

The Communicator

Newsletter of the
Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers' Association

October/November 2008

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Foreign Language Workshops Rescheduled

The workshops planned by the State Department of Education, and postponed because of Gustav, have been rescheduled. Make plans to attend the French Day on December 1, 2008, or the Spanish Day on January 12, 2009. See page 6.

From the President

Greetings!

On behalf of the Board, I hope that all is going well as you prepare your students to be global citizens.

Congratulations to Terri Hammatt, Supervisor of Foreign Language at the State Board of Education, who was honored on September 25 by the French Government for her contributions to the ties between France and Louisiana and for her many contributions to language education. She was knighted at a ceremony at the Governor's Mansion, and we were delighted that Anita Greenwood, vice-president of LFLTA, and I were invited to attend to represent you. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, but Anita did a good job representing all of us.

Stephanie Viator will replace Camille Meehan as northern representative for secondary school on our Board. Stephanie was the French teacher at Neville for several years before joining the faculty at Cedar Creek in Ruston. We will miss Camille, but I know that Stephanie will be a great addition to our Board..

Your Board has been hard at work on a variety of subjects. Anita Greenwood will be reporting elsewhere about conference preparations, but I want to keep you up-to-date on other initiatives addressed at the last Board meeting.

The mission statement, objectives, and logo team is headed by Glenda Williams and includes Christine Griffith and Juanita Bienvenu. The new mission statement and objectives are on the LFLTA website. The logo design contest is announced in this newsletter. The logo we are using now, found on the "save the date" conference postcard, is by Michelle Racca.

(continued on page 2)

Teaching Ideas and Tips

Note: This is YOUR column! All items published in this column will be credited to the sender. Published sender also receives a small prize! Send submissions to marymcgehe@aol.com. Include your full name and address, and the language you teach.

This month's tips are on teaching vocabulary.

Sometimes there are words that are just hard to memorize. So, for specific words, I create a saying to go with it. Example: **buscar** (to look for). I tell the students to remember that they have to look for a bus and a car.

—**Paula Landry,
Berwick High School**

Are your students having trouble managing lists of vocabulary? Try getting the students to group them according to function, association, class, etc. Involving the students in generating the vocabulary gives them part ownership of that unit—this is a good thing. For the unit theme “The School Newspaper,” to begin, vocabulary is broken into four categories: (continued on page 3)

(continued from Page 1)

The constitution and nomination team is evaluating the constitution and will present their report and proposed changes to the Board on December 6. You will receive the recommended changes before the conference so that you can vote on these as well. They will also present information on the Board positions that need to be filled. Jennifer Sharer-Knight is stepping down as secretary because her family is moving to West Virginia. Please consider serving on the Board or join our volunteer list. Anita Greenwood is team leader, and members include Leanna Buckley, Patrice Niquille, and Cheryl Javaherian.

As a result of the many concerns we have as foreign language teachers, **the advocacy team** is gathering information in order to respond to several policies and actions that affect foreign languages in a negative way. Please write to the team leader, Dr. Ruth Smith at rusmith@ulm.edu about any concerns you might have. The members of this team are Maria Blanca Wortham and Mary McGehee.

The newsletter and e-mail tree team is organizing an accurate list of e-mail addresses of all the foreign language teachers in the state. We need your help. If you have not yet received an email from Mary McGehee, please send her your email address, and encourage colleagues to do the same. As Editor, Mary is looking for news and for teaching tips, so please send these to her. Members of this team are Mary McGehee, Ruth Smith, Terri Hammatt, and the new secretary.

Finally, the **scholarship and mini-grant team** is looking for applicants! The information is on LFLTA's website. Leanna Buckley, Antonio Matarredona, Jackie Labat, Sara O'Neal and Stephanie Viator make up this team.

I look forward to hearing from you, and to seeing you at the conference in Alexandria on February 27 and 28.

Let us hear from you!

