

**Jeff Stokes**  
President

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**Bev Burdett / Shauna Winegar**  
Co-Editors



## From the President

### **Greetings!**

I hope 2005 brings with it a renewed sense of purpose and satisfaction for all members of UFLA.

### **2005 UFLA Conference Theme and Location**

We have decided on a theme for next November's UFLA Conference to go along with ACTFL's current Year of Languages: Celebrating Languages and Looking Ahead. We hope all UFLA members will consider preparing a presentation for this year's conference, which is projected to take place on the UVSC campus. A call for proposals form will follow in the spring Newsletter.

### **2004 Teacher of the Year**

For those of you who missed this past November's Conference, Aileen Avilés of West High School was named as Utah Foreign Language Teacher of the Year. We are very proud of Aileen's accomplishments. In addition, we also recognized and expressed our pride in Jana Brinton, who was 2003 Teacher of the Year, but who had not previously been recognized at a Conference. Both teachers had also been honored through articles published in the Deseret Morning News.

### **UFLA Best-of-Conference Presenters at SWCOLT**

We are also very proud of our best-of-conference presenters, who, as a result of this honor, will deliver their presentation at SWCOLT in Irving, Texas this April. Their presentation is titled "La Sal Connection: Where Salt Lake City and Salta, Argentina Unite"; presenters are Audra Kasparian, Harriet Rasband, Marcie Rasband and Jenna Metcalf of Murray High School.

### **Our Mission as Foreign Language Educators**

In a world in which even historical allies at times seem to be at odds and tragedies seem to overwhelm us, our job is more important than ever. In his book, *Teaching Culture*, H. Ned Seelye underscores the importance of what we do: "Two acute pressures inhibit the growth of global education—a wartime mentality and economic hard times. Since teachers cannot directly affect either, what can we do to help prepare students for the real world—a multicultural planet? The answer is obvious: we can implement a curriculum that enthusiastically acknowledges the polycultural setting of our species." Seelye also says that "understanding the way of life of at least one group of people socialized in another culture is important to survival in a world of conflicting value systems." May our efforts during the ACTFL Year of Languages bear the kinds of fruits that Seelye and the rest of us hope for.

-Jeff Stokes

# Annual Conference FAQs

*We appreciate all the time that conference attendees took to fill out the evaluation forms after the conference. The board takes those evaluations seriously in order to make improvements for future conferences. Many of you asked questions or made comments that we would like to answer and explain for you below.*

➤ **Why is the conference held on a school day?**

Past experience has shown that we have a much higher attendance rate for our conference if we hold it on a Wednesday or Thursday in the first week of November, than if we hold it during UEA, on a weekend, or on another non-school day. Most teachers are just like students, and cherish the non-school days as family and personal time. We try to publish the date early so that members can make arrangements far in advance for substitutes.

➤ **Why can't we start later in the day? end earlier?**

It's difficult to make everybody happy on this one. As seasoned conference attendees will tell you, it is important to plan for the whole day. Make other arrangements for your spouses, kids, pets, and sports teams, and make this a day for you. After all, if you were in the hospital they'd survive for one day without you, wouldn't they? In fact, some of us go up to the conference site the night before and stay at a hotel, in order to avoid morning traffic. (Three of us shared a room at the Ogden Marriott for this last conference and it only cost us \$18.00 each.) You can also plan to have dinner with colleagues after the conference in order to wait out the evening traffic. Many attendees use this time to share ideas they have gleaned from different sessions.

➤ **Why do we take time to have the plenary session?**

We are a non-profit organization and, as such, are required by law to hold a business meeting at least once a year, wherein we cover the financial status of the organization, elect officers, take care of organization business, and allow for input from the membership. We also use that time to honor award winners.

➤ **Why are the sessions so short? Why are the sessions so long?**

SWCOLT sessions are 75-minutes each and the conference day goes from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ACTFL sessions are also 75-minutes each and the conference day extends well into the evening. With our time schedule we are able to fit in four full sessions, of medium length, and still end the conference by 4:00. If members are willing to stay later, we can make the sessions longer.

