

# UFLA

The Utah Foreign Language Association Newsletter

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**Jeff Packer**  
**UFLA President**

## The Rhythm of the School Year

Yesterday evening I rode my bicycle home from work. I left the school a little later than I usually do and I noticed that my shadow was longer and the days were getting shorter again. The older I get, the more the changing seasons seem to pass the way that days and weeks did when I was younger. The poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe describes time as an eternally streaming waves that lift us and swallow us up.

As a teacher, the year doesn't begin and end for me in January, but in the fall with the school year. If you are like me, the darker mornings and the shorter days represent not so much an end, but the beginning of a new year, part of a never-ending rhythm of the school year. And although I often regret the end of summer, there is much that I look forward to with the new year.

I look forward to getting to know a new class. Since the first class I ever taught, I have started the semester having students fill out information cards. The last question is always to name the ice cream flavor matches their personality. I make a big deal of performing a psychological analysis based on the flavor they name. It is nonsense, of course, but I really struggle to learn names and faces, and I find it helps me to make an effort on the first day to connect in some way

with each student. Every class has its own personality, and I always enjoy seeing how the class dynamic will work out. It provides a new challenge each year to figure out how to help each new class.

I really enjoy the first day of a beginning language class. I like watching brand new students react first with trepidation when they realize I won't be speaking any English—followed by the slow surprise and delight when they realize that they can understand everything after all, and can even say a few things themselves. I think it is important for students to feel success early and often. I have noticed that many students will start laughing when they have understood something—not because it is funny, but as some primal, subconscious response at having understood. I really enjoy those moments.

I look forward to returning students who are more experienced with the language. I teach a class each semester of returning LDS missionaries who are all excited about the culture they have learned. I enjoy debating with them where the best Bratwurst and Döner can be found. I am energized by their enthusiasm, and I enjoy helping them to progress to the next level of proficiency.

Continued on page 2

## In this Issue:

AATG Report.....	5
SWCOLT Scholarships & Awards .....	6
Teacher of the Year Nomination Requests .....	4
UFLA Board Directory.....	7
UFLA Conference Information.....	2
UFLA Fall Workshop Information .....	3
UFLA Poster Contest.....	2
UFLA President's Message .....	1-2
UFLA Treasurer Report .....	4
UFLA Vitality Awards Announcement.....	2

**Set your calendars for our annual conference on  
February 15th, 2018 at Weber State University**

# UFLA Announcements

President's Message continued from page 2

The rest of the school year will have its own rhythms, with tests and essays and projects and grading. It will end in exhaustion next spring—teaching is hard work, and rewards and recognition can feel few and far between at times, but right now I am reminded that the reason I got into teaching was for the students. Maybe that sounds a little cheesy, but I really do look forward to the students each year. I want them to succeed, and want them to learn the language and the culture. That for me is the fun of teaching. I wish each of you luck with your new classes, and hope you can take pleasure in the rhythm of the year.

Alles Gute,

*Jeff Packer*

Associate Professor of German, Utah Valley University

## Present and Attend UFLA 2018

Proposal submissions are now being accepted for our UFLA annual conference on **February 15th, 2018** at Weber State University! The deadline for submitting a proposal is November 15th so don't delay. Our conference success depends on all of you who have great ideas and are willing to share those ideas with all of us. We hope to start receiving your submissions soon, so dust off one of your best ideas and write up a short description of what you will share and submit your idea at the following link: <http://bit.ly/ufla2018>

Conference Registration is also now open. You can find all the information and register online at <http://weber.edu/ufla>

## Poster & Seal of Biliteracy Design Competitions

Entries for the **2018 Poster Contest** are due on December 1st, 2017. The theme is "Bridges." Check the UFLA website for guidelines and the submission form.

**New! "Seal of Biliteracy" Contest** open to High School students: Design a seal to be used on Utah's Seal of Biliteracy diplomas and related documentation. More information coming soon!

**NEW!!**

## More UFLA Vitality Awards

Each year, UFLA offers Vitality Awards and Collaboration Awards for the purpose of research, study, workshops, or projects for improving the quality of teaching. Award amounts will typically range from \$500 to \$1000. In order to be eligible, teachers must be current members of UFLA; be contracted to teach in a public or private school, elementary through university level, during the present year; intend to teach this language for the at least three more years; and be willing to report and share their experiences with the UFLA membership.

