

# **UFLA** **UTAH FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION**

**Keith Vaught  
President**

**WINTER NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2004**

**Bev Burdett / Shauna Winegar  
Editors**

## **President's Message**



A big HELLO to the membership at large! It's incredible that we are halfway through the traditional school year! The 2003 UFLA Conference was great, wasn't it? We are already making preparations for the 2004 Conference. As an executive board we have decided on a contemporary theme, Connections: Real World Languages. Our desire is to tie in a key component of the five C's to the imperative that our children gain a broad understanding of the world's peoples, languages, cultures, history, and geography.

As U.S. Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, recently affirmed, "Our future, and the future of our children, is inextricably linked to the complex challenges of the global community." The way I see it, we, as educators of the upcoming generation, must engage our children's thinking about global issues and encourage a long-term commitment to the welfare of the international community.

Secretary of State, Colin Powell, has said, "To solve most of the major problems facing our country today - from wiping out terrorism to minimizing global environmental problems to eliminating the

scourge of AIDS - will require every young person to learn more about other regions, cultures, and languages."

Echoing this thought, Stephanie Bell-Rose, President of the Goldman Sachs Foundation has stated: "If young Americans are to take on challenging leadership roles in the future and help the United States maintain its competitive edge, they must have not only an education well grounded in the technology of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, but also a deep understanding of other cultures, geography, history, and languages. The world will demand it of them - we must demand it of our educational system."

Even though you and I, as world language teachers, recognize the long-term value and necessity of our curriculum, it is an uphill battle. We must become more effective in breaking down stereotypes and edifying the public concerning international education. Ambassador Nicholas Platt, President of the Asia Society, points out, "Americans assume that the world speaks English. But we need an effective pipeline in the major world languages to meet our international security needs, for effective partnership with our allies, and for homeland security, where police, public health and law enforcement officials will all need to deal with many different language groups."

Finally, a quote from Richard C. Holbrooke, former U.S. Ambassador and Chairman of the Asia Society, further underscores the call to teach to a higher standard: "International knowledge and skills are no longer a luxury for a small number of diplomats and business leaders; they are a necessity for every serious American."

*President's Message, cont. from pg.1*

I love the sentiment of these leaders. We should take their words to heart and better educate the public regarding international education opportunities. You may wish to read what other schools and educators are doing to promote world language learning by visiting the website for the Goldman Sachs Foundation at [www.internationaled.org](http://www.internationaled.org) and viewing their 2003 prize winners for Excellence in International Education. Also, you may consider purchasing the video "Putting the World into World-Class Education" available at the same website. This video has been designed to generate dialogue within school boards, legislative groups, business groups, and community councils on the growing economic and educational importance of international knowledge and skills.

Now, I have two specific items for the UFLA membership to consider and act upon in the new year: (1) The Year of Languages; and (2) personal involvement in your AAT organizations.

First, how many of you are aware of a proclamation designating the years 2004 and 2005 as "Years of Foreign Language Study," introduced in June 2003 by U.S. Senators Chris Dodd (D-CT) and Thad Cochran (R-MS)? There is an excellent feature article under *Language Link* Online Newsletter at [www.cal.org](http://www.cal.org), the Center for Applied Linguistics website. In the article, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages is quoted as stating the primary goal of the Year of Languages in the United States is to "advance the concept that every American should develop

proficiency in both English and another language."

Some of the possible events suggested in the CAL article are "cultural fairs, student language and cultural contests, and community service activities highlighting the use of student language skills."

With my own advanced students we brainstormed some additional ideas: international culture classes; seminars; exhibits; exchanges (e-mail or study abroad programs); lectures; concerts; holiday festivals; adoption of a foreign class, school, or city; sponsoring radio or television programs; donating to your local library's international collection; or fundraising to benefit a particular Third World group, such as orphans or financially disadvantaged school children.

Today my high school counselor came by and added to the list. She suggested that we make a multilingual booklet which would answer common questions and concerns for newly arrived foreign students.

Wonderful ideas! Please feel free to add to my list or just drop a line to tell me what you are doing. My school e-mail address is [kvaught@dsdmail.net](mailto:kvaught@dsdmail.net).

Of course, I think teachers are the best people in the world because we care and we live to make a difference every day. In my experience, world language teachers in particular are quite open and accepting of other cultures. We have the potential to connect with children that no one else can reach because of our innate caring and

*President's Message, cont. from pg.2*

willingness and ability to communicate. I find that we are frequently the unsung helpers in our school communities, translating documents and interpreting for counselors or administrators in their dealings with foreign students and their parents.

