



Jared Nebeker
UFLA President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The recent months have been a vigorous and exciting start of a new year for UFLA. We hope this newsletter finds you well as you endeavor to help your students achieve their potential, lead as a language teacher, and enjoy the opportunities to collaborate and network among associates, colleagues and friends.

I wish to mention a few highlights right up front.

Our 2018 UFLA Conference was a success with engaging presenters and inspiring ideas. A special thanks to the Foreign Language Department at Weber State University for providing our venue and for coordinating the use of the facilities. We were elated to have **Katrina Griffeth** – ACTFL's 2017 Teacher of the Year – as our keynote speaker. She inspired us with a message of potential and possibility for our students. A special congratulations goes out to the winners of our Teacher of the Year awards: **Diego Batista** (Higher Education); **Melanie Malan** (Secondary); **Ana Cerezo-Berbel** (Dual Language Immersion/Elementary). We are proud of you and your accomplishments. **Melanie Malan** went on to represent us well at SWCOLT where Utah's leadership and professional presence were solid. It was a personal delight for me to associate and collaborate with such engaged professionals.

As we move forward, we are deeply interested in strengthening our relationships with our legislators, both on the state and national levels. We are grateful to advocates of language learning everywhere and hope to be a powerful voice in promoting favorable decisions for language teachers and learners. We are striving to emphasize competency in proficiency-based teaching as we plan training and development opportunities and appreciate the skilled trainers who have contributed to our effort to promote proficiency.

As I have associated recently with fellow professionals in language teaching, I have noticed a recurring thread – the influence and association we have with our students and where that influence and association takes them, and perhaps us. Some years ago I had a student in a level 3 Spanish class approach me one day before a presentational assignment was due. She was terrified and communicated to me that there was no possible way she could perform the task. She informed me that whenever she had to do presentations, she burst into tears and could not continue. To date, as a senior, she had not been able to give a presentation, much less in a second language. With a reassuring smile, I told her that I understood her reservations, but she would have to do the presentation anyway. I attempted to boost her confidence with encouragement and

continued on page 2

In this Issue:

Advertising with UFLA	5
Language News	4
President's Message	1-2
UFLA Awards	3
UFLA Board Directory.....	5
UFLA Fall Workshop Information	2
UFLA Grants Recipients	4
UFLA Mission	5

told her that if at any moment during the presentation she felt she was going to fall apart, she could look at me, present to me, and find my encouraging smile and support. She did the presentation – probably looking mostly at me - and made it through! Years have passed. I got a letter from this student. She informed me that she had been called to serve a Spanish-speaking mission. She expressed gratitude for the experiences she had in my class learning the language and gaining the confidence to use the language. As she was about to embark on an extended presentational and interpersonal experience, I sensed she appreciated deeply the skills she gained and encouragement provided.

I in turn express my gratitude, in particular to language teachers who have played and continue to play a significant role in my experiences with language teaching and language learning. I will not pretend to be exceptional, but I am certain my experiences would not have been as rich nor as rewarding were it not for each of these beloved teachers and professors who took me under their wing and worked – I'm certain with patience – to strengthen me, and in turn, strengthen the profession. *Katrina Griffeth* made it known in our conference that she never anticipated becoming a German teacher. Were it not for an investment on the part of capable and caring language teachers, I would never have dreamed of becoming a Spanish teacher. I sense that the results of their hard work and influence on my behalf are now compounded exponentially as I work to make a real difference in the lives of my own students. *De todo corazón, les agradezco.*

I hope to encourage you as a language teacher to continue to do the amazing things you do to ignite the fire

of language learning in the hearts of students so they will develop a love for and excitement about using their new language. One can never tell how those efforts might pay off someday. I feel strongly that language teachers have the opportunity to reach students in a way others may not. Language enables us to explore so many aspects of life and get to know our students on a much more personal level. Our potential to reach students is certainly enhanced by the nature of language. If you happen to find yourself faltering or in a rut, we are here as a network of colleagues and friends to lend support, training, development, friendship, collaboration, and encouragement. I can't imagine that any of us who have stayed in this profession very long have not felt frustrated or discouraged at one point or another. If this description fits you, reach out to us. Our desire as an organization is to strengthen language teachers and language learners and to provide a solid network of professionals who are serious about being the best at what we do and helping others do the same. As I found myself enjoying conversation in a circle of professionals at the SWCOLT conference, I was overpowered by a feeling of camaraderie and support. Many of those present had been my own professors at one point or another. I wondered to myself how I could convince other language teachers to join that group and discover what I have discovered – being a part of UFLA greatly enhances my experience as a language teacher.

Many are headed into the summer months now with plans for travel, training, and rest. Others will remain on the path and tackle projects or teach. Whatever your pursuits, I wish you the best and look forward to associating with you.

Warm Regards,

Jared Nebeker

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Fall Workshop in St. George

UFLA will host a two-day workshop, Nov. 2-3, 2018, at Dixie State University. Our speaker will be Prof. Cherice Montgomery from BYU who will present on "Project-Based Learning in the World Languages Classroom".

Registration is already available online. UFLA members can attend for only \$10, and that includes lunch! For more information or to register, go to the [UFLA Website](#).

UFLA Awards



Above: *Ana Cerezo-Berbel* accepts the award for Utah DLI Teacher of the year.



Above Right: *Dr. Diego Batista Rey* from Weber State University is honored as the Higher Education Teacher of the Year.

Right: *Dr. Rob Erickson* receives the UFLA Lifetime Achievement Award



Bottom Left: *Ralph and Judy Vander Heide* receive the Friend of the Profession Award.

Bottom Right: *Melanie Malan* (not present) was honored as the Secondary Teacher of the Year



UFLA NEWS



UFLA Advocacy

The UFLA regularly advocates for world language education in many different ways. **Arron Wheeler** (left), **Jill Landes-Lee** (right) and **Electra Fielding** (2nd from right) recently met with **Senator Ann Millner** to discuss the state of world language education in Utah. **Senator Millner** (2nd from left) told us to “Keep up the great work. You have my full support.”

Vitality & Pat Buckner Collaborative Awards

In April, the UFLA Awards Committee met to review applications for the Vitality Award and the Pat Buckner Collaboration Award. We are pleased to announce the following winners:

Vitality Awards

David Kraniski was awarded \$1000 to attend the Centro MundoLengua—Summer AP Institute in Seville Spain. This experience will help **David** as he works with DLI and Bridge students. David will share what he learns at the next AUDI Conference. He is also planning to submit proposals to present at UFLA and SWCOLT.

Elisabeth Ludwig was awarded \$1000 to attend an intensive language course at the Universidad Internacional Center for Linguistic and Multicultural Studies in Cuernavaca Mexico. Her experience will focus on incorporating culture into language instruction. **Elisabeth** looks forward to sharing her experiences at an upcoming UFLA Conference or Newsletter.

Pat Buckner Collaborative Award

Carrie Sandholtz, **Rachel Gaines Eaton**, and **Terry Szink** were awarded \$1000 to study the effects on the language acquisition of students who receive one hour per week of native Spanish tutoring over a 16-week period. They look forward to presenting their results at our UFLA Conference.

UFLA now accepts applications for awards twice each year: March 15th and December 15th. Please consider applying for a future award to support your professional growth. The Awards Committee thanks all applicants this year and encourages future applications for awards.

Stephen Van Orden



UTAH FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

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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 here: [Sponsorship Rates](#)

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.