

ANS Bulletin

AMERICAN NAME SOCIETY

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Editor's Note

This is the first issue for which I, as Secretary of the American Name Society, am responsible. As previously announced by Thomas Gasque, former Secretary, ANS Bulletins will be distributed electronically. For those who do not have access to e-mail, copies will be mailed if a timely request is made. **Please contact me if you would like a paper copy.** Because of the printing and mailing costs, members who opt for the paper copy will likely pay slightly more than our very modest dues.

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Newly Elected Officers

Every two years, ANS elects a new President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In 2008, ANS elected officers for two-year terms beginning at the end of the meeting in January 2009. A new Member-at-Large was also elected. Names and short biographies these new officers are presented below.

President

The President is **Priscilla Ord**. She has responsibility for the activities and affairs of the Society.



She presides at meetings of the Society and the Executive Council and appoints committees as necessary.

Priscilla served as Vice President in 2005–06 and—with the restructuring of the Executive Council—as First Vice President in 2007–08. She holds a BA in English-

education and fine arts from Western Maryland College, and an AM in linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania.

She lives in Westminster, Maryland, where she is an adjunct lecturer of English at her alma mater, McDaniel College, formerly Western Maryland College, which was founded in 1867 as the first co-educational college south

of the Mason-Dixon line and is now recognized as one of the forty “Colleges that Change Lives.” She has taught English at the secondary school level and English, ren’s literature, and linguistics at the college level. Most of her presentations have been in literary onomastics.

First Vice President

The First Vice President is **Kemp Williams**. He is responsible for planning and organizing the ANS annual meeting, including sending out the paper calls, conducting the review process, submitting abstracts for the LSA Meeting Handbook, and arranging for social gatherings. The First Vice President also serves for the President when required.



Kemp is a business Analyst within IBM’s Global Name Recognition software group. GNR software is a suite of computational onomastic tools that provides customers with multicultural name recognition solutions for mission-critical applications. He works with the technical, design, and implementation teams to create solutions that optimize the use of GNR’s automated name classification, name variant generation, and name-matching functionality.

Kemp received his Ph.D. in Linguistics from Indiana University in 1989. Before moving to the private sector, he was Associate Professor of English and Linguistics at Florida International University in Miami for eleven years. Since moving to northern Virginia in 2000, he has held positions dealing with various aspects of computational linguistics at Answer Logic, Lockheed Martin, Language Analysis Systems, and IBM. He has published numerous articles in journals such as *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Lingua*, and *Multilingual Computing*.

Second Vice President

The Second Vice President is **Donna Lillian**. She assists the First Vice President with the annual meeting and organizes the ANS sessions at the Modern Language Association Conference. The Second Vice President substitutes for the First Vice President

if required. She is responsible for recruiting new members and for arranging media coverage.



Donna is Associate Professor of Discourse & Linguistics and Associate Chair of the Department of English at East Carolina University. Her academic training is in linguistics, with a B.A. and Ph.D. from York University, an M.A. from the University of Toronto, and a B.Ed. from the University of Western Ontario. She first began researching patterns of

women's naming as part of her M.A., and has continued researching this topic for over 20 years. In particular, she examines surname choices that women (and men) make when they marry, choices that women make in their use of courtesy titles for themselves, and choices that both men and women make in addressing women. Of particular interest is the evolution of the courtesy title 'Ms.' over the past four decades. In addition to her work on naming patterns, Donna writes critical discourse analyses, particularly focusing on linguistic manifestations of sexism, racism, and homophobia in non-fiction texts of various sorts. Her publications include articles in *Names*, *WORD*, *Critical Approaches to Discourse Analysis across Disciplines*, *Discourse & Society*, *American, British and Canadian Studies*, *LACUS FORUM*, *SKY Journal of Linguistics*, *Journal of the Atlantic Provinces Linguistic Association*, and *Women and Language*.

