

Jeff Stokes
President

FALL NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2005

Bev Burdett / Shauna Winegar
Newsletter Co-editors



President's Message

by Jeff Stokes

November Conference at UVSC

Greetings to everyone and here's hoping that the 2005-2006 is a very successful one for us all in our endeavors to foster the acquisition of our various languages! November 3 is going to come fast, so please plan on submitting a proposal for a presentation at our annual conference before the end of September. We all have much to share with our colleagues regarding our professional activities and successes, so please don't hesitate to send us your proposal as soon as you receive your copy of the Newsletter!

Teacher of the Year Nominations

While you are considering that, please take a look at some of your colleagues and nominate a deserving person for the 2005 Foreign Language Teacher of the Year Award. We hope to consider good candidates from all over the state. For information regarding the application and recommendations, please visit the UFLA website: <http://organizations.weber.edu/ufla/>

Teaching for Proficiency More Important than Ever

At Weber State we have recently undergone an evaluation by the accrediting organization for teacher training, NCATE. Our minimum oral and written proficiency level required for our foreign language teacher candidates for many years now has been Intermediate High on the ACTFL scale. Many of you will know that students must perform at the Advanced level the majority of the time in order to be rated Intermediate High. However, we were just informed in no uncertain terms that Advanced Low must now be our standard and that ACTFL, and thus NCATE, will require official interviews by certified testers. In addition, many candidates in our state must also take the Praxis II exam for their language.

Besides meaning that students will have to pay testing fees of somewhere in the neighborhood of \$295, I am certain that this also means that we are going to have to redouble our efforts at every level to help our students eventually reach this required rating. (We have found by experience that there are even significant numbers of students who have resided in a TL-speaking environment for a year or two who have not attained the Advanced Low level.) Students, now more than ever, are going to require an acquisition-rich environment in the classroom, as well as more opportunities to live and study abroad. I hope we can have some good dialogue at the November 3 conference regarding how we can best reach these kinds of goals. See you at UVSC!

****Editors' apology - Due to a publishing error, Jeff's spring newsletter message was not correct in the printed and mailed copies. You may read the correct message on page 8 of this newsletter.****

Share The News

If any of your FL colleagues do not receive this newsletter, please copy it for them and send us their contact information. Copies can also be obtained on the UFLA website at www.weber.edu/ufla.

UFLA Officers

Each year our organization elects a new president-elect and a new secretary. **Please consider serving** on the UFLA board for the coming year. Meetings are held only once per month during the school year, over the ed-net system, so travel is not an issue. Duties of the officers are outlined in the by-laws, which can be found at www.weber.edu/ufla.

If you are willing to place your name in nomination, or have spoken with a colleague who is willing to be nominated, please contact our current secretary, Stephanie Thompson, at sbthompson@dsmail.net.

IN THIS ISSUE

Look inside for information regarding:

- Fall Conference
 - Keynote Speaker
 - Lodging
 - Schedule
 - Registration
 - Licensure Points
- UFLA By-law Changes
- Elections
- Awards
- SWCOLT Conference
- AATs

ADVANCING OUR PROFESSION THROUGH PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPATION

As teaching comes more and more under attack with arbitrary test scores, NCLB ratings, and even dress standards, your participation in UFLA and other professional organizations becomes more and more important. If we want to improve our image and receive the approval we deserve, it will be up to us to solicit that approval as a unified body.

In response to Utah Governor Jon Huntsman's comments regarding the value of language study, the UFLA board has organized the "Committee for Promoting Language Study and Acquisition." This committee, among other things, has invited Governor Huntsman to speak and answer questions at a session of our upcoming conference. The governor has not yet confirmed that he will attend, but we are hoping he will accept.

This is only one issue the UFLA board is addressing, but the board cannot do everything alone. PLEASE consider offering to serve on a committee or running for an elective office this year.

Many Languages, Many Cultures



SWCOLT/AZLA JOINT CONFERENCE APRIL 6-8 Embassy Suites Phoenix, Arizona

Contact:

Jody Klopp, Executive Director
713 Rock Hollow Road
Edmond, Oklahoma 73034
Phone: 405-330-1318
Fax: 405-340-0923
Email: jklopp@cox.net

www.swcolt.org



BY-LAW CHANGES

A ballot in the spring newsletter gave UFLA members the opportunity to vote on three important proposals to the UFLA by-laws. Though few people took advantage of this opportunity, the following results are binding.

