

The Communicator

Newsletter of the
Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers' Association

August/September 2008

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Logo Contest

LFLTA needs a new logo! Contest details to be announced soon. As you are thinking of ideas, remember that the design, to represent LFLTA and our state, will need to be simple enough to be reproducible in many sizes, and must have the letters "LFLTA."

From the President

Greetings!

My name is Maria Blanca Wortham, and I will serve as your LFLTA president for the next two years. Anita Greenwood is our vice-president and director of the 2009 and 2010 conferences. I would like to take this opportunity to thank former board member Camille Meehan who served for many years as secretary of LFLTA. We also welcome new board members: Mary McGehee, editor of the newsletter, *The Communicator*; and Jennifer Sharer, secretary and area representative from Baton Rouge; Christine Griffin, elementary representative from Shreveport; and Patrice Niquille, area representative from Baton Rouge.

Your Board is already hard at work. This first edition of your revived newsletter is proof, and we appreciate Mary McGehee for accepting this assignment.

In June, the Board met in a two-day retreat in Alexandria. A major focus was to initiate plans for the annual conference which will be held in Alexandria on February 27-28, 2009. The theme is Advocacy, and the keynote speaker and workshop leader will be Dr. Audrey Heining-Boynton, former president of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. You should also check out the LFLTA webpage at <http://ulm.edu/languages/LFLTAm.html>, and consider submitting a proposal to make a presentation at the conference or applying for a mini-grant to help fund your projects.

Several new initiatives also came from the retreat:

1. The Board organized itself into work teams: Advocacy and Consultation, Mission, By-laws and (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.

When I give daily speaking grades, I give all students in the class a chart with the name of every student in the class. Then, while each individual speaks and I assess their competence in speaking, the rest of the class is responsible for recording on their charts certain information from the oral presentations.

In this way, all students are engaged, and I can assess listening comprehension as well as speaking competence.

Submitted by:
Leanna Buckley

Make Plans Now to attend the annual conference in Alexandria on February 27 -28, 2009.

(continued from Page 1)

Constitution, Objectives and Logo, Newsletter, Website, Email tree, Scholarships, Grant Opportunities and Job Listings.

2. The Board formed an Advocacy Team to address issues and to help keep the Board and the organization's membership up-to-date on issues affecting foreign language education.
3. A planned update of the website was begun.
4. A mission statement was written, and the first steps in designing a logo were taken.
5. The development of an email tree was started. You can aid in this by sending your name, city, and e-mail address to Mary McGehee (marymcgehe@aol.com).
6. A list of area volunteers was created. If you are interested in helping with regional meetings or learning more about LFLTA, please contact one of your regional representatives or me (Wortham@ULM.edu).

We are excited about our work and hope that you will share your thoughts and suggestions with us. We may teach different languages and different groups of learners, but we are united by our love of language and culture. We all need to work together to enhance everyone's success.

Maria Blanca Wortham
President, LFLTA

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>.

Nicole Boudreaux, Peggy Feehan, Terri Hammatt, Fabienne Basiolo and many other Louisianans will be presenting at the CARLA conference on Immersion Education: Pathways to Bilingualism and Beyond, in St. Paul, MN (Oct. 16-18). For more information, see <http://www.carla.umn.edu/conferences/index.html>.

Announcing the LFLTA Spring Conference

Top Ten Reasons for going to the LFLTA Conference in Alexandria, February 27 and 28, 2009.

1. To see friends you've met at previous LFLTA conferences.
 2. To meet new friends.
 3. To be with people who understand what it means to teach a foreign language.
 4. To remember why you're a foreign language teacher.
 5. To get new ideas, recharge...get more excited about teaching.
 6. To hear a phenomenal key presenter—Dr. Audrey Heining-Boynton.
 7. To hear fellow teachers present ideas you can use in your classroom.
 8. To present your own ideas to other teachers.
 9. To find out what is going on in our state government concerning foreign languages.
 10. To learn how to become an advocate of learning foreign languages.
- AND.....
11. To become a part of this growing, dynamic and fun organization.

Well, that's eleven reasons, and I could keep on going. Great things are happening within LFLTA and I believe you will want to be a part of it.

For many reasons, in many parishes (and districts throughout the nation) the study of foreign languages is being pushed to the sidelines, making our jobs more difficult and even jeopardizing our job security. The best remedy for this situation is to let our administrators and legislators know how necessary and beneficial learning foreign languages is to our students AND to let them see what an energetic and motivated group of teachers we are. We are a wonderful asset to the Louisiana Education System.

LFLTA will play a key role in making sure this happens, but that means we need to see a lot of growth this year, in membership, leadership, fellowship, and unity. How can you do help? How can you take part?

1. If you haven't joined LFLTA, go on-line and join.
<http://ulm.edu/languages/LFLTAm.html>
2. You can register for the conference at the same time.
3. Get fellow teachers from your area to come to the conference with you. Be a Leader!
4. Speak up! Present your ideas at the conference—either during our round-table discussions, or as a standing presenter. Presenter applications are also on the website.
5. Help out at the conference or in organizing in your area. Email LFLTA President Maria Blanca Wortham to say that you're willing to help. (wortham@ulm.edu)

Don't miss out on all the excitement. See you in February!

