



# LASSO

THE LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION  
OF THE SOUTHWEST

## Newsletter

Volume 27, No. 1

[http://www7.tamu-commerce.edu/swjl/public\\_html/lasso.html](http://www7.tamu-commerce.edu/swjl/public_html/lasso.html)

February 2008

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## 2008 LASSO MEETING TO BE HELD IN CORVALLIS, OREGON

### Is Corvallis in the Southwest?

A quick perusal of recent LASSO conference programs and membership lists reveals that the organization has grown beyond its original status as a modestly-sized regional association and acquired a significant national and international presence. This year LASSO again transcends its geographical boundaries with its first conference in the Pacific Northwest.

Corvallis, Oregon and the surrounding Willamette Valley communities may at first appear to have little in common with past LASSO venues, but further examination reveals significant historical and linguistic connections that unite Oregon and the Southwest. These connections began well before European settlement as evidenced by the eastern Oregon residents who speak Northern Paiute, currently the northernmost member of the Uto-Aztecan language family. Later, before the Mexican American War resulted in Mexico's cession of the southwest states, Oregon shared a border with Mexico. That border moved south long ago, but social and economic circumstances have converged in the past few decades to create an area of linguistic and cultural complexity that increasingly resembles the Southwest experience, if perhaps with a twist or two related to the historical presence of immigrant communities from Asia and eastern Europe.

As in the Southwest, the meeting of diverse cultures and languages has not always gone smoothly. Monolingual English speakers are puzzled by the amount of Spanish that is now visible across the state, and even more puzzled by communities like Woodburn, where shops with signs in Spanish stand next to businesses that serve Russian-speaking Old Believer families from Turkey. Politicians have exploited ethnic tensions, as in a recent controversy in Portland over the naming of a street in honor of César Chávez that pitted Latino organizers against Chinese businesses. And like the Southwest, Oregon is sadly turning into something of a linguistic graveyard for indigenous peoples. We invite the LASSO membership to come and experience firsthand the changes—and challenges—facing this new zone of linguistic and cultural contact.

### Conference Theme and Program Highlights

As linguists and educators committed to public engagement, the Corvallis conference planning team has developed an interest in the effects of language on social and political attitudes and behaviors that goes beyond simple academic curiosity. In the spirit of exploring this connection further, the theme for the conference will be “Building Communities and Making Connections.” The keynote address will be delivered by James Crawford, a well-known expert on the politics of language and former executive director of the National Association for Bilingual Education. A special symposium will also take place during the Corvallis conference honoring the work of Garland Bills, a linguist whose service to the profession and to the Spanish-speaking communities of New Mexico and the greater Southwest is legendary. Finally, this meeting also marks the birth of a special interest group called “Making Connections beyond the Academic Community” that will allow us to continue our conversation about community building beyond the 2008 conference.

Because a primary goal of the meeting is to encourage dialog between the academic world and local communities, LASSO members will be joined by the local public for the keynote address. Conference participants will in turn be provided with tickets in their registration packets to a special Corvallis Symphony concert featuring music celebrating Hispanic heritage and the *Trombones de Costa Rica* ensemble. The concert will be held immediately following the Presidential Reception on Friday evening.

Abstracts for the conference may now be submitted to [LASSO2008@gmail.com](mailto:LASSO2008@gmail.com). Papers or posters in any area of linguistics are welcome, although proposals related to the conference theme are particularly encouraged. Following the success of the sessions held during the Denver conference, proposals for complete panels with 2-4 speakers will again be welcome. Deadline for submission of all proposals is June 1, 2008, but early submission of panel proposals is desirable. Remember that student papers can be considered for the Helmut Esau Prize, a \$250 cash award made annually by LASSO for the best student paper.

### Local Attractions

Corvallis sits on the banks of the Willamette River about halfway between Eugene and Salem, just ten miles or so off the I-5 corridor. The downtown riverfront area is some 15-20 blocks from the conference venues and has a number of restaurants and parks. The weather in October is somewhat unpredictable, but generally ranges from a light drizzle to spectacular blue autumn skies. High temperatures are usually in the mid 60s or above with lows in the upper 40s, so the best option is to dress in layers if you want to go out walking.