On a final note, be aware that there are various language-specific organizations within the UFLA: the AATSP or American Association for Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, the AATF for French teachers, the AATG for German teachers, the ASLTA for American Sign Language teachers, FLES for Elementary educators, IAJLT for Japanese teachers. These are your organizations, designed to allow teachers to have enrichment experiences such as language immersion weekends or other cultural activities. However, for these organizations to function properly we need UFLA members to take an active role. Contact your president, make recommendations, provide feedback, and offer your support.

In closing, I must say that it has been a great pleasure to work with the Executive Board over the last couple of years and get to know so many of the great world-class, world language educators throughout my school district and the state. I highly recommend that you get involved with your local school districts and communities in The Year of Languages. Make your voice be heard and love your students. Their growth and achievements will far outshine any monetary reward or recognition that you and I could attain as educators. Think BIG PICTURE in education - because we truly create what we believe - and pause daily to savor the process.

*Keith Vaught*-UFLA President

## Quench the Fire - With Cash!

As a language teacher, I have often gotten "burned up" when I see the government handing out cash to teachers in other curricular areas. UFLA has a way to help put out that annoying fire.

Did you know that your membership in UFLA qualifies you to apply for several awards and grants? Each year UFLA gives three "Vitality Awards," one "Pat Buckner Collaboration in Teaching Award" (to two or more teachers,) and the "Foreign Language Teacher of the Year Award." Some years these awards remain unclaimed due to a lack of applications. We have the money in the bank and want to give it to you! For more information on how to apply, go to the UFLA website at <http://organizations.weber.edu/ufla> and click on "Awards and Grants."

This year's "Teacher of the Year Award" is discussed in an accompanying article. Winners of the other 2003 awards will be announced in the Spring newsletter.

If you have colleagues who have not yet joined UFLA, but who are interested in these awards, let them know that they can still join the association. Membership is valid from November to November. Dues are \$15.00 and can be mailed to James Schindler, UFLA Exec. Sec., USOE, 250 E. 500 S., P.O. Box 144200, SLC, UT 84114-4200.



**Go For it!**



UFLA  
TEACHER  
OF THE YEAR

## Jana Brinton

The Utah Foreign Language Association is proud to announce that Jana Brinton of Bingham High School, has been named the 2003 Foreign Language Teacher of the Year!

Jana has been teaching French for "decades," and continues to excel in her teaching and hone her skills. She is the leader of the Jordan French Teacher's Networking Group, advisor to the French club, and long-standing committee member for the Jordan Foreign Language Festival. She has traveled with students to France, consistently been involved in the UFLA, and recently won the Pat Buckner Collaborative Teaching Award.

Beyond all of that, Jana's devotion to her profession and to her students was shown through the admiring letters of nomination presented by her colleagues and her students. Many of the Bingham High School Sterling Scholars nominated her as their most influential teacher.

We regret that we were unable to present Jana to the membership during our annual conference in November, and hope that all who come in contact with her will congratulate her for her fine work and her contributions to our profession. She will be receiving a beautiful plaque and a check for \$500.00. Congratulations Jana Brinton!

## Best of UFLA

Congratulations to **Richard Tate** whose presentation, "Pasaporte: A Model for Year-End Oral Testing that Begins on the First Day of School" was named "Best of UFLA" at the November conference. Richard currently teaches at Churchill Junior High (Granite District) and just recently completed his term as President of the Utah AATSP Chapter.

Richard will take his presentation to Albuquerque in March to represent UFLA at the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching. To help defray expenses, Richard will also receive a check for \$500.00 from UFLA.

**Way to go, Richard!**

## Chile Tres !

Languages, Literacy, Leadership

**SWCOLT/NMOLE  
Joint Conference**

March 25-27, 2004  
Hyatt Regency Downtown  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Contact:  
Audrey Cournia, Exec. Dir.  
1348 Coachman Dr.  
Sparks, NV 89434  
[www.learnalanguage.org/swcolt](http://www.learnalanguage.org/swcolt)  
ph: (775) 358-6943  
fax: (775) 358-1605  
[CourniaAudrey@cs.com](mailto:CourniaAudrey@cs.com)





## TECHNOLOGY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

By Richard Culatta

It is exciting to be able to teach at a time when so many technological resources are within our reach so much more easily than ever before. More materials are available on the internet than anywhere else in the world. In fact, the problem is no longer being able to find materials on the internet, but sorting through all of the materials to find the best ones. For this reason I am constantly being asked for recommendations for the most useful sites on the internet. I find myself often repeating the same ones over and over again. For this reason I've decided to share a few of them with you. I hope you will find some useful information and materials on these sites. If you have found some online resources that are valuable for language teachers, please send them to me as well. Happy surfing!

