

# President's Message

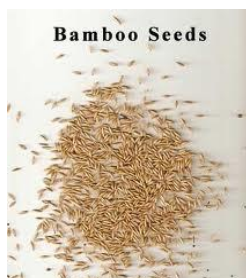


**Bonnie Flint**  
**UFLA President**

World Languages  
Coordinator  
Davis School District

## Utah's Bamboo Forest

In China, where bamboo is an essential part of life, seeds of the *Phyllostachys Nigra* commonly known as black bamboo, are carefully identified and culled, planting only those seeds that appear to have the best chance for



sprouting, each perfectly positioned by hand in the ground. Once placed in the ground, each seed is individually fertilized with a deep drink of water and a handful of fertilizer from the farmer's heavy satchel.

For years the field appears the same as the day the seeds were sown. But, all the while there is much activity that can't be seen--just below the surface. The seeds of the black bamboo sprout slowly and just as slowly build a huge, connected, underground system of support for the vast bamboo forest that will surely grow at the proper time. A good, solid root system is what enables bamboo to grow quickly, and the better the root system, the bigger and taller the canes.

Every week, up until the 11<sup>th</sup> month of the 5<sup>th</sup> year, the bamboo fields appear visually barren. While the plants seem to be lifeless, those charged with their

Thanks to all those who attended UFLA in November and made it one our best ever!

In 2013, we will be having a mini-conference in the fall in preparation for UFLA hosting SWCOLT in Spring of 2014.

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care and cultivation, tend to the task with devotion and faith. These patient farmers' process of watering and fertilizing is ritually carried out weekly for nearly five years. No rushing the process, no heavy machinery, no modern irrigation equipment--just individual farmers carefully tending the individual

needs of each seedling in the field. They know that when the time is right, when the foundation is strong, when all has been prepared, the bamboo shoots will push up from the soil and quickly push heavenward.

Whatever diameter the cane is when it comes through the ground, is the diameter it will be its entire life. The strength it gained while still unseen is in direct correlation to the strength it will have for life. The *Phyllostachys Nigra*, once sprouted, grows over three feet per week, or over four inches every day! It is an amazing sight to behold. When finished pushing toward the sky, branches unfold from each node, further expanding the plant horizontally.



For many years, Utah's remarkable world language teachers have been quietly and tenaciously sowing, watering and fertilizing seeds. Their daily work, often back-breaking, may have gone unnoticed by the world. The roots they were fertilizing didn't seem to be producing results. Nevertheless, day after day, in classrooms around the state, French teachers, Spanish teachers, Chinese Teachers, German Teachers, ASL teachers and more, prepared lessons, searched for authentic resources, assessed student growth, wrote rubrics, counseled with parents, told stories, sang songs, and loved their students. Only these remarkable educators understood the essential groundwork they were laying.



A few years ago, on the 11<sup>th</sup> month of the 5<sup>th</sup> year, we started to see the first sprouts. Then, almost like wildfire, a forest of world language students, classes and even entire language schools burst forth. Administrators and lawmakers noticed. Other states came to observe the

phenomenon. Foreign governments and their educational leaders made long voyages to see how they could duplicate your efforts in their schools. What had once been just seeds, then an invisible yet vast underground structure, was finally being seen for what it truly was--a miraculous, language-learning phenomenon.

Our bamboo forest made national news on February 6, when Utah's Governor testified before the U.S. House Workforce and Education Committee in Washington, DC, expressing the need for Utah (and all states) to focus on growing the economy through investing in education. Governor Herbert's address focused on three initiatives he is supporting. These initiatives are: increasing the percentage of Utahans with post-secondary degrees, ensuring more of our students pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering and/or math) education, and supporting world language instruction.

Yes! Our governor talked about the importance of World Language instruction to a national audience—and not only mentioned it, but also went into great detail about the great things we are doing, about the forest of bamboo you created.

Why had so many of you worked so hard, for so long, and without recognition? From my experience, language educators do it because you “get it”. You understand that students with global competencies are what will enable the governor's other two other initiatives—more college degrees and STEM skills—to truly enrich our state. You get that without the ability to operate seamlessly between cultures and

in other languages, post-secondary diplomas and STEM skills are no longer enough. But most of all, language educators “get” that it is only through the cultural understanding gained through language acquisition that the world will truly change for the better. You are changing the world one child at a time—just as the bamboo farmers of China fertilize and water their unseen and future forests of bamboo—one seed at a time.

Utah's dual-language immersion programs are currently experiencing remarkable outside interest. These programs are a direct result of the tireless work of Utah language educators and visionary administrators. In those schools, content teachers are speaking in Spanish, French, Chinese and Portuguese to teach math, science, art, history, and they are adding in a strengthening dose of cultural literacy and tolerance along the way.