➤ **Why can't we register/pay online?**

Your registration chair is somewhat technologically inept. If another member would like to volunteer to be registration chair and set up an online system that is accurate, secure, and free, we would be happy to use such services. Meanwhile, we do the best we can.

➤ **Why is the lunch so expensive?**

The cost of the lunch covers more than just the cost of the food. We have to pay for the banquet facilities, their set-up and clean-up, the servers, tips, and other such costs. We make the luncheon available so that members can socialize and network, and so that they don't have to go looking for food sources. Knowing, however, that the cost may be too much for some members, we still have chairs set up in the back of the banquet room so that all members can hear the keynote speaker. This is not usually the case at other conferences. Some conferences also raise the price of the lunch to help cover the cost of the full facilities.

➤ **Why did the ranch dressing on the salad taste strange?**

It wasn't ranch dressing. It was a special peppercorn dressing. Unfortunately, most people looked at it and expected it to be ranch, so their taste buds were shocked when it was something different. We'll probably stick with ranch or Italian in the future.

➤ **Why were there so few exhibitors?**

We had a mix-up in signing-up our exhibitors this year, which was compounded by the late scheduling of the UEA conference. Our past-president, Keith Vaught, is already working on exhibitors for next year, and we hope to include those who have wares other than textbooks to show and sell.

➤ **Why do we have a time set aside just for visits to the exhibitors?**

Many exhibitors won't come, otherwise. They pay us for the use of a table, and they go out of their way to join us. It is our responsibility to ensure that there will be time for all members to see the wares without cutting into session time. The exhibitors are set up at the beginning of the conference and stay until nearly the end, so those who want to skip sessions and spend more time there may do so.

➤ **Where did you get such a good keynote speaker? Why was the keynote speaker so bad?**

We were pleased to have the current ACTFL president as our keynote speaker. We were disappointed that he chose to read a speech which he had already presented at other venues and which was already printed in the SWCOLT bulletin. We will try to be more specific in the future in addressing our desires to our speakers.

➤ **Why aren't there more sessions for ESL? ASL? Latin? French? German? ...**

We do not hire outside presenters. This is true for all state, regional, and national conferences in our field. The presenters are you and your colleagues. We send out a call for proposals and hope that people from all areas will submit them. If your language is not well-represented in the sessions, encourage more of your colleagues to be presenters – or be one yourself! You may even win a free trip to SWCOLT!

➤ **Why don't we have more TPRS sessions? Why don't we have fewer TPRS sessions? Why don't we have more sessions about ...?**

Here again it is difficult to please everyone. We work with the proposals that are submitted. Encourage colleagues you know who are creative in their teaching styles to share their ideas with the membership.

➤ **Why don't we have more sessions in one target language? Why are so many sessions only for one target language?**

Most sessions, even if they say they are for one language, have ideas that can be used in most other languages. Try one. We have many attendees who have attended sessions in a language they could not understand, and found themselves having a new language-learning experience like their own students have. Be adventurous and creative. Meanwhile, the number of sessions for any one language is, again, determined by those who submit proposals.

➤ **Why were some rooms crowded and some rooms nearly empty?**

It is difficult to anticipate the draw for a particular presentation. Also, some presentations need particular AV equipment which may only be available in certain rooms. We will work harder at this in the future.

➤ **Why were some sessions different from their program descriptions?**

The board prints the program based on the descriptions given by the presenters. It is up to the presenters to make their descriptions clear and to stick to them when they give their presentation.

- continued on next page

# **CIBER Conference, 2005, Park City, Utah**

**Business, Language & Culture: Putting the Pieces Together**  
**Hosted by Brigham Young University CIBER, April 6th-9th**

The conference will gather business language professionals from around the nation to share experience and knowledge. This annual conference provides language teachers with one of the best resources to learn about teaching business language. On Saturday, April 9th, Brigham Young University, University of North Carolina and University of Connecticut will present sessions with a K-12 focus. Registration for this part of the conference is just \$25. This is an opportunity to learn from colleagues who are on the cutting edge of business language development.