Executive Council Member-at Large

The three Executive Council Members-at-Large are part of the governing body of the Society. They vote on all matters coming before the Council (which includes all officers) and serve on committees as appropriate.



One Member-at-Large is elected each year for a three-year term. The Executive Council Member-at-Large for 2009–11 is **Iman Makeba Laversuch**.

Iman is a lecturer in the English Department at the University of Cologne. She has an M.A. in German linguistics and a Ph.D. in English linguistics. She is an African American woman who has lived abroad in Europe for almost twenty years. Her primary area of onomastic interest is the intersection between language policy, culture, and naming. Many of her publications have explored U.S. governmental policies and the development of racial ethnonyms. Her most

recent publications have appeared in *Current Issues in Language Planning*. In addition, she has done a great deal of research in the area of bilingualism and biculturalism

Secretary

The Secretary maintains the records of the Society, assists the President in setting an agenda for each meeting, and keeps accurate records of deliberations and actions of the Executive Council. He also keeps a register of addresses of each member and, with the Treasurer, monitors the membership status of each member. He edits an occasional newsletter, currently titled the *ANS Bulletin*, to inform members of actions taken by the Executive Council and to announce upcoming elections, events, and meetings.

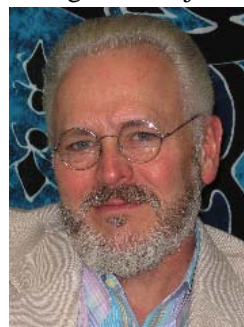
The Secretary for 2009–10 is **Michel Nguessan**.

Michel is Assistant Professor of Library & Information Services at Governors State University. He holds academic credentials from the Ivory Coast, France, the USA, and Canada. His research interests include computers in libraries and in education; social aspects of computing; digital libraries and institutional repositories; library systems; and linguistics and onomastics. In the area of onomastics, Dr. Nguessan researched and presented papers in the past several years on names and naming in West Africa, in Ivory Coast, and specifically among the Baoulé Community.



Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for all finances of the Society other than those handled by Maney Publishing. In conjunction with the Secretary, he maintains a current mailing list of all individual and institutional members of the Society.



The Treasurer for 2009–10 is **Michael McGoff**.

Michael, the Vice Provost for Strategic and Fiscal Planning at the State University of New York at Binghamton, is currently Treasurer of ANS. He did his graduate work under the guidance of Professor W. F. H. Nicolaisen with a dissertation titled *Computer-Oriented Onomastic Surveys: The Toponyms of New York State*. He has edited the *Ehrensperger Report* for several years.

2010 ANS Annual Meeting

The American Name Society (ANS), is a professional organization devoted to the study of names and their role in society, invites précis and abstracts for papers for its annual meeting to be held in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) and other allied, professional organizations.

Papers in any area of onomastics are appropriate, and a précis of not more than 500 words, along with a 100-word abstract for publication in both the LSA and ANS meeting programs, should be submitted no later than August 31, 2009. (Note that the deadline has been extended from the previously announced date of August 15.) In the précis, the subject of the proposed paper should be stated in a simple, topic sentence, which is then effectively supported by substantiating information and specific examples.

The preferred mode of transmission, for both the précis and accompanying abstract, is by an introductory e-mail with attachment sent to ANS1stVP@yahoo.com with "ANS Proposal" in the subject line. All précis will be evaluated anonymously, and authors will be notified by September 15, 2009.

Membership in ANS is a requirement of all presenters, who must also pay the LSA conference registration fee. This fee allows one access to all LSA and other allied organizations' sessions, the plenary sessions, the book exhibits, and the job placement service. It also makes one eligible for a reduced rate at the conference hotel. Presenters will also be expected to pay an additional, incidental registration fee to ANS to cover expenses for any items not provided by LSA. Papers that are accepted must be read by their author. If the author is unable to attend the meeting, the paper will not be presented or read by another individual.