The city is located about an hour's drive away from the town of Newport, a picturesque coastal community with beaches, OSU research facilities, the renowned Oregon Coast Aquarium, and a number of parks and official scenic areas. The Cascade Range lies just 30 miles to the east and provides opportunities for hiking and camping. For those more interested in a more cosmopolitan environment, Portland has a thriving arts community, an active night life and, perhaps even more importantly for the LASSO crowd, it is the site of Powell's Books, one of the most spectacular new and used book dealers on the west coast.

#### **Travel Information**

Corvallis does not have direct commercial airline service, but may be reached by flying into either the Portland International Airport (PDX) or the closer and much more manageable Eugene Airport (EUG). Eugene is served primarily by United and Horizon/AlaskaAir, and Portland is served by nearly all major carriers. For a change of pace, it may be worth investigating the Amtrak Coast Starlight which originates in Los Angeles and makes a stop in the town of Albany, just 12 miles from the OSU campus.

Ground transportation between Portland and Corvallis is available through Hut Shuttle (1-888-257-0126) and costs around \$85 per person for a round trip

ticket. Transportation from Eugene is currently available through OmniShuttle (1-800-741-5097), which is a shared-ride service that charges \$50 for the first person plus an additional \$5.00 for each additional person on the same reservation. OmniShuttle requires that reservations be made at least 72 hours in advance. Both airports offer car rental services. Please keep in mind that the distance between PDX and the OSU campus is approximately 110 miles and the distance from Eugene roughly 50 miles, so private taxis will not be a cost-effective option for most people.

#### **Accommodations**

The official conference hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn Corvallis, located on the south edge of campus just across the street from the conference center where the keynote and presidential addresses will be held. Special rates of \$102 per room are available between October 16, 2008 and October 19, 2008. Rooms at this rate will be available until September 10, 2008 or until the block reserved for LASSO is sold out. Please visit the LASSO XXXVII web site for a direct reservation link to the Hilton Garden Inn Corvallis. There you may also find information on other local lodging options.

#### **Contact Information**

All of this information and more is available on the conference web site at:

[http://oregonstate.edu/dept/foreign\\_lang/lasso](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/foreign_lang/lasso).

Program arrangements are the responsibility of the LASSO Vice-President and President-Elect Susana Rivera-Mills. All proposals for papers, special sessions, panels, or other program features should be submitted to her at [LASSO2008@gmail.com](mailto:LASSO2008@gmail.com). Questions regarding local arrangements or the conference web site may be directed to local arrangements chair Juan Antonio Trujillo at the same address.

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### **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

### **37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHWEST**

**October 17-19, 2008**

**Conference Theme: "Building Communities and Making Connections"**

## **Plenary Speaker: James Crawford**

### **DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS: JUNE 1, 2008**

Abstract submissions are invited for paper presentations, poster presentations, and panels on any research area related to language issues of special interest in the Southwest. In addition, proposals on the conference theme are particularly encouraged, and may include, but are not limited to: connecting language with non-academic areas, interdisciplinary collaborations, language learning communities, education and language

policy, and non-traditional dissemination of language research.

In addition a Special Interest Group (SIG) on Making Connections Beyond the Academic Community is encouraging presentations on that topic. Please indicate in the abstract if you would like to be considered under this SIG.

Presentations are generally given in Spanish or

English, although special provisions may be made to support the use of endangered languages that have been excluded historically from academic discourse. Presentations should be given in the same language as the abstract.

Paper presentations will be limited to 20 minutes followed by a 10 minute question period.

Poster presentations will be organized into informal poster sessions where presenters can distribute hand-outs, explain posters, and answer questions.

Panels should be composed of 2-4 speakers. Early submission of panel proposals is desirable.

Only one abstract as a single author and a second as co-author will be accepted from any one individual.

Submissions by graduate students are welcome, and students are eligible for the Helmut Esau Prize, a \$250 cash award.

