



New Mexico Organization of Language Educators

Promoting quality second language instruction in New Mexico

Sam DeLyra Butler, President, sbutler@hubwest.com
Natalie Figueroa, President-Elect, figueroa@aps.edu
(Secretary to be appointed by the president.)
Kathy Zipf, Treasurer, kazipf@hotmail.com
www.nmole.org

Fall 2007

Message from the President

Salut, ¡Hola!, Guten Tag!, Buon giorno!, Olá!, Greetings Fellow NM-OLÉ members! As the new President of NM-OLÉ, I am please to send you “as felicitações” .

Well, here we are already a quarter of the way into the new academic year. I know we all feel challenged with the professional development portfolio we are required to maintain, upgrade, and improve every year. In Rio Rancho Public Schools, we are participating in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Our weekly meetings have proven to be useful in an on-going exchange of ideas which, I think, can improve the classroom learning environment. This exchange also includes ideas that can improve oral and written assessments with techniques for streamlining the process to make them more time efficient. This collaborative process will continue throughout the academic year.

Our **LIFT –UP Conference XVIII** held in Las Cruces on Saturday, September 29 was a successful event. Although our total attendance was down compared to 2006, the participating members were

enthusiastic and excited. The sessions presented were creative, and the ideas, techniques, games and visual technology were geared to excite the classroom and stimulate student learning.

During the business meeting, a number of ideas about connecting our members regionally were discussed, in addition to the possibility of having a spring conference. It was felt that having two conferences would stimulate more interest in membership. Another suggestion was to raise our membership fee to \$20.00. These and other ideas will be addressed at the November officers’ meeting in Albuquerque.

Our annual awards this year were limited, due to a lack of nominees. We were able to recognize the following individuals for their achievements to two areas. The **Lifetime Achievement** went to **Thomas Keith Cothrun**. Keith is now working with the AP College Board in Atlanta, Georgia. The **Administrator Award** went to **Bruce Simmons**, the Humanities Academy Head at Rio Rancho H.S., for his continual support of the World Language program.

Again, I want to thank the following presenters for the time, ideas and energy they put into preparing for the

conference: **Lorraine Leftwich** and **Elizabeth Gonzales** from Bernalillo H.S., **Nancy Oakes** from Rio Rancho H.S., **David Arcangeli** from Hobbs H.S., and **Graciela Duarte** from Mayfield H.S.

We owe many thanks for this successful event to a number of Las Cruces members who stepped up to the plate. The following individuals were very helpful in getting the “A” Wing rooms ready at Las Cruces H.S. They are **Rosemary Marquez**, Department Chair, along with **Lucy Tena** and **Natalie Goodwin**. Their assistance helped make this conference run smoothly.

I want to especially thank **Joyce Lentz** for the unselfish donation of her time and energy to co-ordinate the required paperwork and the food catering. She also got an appointment for me with Mrs. Haines, the Las Cruces H.S principal, which made it possible to personally thank her for the use of the facility.

Congratulations to **Lorraine Leftwich** and **Elizabeth Gonzales!!!** Their session entitled “Learning Through Games” was voted the best of New Mexico. They will be representing us at the **SW-COLT Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, February 28 - March 1, 2008**. Review the conference information below, check with your administrators for funding and plan on attending. I’ll see you there!!!

Dr. Roy Howard, who was voted the Best of New Mexico at our 2006 annual conference in Rio Rancho, went to the SWCOLT conference this year in Las Vegas. His presentation “Music in the Classroom: Navajo and Spanish Songs”

was selected to be the **Best of SWCOLT session at ACTFL in San Antonio**. Hurray for Dr. Howard!!! According to the on-line program his session will be offered at 10:00 on Saturday, November 17 under the title “Teach Language and Culture with Music”. Check out his teaching materials website www.cantos.org. Good luck to Dr. Howard in San Antonio.

As the new President of NM-OLÉ, I am excited about my year of service. As an organization for world language teachers, I want to improve this organization as a viable way for teachers to connect with each other and to support them in their professional development. Due to the positive response from members who attended the Las Cruces conference, we are now planning a spring conference in Albuquerque. This meeting will provide our membership with sessions which will benefit their dossiers. This will be a simple, easy way for you all to earn certificates for multiple sessions in a single day. With this focus, membership in this organization will have true value and benefit.

Three cheers for **Natalie Figueroa!!!** (Hip, hip, hurray!!! 3x) She has agreed to take the position of President-Elect for this year. I want to thank her for her willingness to help us out as president-elect and then as president for 2008-2009.

