600 Belgian francs to the amount to cover bank charges.

(iii) a postal money order in Belgian francs. Please send to Annick De Houwer, Treasurer IASCL, UIA-PSW, Universiteitsplein 1, B2610 Antwerpen, Belgium.

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**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BULLETIN**

Contributions to the Bulletin of Child Language (book notices/reviews, conference information, notices of theses completed, etc) should be sent to the editor:

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