### Google Image Search - [images.google.com](http://images.google.com)

One of the most useful resources for language teachers is a collection of pictures. While there are many clip art sites online, the free ones have more ads than images and the pay ones (even the good ones like [www.clipart.com](http://www.clipart.com)) can be expensive. The good news is that Google has an enormous image collection that can be accessed for free. Remember if you want to download an image just press option and click the image (or right-click if you use Windows), and save the image to your computer.

### Rubistar - [rubistar.4teachers.org](http://rubistar.4teachers.org)

Good rubrics are important for fair grading and maintaining high student expectations. Rubistar has a great

rubric maker that allows teachers to create their rubrics online for any activity.

### MERLOT - [www.merlot.org](http://www.merlot.org)

While Google's image search is a great way to find pictures, MERLOT is a great way to search for instructional activities. Since the items in MERLOT are user rated it is easy to find the best materials quickly.

*Richard Culatta is a certified Spanish/ESL teacher currently working as a Technology Integration Instructor at BYU. Feel free to contact him at [culatta@byu.edu](mailto:culatta@byu.edu)*

## Volunteers Needed

If you expressed concerns about the last conference, or have ideas for improvement, now is your chance to help make the 2004 conference the best one ever!

Please contact UFLA president, Keith Vaught, at [kvaught@dsdmail.net](mailto:kvaught@dsdmail.net), if you would be willing to serve on one of the committees for this year's conference. We need people to work on the following committees: facilities, proposals, food, exhibitors, evaluations, student interns, reception desk, registration, and registration packets.

We also need suggestions for our keynote speaker. If you know of someone, whether local or out-of-state, who is knowledgeable on the subject of our theme, "Connections: Real World Languages," please let Keith know. We do pay a stipend to the keynote speaker.

Suggestions for exhibitors to invite to the conference are also welcome. Let us know if there is a company which you would like to have come and share their materials with us.

Many hands make light work. Get involved today!

## Yes, They Can Whistle!

The 2003 UFLA conference, held November 5 at Weber State University, proved that, in Utah, our language students can indeed perform! Our teachers are doing an outstanding job of teaching communication, one of the “5 Cs” of foreign language learning. Participants at the conference were able to choose from a total of 26 sessions covering topics such as writing, technology, classroom activities, affect, culture, community outreach, Sterling Scholars, oral proficiency evaluation, and professional development.

Our keynote speaker, Blaine Ray, captivated the lunch crowd from start to finish. Hearing how desperation led to inspiration and an amazing reputation for success infused a spirit of encouragement in all those who were present. (For more information on TPRS, the Tennessee Experiment, and future workshops, go to Mr. Ray’s website at <http://www.blaineraytprs.com>.)

Evaluators of the conference used comments such as “good boost,” “new ideas,” “inspirations,” “excellent,” and “great information.” The overall conference received a 97% approval rating. Hats off to all who worked on the committees, and especially to Cheryl Hansen of Weber State who did the lion’s share of the work.

Many wonderful suggestions were also given by participants for ways to make future conferences even better. If you would like to help in implementing these suggestions, or would like to offer some of your own, please see our related article, “Volunteers Needed” (found on page 5).

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**CONNECTIONS: REAL WORLD LANGUAGES**

**UFLA CONFERENCE 2004**

**Thursday, November 4, 2004  
Weber State University**

Believe it or not, it is already time to start planning for this year's conference! Our theme, “Connections: Real World Languages,” centers around the idea of helping students realize the many ways that the languages they are learning can be useful both now and in their futures, outside of the classroom. We are hoping that you will share ways that you help your students practice and feel comfortable with using their newly-gained language skills across the curriculum and in their daily lives.

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find a proposal form to submit if you would be willing to present a session concerning this or related themes. Other than our keynote speaker, we do not bring in outside presenters. We have excellent teachers right here in our midst, and we need a minimum of four of them from each language to share their ideas at the conference.

Meanwhile, put the date on your calendar now, and start arranging for substitutes! (Remember - presenters still need to register for the conference.)

### BYU SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR SPANISH TEACHERS - 2004 - IN SPAIN

Continuing its tradition of over 35 years, the BYU Department of Spanish and Portuguese will offer a Summer Institute for Spanish teachers during the Summer Term of 2004.

The objectives of the Institute are to help teachers who are actively teaching or preparing to teach Spanish in the public schools in the following ways: increase their effectiveness as teachers; improve their personal command of the language; become acquainted with new techniques, technology, and materials; increase their understanding of Hispanic culture and methods of teaching it; and establish life-long professional relationships.

Participants will take 9 hours of credit (all of which may be applied to work toward a master's degree, licensure points, salary increases, career ladders, etc.).

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Program begins 14 June, 2004 and ends 23 July, 2004.  
(BYU on-campus work 14 June-18 June; Spain 21 June-23 July)

#### Costs

Tuition: \$995 for LDS members,  
\$1492 for non LDS members.

