

Tom Mathews
President

WINTER NEWSLETTER
MAY 2006

Bev Burdett / Shauna Winegar
Co-Editors

From our President

This has been a busy spring for UFLA. The UFLA board has planned the details for our 2006 Annual Meeting; several Vitality Awards and the Pat Buckner Collaboration Award have been granted; Utah made a good show at the SWCOLT meeting in Phoenix; and the UFLA membership voted to change the structure of the executive board.

FALL CONFERENCE

Our fall meeting will be on Thursday, November 2, 2006, at Utah Valley State College. We had a very successful meeting there last year and hope to do even better this year. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Judith Liskin-Gasparro, a respected author and researcher in language teaching. More information will be available in the next few months at the UFLA website (<http://organizations.weber.edu/ufla>) including registration forms and the proposal form for presentations.

AWARDS

One of the ways UFLA supports teachers in the state is by awarding cash grants of up to \$1000 for projects. UFLA gave out three Teacher Vitality

Awards this spring as well as the Pat Buckner Collaboration award. Details about the recipients can be found on page 4 of this newsletter, as well as on the website. Thanks to all the fine Utah teachers who applied for these awards, and thanks to Cheryl Hansen and her committee for taking on the difficult task of sifting through the many good proposals.

SWCOLT

Last month SWCOLT had its annual meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Charlotte Touati represented the state admirably as our teacher of the year. In addition, Laurel Shelley presented the "Best of Utah" session on *Clubs and Classroom Activities: Academic Fun in Foreign Language*. Bev Burdett was selected by the SWCOLT Board to be the new editor of the SWCOLT Newsletter. Several other Utah teachers attended the conference. Next year's SWCOLT meeting will be in fabulous Las Vegas, at the Riviera Hotel (on the strip!) on April 12-14, 2007.

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(President's message – continued)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Lastly, many of you voted in favor of a change to our bylaws. When UFLA was originally established, in the 1960s, it was determined that whoever the Utah State Office of Education hired as a foreign language specialist would serve as executive secretary and treasurer to our organization. This worked well for many years. However, since Joan Patterson moved out of that position at the USOE, we have been "assigned" four different treasurers. Most have done very well by us, but each time there is a shift, the State Office threatens to do away with the position altogether. It was therefore the recommendation of the UFLA Board, since approved through a vote of the UFLA membership, that our organization appoint an executive secretary/treasurer. This officer will remain a non-voting member of the UFLA Board (so as to avoid any economic conflict of interest) and in addition will be paid \$400 per year (in order to establish a fiduciary responsibility and not a purely voluntary one.) The term will be for two years but may be extended by the Board. Anyone interested in applying for this position should contact me (tmathews@weber.edu) or any other member of the Board. A fairly detailed description of this position is at <http://organizations.weber.edu/ufla/LAWS.HTM#ExSecTreas> Meanwhile, Gregg Roberts has been appointed World Language Specialist at the State Office, and has already made great strides toward improving the status of languages in the eyes of the state board. (Please see next column.)



You may want to remind your students that BYU has changed its Spanish 101 & 102 policies. (See the UFLA Winter newsletter at www.weber.edu/ufla)



Information, Please!

If you know of any language teachers who have been hired new for next year, please send their names and school assignments to me at uflaburdett@comcast.net. Thanks! –ed.

GREGG ROBERTS WORLD LANGUAGE SPECIALIST STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Gregg Roberts has been appointed the new FL specialist at the USOE. He has an extensive background in language education, having taught French at the U of U as a teaching assistant and then as a teaching fellow for 8 years; having been an adjunct professor at SLCC for 5 years; and having taught in the Granite School District for 5 years. Gregg also served as World Languages Coordinator for Granite for 3 years.

Meanwhile, Gregg loves to travel and even owned a small, upscale tour company for 5 years.