In the past, successful proposals have received funding for language maintenance programs. Curriculum enhancement or course development, collaborative teaching projects, development of on-line courses and activities, travel to conferences or workshops, travel to collect language resource materials or to do research in teaching methods or language acquisition, expenses to give a presentation or read a paper at a regional or national conference. UFLA will not fund tuition, travel or costs associated with graduate-level work or study abroad programs offered by Utah institutions. Please consider applying for a Vitality Award or a Collaboration Award. Often, awards go un-granted because no proposals were sent in.

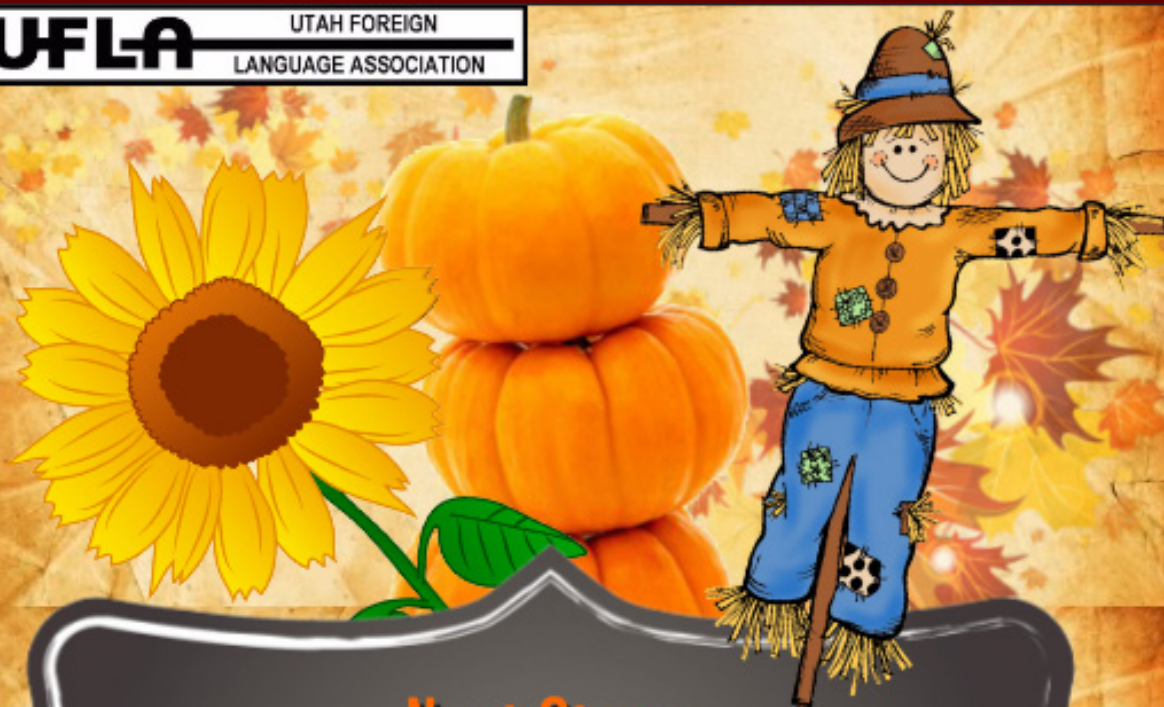
**Starting this year, UFLA members can apply for awards at two times during the year, once each semester. The deadline for the Fall Semester is December 10th.** The deadline for the Winter/Spring Semester is March 15th. The proposal forms can be found at:

<https://organizations.weber.edu/ufla/GrantsAwards/grants.html>

Please send proposals and any questions about the process to:

Stephen Van Orden  
stephenv@provo.edu  
Timpview High School  
3570 North Timpview Drive  
Provo, Utah 84604





**Next Steps:**  
**Implementing Proficiency in the**  
**Language Classroom**  
Register at [weber.edu/ufla](http://weber.edu/ufla)

**October 27-28, 2017**

**Presented by Chantal P. Thompson**  
Professor Thompson has received many teaching awards at the department, college and university levels. As an ACTFL Trainer and popular lecturer, she has been presenting workshops worldwide on all aspects of foreign language instruction and assessment.

**DSU** DIXIE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## UFLA Executive Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The past year was successful in many ways for UFLA.

We had a fine Conference at Utah Valley University in February. Although for the first time in nearly a decade the State Board of Education was not able to provide grants to support the costs of our registration for our Annual Meeting, Utah's great world language teachers came through! We had an impressive total of 487 teachers, students and exhibitors attend the conference. The UVU Dept. of Languages and Cultures provided excellent facilities, as usual. We were pleased to have Dr. Flavia Fleisher, Chair of Deaf Studies and California State University, Northridge, come in as our keynote speaker.