Anita Greenwood

Vice-President and Program Chair

**Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers'
Association
Conference 2009**

**Theme: Advocacy—Speaking out for
Foreign Language Education**

*Dr. Audrey Heining-Boynton
Former president of ACTFL
Keynote Speaker and Workshop Leader*

**February 27 – 28
At the Best Western Hotel and Conference
Center in Alexandria**

**Presenter and Exhibitor applications,
Conference Registration and Hotel Information
at LFLTA website**

<http://ulm.edu/languages/LFLTAm.html>

LFLTA Forms Advocacy Team

The Executive Board of LFLTA conducted a retreat in June to discuss a number of issues regarding the organization. One of the major conclusions was that, as the principal agency representing foreign languages in the state, LFLTA has a responsibility to keep up with potential challenges facing all language teachers and the profession. Advocacy was chosen as the theme for the 2009 conference, and the Board asked Dr. Ruth E. Smith, Head of the Foreign Language Department at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, to form a team to study issues and to provide information for the President and the Board of LFLTA so that they may assert a stronger influence on state policy decision. An additional goal of the Team will be to identify state leaders who understand the importance of supporting foreign language programs and of making language education a major priority for the state. Initial topics to be addressed include the potential change in TOPS, the new changes in the LA Core, the preparation of language teachers, and support for the current mandates for language instruction. Invitations have been sent to educators from throughout the state to participate on the Team. Dr. Carlos Fandal and Dr. Ruth E. Smith, professors of Foreign Languages at ULM, Dr. Lucia Harrison, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages at Southeastern, Dr. Dianne Douglas, retired professor of Spanish at Louisiana Tech, and Mary McGehee, retired French teacher from the LSU Lab School, have joined the Team. Teachers from throughout the state who have ideas, concerns, and/or suggestions of names of supporters of foreign language education should send the information to Dr. Smith, rusmith@ulm.edu.

News From Around The State

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

Northeast Regional LFLTA Gathering

Foreign language teachers in the northeastern region of the state attended a back-to-school gathering sponsored by the University of Louisiana at Monroe and LFLTA. The faculty at ULM organized the event so that teachers could reacquaint themselves with their colleagues and meet new teachers who have joined the local school systems. Maria Blanca Wortham, President of LFLTA and a Spanish instructor at ULM, and Anita Greenwood, Vice-president LFLTA and a French teacher at Ruston High School were the hostesses. They outlined plans for the 2009 conference in Alexandria and gathered ideas and possible activities for the event from the teachers. One goal of the party was to involve teachers in LFLTA's projects. Teachers were encouraged to apply for available scholarships and grants and to consider making presentations of successful classroom activities at the conference. An additional goal was to explain the resources available at ULM and to encourage partnerships in efforts to develop foreign language education in the northeast region. However, the major reason for the party was to enjoy the fellowship of other foreign language teachers, share ideas, and relax before the academic year got underway and

everyone became very busy. Thanks to a good turnout and good food, these goals were met.

ULM Foreign Language Faculty Conduct In-Service for Monroe City Foreign Language Teachers

On August 14, four members of the Foreign Language faculty at ULM conducted a two-hour workshop for Monroe City teachers. The in-service was the result of an invitation from Monroe City Schools. Teachers from Carroll High School, Carroll Junior High, Wossman, and Neville participated. Dr. Charles Holloway, professor of Spanish, and Dr. Fred Adams, assistant professor of French, made presentations. Dr. Holloway previewed various methods that have had an influence on foreign language teaching over the past several decades and discussed some types of activities associated with these. He then mentioned ways in which some aspects of these methods might be incorporated into the modern foreign language classroom in an approach which has been described as “informed eclecticism.” Dr. Fred Adams who is teaching a French course on-line for ULM, introduced his course and demonstrated the types of activities and teaching tools that can be constructed for an internet course. Some of the activities are adaptable to a regular classroom, too, and can be used to enhance in-class work. Maria Blanca Wortham, instructor of Spanish brought information to the teachers about LFLTA and upcoming workshops in Baton Rouge. Dr. Ruth E. Smith, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages at ULM, discussed a recent article in ACTFL Annals highlighting the results of studies indicating improved performance on the SAT by students who had studied languages. The Monroe City system’s theme for this year’s in-service was Literacy, and by briefly reviewing the types of questions and testing approaches on the SAT, Dr. Smith demonstrated what language teachers have always known—students of languages are better prepared to do well on the items on reading comprehension and critical thinking, both of which are key components of literacy.

Baton Rouge to Host Workshops for All K-12 World Language Teachers, September 11 and September 12, 2008.

The Louisiana Department of Education is hosting a one-day workshop for French teachers (K-12) on September 11, 2008, and a one-day workshop for Spanish teachers (K-12) on September 12, 2008. 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.