Proposition 1. Remove archaic language from many existing by-laws.
YES 9 NO 0 **PASSED**

Proposition 2. Change purpose language to include all languages
YES 9 NO 0 **PASSED**

Proposition 3. Extend president's term to two years
YES 4 NO 5 **FAILED**

2005 UFLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Year of Languages:

Celebrating Languages and Looking Ahead

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Utah Valley State College, Orem, Utah

Top Ten Reasons to Attend

10. See a greater number and variety of exhibitors than ever before.
9. Experience the fabulous new facilities at UVSC.
8. Win prizes and freebie surprises!
7. Gain new ideas that you can use immediately in your classroom.
6. Network over lunch with seldom-seen colleagues
5. Take a day to refresh, renew, and revitalize your life and your teaching
4. Show your professionalism by supporting your association.
3. Join your AAT group in promoting your particular language.
2. Earn re-licensure points.
1. NO BELLS!

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Bev Burdett at uflaburdett@comcast.net.

Program at a Glance - 2005

8:00 - 8:30	Registration and Exhibits
8:35 - 9:15	Plenary Session UFLA business
9:25 - 10:10	Session I
10:20 - 11:05	Session II
11:05 - 12:00	Exhibits
12:00 - 1:15	Lunch Keynote Speaker
1:25 - 2:10	AAT Meetings
2:20 - 3:05	Session III
3:15 - 4:00	Session IV

Share Your Methods!

Enclosed in this issue of the newsletter is a proposal form for the fall conference. UFLA does not bring in outside, paid presenters. In order to have sessions for all languages, all language groups need to present proposals. Please share your excellent teaching ideas with your colleagues by presenting a session at the conference. **Presenters will receive a \$15 discount on conference registration.**

If you have any questions or concerns about the proposal form or about presenting a session, contact Bev Burdett at uflaburdett@comcast.net.

Bienvenidos a

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Keynote Speaker

Conan P. Grames



UFLA is pleased to announce that the keynote speaker for our November conference will be Mr. Conan P. Grames, prominent attorney and language advocate. Mr. Grames, of Kirton and McConkie, served as Senior Counsel and Vice President of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, in charge of its International Law Department. He and his department handled all of the company's legal work outside the United States, which included over 100 international markets. Prior to working for Bristol-Myers Squibb, Mr. Grames was a Partner at Baker & McKenzie where he served in the Tokyo office. He has lived in Japan for 15 years, speaks fluent Japanese, and has taught Japanese at Middlebury College, The Japan Society of New York, and the University of Utah.

Student discount

All current college and university students wishing to attend the 2005 UFLA Annual Conference may do so for ½ the regular cost. ALSO, all college students who are willing to help deliver and collect evaluation forms during individual sessions may attend the conference for free. To register, students should use the regular form, but under "Languages Taught" write in "University student." Students who wish to receive the free registration by helping with evaluations should note that on the "Total" line. Please share this information with student-teachers and others who may wish to join us. (Note: Discounts do not apply to lunch. Students are invited to join us for lunch, but must pay the full price.)

LODGING

Your newsletter editors strongly suggest that you avoid traffic and weather problems the morning of the conference by coming into town the night before and staying at one of the many local hotels. As a service to UFLA, the Hampton Inn, across the street from UVSC, is offering double rooms (for up to 4 people) at a cost of only \$59.00, plus tax. To receive this discount, call 1-801-426-8500 and mention UFLA and UVSC.

More FAQs

(For previous FAQs you may access the 2005 winter newsletter at www.weber.edu/ufla)

❖ WHAT IS A PLENARY SESSION?

(Per: Encarta Dictionary) Plenary – plé-nə-ree – (adjective) full or unlimited; attended by everyone; a plenary meeting, session, or lecture, for example, at a conference.

As a non-profit organization, we are required by law to hold an annual meeting for our membership at which they should examine and approve or disapprove of the budget, elect new officers, and take care of other organizational business. Our UFLA plenary meeting will be held at 8:35 the morning of our fall conference. Please plan to join us!

❖ WHAT IS AN AAT?

UFLA uses the acronym AAT (American Teachers of . . .) when referring to any of the individual language organizations, whether it be AATSP (Spanish and Portuguese), IMATJ (Japanese.), or others. These organizations work to provide special services for their own language groups, including such things as immersion activities, national standardized tests, guest speakers, or distribution of various audio, visual or technological resources. Most of these organizations have regional, national, and/or international affiliations.

At the upcoming fall conference there will be meeting times and places for teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, French, German, Japanese, ASL, The Classics (Latin and Greek,) and Russian, as well as for FLES teachers. If you have another language you would like to organized into an AAT, Please contact Bev Burdett at uflaburdett@comcast.net .

❖ WHAT ABOUT RE-LICENSURE POINTS?

Participants at the fall conference will be eligible to receive seven (7) re-licensure points for attendance at the full conference. Please arrange your schedules in advance so that you may arrive between 8:00 and 8:30 and stay until the end of the conference at 4:00. Certificates will be distributed at the end of the conference. Because certificates are prepared in advance, any participants who need to leave early will need to notify the board in writing (e-mails are acceptable) by October 25th.