With 77 immersion schools from Brigham on the north to St. George on the south, immersion programs are available statewide and are currently serving 14,000 Utah students from kindergarten to 7th grade. The 25 Mandarin Chinese immersion schools in Utah represent a full 1/3 of the total Chinese immersion schools in the United States! We also have 2 Portuguese programs, 10 French (the largest number of French immersion schools outside of French-speaking Louisiana), and 40 Spanish. Imagine how much better prepared these students will be for the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We anticipate that there will be more immersion schools opening in the 2013-2014 school year, and eagerly await the end of the legislative session to see how many. We have a bit of a sneak preview on six new programs that have already been announced. Next year the immersion program will spread to Cache Valley! Not only will Logan District add a Portuguese immersion school and a Spanish immersion school, but Cache District will also open four immersion schools—one each in Spanish, French, Portuguese and Mandarin Chinese.

What does all of this talk of dual immersion education mean for the majority of Utah language teachers who work in our secondary schools? What will it mean for our colleges and universities? The full effect of immersion education won't be felt for a few more years, and it will happen gradually as

these children move up through our system.

Eventually, we will have thousands of junior high students with a second language proficiency in the advanced range. High school students will have already earned AP language credit and will be working toward a college minor. Once our linguists hit local colleges and universities, they will have almost earned a minor in one language and may be working on their third or fourth languages. This linguistic and cultural foundation will benefit them in any field and open countless doors.

Is immersion education the only part of the bamboo forest? No. The forest includes all language educators and all programs. Today, secondary and university language professionals are already feeling the effects of change. The world's spotlight has provided us with a platform on which to speak about the value of our profession and about the essential nature of our product. Parents and the community, in their overwhelming support of these programs, are rededicating themselves to ensuring that all children are equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. In our Universities, language departments and administrators are working to ensure that they can provide us with the number of highly-fluent and specially-trained language teachers we need now, and they are currently working on ways to meet the needs as our numbers grow exponentially each year. The rapid growth in one corner of our forest is encouraging and supporting more growth in all corners of the forest.

While immersion schools are garnering most of the attention, the largest growth has actually occurred in regular, secondary language programs. In 2006, the total number of students enrolled in Utah's K-12 public schools was approximately 505,183. In the 2011-2012 school year that number had risen to approximately 581,950. This represents an increase of almost 15%. During that same time, the number of secondary students enrolled in a world language course also rose. Here is the good news: **In 2006, Utah had 79,000 K-12 students enrolled in world language courses. Last year, that number had risen to 115,000--an increase of about 45%--far outstripping the 15% enrollment growth rate!**

For all the years you worked without recognition, for the labor you performed with love and care, for the amazing growth you are now supporting, Utah World Language professionals from Kindergarten to

the university level are to be congratulated and thanked. Thank you for seeing the potential of our children and for seeing the potential in our profession—even when no one was watching. They are watching now.

Do you remember what happens after bamboo reaches its full height? The tops of the unbreakable stalks send forth horizontal, leafy branches, creating a vast canopy. This lush canopy creates a habitat with enough shade, protection, and nourishment to

provide for the well-being and growth of an entire ecosystem. The canopy of Utah's language forest is now beginning to send its branches horizontally. They will continue to spread and grow until the entire state is engulfed and every child has the opportunity to gain proficiency in a second language—whether they begin their language studies in kindergarten, first grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, or as a university freshman. Because of you, the miracle continues.

# ACTFL Report

By Cheryl M. Hansen, ACTFL Delegate for UFLA

This year's 46th Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in Philadelphia was a great success. There were over 600 professional development opportunities, including workshops and sessions for attendees. The keynote speaker, Dr. K. David Harrison spoke about endangered languages in the world. The exhibitors at the World Languages expo offered the latest information on thousands of products and services for world language education. I enjoyed all parts of the convention, but a highlight for me was that two of our best Utah world language teachers won prestigious awards.



It is not too early to start planning for the next Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in Orlando, Florida. It will be held at the Orange County Convention Center November 22-24, 2013.



Dr. Fernando Rubio, Co-Chair of the Department of Languages and Literature and Associate Professor at the University of Utah, received the ACTFL/Cengage Learning Faculty Development Programs Award for Excellence in Foreign Language Instruction Using Technology with IALLT.

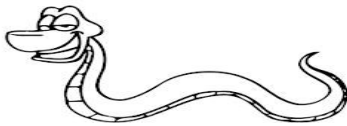
Dr. Ann Lair, Assistant Professor (Lecturer) of French at the University of Utah, received the ACTFL Nelson Brooks Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Culture.

This is the first time we have had two people from Utah win an ACTFL Award in the same year. Congratulations to both of these outstanding colleagues!

# Language Specific Organizations

## UTAH 犹他中文教师资源 CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHING 7 - 12

**Happy Chinese New Year! 新年快了!**



We recently welcomed in the Year of the Snake during Chinese classes and festivities across the state. Many teachers had celebrations along with authentic food, hong bao (red envelopes), and Spring Couplets. Chinese New Year is a wonderful opportunity to combine cultural and language instruction for students while having a good time in the process.