### **Abstract submission instructions**

Please include the following information:

- Paper title
- For all presenters: name, academic affiliation, mailing address, phone and fax numbers, e-mail address.
- Abstract, 250-500 words, single-spaced in 11 point Times New Roman font. The abstract should summarize the main points and indicate key aspects of the data, methodology and findings. Use of special font items should be kept to a minimum. Omit bibliography.
- Note A-V equipment that will be needed.

If the author(s) will not be available at the given address or e-mail during the summer, please provide summer contact information in the cover e-mail.

Electronic submissions are strongly preferred.

All submissions should be e-mailed to [LASSO2008@gmail.com](mailto:LASSO2008@gmail.com) as a PDF, Microsoft Word, RTF, or text file attachment. Special font items travel best as a PDF. In addition to sending the abstract as an attachment, please paste the text of the abstract into the e-mail message itself.

Authors without access to email may mail a disk copy accompanied by a paper copy to the address below:

Susana Rivera-Mills  
Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures  
Oregon State University  
210 Kidder Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331-4603

Acknowledgment of receipt of the abstract will be sent to the principal author. If such notification is not received within one week, the abstract did not reach its destination and should be resent. Notice of acceptance or rejection will be sent by early July.

Participation in LASSO is a privilege of membership; this means that an individual must be a current member in order to present a paper, poster, or panel, and to be listed in the conference program. For membership information, contact LASSO Executive Director: Regina Morin at [rmorin@tcnj.edu](mailto:rmorin@tcnj.edu) and for additional conference information visit the website at:

[http://oregonstate.edu/dept/foreign\\_lang/lasso](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/foreign_lang/lasso)

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## **2007 HELMUT ESAU PRIZE**

Congratulations to **Daniel Sanford** of the University of New Mexico, winner of the 2007 Helmut Esau Prize. Daniel received the award for his paper “**Metaphor and Phonological Reduction in English Idiomatic Expressions**”.

LASSO is very proud of all of our student members and encourages them to not only present their research at our annual meeting, but to also participate in the contest for the Esau Prize.

To be eligible for the Helmut Esau Prize, students must first present at the

Annual Meeting and then submit a revised version of their paper to the LASSO Vice President. The prize is awarded to the best of all high-quality submissions received. Recipients of this prestigious prize receive a \$250 cash award.

Students who hope to have their abstracts accepted for the meeting in Corvallis should plan now to enter the Esau competition. To be considered for the 2008 Esau Prize, polished, article-length manuscripts should be sent to **Susana Rivera-Mills** (see

mailing address above) following our fall meeting and must be in her hands by **January 1, 2009**.

This award is named in honor of Helmut Esau, who was active in the early days of LASSO. Professor Esau died in an automobile accident shortly after he was elected to the LASSO presidency, and his colleagues at the time established the Esau Award to commemorate his contributions to the Linguistic Association of the Southwest and to the profession at large.

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## THE SOUTHWEST JOURNAL OF LINGUISTICS

Joint Editors Pamela Anderson-Mejías and Hugo Mejías at the University of Texas Pan-American are accepting manuscripts for consideration for publication during 2008-2009. Four hard copies of your manuscript may be forwarded to them at the following address: Pamela Anderson-Mejías and Hugo A. Mejías, Joint Editors, *Southwest Journal of Linguistics*, Department of Modern Languages, University of Texas—Pan American, 1201 University Drive, Edinburg, Texas, 78541, USA. Manuscripts may also be sent electronically to [swjlasso@utpa.edu](mailto:swjlasso@utpa.edu), but must also be accompanied by hard copies to the above mailing address.