Gregg has already made great strides in promoting languages and is open to comments and suggestions from any of you. He may be contacted at:

Gregg Roberts
World Language Specialist
Utah State Office of Education
801-646-4238
Gregg.roberts@granite.k12.ut.us

A Tribute to a Friend of the Profession: Joan Patterson

By Cheryl M. Hansen



Joan Patterson won the SWCOLT "Friend of the Profession" award a number of years ago. She has been a stalwart supporter and defender of foreign language instruction in the state of Utah and the country through her employment at the State Office of Education, as Executive Secretary of UFLA, as a board member of SWCOLT and as a member of ACTFL.

Joan retired from the State Office of Education earlier this year to embark on a new career with the United States Foreign Service. As usual, Joan is not afraid to try new things, to push the envelope or to move out of her comfort zone. She has proved it for many years in her professional career and in her personal life. Whether on the ski slopes in Utah or trekking through the Middle East, Joan has a way of making her presence known and making sure she is heard.

She was probably the best friend foreign language teachers in Utah had during her tenure at the USOE. She made it possible for many educators to travel to foreign countries to study language and culture with scholarships and grants she procured from the Goethe Institute and the Spanish and French Embassies. She sponsored language proficiency workshops, language maintenance programs, and seminars for business language, tourism and culture . . . and the list goes on. Every foreign language teacher in the state of Utah has directly or indirectly benefited over and over again because of Joan Patterson's commitment and devotion to the instruction of all foreign languages. She is truly a "Friend of the Profession."

We all want to wish Joan the best in her new career, and we hope that when she retires for a second time she will return to Utah and her many friends.

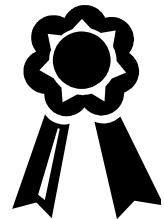
Discovering Languages: UFLA Conference 2006

The Utah Foreign Language Association Annual Conference 2006, *Discovering Languages*, will be held at Utah Valley State College again, this year on Thursday, November 2, 2006. We are inviting early proposals for the conference. We are changing the format of the presentation times and we will have 50-minute sessions and 25-minute sessions. This will allow more people to give presentations. If you have a lesson plan, a teaching technique, games, music or any other interesting and successful activity that you would be willing to share with colleagues, please submit a proposal and plan on joining us in November.

Submissions will be accepted online until September 29, 2006. An online submission form is now available at our website <http://organizations.weber.edu/ufla/>



AWARDS



This year UFLA was able to award three Teacher Vitality Awards and one Pat Buckner Collaborative Teaching Award.

LaRue Urquhart received a Teacher Vitality Award to help with expenses to travel to Peru where she will study Spanish and live with a Peruvian family. After completion of her classes, she plans to travel to other parts of Peru where she will gather teaching materials and film famous sites and festivals. She plans to create a teaching video to bring these events to life for her students.

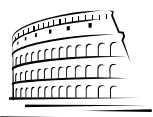
Richard Tate received a Teacher Vitality Award to help with costs to create and compile a collection of teacher-tested activities, games, and practice exercises to enhance the learning of Spanish throughout the state and to make the collection available via the web.

Jake Sigafus and his colleagues in the Orem Junior High School World Languages Department will receive Vitality Award money to purchase an LCD projector. The teachers in the department will work together to create several learning activities/projects that will help to strengthen their students in the five areas of language learning. Having a projector will give them access to more resources at the click of a mouse.

Three teachers in the World Language Department at Timberline Middle School received the Pat Buckner Collaborative Teaching Award. They will use the money to help fund needed equipment to develop a department-wide tool for assessing and showcasing student proficiency in speaking. The students will create digital portfolios in which their oral proficiency progress will be tracked for their entire enrollment as World Language students at Timberline.

All of the award recipients have agreed to present their projects either at the UFLA 2006 conference or in an article for the newsletter. Congratulations to all!

(To apply for next year's awards, or to nominate someone for **Teacher of the Year**, please go to www.weber.edu/ufla/.)