The Chinese Language Fair will be held at BYU on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and there will be many new changes (go to <http://chineseflagship.byu.edu> for details). This year the fair will have several new competitions including a speech contest sponsored by the Confucius Institute. The winners of the competition will receive scholarships toward summer study abroad in Szechuan, China. A first place scholarship of \$500 (airfare) and free China tuition will be given to two first place winners from levels 2/3 and 4/5. A runner-up \$500 (airfare) prize will be given to two second place winners from both the lower and upper levels. The study abroad will take place this coming summer, June 17<sup>th</sup>-July 19<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Eric Chipman at [eric.chipman@utah.edu](mailto:eric.chipman@utah.edu) for more details.

The “Conversation Competition” at the Language Fair will help students prepare for the

upcoming AAPPL Chinese testing (go to <http://chineseflagship.byu.edu>), which will take place for many students this spring. During this competition, students will have a “conversation” with an advanced Chinese speaker. They will be asked questions about their family, friends, and leisure activities, to name a few, that will prepare Level 2 students to have a conversation via video chat as part of the upcoming assessment. Level 3 and above students will also do the video chat. In addition, the higher-level students will do tasks that are related to reading and writing. The AAPPL test is a proficiency and performance test administered via computer. More information will be forthcoming soon. Contact Ellen Knell at [ellenknell@msn.com](mailto:ellenknell@msn.com) for more details.

### SUMMER CHINESE CAMPS

There are a variety of Chinese summer camps being held throughout the state this year. The University of Utah will be offering camps through their department of Continuing Education, UVU, BYU Startalk, Dual-Immersion programs, and other entities will also be needing Chinese instructors and support personnel at different points.

If you are interested in summer employment beyond your regular contract, please contact Stacy Lyon: [slyon@renacademy.org](mailto:slyon@renacademy.org) to provide info on your availability.

## New Website for Secondary Chinese

Are you in need of some good activity ideas or online resources? If so go to the new website that has just been launched for Utah Secondary Chinese teachers.

The site is a collaboration between BYU Chinese Flagship and the University of Utah Confucius Institute. The purpose of the website is to provide resources and information to secondary Chinese teachers and includes proficiency targets, standards for Chinese language, the Utah Curriculum Map, lesson and activity videos, and online technology resources. We hope to add many more lesson plans, videos, and resources in the future. This website is a group effort and if teachers wish to contribute materials or videos, please contact Ellen Knell at ([ellenknell@msn.com](mailto:ellenknell@msn.com)).

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR CHINESE TEACHERS

Mar. 23	UVU Language Summit (Heber Campus)
April 7-9	National Chinese Language Conference (Boston, MA)
April 18	BYU Language Fair
June 10-12	Dual Immersion STARTALK TEACHER TRAINING

## Networking and Learning with Social Media

The plight of many world language teachers is that they are often the only teacher of their content in the building. Thanks to modern technology, even a lone Mandarin teacher can grow professionally with the help of like-minded colleagues. One of the best tools for on-going professional growth is social media. Twitter and Facebook are gathering places for teachers who want to share or find the latest research, interesting articles, successful lessons, or even for those who just need a friend to cheer them on when the days and the students are restless.

Toni Theisen, 2009 ACTFL Teacher of the Year and current ACTFL President is one of the most prolific tweeters and “facebookers” in the business. Toni has compiled a list of the best World Language people and organizations to follow on Twitter. @tonitheisen has created “follow World Languages teachers” list which you can find on Twitter. It will lead you to tweeters like Thomas Sauer @tmsaue1, the French Embassy @franceintheus, Noah Geisel (current ACTFL TOY and Spanish teacher extraordinaire) @senorg, Carol Gaab @carolgaab, BYU Spanish professor Cherice Montgomery @cherisem, UFLA @ufla2012 and many, many more.

What is great about following brilliant people on Twitter is that you are never alone and you always know what is happening in the profession. Surround yourself in greatness. It’s easy with social media.

### A few recent Tweets . . .

**lindseybp**

Hawaii Sign Language found to be distinct language - Yahoo! News [yhoo.it/14gMxmA](http://yhoo.it/14gMxmA) via @YahooNews 1 day

**SenorG**

#BookmarkThis MT @coolcatteacher: 100's of icebreakers, classroom games, and professional development games [shrd.by/bkC3q1](http://shrd.by/bkC3q1)   

**SECottrell**

#langchat the in-order verb chart is a huge mistake. Creates speakers who can't get to ellos without going through the first 4. 3 days

# UTAH ARABIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Did you know that Utah is among the leading states in Arabic K-12 education? Arabic K-12 teachers and university professors across the nation admire what is happening in Utah. Here is a summary of what is going on with K-12 Arabic in our state:

## PROGRAMS

School	Location	Grades	Teacher/website
East High School	Salt Lake City	9-12	Laila Lamani
West High School	Salt Lake City	9-12	Laila Lamani
Academy for Math, Engineering and Science	Salt Lake City - Partner school of University of Utah		Michelle Safadi <a href="http://amesarabic.weebly.com/">amesarabic.weebly.com/</a>
Renaissance Academy	Lehi	K-9	Belal Joundeya <a href="http://renaissancelanguages.yolasite.com/">renaissancelanguages.yolasite.com/</a>
Park City High School	Park City	9-12	Kawkeb Said
Private Class	Salt Lake City	K-6	Jane Day
Lone Peak High School	Lehi	9-12	Joseph Neilsen

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NECTFL

**March 7-10**

Baltimore, MD

The Northeast Conference on the teaching of Foreign Languages is the largest regional foreign language conference in the US. Because of it's location, it is very well attended by Arabic teachers, and a great place to network! Our very own Belal Joundeya is presenting a session called "Let's Make Language Fun and Active" which you don't want to miss! The location is beautiful, and it is always a well-organized conference. If you miss the February 19 registration deadline, you can still register on site.

### Bedouin Fair

**Saturday, April 20, 2013**

Renaissance Academy is planning a Bedouin Fair, and you and your students are invited! There will be language activities, food, cultural activities, and even a live camel! (Don't worry, your students will NOT be taught that all Arabs live in tents and ride camels:)

We are hoping to involve members of the community, particularly Arabic-speaking families, so please spread the word. If you would like to be in charge of a specific language-oriented activity, please e-mail [tinacannon321@gmail.com](mailto:tinacannon321@gmail.com) or [slyon@renacademy.org](mailto:slyon@renacademy.org).

### Arabic Online

NMELRC is currently offering Arabic online through scholarships provided by Qatar Foundation to high school students whose schools do not offer Arabic. They start by launching the program with a one day camp followed by online instruction with a tutor. During the summer of 2012, they conducted one day camps in Hawaii, Utah, Minnesota and Maryland. Please let you students know about this great opportunity, and spread the word to schools where Arabic is not offered! For more information: [mnnassif@byu.edu](mailto:mnnassif@byu.edu)

### CURRICULUM NEWS

We are finishing up the high school first year Arabic curriculum project! We thank Qatar foundation, who sponsored the project, and NMELRC, who wrote the grant, and are coordinating it all. Look forward to having access to this curriculum to use in your classrooms next fall.



¡BUENAS NOTICIAS!

AATSP is reactivating the Utah Chapter. We had our first meeting in February at the Rose Establishment in SLC and it was a success, educators from Elementary all the way up to College level attended.

**President:** Chantal Esquivias: [cesquivias@northdavisprep.org](mailto:cesquivias@northdavisprep.org)

**Vice President:** Lucia Pascual ([lpascual@northdavisprep.org](mailto:lpascual@northdavisprep.org))

**Treasurer:** Brant Lloyd ([blloyd@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:blloyd@alpinedistrict.org))

**Secretary:** Eric Diaz ([ediaz@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:ediaz@alpinedistrict.org))

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Mari Cruz Fimbres ([mfinmbres@yahoo.com](mailto:mfinmbres@yahoo.com))

**Webmaster:** Megan Jolley ([mjolley@renacademy.org](mailto:mjolley@renacademy.org))

**Public Relations:** Sheri Anderson ([Sheri.anderson@utah.edu](mailto:Sheri.anderson@utah.edu))

**Utah Chapter 068:** Carlos Galvez ([carlosgalvez@jdchs.org](mailto:carlosgalvez@jdchs.org))

We are hoping that these meetings will bring all the Utah Spanish and Portuguese educators together, and will be a place to share information, resources and ideas.

#### Upcoming events:

Our next meeting is on Saturday April 13th at 11:00am. You don't need to be an AATSP member to attend. We will meet at:  
SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Taylorsville Campus, Redwood)  
4600 South Redwood Road (1600 West)  
Taylorsville  
Center for Languages, Building TB (Rampton Technical Building),  
Room TB 418, 4th floor  
Parking is free on Saturdays!

We have started a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/465995050122569/> which we can use to share interesting information about upcoming events, or useful links for Spanish and Portuguese teachers. Please join!  
School teachers (AATSP members only!)

Please check out the Poster Contest for your students:  
<http://www.aatsp.org/?page=2013poster>

Applications and nominations for the 2013 AATSP Awards are now being accepted. These awards recognize the achievements of AATSP members in the areas of teaching, service, publications, and leadership. The awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet held during the annual AATSP Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Deadline for Applications: May 1, 2013.

¡Esperamos veros el 13 de Abril a las 11:00 en nuestra próxima reunión!

