

# **The 6th Annual OSU Martin Luther King Day Linguistics Symposium:**

## **The Nexus of Biology and Linguistics**

Monday, January 19, 2009

Venue: Room 001 Jennings Hall

(1735 Neil Ave., room 001 is in the "annex" behind the main part of Jennings Hall)

The Ohio State University

Sponsored by the Department of Linguistics, through the Targeted Investment in Excellence initiative of OSU's College of Humanities

8:30 on: Coffee, juice and bagels available

8:50 – 9:00 Welcome words by Brian Joseph and John Wenzel

9:00 – 9:30 Brian D. Joseph (OSU), "On some recent applications of biologically inspired quantitative methods to language change"

9:30 – 10:00 Mahé Ben-Hamed (CNRS Lyon), John Freudenstein (OSU), Brian D. Joseph (OSU), and John Wenzel (OSU), "Using biological phylogenetic methods on Indo-European subgrouping"

10:00 – 10:15 BREAK

10:15 – 10:45 Claire Bowerman (Yale U), "Investigating areal problems: An Australian illustration"

10:45 – 11:45 KEYNOTE SPEAKER – Russell Gray (U of Auckland), "What do phylogenetic methods have to offer historical linguistics?"

11:45 – 1:00 LUNCH (for all participants, courtesy of the linguistics department)

1:00 – 1:30 Salikoko Mufwene (U of Chicago), "Humans as the ecology of language(s)"

1:30 – 2:00 Farrell Ackerman (U Cal. San Diego), Rob Malouf (San Diego State), & Andy Wedel (U Arizona), "Grammar as a complex adaptive system"

2:00 – 2:30 Richard D. Janda (Indiana U), "'We Have Met the /\_Friend\_/, and He Is Us: Do Linguistics and Biology See Each Other as Windows or as Mirrors?'"

2:30 – 2:45 BREAK

2:45 – 3:15 Angela Brown (OSU Optometry) and Del Lindsey (OSU Psychology), "Evolution of color naming: Evidence from the World Color Survey"

3:15 – 3:45 Doug Nelson (OSU Biology), "Cultural evolution in white-crowned sparrow song"

3:45 – 4:15 Wrap-up discussion