

**Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008 Macquarie University**

*Present:* Beverly Derewianka, Susan Feez, Mary Macken-Horarik, Ursula McGowan, Louise Ravelli, Jill Kealley, Helen Tebble, Bronwyn Custance, Alison Moore, Deborah Coleman-George, Frances Christie, Sue Hood, Helen Jenkins, Rosemary Huisman, Sunny Xiao Xang (visitor)

*Apologies:* Shooshi Dreyfus, Clare Painter, Kristina Love, Anne Thwaite, Gary Collins

*Minutes of last AGM* accepted (BD, SH)

*Business arising:* South Australia will host 2009 conference. Meeting participants suggested that chat space and masterclass sessions - features of 2007 UoW conference – were popular and should be retained.

*Election of executive members for 2008-9* as follows:

President: Rosemary Huisman

Vice President & Membership secretary: Pauline Jones

Treasurer: Susan Feez

Minutes secretary: Shoshana Dreyfus

*State representatives* are as follows:

Qld : Gary Collins

WA: Ann Thwaite

NSW: Clare Painter

SA: Peter White

ACT: Marina Aidman

NT: vacant

VIC: Kristina Love

TAS: vacant

*Outgoing President's report:*

Beverly welcomed Rosemary as new president.

**ASFLA Congress 2007: 'Bridging Discourses'** The annual congress was held from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 at the University of Wollongong in conjunction with the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia (1<sup>st</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> July). Some 75 participants enjoyed a varied program of papers, plenaries and social activities.

Plenary Speakers:

- ❖ Professor Christian Matthiessen, Macquarie University  
'Building Semiotic Bridges: Metalinguistic Material'
- ❖ Professor Cecilia Colombi, University of California (Davis)  
'Bridging Pedagogical Discourses: Halliday, Vygotsky and Freire in heritage language teaching'
- ❖ Professor Jill Bourne, University of Southampton, UK  
'Teaching across Difference'

Featured speakers included: Beth Armstrong, Frances Christie, Pauline Gibbons, Sue Hood, Rosemary Huisman, Annabelle Lukin, Elizabeth Thomson, Peter White, Theo van Leeuwen.

A high quality collection of papers was presented which nudged the boundaries in terms of both theory and pedagogy. A selection of these have been published on the ASLFA website, edited by Carmel Cloran. The conference format included innovations such as Master Classes (where doctoral students presented work-in-progress to an expert in their field who provided feedback to their questions) and Chat Space (which allowed for interaction with Plenary and Featured speakers at the end of the day to follow up on issues, questions, analyses, etc).

### **Activities**

The work of those involved in organizing SFL activities during the year was warmly acknowledged, including the Friday afternoon seminar series at Sydney University, the workshops and seminars organized at Macquarie and UNSW, and the course for postgraduate and doctoral students on Fridays.

### Future conferences

- ❖ Disciplinarity, Knowledge and Language Symposium to be held at University of Sydney, December 2008
- ❖ ISFC 2009 Beijing
- ❖ ISFC 2010 Vancouver
- ❖ ASFLA 2009: Adelaide

### Financial matters

Our grateful thanks to Susan Feez for the time she has devoted to the ASFLA financial accounts. (See separate report.)

The financial situation is relatively healthy, though a mechanism needs to be put in place to assist in the application for and allocation of funds. It is proposed that the Executive develop a system to deal with this, as there is a risk of the depletion of funds with the current relatively random process and given the regular outgoings (banking facilities, website maintenance, and so on).

Consideration needs to be given to the possibility of funding allocation for a permanent secretariat (so that there is a stable address for correspondence) and a website monitor (to update the content of the website (seminars, conferences, links, theses, work-in-progress, conference proceedings, and general news) and to establish and moderate a possible online forum).

### Support for SFL communities

\$3000 has been allocated to support sending scholars to Nigeria. \$4000 has been allocated towards ISFC 2008 bursaries.

### Membership matters

Our gratitude to Pauline Jones for chasing up memberships and re-establishing a database of members. (see separate report)

### *Treasurer's report:*

	NAB
	A/c 52-821-8788
Balance as at 1/7/07	\$29,174.18
<b>INCOME</b>	
Interest	\$284.04
Membership	\$1,140.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$1,140.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Account Fees	\$251.70
Merchant Fees	\$549.05
Webpage	\$1,935.00
Semiotic Margins	\$3,232.28
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,968.03</b>
<b>BALANCE 3.7.08</b>	<b>\$24,630.19</b>

Banking arrangements: Some thought about alternatives in terms of bank as well as whether or not to maintain expensive credit card facilities.

### *Membership report:*

Membership period will be July to July each year. There has been some discussion about what membership offers and how to attract new members. Association membership is currently 41, better because of recent reminders. There are very few student members, members should encourage their students to join.

*Discussion of recording of Friday workshops/seminars* to be made available to members was cut short by time. However, general feeling is that this is worthwhile to pursue and that a working party be established to investigate. Deb Coleman George and Pauline Jones to explore further.

*Meeting moved a vote of thanks to Beverly for her term as president.*