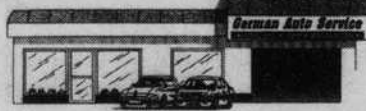


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Series to sponsor linguist

GLOSS is hosting linguist Marianne Mithun through a colloquium series to speak on language oppression

Jennifer Bear
Campus/City Culture Reporter

Students at the University enjoy a privilege that many people around the world are denied — the right to speak and converse in the language of their birth.

GLOSS treasurer Lindsay Jones said language oppression and endangerment have reached critical levels in many populations around the world.

"Every two weeks there is a language dying in the world, and lots of things, like cultural identity and traditions, die with it," Jones said.

This term, GLOSS, the student-run organization devoted to the study of linguistics, is addressing the issue of language oppression in their colloquium series, "Language Endangerment and Language Revitalization."

As a part of the series, every Friday GLOSS sponsors a colloquium

and brings in a different speaker to address the topic. Today, Marianne Mithun, a professor from the linguistics department at the University of California, Santa Barbara, will be the guest speaker at the group discussion on language endangerment at 3:30 p.m. in 142 Straub. Mithun will also be leading a workshop on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in 216 Allen.

Mithun is a theoretical linguist. She examines the link between language and identity, and what happens culturally when a language dies.

Christiane De Oliveira, founding chairwoman of GLOSS and co-organizer of the fall colloquium series, said Mithun differs from many linguists in the way she carries out her fieldwork because she honors the needs of the community whose language is threatened while she conducts her research.

Mithun will be addressing the topic of balancing academic work versus serving community needs at her workshop on Saturday.

Linguistics Department Head Spike Gildea said many languages

are dying out in different societies around the world because their traditional way of life is being eroded on all sides. He added the alarming trend of smaller communities being assimilated into dominant cultures is threatening the survival of traditional languages.

"The world is facing what appears to be an unprecedented extinction of languages," Gildea said.

De Oliveira said this term's theme was chosen because the group felt it was a good general interest topic that everyone would enjoy learning about.

"Language endangerment is a topic that has to do with minority populations and repressed communities around the world," De Oliveira said.

Linguistic research, especially regarding the world trend towards language oppression, is of great importance, Jones said.

"Language is a manifestation of a population's heritage," she said, not just a collection of words and grammatical rules.

Contact the reporter at jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com.

Grant

continued from page 1A

to utilize resources and work closely with two local violence prevention groups, Womenspace and Sexual Assault Support Services.

SASS Community Education Coordinator Michelle Edwards said she thinks the grant will be an effective way to do more outreach on campus.

"There will be more resources to put in the direction of Family Housing and the greek system," she said. "I think a lot of people think this might be where it's needed the most."

The grant money will also be used to expand law enforcement training with the Department of Public Safety, Eyster said.

Additionally, the groups plan to refine programs for incoming students, whether through residence halls or in brochures handed out to students, Eyster said.

Women's Center Office Coordinator Lori Brown said the money will also be used to support the Sexual Wellness Advocacy Team, an internship program that educates about sexual assault, to help pay for its outreach efforts and project programming.

Brown said she hopes the grant will work in a way that reaches the community and helps change the norms that cause sexual violence.

"I hope the program teaches people about sexual empowerment and how to have healthy relationships," she said.

To track the grant's effectiveness, the Institute of Violence and Destructive Behavior will collect data for the next two years and report back to the groups.

Contact the reporter at daniellegillespie@dailyemerald.com.

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