Maria Blanca Wortham,
President of LFLTA

(Teaching tips, con't)
objects associated with a newspaper, people associated with a newspaper, places associated with a newspaper, and sections of a newspaper. Both old and new vocabulary (nouns, here) can be placed in these categories. To assess learning of vocabulary, I ask the students in French "What is an editor?" to which students must reply in French, "An editor is a person that is associated with a newspaper." One of our first themes in French is "Getting Back to School." We make four groups of vocabulary: things one uses, things that one wears, things that one eats, and places that one visits. By the end of the unit the students were saying in French, "A bookstore is a place that one visits in order to buy books" and "A dictionary is a thing that one uses in order to find the definitions of words."

—**Scott Harris,**
LSU Laboratory School

(Prizes are on their way to Paula Landry and Scott Harris. Congrats and thanks for sharing your ideas!)

From the State Department of Education

The new Guide for Elementary and Middle School Administrators of World Languages (WL) is online at <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/saa/1710.html>.

In September, the new accords between the French Government and Louisiana were signed during ceremonies in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The new provisions of these agreements, renewed every four years, include ever more generous opportunities for study and teaching exchanges, recognizing the cultural links between France and Louisiana. French teachers and administrators should direct inquiries to CODOFIL or to the State Department of Education.

From the Committee for Economic Development,

2000 L Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
tel: 202-296-5860

www.ced.org

Education for Global Leadership: The Importance of International Studies and Foreign Language Education for U.S. Economic and National Security.

Summary of CED's Recommendations: (1) International content should be taught across the curriculum and at all levels of learning, to expand American students' knowledge of other countries and cultures. (2) Expand the training pipeline at every level of education to address the paucity of Americans fluent in foreign languages, especially critical, less-commonly taught languages. (3) National leaders—political leaders, as well as the business and philanthropic communities, and the media—should inform the public about the importance of improving education in foreign languages and international studies.

The complete Policy Statement, as well as other CED publications is available online at www.ced.org.

Register now for the LFLTA Spring Conference!

Greetings, Foreign Language Teachers of Louisiana

I hope you are all planning to come to the LFLTA Conference, February 28 – 29 in Alexandria. It is always fun to get together with other foreign language teachers to share experiences and ideas with one another. As Foreign Language education faces continuing pressures, it is ever more important that we create a strong and active foreign language teaching community.

This year's theme, appropriately, is Foreign Language Advocacy. I think there are few among us who have not personally experienced, in some way, our need to promote the teaching of more foreign languages at all levels in Louisiana. We now have an Advocacy Committee on the LFLTA board that is ready to go to bat for us if we encounter difficulties within our programs.

Our keynote speaker and presenter, Dr. Audrey Heining-Boynton from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will be giving us many ideas for encouraging our students to use and speak the language in the classroom.

I encourage all of you to consider presenting your own ideas, research, and experiences at our conferences. You may choose between two formats. In Round Table Sessions, you make a 20-minute presentation to groups of 8 at a time. In Lecture Sessions, you make a 50-minute presentation to a larger group.

This year, we will select a "Best of LFLTA Presenter" who will be awarded a \$200 stipend to help pay his/her way to the SCOLT conference in 2010, where he/she will give that same presentation.

We urge foreign language educators at all levels—university, secondary, and elementary—to think of beginning a rotation of presenters from your campus or school, so that there is always someone representing you at the conference. As part of your professional development plan, you may also want to designate at least one person each year to bring back a report of important events and ideas from the conference to those who are unable to attend.

Presenter's Application: <http://www.ulm.edu/languages/presentationapplication.html>

Conference Registration: <http://www.ulm.edu/languages/2003CONFAPP.html>

Hotel Reservations: Best Western: (318) 445 – 5530. Ask for our group rate of \$76.00.

We look forward to seeing you all in February. Keep up the good work! Remember, we are not only teaching languages, but are opening doors to the world for our students.

Anita Greenwood
Vice-President and Conference Chair.

For Your Calendar

December 1, 2008: Postmark deadline for applications for LFLTA's mini-grants.
Postmark deadline for applications to present at LFLTA 2009 conference.
Early registration postmark deadline for LFLTA 2009 conference.
Postmark deadline for LFLTA Logo Design contest. (See page 9)

February 27-28, 2009: LFLTA Annual Conference, Alexandria, LA.

March 5-7, 2009: SCOLT Conference, Atlanta, GA

March 2011: SCOLT conference returns to Louisiana.