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UFLA AWARDS

(Greg Briscoe of UVSC received one of last year's UFLA Teacher Vitality Awards. The following is his report.)

EXPLORING CULTURE AND GOVERNMENT IN CUBA

This summer I spent three weeks in Havana, Cuba researching the relationship between the government and cultural expression in Cuba. It was my second trip to Cuba, the first being a five-day cultural exchange I participated in two years before. My first trip to Cuba opened my eyes to a lot of things. I had never seen poverty to such a degree or on such a large scale. In spite of this, I was charmed by the vibrant cultural life, the outgoing nature and friendliness of the Cuban people, and the well-preserved record of Cuba's history in the architecture of Havana. Also, I was mildly surprised at the efforts the government made to at least give the appearance of openness.

My five days in Havana in 2003 motivated me to want to learn more about Cuban culture. I was interested in what seemed to be a contradiction between a country that exercised so much control over the lives of its citizens on one hand, yet on the other seemed so supportive of cultural expression. I decided that the best way to explore this contradiction was to experience as much of Cuban culture as possible in addition to speaking with a variety of individuals in the cultural community. During my original trip I asked a few questions that left me with a generally positive impression of the respect and support that the government seemed to give to cultural expression.

The experience turned out to be everything I could have hoped for. I was able to visit museums and galleries, attend plays, the Cuban National Ballet, and performances of Cuban folk dancing. I talked to people and kids on the street playing dominoes, marbles, and baseball with and without sticks. Through the invaluable help of colleagues here in the states I was able to make contact and interview a variety of individuals at the center of cultural life in Cuba. They included the head of the Latin American Press Agency, a producer of films for Cuban television, a prominent actress, a Cuban "rock star", a journalist, college professors, and others in similar career tracks. I also spoke with people in stores and in the street. I had the opportunity to speak with an exiled actor and an artist in Miami prior to departing for Havana.

As far as the government's support of culture is concerned, it may seem surprising that the news is mostly good. In spite of its poor reputation in terms of civil rights, the government of Fidel Castro has spread literacy throughout Cuba, and made virtually every form of cultural expression accessible to the most remote parts of Cuba, an island about 900 miles long. Education, including books, is free at all levels. It is probably easier for someone with aptitude to excel in the arts in Cuba than it is in the United States, due to the Cuban government's commitment to develop its cultural talent. On the other hand, the most difficult question I asked was concerning censorship in cultural expression. By what people said and didn't say, I learned that it is definitely an issue, in spite of the generally positive role of government in cultural life.

Something interesting about the topic of censorship is that it opened up my conversations to reveal some intriguing attitudes Cubans have toward their own country and toward the United States. Speaking off the record, most Cubans I spoke with complained loudly about the repression of economic opportunities, and were resigned to accept the lack of free speech. Yet as bad as things are, some believe that the system Castro has installed is essential to providing the meager rations they can obtain, and that without him they would be worse off. Others expressed a confidence that Fidel Castro is perhaps the only person who can protect them from intervention by the U.S. or Cuban exiles living in the U.S. It is common for people to speak kindly of the United States from a cultural or neighborly standpoint, yet they consider the U.S. economic embargo to be a belligerent act and they consider our government their greatest enemy. They feel a definite pride in how they've been able to survive the numerous setbacks the embargo has caused in their lives.

Cuba's idyllic setting, history and culture are very rewarding, and I consider myself very fortunate for the opportunities I've had to be there. But my favorite thing about Cuba is probably the fact that in spite of whatever differences may exist between Cuba and the outside world, whenever someone walks up to you on the street to say hello, you are instantly considered a friend, and a door is opened to you to a wonderful, yet troubled world.

(Information about UFLA awards, as well as application forms, may be obtained from the website at www.weber.edu/ufla .)

ACTFL INFO

(American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages)

2005: The Year of Languages—Looking Back and Moving Forward!

Language educators have been working hard to maximize the impact of the *2005: The Year of Languages* initiative! Literally hundreds of teachers and professors from pre-K through graduate school have been involved in celebrating their programs, educating their administrations and school boards about the importance of language learning, and communicating the power of language learning! Adding additional impetus to this effort were resolutions in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives declaring 2005 as the Year of Languages in the United States. Ambassadors representing, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Russia, China, Japan, Britain, and Canada have also supported this endeavor by serving on the Year of Languages Honorary Council. Almost 20 Governors have issued proclamations in support and over 30 other organizations and associations have done the same.

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) has chronicled this support on its dedicated website www.yearoflanguages.org. You can share in all of the excitement, enthusiasm, and passion for language learning by visiting the Picture Gallery, the Celebrity Corner or the Bulletin Board to witness events from all over the country.