Utah Classical Association

The Utah Classical Association held its Spring Conference at the University of Utah on Saturday, March 25. The conference featured six speakers, including three college professors, one graduate student, one high school and one elementary school teacher. This was the first independent convention held by the UCA, and participants reported that it was a huge success. The presentations were outstanding, and participants had the opportunity to make new friends and re-establish old friendships.

AATG



The AATG Spring Immersion Weekend held on April 28-29 was a wonderful success. The event was held at the BYU Springhaven Lodge in Hobblercreek Canyon (Springville, UT). The accommodations were truly fabulous and we hope to make the location a traditional meeting place. We will soon have pictures loaded on our website so you can check it out for yourself.

Our Saturday TPRS workshop was presented by AATG consultant Rob Williams from Fairfax, Virginia. He did a tremendous job of explaining the basic techniques and the history behind the method. All participants came away with some terrific ideas and a better understanding of how to use TPRS to augment our language programs. We are grateful to Rob for his time and preparation and to all of the participants for joining us. We hope to see more of you at our October meeting (details to be announced).

We're recruiting!

It's time to ask what YOU can do for Utah AATG. We are in need of a president-elect in November, a secretary, and a new testing chair for the national AATG test. Please let Shauna know (shauna.winegar@nebo.edu) if you are interested or would like to nominate a candidate. Please consider helping us!

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USA

Financial assistance available for highly qualified applicants who can teach Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish, as well as English as a second or foreign language.

Check out the **Mandarin Chinese** workshops being sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Ed. One is in L.A. and one is in D.C., and the great part is . . . registration is FREE!!!!
<http://www.t2tweb.us/Workshops/about.asp>



FLES

Charlene Farnworth, FLES representative on the UFLA board, is trying to locate every elementary-school foreign language teacher in the state. She says, "How silly to keep reinventing the wheel in so many different locations. I know how helpless I felt coming into it new and having so little knowledge of resources. I am sad that it continues in this manner after all of these years. It doesn't have to be!"

Please e-mail to Charlene the names and contact info of every elementary-school FL teacher that you know. She is at: Ninngey@msn.com

The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain is pleased to announce that the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science will be sponsoring a **North American Language and Culture Assistant**



Program for elementary and secondary schools in Spain. This program enables US and Canadian citizens to work as English Language Assistants in Spain for the school year 2006-2007. The assistants will work in close connection with experienced Spanish teachers and are meant to collaborate mostly in teaching English oral skills. For information and requirements see: <http://www.sgci.mec.es/usa> (<http://www.sgci.mec.es/usa/AC.indexing.shtml>)

Applications for the **482 grants** offered Should be completed and submitted online by June 15, 2006. Questions? norteamericanos@mec.es
Tel: 202-728-2335 Fax: 202-728-2313



ANNOUNCING
the
SECOND ANNUAL



FRENCH HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER WORKSHOP *Reading and Teaching French Literature and Culture*

Taught by Dr. Esther Rashkin, Ph.D.
Professor of French & Comparative Literature
Head, French Studies Program, University of Utah

Wednesday, August 2,
through
Friday, August 4, 2006



This is a three-day language immersion program. Only French will be spoken during class sessions. The workshop aims to give high school French teachers training in reading and teaching French literature, culture, and film in an immersion environment. We will cover the following topics:

Wednesday: What makes French Literature & Culture "French": the Middle Ages through the 18th Century.
Thursday: After the Revolution: French Literature and Culture of the 19th and 20th-21st Centuries.
Friday: French History on Film.



Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Durham Seminar Room, 115 Carlson Hall, University of Utah
380 S 1400 E
Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0312
Parking in nearby lot.

There is a \$50 registration fee for all participants. For an additional \$40 fee, participants can receive 2 credits from the University of Utah. Registration fees are payable by check to the University of Utah and will be collected Wednesday morning August 2. Lunch will be served each day; breakfast will be served the first morning. The registration fee includes lunches, breakfast, parking, and reading materials.