News From Around The State

Please send news from your area to the newsletter editor at marymcgehe@aol.com

Spanish Month Celebrated at Alexandria High School

The first- and second-year students of Mrs. Sara O'Neal at Alexandria High School participated in their own celebration of El Dia de la Raza and Hispanic Month. They first traveled to Baton Rouge High School to attend a performance of the flamenco given by a professional group of dancers. On Wednesday, October 15, they conducted their own celebration at the high school. Beginning with a presentation by Dr. Ruth E. Smith, Professor of Spanish at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, the students learned about the history of the Latino presence in the continental United States and the numerous careers that are enhanced by proficiency with the language. They then listened to presentations by two of their classmates and enjoyed a demonstration of the merengue, salsa, and cumbia performed by students in Mrs. O'Neal's classes. Afterwards they had the opportunity to sample several recipes for Hispanic food prepared by fellow students and to browse the displays on a number of Spanish speaking countries which were researched and designed in the classes.

Spanish for Elementary Schools

In an effort to bring language instruction to several Monroe City elementary schools, the Department of Foreign Languages and the Monroe City School System began a pilot program in September of 2008. Students from the University provide basic language instruction to fifth and sixth graders at Cypress Point, Lexington, Sallie Humble, and Lincoln elementary schools. The students are under the direction of Dr. Charles Holloway, Professor of Spanish at ULM, who designs the instructional materials and supervises the students' activities. Seven senior undergraduate students go to the schools a minimum of two hours per week to conduct basic instruction.

The goals of the program are to introduce the elementary school students to basic language classes in preparation for the more thorough instruction starting in the middle schools and

to give the ULM students a taste of what it means to be a teacher in the hopes that some will decide to become foreign language teachers when they complete their undergraduate education. The project resulted from discussions between the Department and concerned supervisors, principals, and parents who would like to see language taught starting with kindergarten. Cypress Point and Lexington have scheduled the courses during the day and have dedicated part of their tutoring funds to cover the costs. Lincoln and Sallie Humble offer the Spanish enrichment course as part of the 21st Century initiative after school. So far the results have been positive, and the ULM students report that the children seem to enjoy their developing ability to communicate and find it exciting. Evaluation of the program is ongoing and if it works out, there is the possibility that more schools will be added to the program.

**Baton Rouge to host workshops for All K-12 World Language Teachers,
December 1, 2008, and January 12, 2009.**

The Louisiana Department of Education is hosting a one-day workshop for French teachers (K-12) on December 1, 2008, and a one-day workshop for Spanish teachers (K-12) on January 12, 2009. Teachers of modern languages other than French or Spanish may attend either day. Sessions will include a variety of topics focusing on instructional practices that can be adapted to teaching French or Spanish language as well as language immersion. The workshops will offer sessions co-sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Education, the Louisiana Consortium of Immersion Schools, the French Consulate in New Orleans, the Bureau Wallonie-Bruxelles, CODOFIL, and the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science. The workshops are scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will take place at the Claiborne Conference Center, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge. These dates are in lieu of the times originally scheduled for September.

The Lingua Folio workshop, originally planned for September, has been postponed until a later date.

Teachers attending these workshop days have the opportunity to earn Continuous Learning Units. The State Department of Education requests that districts grant professional leave to world languages teachers so that they might attend.

Louisiana Legislature passes law on Critical Languages

In June, the Louisiana State Legislature passed law R.S.17:273:1 "relative to curricula: to require that certain "critical languages" be offered in public secondary schools by a specified date; and to provide for related matters." From Section A: "As expeditiously as possible, but not later than the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year, the BESE shall ensure that secondary school students are afforded the opportunity to study at least one of the critical languages as defined by the U.S. Dept. of State and the U.S. Dept. of Education."

Mini-Grants and Scholarships available to Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers

LFLTA: Louisiana teachers of foreign languages are invited to apply for scholarships for 2009 summer study abroad opportunities offered the governments of Belgium, France and Spain. See the LFLTA web site <http://ulm.edu/languages/LFLTAm.html> for details. **Note: The postmark deadline for applications is December 1, 2008.**

LFLTA is offering two mini-grants of up to \$500.00 to teachers who are members of LFLTA. **Note: The postmark deadline for grant proposal submissions is December 1, 2008.** The application can be found on the LFLTA web site <http://ulm.edu/languages/LFLTAm.html>.