Last November, UFLA had its first "downstate" workshop; Dr. Chantal Thompson from BYU, worked with a group of dual immersion, high school and university faculty on Strategies to Move up the Proficiency Scale. Thanks to Dixie State University for hosting this event.

UFLA performed 88 Proficiency Tests for world language teachers seeking endorsement in French, German, Spanish, Chinese, and Portuguese.

The following individuals represented UFLA this year:

- Electra Fielding and Arron Wheeler were part of the Delegate Assembly at ACTFL in November.
- As UFLA President, Isabel Asensio attended ACTFL in November.
- Leo Valladares attended the Leadership Initiative for Language Learning (LILL) in June.

In addition, the following awards were granted by UFLA through the year:

- At SWCOLT in March, Ryan Roque presented as Best of Utah and our Teacher of the Year, Chantal Esquivias competed regionally.
- John Trimble, Craig Bergeson, Tom Mathews, Fernando Rubio, and Laura Bradford, were awarded the Pat Buckner Vitality Award in May.
- The 2017 UFLA Poster Contest was won by North Davis Preparatory Academy (7-9) and Hillcrest High School (12-12).

This past year, the UFLA Board voted to begin accepting credit card payments for membership and registration. The benefits to our members has clearly made it worth the additional cost and "paperwork" involved.

UFLA maintains tax exempt status as a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation and is incorporated in the State of Utah. We are current members of ACTFL and SWCOLT.

For a full report on the finances of the UFLA, please go to <http://organizations.weber.edu/ufla/LogoFinancial/2016-17AnnualReport.pdf>

**Tom Mathews**

**UFLA Executive Secretary / Treasurer**

## 2017 Teacher of the Year / Guest Teacher of the Year Awards

Dear Colleagues – It is again time to consider nominations for our Teacher of the Year and Guest Teacher of the Year Awards for 2017. UFLA recognizes one exceptional world language teacher from each of the following areas: Elementary, Secondary, and Higher Education.

We also recognize one visiting guest teacher. Nominations for this year's awards are due by **October 15, 2017**. Please take the time to nominate those deserving and talented teachers who we would love to recognize.

Please view UFLA's website under the "Grants and Awards" link. We also refer you the link below for additional information and requirements for nomination.

All nominations with accompanying portfolios should be submitted to:

Jared Nebeker – President Elect, UFLA at [janebeker@dsdmail.net](mailto:janebeker@dsdmail.net).

<http://organizations.weber.edu/ufla/GrantsAwards/Awards-TOY.htm>





Our next AATG Workshop will be a Shareshop

We have so many outstanding German teachers in Utah. We want all of the teachers who come to the shareshop to have the opportunity to share some ideas with the other attendees.

When: Saturday, September 23rd, 9:00-12:00

Where: Timpview High School

What: Idea Sharing

Here are some possible topics to reflect on as you decide what you might want to share with colleagues:

- Technology
- Teaching for proficiency
- STEM/MINT
- Cross-curricular connections
- Community engagement  
(using German outside of the classroom)

These are just some ideas. We want everyone to be able to share what they would like to share. Come prepared to share an idea or two or three. If you don't feel comfortable sharing, come and soak in the ideas. Sharing an idea at our shareshop could be a simple, comfortable step towards presenting a session at the UFLA Conference in February.

If you haven't ever (or recently) met with our AATG Utah group, please consider prioritizing this time to come and interact with your German-teaching colleagues from around the state.

We also have big plans for January:

We have now had two years in a row with successful STEM/MINT student activity days. We want to continue and even grow this tradition. Our plan is to hold the STEM/MINT activity day on either January 20th or 27th 2018. Both of these are Saturdays. We will hold the ac-

tivity day at multiple locations around the state. Each site will decide which date (the 20th or 27th) best fits their context. The activity will be held in the morning from 9:00-12:00.

Each site will have multiple STEM/MINT activities for students to engage in. Students will get to choose two activities. This year we want to improve the experience by adding an additional step to the activities. We want students to be able to create a poster/ cell phone video/ presentation in German where they report the results of their STEM/MINT work. This follows the scientific method more closely by allowing students to publish/report on their results. It also allows students to use more German.

Here are some of the activities we have done in the past:

Legologik  
Hurrikanhaus  
Nudelauto  
Marshmallowturn

We are looking at developing some new activities:

German CAD  
Mousetrap car  
Bridge building  
Something with Aviation  
PVC Alphorn

If you have not participated before, please strongly consider participating next year. This is a great way for students to connect their German acquisition with STEM/MINT disciplines. It is also a great way for students to interact with a larger German learner community. These STEM/MINT activity days can add momentum to your program and encourage your students to make German a higher priority.