There is still time to celebrate this effort as you head back to school. Informing parents and students about this initiative is critical to maximizing the impact! Put the *Year of Languages* logo on your “back to school” materials and be sure to mention it when talking to parents and administrators.

An exciting capstone event will be the ACTFL Annual Convention and Exposition scheduled for Baltimore, MD on November 18-20, 2005. The official announcement of the first ACTFL Language Teacher of the Year will be made at the Opening General Session on Friday, November 18. Other events to cap off the celebration will be held throughout the convention.

The excitement that this initiative has created will be continued in a sustained public awareness campaign that will be launched in 2006. This campaign, titled *Discover Languages* will continue to build support for language education at all levels. Stay tuned for more information on the next phase of our efforts by visiting www.actfl.org.

Thanks for “speaking up for language education” and for your support for this endeavor! We have made our voices heard and we have made a difference!

President's Message - Spring 2005

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 [proposal 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.

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November 18-20
Workshops on November 17 and 20
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Hyatt Regency, Baltimore, MD



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Presented with: AATG/AATI/CLIA/NCJLI/NNELL/MFLA

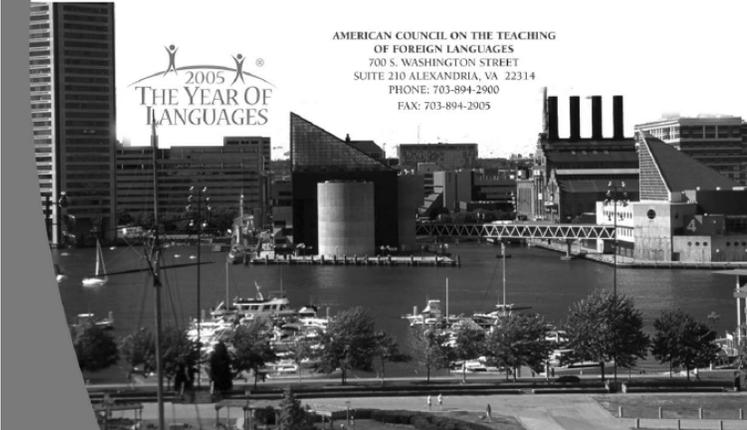
Register Early for Discounts!

Early Bird Deadline - August 26, 2005
Pre-Registration Deadline - October 14, 2005

For complete information on registering for the
convention and hotel reservations, go to:
www.actfl.org

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON THE TEACHING
OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
700 S. WASHINGTON STREET
SUITE 210 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
PHONE: 703-894-2900
FAX: 703-894-2905

2005 THE YEAR OF LANGUAGES



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

CONFERENCE PROPOSALS

NOTE:

The deadline for proposals has been extended to September 30th. You will be notified by e-mail before October 10 if your proposal is accepted or not for presentation at the UFLA Conference. Information regarding the time and room location of your presentation will be sent to you by e-mail prior to the conference. **Presenters will receive a \$15 discount on conference registration.**

PROPOSAL FORM FOR THE 2005 UFLA CONFERENCE
THEME: "Celebrating Languages and Looking Ahead"
Thursday, November 3, 2005 – Utah Valley State College
Submission deadline: Friday, September 30, 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. LCD projectors are available in all rooms.)

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

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.



2005 – 2006
Membership and
Conference Registration

UFLA ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, November 3, 2005
Utah Valley State College, Orem, Utah

For schedule, parking, and other information, go to
http://weber.edu/ufla or www.uvsc.edu/conted/c&w

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name:
e-mail:
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School Phone:
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- Arabic, Italian, ASL, Latin, Chinese, Portuguese, French, Russian, German, Spanish, Greek, Hebrew, Other

Languages taught (check all that apply):

I would prefer to have the newsletter sent (please choose one):

- as an e-mail link to an online copy
as a hardcopy through the mail

\$45.00 Conference Registration
(INCLUDES Membership Dues)

\$12.00 Luncheon and keynote speaker (please check preference)
Orange Glazed Chicken
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\$15.00 Annual UFLA Membership Dues Only (unable to attend the conference)
(Includes UFLA newsletter and voting privileges)

TOTAL: Please make your check payable to UTAH FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION
(UFLA) and send it with this form to:

Bev Burdett
544 West 1085 North
Orem, UT 84057

Registration forms must be postmarked by Friday, October 21, 2005. Forms postmarked after that date will be treated as on-site registration.

On-site registration will cost \$55 and lunch tickets will NOT be available. Attendees who choose to make their own lunch arrangements will be invited to listen to the keynote address.

2005 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

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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



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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

Please Deliver to:

If the addressee is no longer teaching, please pass this along to the replacement teacher or the Foreign Language Dept. Chair.