SCOLT also offers scholarships for outstanding programs in a variety of countries to foreign language teachers in the SCOLT region. More information and links to details and application forms and procedures are on the following pages. **Note the SCOLT deadline: Applications must be postmarked by November 1, 2008.**

More information and details available in the fall SCOLTalk or from:
Susan Navey-Davis North Carolina State University, Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures, Raleigh, NC 27695-8106

Study opportunities in Spain. Information and applications available from Antonio Matarredona, at the Spanish Resource Center, 308 Peabody Hall, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (tel) 225 - 578 - 5039. antonio.matarredona@mepsyd.es

Useful web addresses

SCOLT <http://www.scolt.org>

AATF <http://www.frenchteachers.org>

AATG <http://www.aatg.org>

AATSP <http://www.aatsp>
<http://www.ulm.edu/languages>

AATI: <http://www.aati-online.org>

AATA: <http://www.aataweb.org>

CLTA: <http://clta-us.org>

NCJLT: <http://ncjlt.org>

The Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council for Languages and International Studies (JNCL-NCLIS)

<http://languagepolicy.org>

The National Museum of Languages

<http://languagemuseum.org>

(National) Committee for Economic Development (CED)

<http://www.ced.org>

The National Museum of Languages

Enter the contest to design a flag for the National Museum of Languages. See page 10 of this newsletter for details!

Before the establishment of the National Museum of Languages, there was no single well-known, easily identifiable institution that is open to the general public in the entire field of language and linguistics. The Museum offers interesting exhibits and presentations on languages of the world, including many special exhibits and activities for children as well as for adults.

The museum opened formally on Saturday, May 3, 2008. The opening exhibit was “Writing Language: Passing It On”—focusing on writing systems. The current exhibits are on Arabic, Chinese, Cherokee, Esperanto, Ge’ez (an ancient Ethiopic script), Japanese, Latin, and Vietnamese. The Museum is not government owned; it is a private effort by a non-profit organization. Begun in concept in 1971, the actual organization began in 1997, and incorporated in 1998.

Located at 7100 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD 20740, the Museum is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm, and from 1 pm to 4 pm on the first and third Sundays. Admission is free.

Visit their website at <http://languagemuseum.org> to learn more about their activities for children, their programs including online learning materials, and their exhibits, or to become a member.

Baton Rouge Teacher Reports on Gustav in Belgian Press

After hurricane Gustav passed through Louisiana, Mrs. Christelle Thompson, a native of Namur, Belgium, and a French teacher at the LSU Laboratory School in Baton Rouge, wrote a letter to the editor of her hometown newspaper in Belgium, describing the storm and its effects on Baton Rouge. Noting that media reports focused mainly on New Orleans in their coverage of the storm, Christelle says, “I related the reality of Gustav from our Baton Rouge perspective.”

You can read Mrs. Thompson’s article online at http://www.actu24.be/article/regions/provincenamur/infosnam/une_namuroise_a_vu_passer_gustav/186820.aspx

LFLTA LOGO CONTEST

- Deadline: Postmarked by December 1, 2008
- Send entries to: Leanna Buckley Ouachita Parish High School 681 Hwy 594
Monroe, Louisiana. 71203
- Guidelines: The Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers' Association acronym (LFLTA) must appear on the logo. No copyrighted figures or symbols accepted. Each entry must be the original creation of a current foreign language student whose teacher is an LFLTA member. No group entries will be accepted. There will be a limit of three entries per school. The students name, grade, school, school address, and telephone number, teacher's full name, and email address must be written on an index card attached to the back of the logo. Submissions with incomplete information will not be considered.

Logos must be created on an 8½ X 11 sheet of white paper, nothing three dimensional please. Use of crayons, paint, pencils, markers, or computer graphics only. Please mail all entries in a large brown envelope, do not fold your entries.

Judging Criteria: Does LFLTA appear on the logo? Does the logo symbolize world languages in Louisiana? Is it simple enough to be reduced down on to letter head and still look the same?