Chantal Esquivias



**President:** Mr. Ryan Rocque  
**Vice-President:** Mrs. Danielle Asay  
**Secretary:** Mr. Erik Perry  
**Treasurer:** Ms. Denise Bennett



Paris sous la neige nous rappelle que le monde nous rapproche et que nous avons tous des trucs agaçants et des difficultés à résoudre. Dans de telles circonstances il faut se souvenir que le malheur des uns fait le bonheur des autres. Je suis tellement heureux de pouvoir en profiter pour sourire. Par exemple, ça fait quelques jours que je réfléchis sur l'enseignement puisque mon « student teacher » enseigne mes cours. Ce qui m'éclate de rire, c'est de voir l'éducation du point de vue d'un spectateur. Nous faisons un travail spectaculaire à mon avis. Le nombre de petites choses dont un prof s'occupe du jour en jour est remarquable. Notre organisation AATF existe pour aider dans ce travail important. Nous vous souhaitons une bonne fin de l'année et vous invitons de venir et participer avec d'autres profs comme vous.

Voilà les infos :

1. Nous avons commencé l'année avec une "Fall Social" chez notre vice-président. On a mangé de la soupe et on a joué aux jeux de société comme Carcassonne, Cluedo, Monopoly, etc. (Version Française bien sûr). C'était une soirée d'immersion pour faire un bon début de l'année.

2. La Conférence d'UFLA était un grand succès pour les français. Notre chère Charolte VanWagonen a été choisi "Teacher of the Year" et sera présente à Las Vegas pour faire sa présentation merveilleuse. Gregg Roberts, le chef des programmes des langues étrangères a été le récipient des Palmes Académiques, présenté par l'Ambassade de France. Voir Gregg être désigné chevalier devant tout le monde m'a beaucoup touché. Bravo Gregg pour son travail avec les écoles d'immersion en Utah. Quel honneur !

3. Nous sommes en train de planifier d'autres ateliers et soirée dans les prochains mois. Merci d'avance pour l'encouragement et le soutien. Nous planifions une soirée de film en février, une soirée Suisse en avril et une journée d'immersion en mai. Alors, devenez membre et venez participer.

Pour devenir membre :

<http://frenchteachers.org/>

Pour savoir les dates des futures activités :

<http://aatfutah.wikispaces.com/>



### Liebe AATG Mitglieder!

Ich möchte euch allen ein wunderschönes neues Jahr wünschen und hoffe, dass dieses Jahr sehr erfolgreich sein wird. Hier sind meine guten Vorsätze für das Jahr 2013:

1. Ich möchte versuchen, mit so vielen Deutschlehrerinnen und -lehrern wie möglich in Kontakt zu bleiben. Hoffentlich bin ich nicht die Einzige mit diesem Vorsatz und andere Deutschlehrerinnen und Deutschlehrer wollen das auch. Dazu habe ich eine Facebookseite eingerichtet: **"German in Utah"** Benutzt die Seite, um Neuigkeiten zu verbreiten, Fragen zu stellen, mit anderen Deutschlehrerinnen und -lehrern in Kontakt zu bleiben, usw.
2. Ich möchte versuchen, so viele Deutschprogramme wie möglich zu erhalten und zu stärken. Bitte lasst mich daher wissen, wie ich euch in eurer Arbeit als Deutschlehrerinnen und Deutschlehrer unterstützen kann. Falls ihr Ideen oder Fragen habt oder Hilfe mit einem Deutschprogramm braucht, schreibt mir doch bitte eine Email. ([Ulrike.dannhauer@slcschools.org](mailto:Ulrike.dannhauer@slcschools.org)) Ihr könnt euch auch an Johanna Watzinger-Tharp an der University of Utah wenden, da sie die German Task Force leitet. Diese Gruppe ist genau dazu da, Deutschprogramme zu erhalten und zu stärken. Falls ihr Interesse habt, der German Task Force beizutreten, sagt Bescheid. Neue Mitglieder werden gerne aufgenommen.
3. Ich möchte AATG stärken. Dazu brauchen wir mehr Mitglieder, neue Mitglieder und Mitglieder, die ihre Mitgliedschaft vielleicht noch nicht erneuert haben. Falls ihr nicht genau wisst, ob ihr euren Mitgliedsbeitrag für dieses Jahr schon überwiesen habt, könnt ihr mich fragen oder AATG anschreiben. Hier findet ihr gute Gründe, warum AATG eine gute und wichtige Organisation ist: **[www.aatg.org/membership](http://www.aatg.org/membership)**

Hier ein paar Neuigkeiten und interessante Links:

- AATG hat jetzt endlich neue Vorsitzende:

President Elect – Laura Catharine Smith  
President – Ulrike Dannhauer  
Past President – Jeff Packer  
Secretary – Micah Wheatley  
Treasurer – Shauna Winegar

