

Jeff Stokes
President

SPRING NEWSLETTER
MAY 2005

Bev Burdett / Shauna Winegar
Co-Editors

President's Message

Greetings!

I hope this “Year of Languages – 2005” has brought 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 will take place on the UVSC campus. A call for proposals form is included in this 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, delivered their presentation at SWCOLT in Irving, Texas this April. Their presentation was titled “La Sal Connection: Where Salt Lake City and Salta, Argentina Unite”; presenters were 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
UFLA President

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2005 AWARD WINNERS!

Teacher Vitality Award

Greg Briscoe, Assistant Professor of Spanish at UVSC, is the recipient of the UFLA Teacher Vitality Award. He will use his award to research the role of the Cuban government in cultural expression in Cuba. During a previous visit to Cuba in 2003, Dr. Briscoe made several key contacts in the government and the artistic community, whom he will interview during this visit. He looks forward to deepening his understanding of Cuban culture and society and sharing that knowledge with his students and colleagues. He also plans to make a presentation on his research and experience at the next UFLA conference, which will be held at UVSC in November.

Pat Buckner Award

Alma Sillito Jody Lindsay, Jenna Flood, and Brian Jolley, foreign language teachers at Oak Canyon Junior High School in Lindon, Utah, received the \$500 award to create a mobile foreign language speaking lab, which will be used for verbal assessment for all levels of language students. They have agreed to write an article for the UFLA newsletter in which they will describe their common verbal assessment of over 900 students in 31 different sections and their results.

Application information for the coming year's awards can be found at the UFLA website:

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

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE?

We received the following and thought we would pass it on:

AN ACTING CURRICULUM FOR TEACHERS OF SPANISH

I am an actor connected with the Marsillach Acting Academy in Madrid. We've experienced considerable success using acting techniques to bring life and immediacy into classrooms of students struggling with a new language. Our experiences have led us to design a curriculum for English-speaking teachers of Spanish. Teacher/participants will perform with professional Spanish actors and receive 45 hours of classroom instruction culminating in a production of Lorca's *Boda de Sangre*.

We are offering our first three-week intensive course this summer. Like any other theatrical endeavor we are starting out on a shoestring. I would very much like to hear from people interested in this approach as well as anyone who has any ideas about the most efficient and cost-effective way to contact others who might be interested. For more information please contact me directly or you can visit our website at marsillachactingacademy.com

Thank you for your time. We appreciate any comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Tom Murphy

marsillachtfm@sbcglobal.net

PROPOSED CHANGES IN UFLA BY-LAWS

Members of UFLA are being asked to vote on three proposed changes in the by-laws of the organization. A full description of the changes can be found at <http://organizations.weber.edu/ufla/LAWS.HTM> but here is a summary of the proposals.

Proposal 1 changes the archaic language in the actual wording of the bylaws to make them easier to read. The proposal reads: Archaic and "lawyerish" language will be removed from Article I, section 1; Art. 1, Sec. 2, Par. B; Art. II, Sec. 4; Article III, Sec 1; Article III, Sec. 4, Par. B (removed from the By-Laws and moved into policy); Art. VI, Sec 2; Art. VIII. The UFLA board offered no arguments against this proposal.

Proposal 2 changes the wording in the "Purpose" statement of the organization. The proposal reads: Art. I, Sec. 2, Par. A, will be changed so that the Association supports the "learning and preserving of skills in foreign languages, and all languages other than English," rather than the "learning and preserving of foreign language skills. This change reflects the fact that the Association supports all languages which are native to America, including Navajo and ASL, and heritage learners, as well as languages from other lands. Again, the board offered no arguments against this proposal.

Proposal 3 changes the length of office of the UFLA president. The proposal reads: The term of the UFLA President will be changed from one to two years. The terms of the President-Elect and Past President will not be affected. Changes are in Art. III, Section 1, Section 4, Par B, and Section 5) This would affect the terms of the officers as noted below:

- During any given year, there will always be a President and either a Present-Elect or a Past-President, but (generally) not both. Therefore the duties of the President-Elect and the Past-President are the same; only the title is different.
- Elections for President-Elect must be held after each President's first year on the Board as President.
- Elections for Secretary must be held annually.

YEAR	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
ELECT	A		B		C		D		E
PRES.	Mathews	A		B		C		D	
PAST	Stokes	Mathews		A		B		C	

Arguments for this proposal include:

- The pool for quality presidents is naturally limited. Very few qualified people are willing to have their names put onto the ballot and this will require only ½ the number of presidents over any time period.
- A longer term of service would give continuity to the board and help the president to be more effective once s/he has learned the duties.