Further information concerning the Linguistic Society of America may be obtained from the LSA homepage at www.lsadc.org. Additional information about the American Name Society may be accessed at www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/ANS/. Complete information regarding the 2010 annual meeting, including all fees, will be available on the ANS website by early autumn.

San Francisco, California, 2009

The 2009 Annual Meeting of ANS took place at the Hilton, San Francisco, 333 O'Farrell St. Priscilla Ord, assisted by Sandra K. Wright, organized the program, which included more than thirty papers on all aspects of onomastics. Since some of the presentations were made by more than one person, there

were over fifty participants, many of who were from countries out of North America.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of the newly elected officers of ANS. Another highlight was the voting and announcement of the name of the year. There were four categories, and here are the winners in each: For names in fiction, *Edward* (the vampire in the *Twilight* books and movie, aimed at teenagers); for placenames, *Wasilla* (the hometown of Sarah Palin); for trade names, *Fannie Mae* and *Freddie Mac*; and for personal names, *Barack Hussein Obama*.

The Executive Council made several important decisions at its meeting including membership in the American Name Society as a requirement for publication of articles in *Names: A Journal of Onomastics*.

Name(s) of the Year

One of the most exciting parts of the upcoming annual meeting is the contest to determine the 2010 Name(s) of the Year. Names selected will be those whose use during the last year most illustrates trends in North American culture and exemplifies the importance of names and naming in the United States and Canada.

ANS is asking for nominations in four subcategories:

1. Trade name of the year (including names of companies and nonprofit organizations as well as product and brand names)
2. Literary name of the year (including all names of fictional persons or places popularized in any media, written or electronic)
3. Placename of the year (including names of buildings, streets, political subdivisions, natural features, or any other location.)
4. Personal names (including given names, surnames, and nicknames of real persons or animals, singly or in combination).

Names proposed for the honor do *not* themselves have to refer to persons or places located in the United States or Canada, if mention of them has had an impact on North American culture during the past year. For example, *Pluto*, winner of the 2006 Name of the Year, would have been nominated in the Placename subcategory.

Winners will be selected in each category at the annual meeting by all members of ANS present. An overall winner for the Name of the Year for 2010 will be chosen from among the four winners of the subcategories.

Send nominations to **Cleveland K. Evans** by e-mail to cleveland.evans@bellevue.edu or by regular

geographic names and their uses on maps. For further information, contact Gasque (tgasque@usd.edu).

ANS Membership Dues

Membership in the American Name Society includes four issues of *Names*, the *Bulletin*, and participation in the meetings. Members also support the ANS Listserve. Dues are as follows (in U. S. dollars or U. K. pounds):

North America.....\$45.00
Rest of the World£22.50

Retired/Student:

United States.....\$30.00
Canada/Mexico\$32.00
Rest of the World.....£17.50

See the ANS Website
(www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/ANS/) for details on
how to pay or renew your dues.

2009 ANS Officers

President: Priscilla A. Ord, McDaniel College
(pannord@verizon.net)

Past Co-Presidents: Alleen Pace Nilsen and Don Nilsen,
Arizona State Univ.
(alleen.nilsen@asu.edu; don.nilsen@asu.edu).

First Vice President: Kemp Williams, IBM Global Name Recognition (kempw@us.ibm.com)

Second Vice President: Donna L. Lillian, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina (LillianD@ecu.edu)

Secretary: Michel Nguessan, Governors State University (m-nguessan@govst.edu)

Treasurer: Michael F. McGoff, State Univ. of New York at Binghamton (mmcgoff@binghamton.edu)

Editor: Frank Nuessel, Univ. of Louisville
(fhnues01@louisville.edu)

Members-at-Large, with terms of office:

Bruce Brown, Brigham Young Univ., 2007–2009
(bruce_brown@byu.edu)

Dwan Lee Shipley, Western Washington Univ.
2008–2010 (Dwan.Shipley@wwu.edu)

Dr. Iman Laversuch, University of Cologne, Germany; 2009-2011 (mavi.yaz@web.de)