- BYU Language Fair: 18. April 2013 - <http://languagefair.byu.edu/german/index.htm>
- Weber School District Language Fair: 19. März 2013 - <http://blog.wsd.net/wlf/>
- Step into German: Eine tolle Website vom Goethe Institut für Anfänger
- <http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/prj/sig/enindex.htm>
- GAPP: Ein Austausch mit einer Schule in Deutschland ist eine tolle Möglichkeit ein Deutschprogramm zu stärken - <http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/lp/prj/gapp/enindex.htm>
- AATG German Summer Study: Noch ein tolles Austauschprogramm –
- <http://www.aatg.org/German-Summer-Study-Program>
- Salt Lake City School District World Language Website: Für Materialien, Informationen, usw. - <http://www.slcschools.org/departments/curriculum/world-languages/>

## DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION GROUP

### TEACHER HIGHLIGHTS



Kathy Abuchaibe  
2nd Grade, Spanish DI  
Silver Mesa Elementary  
Canyons District, UT

**Kathy Abuchaibe**, is from Barranquilla, Colombia and she is a very hardworker 2nd Grade teacher. She has put ALL her extra time helping her Dual Immersion team figure out schedules, curriculum, material needs, etc., etc. Also for the extra weekends she willingly spent helping our new teachers get settled. Everything she does is done willingly, with a smile and enthusiasm.



María Victoria Diago  
4th Grade, Spanish DI  
Alta View Elementary  
Canyons District, UT

**María Victoria Diago** is a 4th Grade Spanish Dual Language Immersion teacher at Alta View Elementary. She is a guest teacher from Spain and has focused on teaching music in her classroom. She also focuses her instruction on oral vocabulary development through a variety of activities. She always has a positive attitude and is willing to do what necessary to do her job right.  
THANK YOU VICTORIA!



Lidia Ordaz  
3rd Grade, Spanish DI  
Silver Mesa Elementary  
Canyons District, UT

**Lidia Ordaz** is from Madrid, Spain and has been a wonderful addition to our program. She has proven to be a fabulous teacher! Her students have grown to love her and have nominated her because she “helps us with our work,” “gives great directions,” “helps us move further faster,” “gives rewards,” and “helps us be ready for 4<sup>th</sup> grade.” She is loved by students and colleagues alike!  
THANK YOU LIDIA!



Alyson Jensen  
3rd Grade, Spanish DI  
Alta View Elementary  
Canyons District, UT

**Alyson Jensen** is a 3rd Grade Spanish Dual Language Immersion teacher at Alta View Elementary. She enjoys teaching the kids cultural diversity and celebrating different cultural events. She also does an amazing job at teaching social studies in her classroom. She has worked very hard to make her 3rd grade Spanish classroom a successful classroom! THANK YOU ALYSON!

## SWCOLT 2013

The Southwest Conference of Language Teachers' annual conference in Henderson, Nevada is a great opportunity for Utah teachers to enjoy some warm weather and gain new knowledge and skills. With airfare around \$170 and affordable yet luxurious rooms, this year's conference is in a perfect location for Utah teachers. Hosting the event this year is the Ravella Resort on beautiful Lake Las Vegas. The conference is April 5 & 6 with some full-day and half-day sessions on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup>.



Only 17 miles from the Las Vegas Strip, The Ravella is a great family get-away. While you are attending world language presentations and sessions, your family can be lounging poolside at the luxurious Grecian-style pool, playing at the picturesque marina and beach, playing golf at SouthShore, a Jack Nicklaus Signature Course, or relaxing with a massage at the on-site spa.

Highlights of this year's conference will include a keynote address by the always-entertaining and brilliant Mimi Met, the Teacher of the Year (TOY) competition, "Best of" presentations from each state in our region, and much more.

Utah will be well-represented in Henderson. Nieves Pérez Knapp and Cherice Montgomery, both Spanish professors at BYU, were chosen "Best of Utah" at our annual UFLA Conference in November. They will be presenting their award-winning session: "Classroom Challenges and Activities for Teaching Spanish Heritage Students" on Friday at 10:45 am. Our Teacher of the Year, Charlotte VanWagenen who teaches French in the Jordan School District, will be competing with other states' TOYs to become the SWCOLT Teacher of the Year. The winner of that competition will then compete for the national Teacher of the Year at the 2013 ACTFL conference in Orlando, Florida.

Plan now to attend SWCOLT. Viva Las Languages!



## SWCOLT comes to Utah in 2014

April 2014 will be a great month for Utah's language educators. The Southwest Conference of Language Teachers' annual conference will be held at Snowbird in Big Cottonwood Canyon, April 25 & 26. Aaron Wheeler, a language teacher in Weber School District and President-Elect of UFLA, has been named the local chair of the conference.

The conference theme, "Reaching New Heights" is more than a representation of the location, but it also represents the remarkable growth and visibility of Utah's world languages programs.

Local conference organizers are looking for volunteers to help with everything from decorations, advertising, printing, registration and more. Plan now to attend, present, promote, and even assist with the conference. For more information, contact Aaron Wheeler at [awheeler@wsd.net](mailto:awheeler@wsd.net).