Registration and conference information is available online at:

**<http://mariottschool.byu.edu/gmc/buslang05>**

➤ **Why does the conference cost so much?**

The cost for the last two conferences has actually been quite low, since they have been held at Weber State University which allows us to use its facilities free of rental charge. We do try to rotate locations, though, so that travel is not always so difficult for those who live in central, southern and eastern Utah, so when we hold the conference elsewhere the cost will be a little higher to cover the facilities cost. Nonetheless, compared to other state and regional conferences, our cost is really quite low.

*See chart below*

➤ **Why can't we get together in language-specific groups and share ideas?**

You can make that happen by submitting a proposal for a language-specific roundtable.

➤ **How can I make things better?**

Get involved in your AAT and/or volunteer to serve on a UFLA committee. Contact any board member for details

**We extend heartfelt thanks  
and appreciation to all  
conference presenters!**

The following chart shows the costs of other organizations. Some do not have their conference information on their current website so their conferences costs are not available (N/A). Some organizations have 2-day conferences. We have pro-rated the fees to compare single days.

Organization	Membership	Conference	On-site Reg.	Luncheon	Lodging
UFLA	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$13.50	\$54.00
CCFLT (Colorado)	\$30.00	\$55.00	\$65.00	\$25.00	\$159.00
FLANC (Northern Calif.)	\$30.00	\$45.00	\$65.00	\$11.00	N/A
CLTA (California state)	\$40.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$30.00	\$110.00
AZLA (Arizona)	\$20.00	\$45.00	\$55.00	Included	\$56.00
NM OLE (New Mexico)	\$15.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OFLTA (Oklahoma)	\$25.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TFLA (Texas)	\$15.00	In conjunction	with SWCOLT	this year.	N/A
HALT (Hawaii)	\$15.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WAFLT (Wisconsin)	\$20.00	\$30.00	N/A	Included	N/A
KFLA (Kansas)	\$25.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	(Box lunch) \$8.00	N/A
IATLC (Idaho)	\$20.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	Included	N/A
WAFLT (Washington)	\$35.00	\$65.00	\$75.00	Included	\$72.00
COFLT (Oregon)	\$20.00	\$65.00	\$75.00	Included	\$72.00
MALT (Montana)	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	Included	N/A
SWCOLT	\$45.00	\$35.00	\$55.00	\$25.00	\$139.00
CSC	\$90.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$25.00	N/A
ACTFL	\$75.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	Varied	\$150.00