- Those serving as “Past-president” have often dropped off the board and not served their term anyway, so by keeping them on as president for an extra year they will be able to accomplish more.

Arguments against this proposal include:

- Requiring a 4-year commitment will further limit the pool of applicants.
- By having the president-elect serve for a year before taking office as president, the continuity is already there.
- If the president decides not to serve the second year and we have no president-elect in place it may cause a greater crisis in leadership.

Votes may be cast anonymously by using the ballot below and sending it,
postmarked by July 14, 2005, to:

Tom Mathews
Weber State University
1403 University Circle
Ogden, UT 84408-1403

**or by sending an e-mail with three choices of YES or NO,
to Tom Mathews at:**

tmathews@weber.edu

BALLOT FOR PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE UFLA BY-LAWS

Proposal 1: YES _____ NO _____

Proposal 2: YES _____ NO _____

Proposal 3: YES _____ NO _____

PROPOSAL FORM FOR THE 2005 UFLA CONFERENCE
THEME: "Celebrating Languages and Looking Ahead"
Thursday, November 3, 2005 – Utah Valley State College
Submission deadline: Wednesday, September 14, 2005 (postmarked)

Name: _____
Home address: _____
City: _____ State: ____ Zip _____
Daytime phone: _____
Evening phone: _____
e-mail: _____
Institution: _____

Send proposals to:

Dr. Cheryl M. Hansen
Weber State University
Department of Lang. and Lit.
1403 University Circle
Ogden, Utah, 84408-1403

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 ___ English ___ Other (specify) _____
___ French ___ German ___ Italian
___ Japanese ___ Russian ___ Spanish

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

___ ASL ___ Chinese ___ Classics (Latin/Greek)
___ 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.)

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

Please write a short description of your presentation (approximately 75 words,) as you would like it written in the program:

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.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2005

The UFLA annual conference for 2005 will be held at Utah Valley State College in Provo on Thursday, November 3, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The theme is *“Celebrating Languages and Looking Ahead.”* Start planning now for your sub and to arrange your afternoon schedule so that you may enjoy the full conference.

Your newsletter editors would suggest that you come down the evening before and stay with colleagues at one of the several hotels in Provo or Orem so that you don't have to worry about driving into Provo the morning of the conference. What we usually do is drive to the conference city in the late evening and share a room with one, two, or three other colleagues. This usually keeps the cost at between \$15 and \$20 per person. In the morning we have a leisurely breakfast together and get to the conference bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, ready for a day of inspiration and rejuvenation! Sounds great, doesn't it? Try it – you'll like it!

\$\$ DISCOUNTS FOR PRESENTERS! \$\$

AT LAST! This year UFLA is happy to announce that those who are chosen to present at the annual conference in November will receive a 50% discount on their conference registration fee! We know you have great ideas you use in your classroom. Share them with the rest of the organization in a session this fall! If you know colleagues who have something you would like to see, contact them and ask them to present! The proposal form for the conference is included in this issue and must be postmarked by **Wednesday, September 15, 2005.**

Change in UFLA Leadership

Due to health concerns Larry Carrillo is unable to fulfill his duties as UFLA president – elect and has resigned. The board has appointed Tom Mathews to the post. We appreciate Tom's willingness to serve and wish Larry well.

**Give him
the world.**



Make sure foreign language remains part of your child's education. To succeed in this shrinking world, our children will need to speak more than one language. So for the sake of our kids, speak up for language education. Get involved at www.yearoflanguages.org.

**2005
THE YEAR OF
LANGUAGES**

Sponsored by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages www.yearoflanguages.org

2004-5 Executive Board

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Stokes • President

Tom Mathews • President – Elect

Keith Vaught • Past – President

Stephanie Thompson • Secretary

EX-OFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

James Taylor • Executive Secretary

R'Deen Huerta • FLES President

Françoise Hibbs • AATF President

Kari Mecham • AATSP President

Erin Staffanson • ASL – UTAH President

Shauna Winegar • AATG President

Atsuko Neely • IMATJ President

Sue Shapiro • UCA President

OTHER MEMBERS

Blair Bateman • BYU Representative

Anne Carlson • USU Representative

Fernando Rubio • U of U Representative

Cheryl Hansen • WSU Representative

Del Shumway • UVSC Representative

Tom Mathews • SWCOLT Representative

Beverly Burdett • Newsletter Editor



Find this newsletter on-line at:

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

Please send all submissions and comments to:

Shauna Winegar / Bev Burdett
Springville High School
1205 E 900 S
Springville, Ut 84663
(801) 489-2870

e-mail: shauna.winegar@nebo.edu
uflaburdett@comcast.net

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