By submitting your logos for this contest you acknowledge that all logos will become the property of LFLTA archives and may be used on the LFLTA website and names of participants will be published in the Communicator. All participants will receive a certificate. The winner will receive a \$50.00 cash prize.

The National Museum of Language

Executive Office Building
7100 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 202
College Park, Maryland 20740



www.languagemuseum.org
(301) 864-7071
info@languagemuseum.org

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International Flag of Language Design Contest Press Release – October 1, 2008

There are flags for everything, it seems — but not for languages.

The National Museum of Language (NML), a small museum that explores the transformative powers of language, opened to the public this May after more than ten years in the making. A trailblazer in the field - there are only a few museums in the world with a similar focus - the Museum examines the history, impact and art of language.

As a trailblazer in the field, it is only fitting that the NML take on the task of creating what it believes is the world's first language flag, the International Flag of Language (IFL). The NML is sponsoring a contest to design the IFL. This contest and the flag itself are the NML's contribution to commemorate UNESCO's International Year of Languages. Experts from language and vexillology have been selected to administer the contest and to select the winning entry. The contest rules are posted at <http://languagemuseum.org/flag>. The contest runs from September 2 through November 28 and the winning entry will be announced before the end of the International Year of Languages in February, 2009.

The NML is open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM; first and third Sundays, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Its current exhibit, "Writing Language: Passing It On," shows how writing has developed over time. Attention is given to alphabetic and pictographic writing systems. For younger visitors, a hands-on activity room allows them to play a language game, practice calligraphy, see technological presentations, and touch artifacts.

For information on the flag contest, please see <http://languagemuseum.org/flag>. For information on the museum itself, contact the NML President, Dr. Amelia C. Murdoch, acmurdoch@languagemuseum.org.

“MY SPANISH CLASSROOM” CONTEST

ORGANIZED BY:

- The Spanish Resource Center LSU - Education Office of Spain
- Responsible person:
Antonio Matarredona.
Spanish Resource Center
308 Peabody Hall, LSU
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Ph- 225-578-5039
Fax - 225-578-8821
antonio.matarredona@mepsyd.es

CO-SPONSORED BY:

- The Office of Education of Spain – Embassy of Spain.
- *Universal* publishing company, Miami, www.ediciones.com .

OBJECTIVES

- Motivate teachers of Spanish to decorate their Spanish classrooms in an attractive way for their students.
- Foster the knowledge of Spanish and Latin American culture in a visual and attractive way.
- Increase Principals’ awareness of the work of their Spanish teachers.
- Make the teachers’ work more visible.
- Make the Spanish Resource Center at LSU better known among teachers of Spanish in Louisiana.

TARGET

- Teachers of Spanish in the State of Louisiana, both in immersion and in Spanish as a second language programs, and their schools.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Teachers will be allowed to send a maximum of 4 digitized photographs of their classrooms to the following address:
cer.batonrouge@mepsyd.es.
2. The attached completed entry form must be sent together with the photographs.

3. The photographs will show the classroom's decoration with signs, boards, maps, etc. in Spanish, with references to the Spanish and Latin American cultures, the Spanish Resource Center, etc. .
4. Photographs containing students cannot be sent, unless written permission of all the parents has been granted.
5. The deadline for sending the photographs will be 21 November 2008 by midnight.
6. The photographs will be uploaded on the Spanish resource Center's website: www.spanishresourcecenter.lsu.edu.
7. A jury, composed by representatives of the Office of Education of Spain and the Louisiana Department of Education, as well as *Universal Ediciones*, will select among the classrooms the best decorated one and the second best decorated one, according to the criteria stated in point 4 of this section .

PRIZES

1. A first prize will be awarded, consisting of a teaching materials pack for the school, worth \$ 120, and another teaching materials pack worth the same amount for the teacher.
2. A second prize will be awarded, consisting of a teaching materials pack for the school, worth \$ 80, and another teaching materials pack worth the same amount for the teacher.
3. The teacher responsible for each of the winning classrooms will receive a diploma from the Office of Education of Spain.
4. The photographs of the winning classrooms will be granted a prominent place in the Resource Center's website and will be included in the Office Of Education's news bulletin.
5. The contest cannot be declared "not awarded" if photographs of a minimum of 5 classrooms are received.

Baton Rouge, 1 October 2008