## EDITORIAL SCOPE

The journal publishes papers across a broad range of topics in linguistics, though research papers dealing with the languages of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico are especially encouraged. The journal also publishes scholarly reviews of the literature, book reviews, and occasional commentary on topics of concern to the journal's readership. Proposals for thematic issues and nominations for guest editors are invited.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Manuscripts are to be prepared according to the *Language* style sheet, published annually in the December *LSA Bulletin* and available at:

<http://www.lsadc.org/info/pubs-lang-style.cfm>

In addition to meeting *Language* requirements, Southwest Journal of Linguistics contributors should also:

- Prepare manuscripts using Word, WordPerfect or another common word processing program for PC or Mac. Contact the editor for guidance in using special symbols.
- Submit manuscripts in either English or Spanish.
- Include an abstract in English of between 100 and 150 words.
- Submit four hard copies of the manuscript. Once a manuscript has been accepted for publication, the revised manuscript must be submitted in both hard copy and on diskette.

Given the comprehensive goal of the journal, attention is drawn particularly to the *Language* style sheet provision that contributors provide the names and addresses of appropriate referees.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Please take a look at the mailing label on your most recent copy of the Southwest Journal of Linguistics. The first line indicates when your LASSO membership expires. If your label does not have a date of 2008 or beyond and you have not already sent in your renewal, it is time to write a check to update your membership status. A copy of the 2008 membership form is on the last page of this newsletter.

Membership in LASSO demonstrates commitment to the study of linguistics and provides scholars and students alike the opportunity to develop professional friendships, to obtain information about teaching and research, and to exchange ideas and network with each other. LASSO members receive two newsletters per year and two issues per year of the *Southwest Journal of Linguistics*.

Presentation of papers at the annual LASSO conference is a privilege of membership, and only those who are LASSO members may have their work published in the *Southwest Journal of Linguistics*.

Now is also a good time to check local library holdings; if your school does not receive the *Southwest Journal of Linguistics*, by all means request that your institution subscribe today.

## BOOK, BOOKS, BOOKS!!

Books sent to the SWJL Book Review Editor, Peter Gingiss, can be found at: [http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/swjl/public\\_html/swjl/review\\_list.html](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/swjl/public_html/swjl/review_list.html). If you would like to review one of the books for SWJL, please contact Peter at [pjgingiss@uh.edu](mailto:pjgingiss@uh.edu), and he will send the book for review. Guidelines for the review can be found at:

[http://www.tamocommerce.edu/swjl/public\\_html/swjl/Review\\_Guidelines.html](http://www.tamocommerce.edu/swjl/public_html/swjl/Review_Guidelines.html).

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## THANK YOU, DENVER!

Denver was the site of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest which boasted the theme "Linguistic Legacies". The meeting was sponsored by the University of Colorado Denver Modern Languages Department, the University of Colorado at Boulder Spanish & Portuguese Department, and the University of Colorado President's Fund for the Humanities. Special thanks go out to Devin Jenkins, the Local Arrangements Chair, and David Eddington, the LASSO Vice President and Program Chair.

The 2007 meeting featured nearly 110 presenters, including a number from international venues. There were three special sessions on 150 Years of Texas German, two special sessions on Experimental Approaches to Second Language Phonology, and special sessions on Code Switching and Stylistic Variation, and Academic Writing and Publishing. In addition, there were special panel sessions on Spanish in the U.S. Research as a Living Legacy: Making Connections, and Natural Language Processing Activities in the Southwest. Kati Pletsch de García, of Texas A&M International University gave the Presidential Address entitled "¡Ala! Linguistic innovation and the blending of cultures on the South Texas border". We were fortunate to have Carmen Silva-Corvalán of the University of Southern California deliver the plenary address, "Early Spanish-English

bilingualism: Theoretical issues, empirical analyses.” The musical group *The Freudian Slips*, featuring Diane Dansereau, Chair of UCDHSC Modern Languages, provided a delightful performance at Friday evening’s presidential reception.