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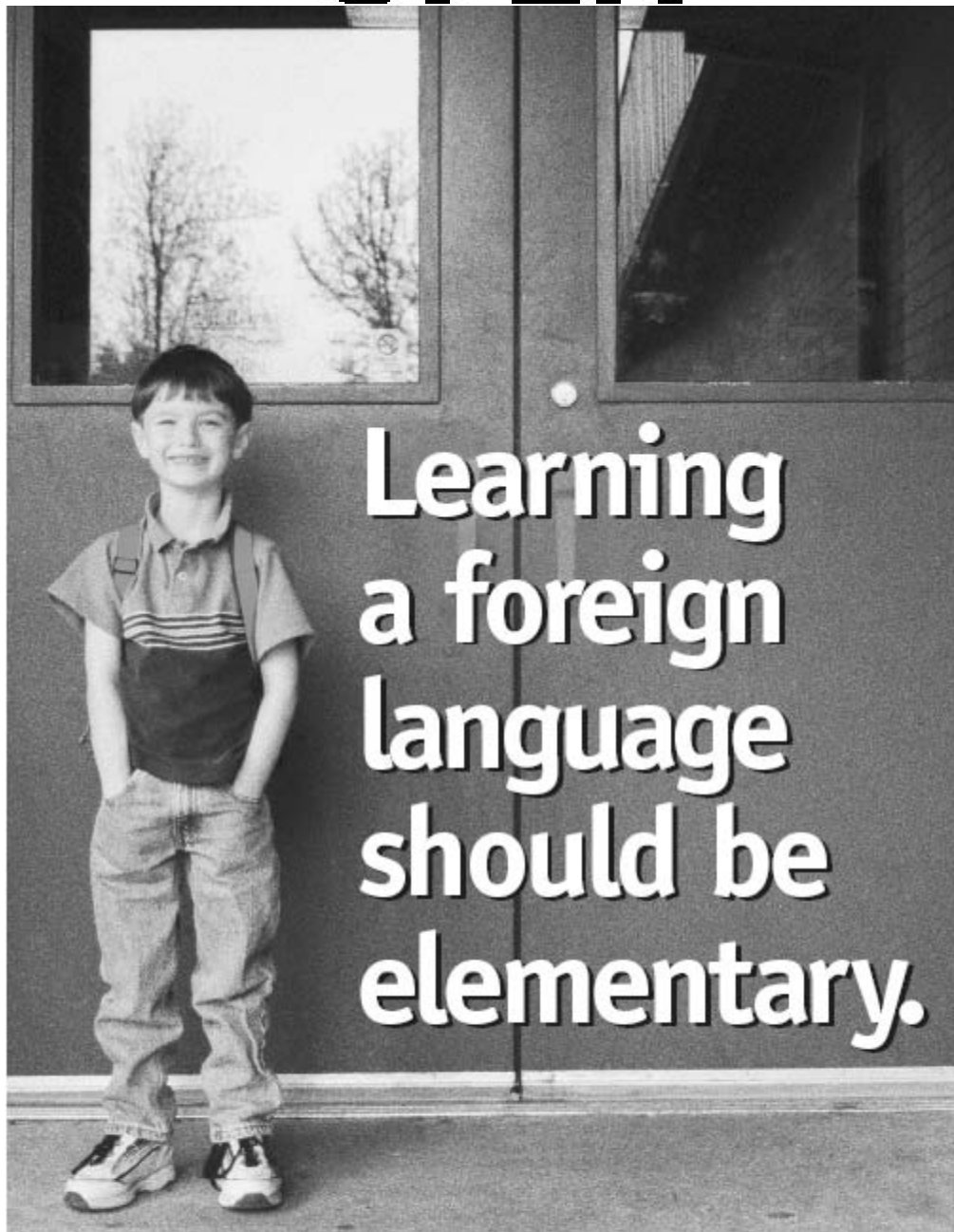
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Bev Burdett ♦ Newsletter Editor



Now, more than ever, our children need to learn another language. So they can communicate, understand others and compete in a global environment. For the sake of our kids, it's time to speak up for language education. Visit our website at [www.yearoflanguages.org](http://www.yearoflanguages.org) and get involved.



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## Teaching & Learning

A SALUTE TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATORS



**SWCOLT/TFLA Joint Conference**  
**OMNI Mandalay**  
**Irving, Texas**  
**April 7-10, 2005**

Contact:

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**Please think about attending  
 SWCOLT this spring in Texas!**

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The SWCOLT Board and the people of Texas have put in a lot of work planning for a wonderful conference.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Myriam Met, director of the National Foreign Language Center.

There are 12 workshops planned for Thursday, April 7, and interesting sessions all day Friday and Saturday.

For complete information including the registration form and the program, go to [www.swcolt.org](http://www.swcolt.org) and then click on Conference Info.

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## Get Involved!

The best way to make a difference in your profession, especially with a new governor who thinks the only languages worth learning are Chinese, Arabic, and Hindi, is to get involved in your AAT (American Association of Teachers of . . .) organization. The list below should help you get started.

AATG  
 AATF  
 AATSP  
 IMATJ  
 Latin  
 ASL

Shauna Winegar  
 Françoise Hibbs  
 Kari Mecham  
 Atsuyo Wright  
 Sue Shapiro  
 Erin Staffanson

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[ErinSt@provo.edu](mailto:ErinSt@provo.edu)

We do not currently have a representative for FLES. If you are interested in promoting Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools, please contact a member or the board for information on how you can help.



**Find this newsletter on-line at:**

<http://organizations.weber.edu/ufla>

**Please send all submissions and comments to:**

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