Maho Morimoto & Andrew Hedding
Co-organizers of the Workshop on the Languages of Meso-America (UC Santa Cruz)
Our History: WLMA

- 2016 Spring: Field Methods seminar (LING 282) taught by Maziar Toosarvandani, with Fe Silva-Robles as Santiago Laxopa Zapotec (SLZ) consultant.

- Related projects, publications & presentations:
  - Gender-case constraints in SLZ. (Foley, Kalivoda & Toosarvandani)
  - Reaching agreement early (and late). (Toosarvandani)
  - Phonation types in SLZ (Adler & Morimoto)
  - Derivation of verb-initiality in SLZ (Adler, Foley, Pizarro-Gevara, Sasaki & Toosarvandani)
  - Processing of relative clause in SLZ (zlab)

- 2016 Fall: Launch of WLMA
  - Brings faculty and graduate students interested in Meso-American Linguistics
Our History: Nido de Lenguas

- 2017 Summer: Launch of Nido de Lenguas, led by Maziar & Pranav
  - Faculty, graduate & undergraduate students interested in fieldwork, language preservation
  - Organization of Language Summer Camp
- 2017 Fall-present: Pop-ups
- 2017 Fall-present: Monthly Zapotec class
Who we are

- Graduate students & Faculty at UCSC Linguistics department:
  - Maziar Toosarvandani (professor)
  - Pranav Anand (professor)
  - Ryan Bennett (professor)
  - Judith Aissen (professor emerita)
  - Andrew Hedding (2nd)
  - Maho Morimoto (5th)
  - Kelsey Sasaki (3rd)
  - Steven Foley (4th)
  - Jeremie Beauchamps (1st)
  - Ben Eischen (1st)
  - And more

- Senderos:
  - Fe Silva Robles (representative)
Our supporters

- Senderos
- The Linguistics Department, UCSC
- The Humanities Institute, UCSC
- California Humanities
- UC Humanities Research Institute
- UC Santa Cruz Foundation
- … and friends and family!
Scholarships:
Funding for college, as well as an annual Latino Role Models conference.

Dance:
Students of all ages learn traditional Oaxacan dances.
Tutoring:
After-school classes, as well as English, citizenship, GED, basic computer skills.

Band:
Music classes and performances.
Language maintenance:
Senderos hopes to promote all aspects of Oaxacan culture, including language.
Our activities

1. Summer language camp
2. Monthly language classes
3. Pop-up events
4. Online dictionary
5. Social media
1. Summer Language Camp

Goals:

● Create an opportunity for native speakers to teach the community about their languages: —Santiago Laxopa Zapotec and San Martín Peras Mixtec.

● Increase awareness about linguistics and the UCSC linguistics department

● Share in cultural activities
Lotería to learn VSO
Demonstration of retroflex consonants using ultrasound
Demonstration of tone contrasts using Praat
Autobiography in SLZ
Autobiography in SMPM
Traditional Mixtec Story
A conversation in Zapotec
Mole demonstration
2. Monthly Language Classes

Beginnings:
- Participants in Summer Camp were eager to continue learning.
- Senderos wanted to start a long-term language maintenance project.

Goals:
- Teach community members Santiago Laxopa Zapotec.
- Establish a deeper relationship between our department and community members interested in Oaxacan languages.

Currently:
- We meet once a month with roughly 5-10 students.
- Classes are taught by Fe Silva Robles, with support from Nido de Lenguas.

Prospects:
- We hope to expand the classes in the future:
  - More languages
  - More levels
- More involvement from our undergrad community
Learning introductions
3. Pop-Ups

Pop-ups are the frontline of our community outreach.

We table at community events and festivals to:

- raise awareness towards indigenous languages
- to get in touch with speakers of these languages

Our typical table:
- flyers
- interactive game (memory game to learn 1-10 in SLZ, Mixtec & Mixe)
- small prizes such as stickers, candies, or pins
- talking panel on iPad
- sign-up sheet for our mailing list
- manned by two-three students & faculties, depending on the venue
Play Memoria! ¡Aprenda los números en zapoteco, mixe y mixteco!
Coming up: Guelaguetza

Vive Oaxaca Guelaguetza is a cultural festival with food, music, dance and crafts, modeled on the traditional fiestas in Oaxaca, Mexico, organized by Senderos.

Last year, over 4,000 people attended the festival.

This year, we will do pop-ups at the festival and at the street concerts/performances leading up to it.

Guelaguetza 2018:

Sunday, May 20

9:00-5:00

San Lorenzo Park
4. **Online Dictionary**

Since 2016, faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students working on Santiago Laxopa Zapotec and the neighboring varieties have been adding contents to an online Zapotec dictionary.

- Continuing effort to document the language
- Collectively edited
- Undergraduate research assistants ‘clean up’ entries
- Dictionary entries with sound files
- Organized by semantic domain & part of speech
- Texts (sentences) with sound files
- Organized by text genre (dialogues, elicitation, etc) & speaker
We are community members and linguists at the University of California, Santa Cruz working to strengthen and preserve the Zapotec language of Santiago Laxopa in Oaxaca, Mexico, as well as the surrounding towns of Guiloxi and Yalina. Alongside linguistic research to better understand the language, we are creating a dictionary and collection of texts for use both by the community and by scholars.
Searching for ‘dog’

SANTIAGO LAXOPA ZAPOTEC

DICTIONARY SEARCH RESULTS
You entered dog in English

beku', n. [békû'] (#70)
dog

EXAMPLES

beku' "dog" (Spoken by Fe Silva Robles)

- Shtahs beku' tsa'ın.
  My dog sleeps.
  (Spoken by Fe Silva Robles, SLZ003-s. 56)

- Shtahs beku'n.
  The dog is sleeping.
  (Spoken by Fe Silva Robles, SLZ003-s. 60)

- Ble'e Marian beku'n ble'e neda.
  Maria saw the dog that saw me.
  (Spoken by Fe Silva Robles, SLZ012-s. 9)

MORE SENTENCES
5. Social Media

Website: wlma.ucsc.edu/nido-de-lenguas
Twitter: @wlma-ucsc
Instagram: wlma-ucsc
Facebook page: Workshop on the Languages of Meso-America

Platforms to:
- Publicize our activities
- Document our activities
- Organizational ties
- Fundraising
UCSC Giving Day 2018

- A 24-hour fund-raising drive organized by UCSC
- We raised $3,460 to expand our monthly language classes
UCSC Giving Day 2018
Duxklenle!

Thank you!