**2007 LASSO Financial Report**  
For period ending September 29, 2006 – Sept 19 2007

**LASSO Office Financials 2007**

**2006 Ending Balance Reported Sept.**

<b>29, 2006</b>		\$35,564.07	
<b>INCOME</b>			
Memberships	\$6,005.00		
Royalties	\$186.70		
Dividends	\$342.27		
Income Received 27Sept06-18Sept07		<u>\$6,533.97</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>			\$42,098.04
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Misc. Laredo Conference Expenses		<b>\$1,010.00</b>	
Bank Fees		<b>\$5.00</b>	
SWJL 24:1&2			
Printing		<b>\$5,344.14</b>	
Postage		<b>\$236.61</b>	
SWJL 25:2			
Printing		<b>\$4,325.52</b>	
Postage		<b>\$172.41</b>	
06 Esau Award Winner (N. Fox)		<b>\$250.00</b>	
07 Esau Award Winner (B. Montgomery-A)		<b>\$250.00</b>	
To Gingiss for Rev. Editor Expenses		<b>\$200.00</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u><b>\$11,793.68</b></u>	
<b>Current LASSO Account Balance</b>			<b>\$30,304.36</b>
<b>SWJL Financials (UTPA)</b>			
Balance Forward from 2006 report			\$1,163.24
<b>Total Assets (LASSO + SWJL Balances)</b>			
as of 19Sept07			<u><u>\$31,467.60</u></u>



**2007 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

The LASSO Executive Committee met Friday night, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 in Denver, Colorado, at The Curtis Hotel. Members in Attendance: Colleen Fitzgerald, Past President; Kati Pletsch de García, President; David Eddington, Vice-President; Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza, Executive Director; Members: Joke Mondada, Regina Morin, Domnita Dumitrescu, Devin Jenkins, Larry Gorbet, Hugo Mejías, Pamela Anderson Mejías, Susana Rivera-Mills, Juan A. Trujillo, Michelle F. Ramos-Pellicia, Jens Clegg, and Daniel Villa.

1. Approved the minutes of the 2006 Executive Committee Meeting in Laredo as corrected.

2. Accepted MacGregor-Mendoza's financial report for the period of Sept 27, 2006-Sept. 19, 2007. The balance carried forward from the previous report made at the Lubbock conference was \$35,564.07. Income and dividends for the year were \$6,533.97. Total expenses for the year were \$11,793.68, resulting in a bank balance of \$30,304.36. Mejías and Anderson-Mejías noted that there was only \$1000 in their account, that \$163.24 had been spent on postage and other journal expenses. The report will be corrected to reflect these expenses.

3. Accepted Pletsch de García's report on the Esau Award. Pletsch de García reported that there were 9 submissions. The Award went to Brad Montgomery-Anderson.

4. Accepted Eddington's report on program for 2007. Approximately 110 presenters are scheduled in current program, including several from international venues.

5. Rivera-Mills and Trujillo presented a successful proposal to host the 2008 LASSO conference at Oregon State University in Corvallis, with the theme of Building Communities and Making Connections. Eddington reported that all is on track for LASSO 2009 in Provo. MacGregor-Mendoza will initiate plans for hosting LASSO 2010 in Las Cruces, NM.

6. Accepted Morin's report on the Publicity Committee. Regina has been successful advertising the conference in electronic and print sources.

7. The Nominating Committee forwarded the following slate of nominees:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| a. Vice President and Program Chair:                          | Susana Rivera-Mills |
| b. Executive Director through 2010:                           | Regina Morin        |
| c. Executive Committee Member through 2008 replacing R.Morin: | Jens Clegg          |
| d. Executive Committee Member through 2010:                   | Joke Mondada        |
| e. Publicity Committee Member through 2010:                   | Dirk Elzinga        |

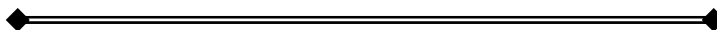
9. Accepted Anderson-Mejías and Mejías' report on the status of the journal. The 25:2 issue was recently published. The 26:1 issue is ready to go to press and is awaiting an opening in the printing schedule and the 26:2 issue is on track. Rejected a proposal submitted to Anderson-Mejías and Mejías for publishing a special volume. The Executive Committee charged the Editors with the responsibility of filling the available Editorial Board positions. Anderson-Mejías and Mejías have received a request from Ebsco to put issues of the journal online; they will explore these options with the Editorial Board. MacGregor-Mendoza noted that although the Editor's report listed subventions from UNM and TAMU, that none had been received. Accepted Rivera-Mills and Villa's report on the 2005 journal which was recently published.