Stephen Van Orden  
AATG Utah President

**Southwest Conference on Language Teaching (SWCOLT)  
SUMMER 2018 Scholarship Opportunities for Teachers**



ATTENTION UTAH TEACHERS! SWCOLT Scholarships offer professional learning opportunities to study abroad for foreign language educators in the elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels. SWCOLT is aware that the travel involved in the receipt of these scholarships can be very expensive. SWCOLT will award a \$300.00 travel reimbursement to scholarship winners of summer language study programs. We will also help, upon request, with letters that you could use with state foreign language association, your administrators, PTAs, Booster Clubs, or other organizations that might help you with your travel funds.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: November 20, 2017**

**For the Scholarship Application, go to: <https://www.swcolt.org/awards>**

**SPANISH TEACHERS**

**1. CENTRO MUNDOLENGUA Scholarship**

*This scholarship winner must be a current or dedicated future Spanish AP Teacher who wants to participate in a Centro MundoLengua's AP Institute in Madrid or Seville, Spain, June 24-July 7, 2018.*

- Includes: tuition, room and board with a Spanish family (an individual room), course materials, completion certificate, cultural activities in Seville or Madrid, and a welcome breakfast and farewell dinner.
- For more information, visit: [www.centromundolengua.com](http://www.centromundolengua.com)

**2. UNIVERSIDAD INTERNACIONAL-The Center for Linguistic Multicultural Studies Scholarship**

*"Learn Spanish with Mexican Passion": This scholarship is chosen on a competitive basis to an instructor who is dedicated to further their own study and teaching of cultures in the context of language and to connect culture within their classroom to benefit their students. Recipients must commit to 2 weeks of course work. Open to instructors K-16.*

- Includes: registration and 2-week Intensive Spanish Program (language and culture) course work in Cuernavaca, Mexico anytime in 2018.  
<http://www.spanishschool.uninter.edu.mx/Intensive-Spanish-Program>
- For more information, visit: [http://www.spanishschool.uninter.edu.mx/?page\\_id=2061](http://www.spanishschool.uninter.edu.mx/?page_id=2061).

**3. CEMANÁHUAC Educational Community Scholarship**

*This scholarship winner is chosen on a competitive basis, awarded to a teacher that has had less opportunity to travel in the past, and who is committed to increasing their language fluency and ability while studying culture. In this light, this scholarship seeks to support a teacher specifically looking to improve their fluency or language ability, and is not intended for a fluent or native-like speaker of Spanish. Recipients must commit to 2 weeks of course work. Open to instructors K-16.*

- Includes: Spanish language classes and intensive study of the arts and history of Mexico in an atmosphere of total immersion in the language and culture in colonial Cuernavaca, México.
- Includes: registration and tuition for two-weeks of study anytime in 2018, housing (double occupancy) with all meals, and one all-day field study excursion. The value of this scholarship is \$1083.
- For more information, visit: [www.cemanahuac.com](http://www.cemanahuac.com)

**SWCOLT seeks to partner with scholarship donors of all languages. If you have information regarding potential partnerships for new scholarships, please contact Jill Landes-Lee, SWCOLT Scholarship Chair, at [jill.landes-lee@utah.edu](mailto:jill.landes-lee@utah.edu)**

Additional information regarding Scholarships may be found for the following languages:

**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) TEACHERS:** <https://aslta.org/>

**CHINESE TEACHERS:** <http://clta-us.org/>

**GERMAN TEACHERS:** <http://www.aatg.org/>

**FRENCH TEACHERS:** <https://www.frenchteachers.org/>

**JAPANESE TEACHERS:** <https://www.aatj.org/> and <http://www.iflalc.org/teachers.html#learn>



# UTAH FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Executive Secretary / Treasurer	Tom Mathews	tmathews@weber.edu
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Weber State University	Electra Fielding	electrafielding@weber.edu

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SWCOLT	Jill Landes-Lee	jill.landes-lee@utah.edu

### Advertising Information

The UFLA Newsletter is published three times each year in September, January and May. All issues are distributed via e-mail to UFLA members as well as posted on the UFLA website.

Advertising rates are available at: <http://organizations.weber.edu/ufla/News/AdvertisingRates.html>

Contact Mike Wood at mwood@alpinedistrict.org with any questions or to place an ad.

### UFLA Mission

The UFLA exists to stimulate the interest of all people everywhere in the learning and preserving of skills in foreign languages, and all languages other than English and to foster discussion and interchange of ideas relative to the duties, responsibilities, and problems of teachers and students engaged in the study of foreign languages in order to aid and promote the advancement and mutual understanding of teachers and students.