# Professional Development

## BYU 2013 summer workshop for teachers of Spanish June 24-26, 2013

### Monday, June 24, 2013

**Topic:** Language Immersion

**Description:** This day will be dedicated to language sessions to help teachers improve and maintain their conversational skills. The topic will be announced soon. Upon registration, participants will receive materials so they can become familiarized with the topics. In the workshop, they will participate in a variety of activities that include the 3 modes of communication, and will have the opportunity to converse with native speakers (both face-to-face and virtually).

### Tuesday & Wednesday, June 25-26, 2013

**Topic:** Developing Proficiency Through the Standards

**Sessions:**

Interpersonal Culture Activities, Interpretive Activities, Intersections of Service & Learning: Bringing the Community into the Classroom, Technology-infused Information Gap Activities

**Description:**

This two-day workshop will explore the questions:

- How can I develop more culturally-rich, interpersonal communication activities?
- How can I use pre-, during, and post-reading activities, reading strategies, and other tools to build students' literacy skills?
- How might I use community service as a place to begin designing meaningful learning experiences for students?
- How might I use technology to create motivating information gap activities?

Teachers who participate in the workshop will: develop **culturally-rich interpersonal communication activities** that strengthen students' **oral proficiency** in Spanish, experience effective **pedagogical techniques** for developing students literacy skills, identify possible options for incorporate more **hands-on learning** through **community service** into their curricula and expand their skills in using **technology** as a tool for creating motivating **information gap activities**

**Cost:** No charge to participants. USOE Credit available

**For more information, contact:** [Dr. Nieves Knapp](mailto:Dr.Nieves.Knapp) (801-422-3196) [knapp@byu.edu](mailto:knapp@byu.edu)

## **2013 Startalk Arabic High School Student Camp and Teacher Training Program at BYU: July 15–August 3, 2013**

We are pleased to announce the 2013 Startalk Arabic Camp and Teacher Training Program at BYU from July 15 to August 3, 2013

\*High school students are invited to participate in a three-week residential camp where Arabic is taught in an immersion environment. Students attend classes and participate in cultural activities, sports and field trips—all in Arabic!

\*Arabic teachers, and students studying to become Arabic teachers are eligible to apply to the 2013 Startalk Arabic teacher training program. The course will be held on the BYU campus. College credit and stipends are available.

\*Other potential employment opportunities are available. We are currently accepting applications for staff positions in the 2013 camp. We need: instructors, drivers, graders, residential facilitators, cultural assistants, and a videographer.

For more information please see our [FAQ](#) section or contact  
[byu.arabic.startalk@gmail.com](mailto:byu.arabic.startalk@gmail.com)  
with any questions.

## **The Intermountain AP Summer Institute**

The Intermountain AP Summer Institute is growing. The inaugural year of this locally-hosted AP institute offered just six sessions. In just two years ago it has grown to now having 21 different courses. For world language teachers, this conference is one of the best in the nation. The courses available to you this year include Pre-AP World Languages, Spanish, French and Chinese.

AP training is not just for current AP teachers. Each teacher from level 1 and up is working to prepare students to gain proficiency and build fluency. These are what will lead to success on the AP exam.

Plan now to attend this four-day training in Syracuse, Utah. Located 20 minutes north of Salt Lake City, Davis School District is proud to sponsor Utah's only College Board endorsed AP Institute.

Renowned College Board presenters from around the country will spend the week of **July 08-11, 2013** at Syracuse High School to work with AP and Pre-AP teachers. Tuition for the institute is \$650.00. This includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and AP\* materials. Early registration is encouraged. Most schools and/or districts use their AP funds to cover costs of these trainings. Speak to your principal or supervisor for more information.

The World Language trainers are:

Susan Stites - Pre-AP World Languages, Verna Lofaro - French Language and Culture,  
Norma Arroyo - Spanish Language and Culture, The Chinese presenter is yet to be announced.

# Language News

Rarely does a month pass when Utah's Dual Language Immersion programs don't receive some mention in the local or national press.

UFLA member, Maria Contreras, was mentioned in the Governor's State of the State address on January 30 of this year.

