SLRF 2006 Application

Salt Lake City has been the proud host of various conferences associated with the field of SLA research and theory, including AAAL, TESOL, ACTFL, and NAFSA, among others. Salt Lake City’s heritage, Olympic history and pleasant October weather make it an excellent place to hold SLRF 2006. The University of Utah Department of Linguistics and Department of Languages and Literature together with Brigham Young University’s Department of Linguistics and English Language are eager to act as hosts.

Dates of the conference
October 6-8 (Thursday-Saturday) are the proposed dates for SLRF 2006.

Conference Theme
The theme we have chosen for SLRF 2006 is: “Exploring the diversity of second-language learners”. Much research in second language acquisition investigates second- and foreign-language learners in academic settings. In addition to presentations that expand on this kind of research, we invite studies that draw on endangered-language speakers, child second-language learners, pre-literate L2 learners, bilingual speakers and heritage-language speakers.

Facilities
The conference will take place at the Chase N. Peterson Heritage Center on the University of Utah (the U) campus. The Heritage Center was the Olympic Village during the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, used by athletes from around the world. It offers four conference rooms and several seminar rooms, perfect for a conference the size of SLRF!

The Department of Linguistics recently hosted the Conference on Endangered Languages and Cultures of North America (CELCNA) in the Heritage Center and received positive feedback from conference participants. In addition to pleasant rooms with good sound quality and access to technology, the Heritage Center boasts a large cafeteria with an inexpensive and varied menu. Conference participants could conveniently have breakfast, lunch, and dinner right in the facility.

Sponsors
The Department of Linguistics at the U has pledged to support the conference. The department will allocate money for a keynote speaker and has agreed to negotiate for additional funds from the U’s College of Humanities. The Department of Linguistics and English Language at BYU has also agreed to fund a keynote speaker. Furthermore, the Linguistics Department Graduate Student Advisory Committee will support the conference. In addition, commercial sponsors will also be sought.
Organizing Committee
At this point seven doctoral students form the core of the organizing committee for SLRF 2006. Additional students from the U and BYU will be selected to work on different teams. The organizing committee is being advised by three U faculty members, Mary Ann Christison, Adrian Palmer, and Rachel Hayes-Harb, while Lynn Henrichsen has agreed to serve as the faculty advisor from BYU’s Department of Linguistics and English Language. We will ask for an additional advisor from the U’s Department of Languages and Literature to assist us in coordinating graduate-student volunteers.

Schedule
The opening reception for the conference will take place Thursday evening from 7:00-9:00 pm. The three keynote speakers will present Friday at 10:30 am and 2:00 pm, and Saturday at 10:30 am. The conference sessions will start at 8:00 am Friday morning. There will be three concurrent sessions, except during the featured or plenary sessions. Poster presentations will take place between 12:30 pm and 2:00 pm on Friday and Saturday.

On Friday afternoon, we would like to organize an informal forum to give doctoral students an opportunity to network and discuss their research trials and triumphs.

Special Offerings
The Department of Linguistics at the U recently established the Center for American Indian Languages (CAIL) and hosted the first CELCNA earlier this year. We are eager to further explore issues related to endangered languages and examine how SLA research and language revitalization can inform each other. Faculty members from our department have expressed interest in leading a special colloquium or roundtable on this topic.

We plan to organize papers, panels and other presentations with BYU. For example, we are currently negotiating a colloquium on learning styles and learner differences in second language acquisition research offered by two well-known researchers in this area, Professors Mary Ann Christison (University of Utah) and Neil Anderson (BYU).

Special Events
Two special events will be offered. The first is a reception at the Heritage Center on the day of the opening sessions, which would consist of opening remarks, a buffet, and a short cultural performance by local Native Americans and a Sudanese choir. The second event is a party on Friday evening at Squatters, a local restaurant. The ticket to the opening reception will be included in the registration fee and the price of the party will be $10-$15.

We also plan to negotiate discount tickets to Red Butte Garden, a beautiful garden and arboretum on the U campus within walking distance from the Heritage Center, to provide SLRF participants with a pleasant break from the conference sessions.
Accommodations
Salt Lake City offers several options for accommodations in various price ranges. Most participants will probably want to stay at the University Guest House ($69), only a short walk from the Heritage Center. Also located on campus is the University Marriott ($89). A third option is the Hotel Monaco ($200), located in downtown Salt Lake City directly on the University TRAX light rail line. Motel 6 ($46) is on a bus line to the University. In addition, we plan to negotiate for vacant rooms of university student housing.

Transportation
Jet Blue, Southwest Airlines and Delta Airlines are just some of the carriers that offer low-cost, direct flights from both the East and West Coasts to Salt Lake City. For example, a round-trip ticket from New York starts at approximately $204 and from Los Angeles at approximately $156.

Salt Lake International Airport is a short distance from the city center, and visitors can take public transportation ($1.40) or taxis to either the downtown area ($10-$15) or the university (approximately $15-$20). Buses or TRAX from downtown to the university run every 15 minutes. Campus shuttles are free and run frequently between the Heritage Center and other parts of the campus.

Previous SLRFs
SLRF has not yet been hosted in Salt Lake City and we are excited about the possibility of hosting this event in 2006. Since the two previous SLRFs will have taken place in the East; we think it would be wonderful to bring the conference to the Intermountain West in 2006. Several Ph.D. students from our organizing committee plan to attend SLRF 2005 to get ready for SLRF 2006.

Conference Rates
Because of the reasonable cost of the conference facilities, we will be able to hold the registration fee down. Early registration for students will be $65 and onsite registration will be $75. The early registration fee for faculty will be $80 and the onsite fee will be $100. The registration fee includes two coffee/snack breaks and the opening reception.

Technical Support
A member of the organizing committee is experienced in designing and maintaining web pages. She has agreed to create and maintain a web site for SLRF that will handle submissions and pre-registration. We encourage you to visit our website, www.utah.edu/slrf, for additional information about SLRF 2006 and photos of the U, including the conference facilities. Feel free to contact us at this e-mail address: m.haslam@m.cc.utah.edu.