10. New Business: In order to increase available funds to cover rising costs associated with the publication and distribution of the journal, the Executive Committee approved a proposal to raise membership dues for Regular members from \$35 to \$40 for 2008. The Committee also approved a proposal to increase the Postage surcharge for non-student international members to \$15. Jenkins will assist in upgrading the LASSO web page. A recommendation was made that in two years, one year prior to the end of the Executive Director's term, that an Executive Director Elect be identified to transition into the role.

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## NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

If you have published a book, if you have other news to report about yourself, or if you would like to publicize an event that would be of interest to other LASSO members, please send a message to Regina Morin at [rmorin@tcnj.edu](mailto:rmorin@tcnj.edu) for inclusion in the next newsletter.



## **THANK YOU, LASSO VOLUNTEERS**

Sincere thanks are extended to those named below who contribute their time and talents as officers and volunteers for the Linguistic Association of the Southwest:

### **President**

David Eddington, Brigham Young University (2008)

### **Past President**

Kati Pletsch de García, Texas A&M International (2008)

### **Vice President / Program Chair & President Elect**

Susana Rivera-Mills, Oregon State University (2008)

### **Executive Director**

Regina Morin, The College of New Jersey (2010)

### **Executive Committee**

Jens Clegg, Indiana U-Purdue U at Fort Wayne

Joke Mondada, University of New Orleans

Larry Gorbet, University of New Mexico

### **Nominating Committee**

Devin Jenkins, University of Colorado at Denver

Jon Jonz, Texas A & M University-Commerce

### **Local Arrangements Committee for 2008.**

Susana Rivera-Mills, Oregon State University

Juan Antonio Trujillo, Oregon State University

### **Publicity Committee**

Peter Gingiss, U of Houston

Dirk Elzinga, Brigham Young University

Donna E. West, SUNY Courtland

## **THANK YOU, SWJL VOLUNTEERS**

Sincere thanks are also extended to those named below who contribute their time and talents to the *Southwest Journal of Linguistics*:

### **Editors**

Pamela Anderson-Mejías, U of Texas Pan American  
(2006-2008)

Hugo Mejías, U of Texas Pan American  
(2006-2008)

### **Associate Editors:**

MaryEllen García, University of Texas-San Antonio

María Irene Moyna, San Diego State University

Susana Rivera-Mills, Oregon State University

Brian Imhoff, Texas A&M University

Glenn Martínez, University of Texas—Pan American

### **Reviews Editor:**

Peter Gingiss, University of Houston (2006-8)

### **Editorial Board**

Timothy L. Face, University of Minnesota (2009)

Domnita Dumitrescu, California State University (2009)

Jon Jonz, Texas A&M University-Commerce (2010)

Pamela Munro, University of California-Los Angeles  
(2010)

Elly van Gelderen, Arizona State University (2011)

Carmen Silva-Corvalán, University of Southern  
California (2011)

## **YOUR NAME HERE**

LASSO and SWJL owe much of their success to the generosity of time, effort and talents of its members serving as volunteers in various capacities. If you are interested in assisting with the operations of LASSO or *SWJL*, please contact Regina Morin.



**LASSO** The Linguistic Association of the  
Southwest

**2008 Membership Application or Membership Renewal**

(Please print)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Institutional Affiliation** (if not given above): \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Office: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues:** Regular -- \$40 US \_\_\_\_\_

Student/retired/unemployed -- \$25 US \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional -- \$60 US \_\_\_\_\_

**Overseas postage surcharge:** \$15 annually \_\_\_\_\_

**Life membership:** \$450 US \_\_\_\_\_

**Tax-deductible contribution** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to "LASSO."** Your canceled check will be your receipt. Return this form with your remittance to: Dr. Regina Morin, Executive Director of LASSO, TCNJ, Modern Languages, P.O. Box 7718, Ewing, NJ, 08628

**Visit our website at [http://www7.tamu-commerce.edu/swjl/public\\_html/lasso.html](http://www7.tamu-commerce.edu/swjl/public_html/lasso.html)**