Travel and living in Spain: \$2500-\$2800 estimated.

Airfare round trip to Spain: Responsibility of individuals, but usually costs between \$900 and \$1200.

We will assist in setting up a group flight for those who wish to fly together.

(Scholarships will be available to offset a major portion of these costs through the Utah State Office of Education and your individual school districts; application for those grants will be your responsibility, but we will be able to assist you in making those applications.)

**Courses** (Students will select 9 hours from the following courses):

Spanish 577 Teaching procedures (3 semester hours)  
Spanish 674 Teaching Hispanic culture (3 semester hours)  
Spanish 679R Seminar in Teaching Spanish (3)  
Spanish 680R Directed Research in Spanish (3)

#### Staff

Baldomero Lago, Instructor of Spanish, Honorary Consul of Spain;  
R. Alan Meredith, Assoc. Prof. of Spanish;  
Native Spanish-speaking assistants;

and special presentations by selected BYU faculty members and invited guest experts.

#### FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES

Personalized instruction and interaction with BYU Spanish Department faculty and outstanding professors from Spain. Intensive Spanish practice with fellow participants, BYU faculty, and native speakers of Spanish..

Invited speakers from other institutions who are experts in language teaching, travel, "home stay," and cultural research in Spain. Use of BYU's language laboratories, including computers, videodisc materials, etc.

Evening cultural programs with lectures and presentations by invited guest speakers. Evening cinema program with full-length movies in Spanish, social activities, such as "tertulias," "sing-alongs," and game nights.

Significant progress toward an advanced degree at BYU (requires separate application and acceptance to Graduate School)

#### For more information contact:

Professor Baldomero Lago  
Brigham Young University  
Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese  
4079A JKHB  
Provo, UT 84602  
(801) 422-3455  
E-mail: b.lago@byu.edu  
Or visit:

<http://spanport.byu.edu/spanteach/summer/indexsum.html>



Check out this website for other summer program opportunities:

[http://www.cord.edu/dept/clv/general/teach\\_sem.html](http://www.cord.edu/dept/clv/general/teach_sem.html)

PROPOSAL FORM FOR THE 2004 UFLA CONFERENCE

THEME: "Connections: Real World Languages"

Thursday, November 4, 2004 – Weber State University

**Submission deadline: Wednesday, September 15, 2004 (postmarked)**

*(Please remember: All presenters must register for the conference and pay all registration fees)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evening phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Send proposals to:  
James Schindler  
UFLA Executive Secretary  
Utah State Office of Ed.  
250 East 500 South  
P.O. Box 144200  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200

Will you have co-presenters? If so, please list:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the most appropriate target audience(s) for your presentation:

\_\_\_ Elementary      \_\_\_ Middle/Jr. High      \_\_\_ High School  
\_\_\_ College/Univ      \_\_\_ Admin/Supv      \_\_\_ All

Please specify which will be the main language used by the presenters in the presentation and on handouts:

\_\_\_ ASL                      \_\_\_ Chinese                      \_\_\_ French  
\_\_\_ German                      \_\_\_ Italian                      \_\_\_ Japanese  
\_\_\_ Russian                      \_\_\_ Spanish                      \_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify the language(s) for which this session will be most applicable:

\_\_\_ ASL                      \_\_\_ Chinese                      \_\_\_ French  
\_\_\_ German                      \_\_\_ Italian                      \_\_\_ Japanese  
\_\_\_ Russian                      \_\_\_ Spanish                      \_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Applicable to all languages

Please indicate the most applicable category for your presentation:

\_\_\_ Assessment                      \_\_\_ Culture                      \_\_\_ Curriculum  
\_\_\_ Learner Variables                      \_\_\_ Literature                      \_\_\_ Materials  
\_\_\_ Methods/Techniques                      \_\_\_ Policy/Issues                      \_\_\_ Professional Development  
\_\_\_ Research                      \_\_\_ Technology                      \_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the audio-visual equipment you will need for your presentation.

\_\_\_ Overhead projector                      \_\_\_ Chalk/White board                      \_\_\_ Cassette player  
\_\_\_ CD player                      \_\_\_ TV/VCR/DVD combo                      \_\_\_ LCD

Please note: Computers, lap-tops, and computer programs are not available. Presenters will need to supply their own. All rooms are wired for Internet. All presenters will also be responsible for printing any handouts given at the session.



Please create a title for your presentation, approximately 15 words long:

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Please write a short description of your presentation (approximately 75 words,) as you would like it written in the program (***presentations will be 45 minutes long***):

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Please describe in detail in the space below: (1) the content of the presentation, (2) the method of presentation, and (3) the benefits to the participants. Please type in English.

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# UFLA Executive Board Members

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Please send all submissions and comments to:

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