In addition, a special all-day training institute (on September 11 for French teachers, and on September 12 for Spanish teachers) will be offered regarding the use of the LinguaFolio as an ongoing, formative assessment. Teachers will gain hands-on experiences developing classroom activities for connecting daily instruction to LinguaFolio assessment. Teachers

of other modern languages, such as German, Russian, Arabic, etc., are welcome to register for either day. Space is limited for these institutes.

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 application forms.

LFLTA is offering two mini-grants of up to \$500.00 to teachers who are members of LFLTA. **Note: The deadline for grant proposal submissions is November 3, 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.**

From: "Susan Navey-Davis" <navey@social.chass.ncsu.edu>
Subject: SCOLT Scholarship Information

Greetings from your SCOLT Scholarship Director!

The Southern Conference on Language Teaching is proud to offer scholarships for outstanding programs in a variety of countries. I will very much appreciate your sharing the information below with your membership. It can also be found at <http://scolt.webnode.com/scholarships/>. Deadline for applications is November 1, 2008.

Thank you very much for your support.

Best wishes for an outstanding academic year. We hope to see you at the SCOLT conference in Atlanta March 5-7, 2009!

Sincerely,

Susan Navey-Davis

Estudio Sempere: This scholarship is available to teachers of Spanish K-16; it provides three weeks of study in Spain or Ecuador. It includes tuition, room, and board in one of several locations in Spain or in Cuenca, Ecuador. The scholarship does not include transportation to or transfer within Spain or Ecuador.

The Cemanahuac Educational Community: This scholarship, available to teachers of Spanish in levels K-12, provides two weeks at Cemanahuac Educational Community in Cuernavaca, Mexico, including registration, tuition, housing with a Mexican family (double room) for two weeks, all meals, a field-study trip, and a certificate of attendance. The scholarship does not include transportation to Mexico City or transfers to Cuernavaca from Mexico City airport.

The Embassy of Spain: This scholarship, sponsored by the Embassy of Spain for three weeks of study in Spain, is available to secondary teachers of Spanish. It includes registration, tuition, and housing in one of several locations in Spain. The scholarship does not include transportation to Spain or transfers within the country.

Centro MundoLengua: This scholarship is available to teachers of Spanish in levels K-12. It provides tuition for a 2-week course, room, board, and materials. The course for the teachers is in Sevilla, an AP summer institute endorsed by the College Board (renewal credits offered free and graduate credits available for an additional cost). The scholarship does not include transportation to Spain or transfers to Sevilla.

The Goethe Institut and AATG: This scholarship for German teachers pre-K through university includes registration and tuition at a Goethe Institut in Germany, housing, with breakfast and one meal daily on seminar days for three or four weeks, depending on the seminar chosen, and some specific field trips.

The Cultural Services of the French Embassy: These scholarships, available to French teachers in levels K-12, provide three weeks of study during July in France. They include registration, tuition and a certificate of attendance, and an allotment for lodging, meals, and expenses while in France, including transfer from the airport to the study site. They do not include transportation to France.

REQUIREMENTS:

Reside in a SCOLT region state (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV, US Virgin Islands).

Teach two or more classes of the specific language.

Register for and attend the 2009 SCOLT Conference to accept the award in person as our guest at the Awards Luncheon.

Be able to take advantage of the schooling available in 2009.

Be a participant in professional organizations such as SCOLT, local state world language associations, ACTFL, specific language associations, etc.

Present a session relating to the travel study experience at the 2010 SCOLT conference (registration fee waived).

APPLICATION POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 1, 2008: Application information is available on-line and in the fall SCOLTalk. Completed applications must include three copies of each of the following:

The completed application form available in the fall SCOLTalk or, [click here to download](#).

One-page biographical profile (education, memberships/activities including SCOLT, honors)

One-page statement in English detailing benefits of the award to the applicant and students

One-page statement in the target language describing teaching philosophy

Two one-page letters of recommendation (any combination of principal, supervisor, department chair, colleagues, students/former students)

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

Useful Web Addresses

SCOLT <http://scolt.webnode.com>

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>

American Council on the Teaching
of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)

<http://www.actfl.org>

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

<http://languagepolicy.org>

Spanish Resource Centre / Centro de Recursos de Español

▶ **A comprehensive Spanish library in two locations:**

336 Hodges (Hispanic Studies) – open Mon-Fri 1-3pm

- Spanish Literature and Culture
- TV Series – Movies on DVD & VHS – Music
- *Isleño* culture.

307 Peabody - open Mon-Fri 9am - 4:30pm

- Spanish Textbooks and Grammars
- Dictionaries and Encyclopedias
- Methodology and Curriculum
- Children and juvenile books in Spanish
- Graded readers in Spanish.
- Teaching materials and resources
- Magazines and journals
- Audiovisual materials
- Tourist information about Spain

All materials available for students and teachers of Spanish to borrow.

▶ **Information about grants and exchange programs**

- Assistant teachers in Spain
 - Summer courses in Spain, etc.

▶ **Cultural activities**

- Film series
 - Lectures

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