To pre-register for the workshop, contact Rich Tuttle at (801) 581-3732 or r.tuttle@mail.hum.utah.edu

We urge you to pre-register as soon as possible. The workshop will be limited to 25 people. Educators who pre-register after the workshop is filled will be placed on a waiting list. Reading materials and parking permits will only be sent to those pre-registered.

Sponsored by the Utah State Office of Education and the Department of Languages & Literature, University of Utah, and with the help of the Obert C. and Grace A. Tanner Humanities Center.

ACTFL

Discover Languages®
Discover the World!
www.discoverlanguages.org
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

ACTFL's theme this year is "Discover languages . . . Discover the World." The ACTFL conference will be held in Nashville, November 16-19. We encourage you to take advantage of early registration discounts for the conference. For more information about the conference please visit www.actfl.org.

On January 5, 2006, President Bush launched the National Security Language Initiative. We included a short article about this initiative in our winter newsletter, and are including more details below. **Please feel free to share the following information and websites with your administrators.**

NATIONAL SECURITY LANGUAGE INITIATIVE

According to the State Department, “an essential component of U.S. national security in the post-9/11 world is the ability to engage foreign governments and peoples . . . To do this, we must be able to communicate in other languages, a challenge for which we are unprepared.

“Deficits in foreign language learning and teaching negatively affect our national security, diplomacy, law enforcement, intelligence communities and cultural understanding. It prevents us from effectively communicating in foreign media environments, hurts counter-terrorism efforts, and hampers our capacity to work with people and governments in post-conflict zones and to promote mutual understanding. Our business competitiveness is hampered in making effective contacts and adding new markets overseas.”

(<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/58733.htm>) (<http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=4249>)

The initiative has three goals:

1. Expand the number of Americans mastering critical need languages and start at a younger age;
2. Increase the number of advanced-level speakers of FLs, with an emphasis on critical needs languages;
3. Increase the number of foreign language teachers and the resources for them.

According to Bradley Graham of the Washington Post, “Although Americans as a nation have been notoriously averse to learning foreign languages, the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and the broader fight against terrorism have made the issue a major national security concern for administration officials.” (W.P, Jan. 6, 2006; page A4) (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/05/AR2006010502199.html>)

David S. C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, re-affirmed that younger people appear to learn new languages more easily than adults. (http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2006/20060105_3849.html)

Fewer than 8% of undergraduates in the United States take foreign language courses, and fewer than 2 percent study abroad in any given year. (<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2006/01/06/foreign>)

Only 24% of public elementary schools teach foreign languages, and only 44% of American high school students are enrolled in foreign language classes. (<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2006/01/01052006.html>)

More Rigorous Curriculum = University Entrance

Utah is one of 8 states to receive \$300,000 in federal funding to encourage students to take a more rigorous curriculum in high school, including at least two years of a foreign language. The Utah State Scholars Initiative will be initiated over the next two years in the Provo, Jordan, Park City, and Granite districts. For more information, please see: <http://www.ed.gov/print/news/pressreleases/2006/04/04212006.html>

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, and MORE

The **ACTFL website** has important information about “**SMART GRANTS**” for college students and high school seniors; Teacher-to-Teacher initiatives; free teacher workshops; student essay contests; the NSLI; and much more. Please see www.actfl.org and click on “Newsroom.” While you’re there, check out the rest of the site, too!

2006 Executive Board

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Karl Powell, President-Elect

Jeff Stokes, Past-President

Blair Bateman, Acting Sec.

Ex-Oficio Board Members

Executive Secretary – Office open

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Françoise Hibbs, AATF Pres.

Frank Schofield, AATSP Pres.

Erin Staffanson, ASL-Utah Pres.

Shauna Winegar, AATG Pres.

Atsuko Neely, IMATJ Pres.

Sue Shapiro, UCA Pres.

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Co-Editor

Shauna Winegar, Newsletter

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Find this newsletter on-line at:

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

Please send all submissions and
comments to:

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