Governor Herbert said,

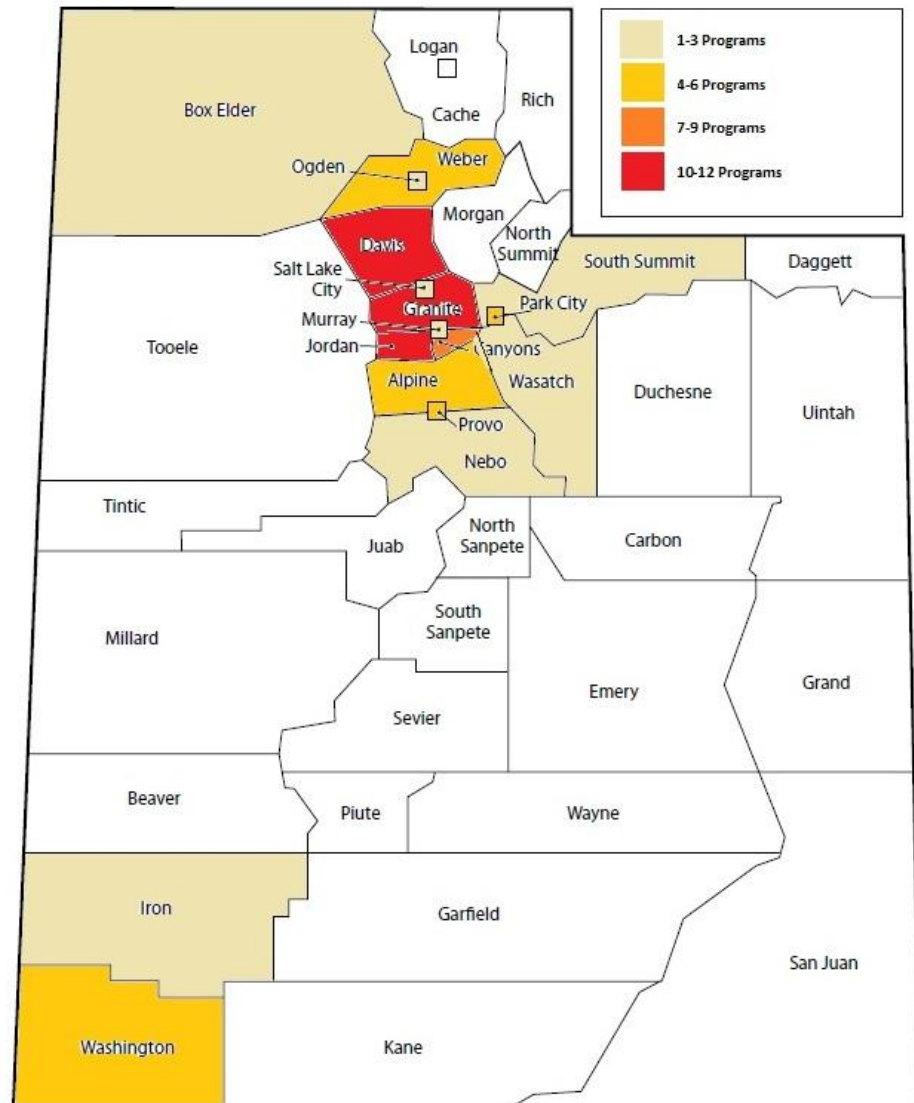
"Utah's success starts with dedicated teachers, teachers like Maria Contreras of Alta View Elementary, where the dual immersion program boasts 275 students. For Maria, teaching is about more than just helping children learn Spanish, or Chinese, or French. It's about cultural literacy, academic excellence, and preparing for a global economy. Immersion students often perform better on standardized testing, particularly in memory, attention control, and problem-solving.

Tomorrow, more than 25,000 dedicated Utah teachers, just like Maria, will

open the door to their classroom and start their day. Tonight, for opening young minds to the empowering knowledge and opportunity that awaits them, I thank every single Utah teacher."

Contratulations to Maria and all DLI teachers for their hard work.

**Utah Dual Language Immersion School Districts**



Approximately 90% of all Utah students are in districts that have DLI programs.

# UFLA Executive Board

## Elected Board Members:

Bonnie Flint, President  
Arron Wheeler, Pres.-Elect  
Jake Sigafus, Past-President  
Mike Wood, Recording Sec.

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Tom Mathews, Executive Secretary  
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Thomas Manning, UCA President  
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## Other Board Members

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Blair Bateman, BYU Rep.  
Ko-Yin Sung, USU Rep.  
Sheri Anderson, U. of Utah Rep  
Isabel Asensio, WSU Rep.  
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Bonnie Flint, SWCOLT Rep.  
Mike Wood, Newsletter Ed.



## What is the Language Summit?

The language summit is a venue where language teachers can meet to discuss best practices for language teaching and successful learning activities. This event is an opportunity to share what works in your classroom, from vocabulary activities, grammar explanations and cultural

activities. All teachers have a voice and an opportunity to learn, to share and to meet educators from their own language teaching. There will be a representation of all commonly languages taught in secondary school. So far we have registered teachers from the following languages: Spanish, ASL, French, Chinese, German and Arabic. Depending on the enrollment these languages will be subdivided by language levels (Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced).

### **Location:**

Utah Valley University Wasatch Campus in HEBER, Utah (For access information please click: <http://www.uvu.edu/wasatch/>)

**Costs: Registration, breakfast and lunch all FREE! BUT YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER!!! Teachers will receive three hours of licensure points from the Utah State Office of Education There is a maximum capacity of 150 teachers therefore all attendees must be registered and confirm your attendance ASAP!**

**REGISTRATION ENDS FRIDAY, March 8<sup>th</sup>!**

<http://www.uvu.edu/lang/events/languagesummit.html>