From November 14 to 18, I will be attending the **ACTFL Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas**. As the current President of NM-OLÉ, I will be our representative in the Delegate Assembly meeting on the 14th. Never having attended a national conference, I

am very excited about being there and participating in the event. I will be preparing a report about the convention which will be part of our January newsletter.

Finally, I want to thank the Rio Rancho Public School Board and Bruce Simmons, the Humanities Academy Head at Rio Rancho H.S., for their support in funding my trip to San Antonio for the ACTFL Convention. Bruce was very helpful in his support and encouragement as I completed the paperwork. With this funding, my being

able to attend was absolutely secured. I sincerely thank **Lisa Cour**, the President, and the other members of the Rio Rancho School Board for making my attending this convention possible.

Again, I look forward to working with all members of this organization to re-connect and make our goals achievable. Let's stay in tune and in touch!!!

Amigavelmente,
Sam DeLyra Butler
President
NM-OLÉ

NM OLE President-Elect

Natalie Riggs Figueroa has graciously accepted the position of president-elect for 2007-2008. She will step up to the presidency of our organization in the fall of 2008. Natalie has an extensive background in secondary education. After completing her A.B in Spanish with distinction at Stanford University, she went on to complete an M.Ed. at the University of California in Los Angeles. She is credentialed and certified in Spanish and Mathematics in California and in Spanish in Connecticut and New Mexico. In 1999, she studied in Costa Rica as a Fulbright-Hays Scholar. During the summers of 2002 to 2004,

she served as a Trainer for the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. Since 2004 she has taught in Albuquerque at Bosque School and Cibola H.S. Currently she is serving as the State Director of Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (Spanish National Honor Society). She is now teaching at Albuquerque's newest high school, Volcano Vista. As the new president, I am excited to have Natalie on board as president-elect. Kathy Zipf, our Treasurer, and I are both looking forward to working with Natalie during our 2007-2008 terms. Welcome on board Natalie!!!!

Start Thinking Now About Teacher of the Year Nominees

It's not too soon to begin thinking about an exceptional colleague who could represent our profession as the 2009 ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year! It all begins at the state level with NM OLE **this fall**, so check out how to apply or visit the Awards section of the ACTFL website for more information. Then, contact Sam Butler or one of the other officers of NM OLE.

NM OLE TREASURER'S REPORT
29 September 2007

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Balance: August 31, 2006 | \$10478.97 |
| September 30, 2007 | \$ 9683.61 |
| Savings: \$ 315.57 | Checking: \$2996.18 |
| CD1: \$2235.61 | CD2: \$2014.50 |
| ALTA CD: \$2121.75 | |
| Income: Membership Dues (49), Conference Registration, Interest | \$1709.59 |
| Expenditures: | |
| Public Regulatory Commission | \$ 10.00 |
| SWCOLT | \$100.00 |
| ACTFL | \$125.00 |
| Mailings | \$ 27.69 |
| Lift-Up Conference at Rio Rancho | \$606.82 |
| Teacher Grants to SWCOLT in Las Vegas (Shannon Szuszalski and Mary Ann Garcia-Word) | \$400.00 |
| President's Expenses to SWCOLT (David Arcangeli) | \$700.00 |
| Best of NM (Dr. Roy Howard) | \$400.00 |
| Student Scholarship to Alexandria Maciejewski | \$300.00 |
| | <hr/> \$2669.51 |

Budget for 2007-2008

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Public Regulatory Commission | \$10.00 |
| SWCOLT | \$100.00 |
| ACTFL | \$125.00 |
| Mailings | \$50.00 |
| LIFT-UP 2008 | \$500.00 |
| President's Expenses to SWCOLT in UT and/or ACTFL in San Antonio | not to exceed \$700.00 |
| Teacher Grants to SWCOLT in UT 2@\$200 (non-recipients in the last 3 years will be given priority) | \$400.00 |
| Best of NM to SWCOLT in UT | \$400.00 |
| Student Scholarship 1@\$300 | \$300.00 |
| TOTAL | <hr/> \$2585.00 |

NM OLE Membership.
(Sept. 1, 2007-August 31, 2008)

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| Regular Membership | \$15 | Contributing Membership | \$25 |
| Sustaining Membership | \$50 | Student Membership | \$ 5 |

Name: _____ School: _____
Mailing address: _____
Home phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
Languages: _____ Position: _____
FAX/e-mail: _____

Return this form with a check payable to **NM OLE** to:
Kathy Zipf, Treasurer 6100 Lejano Ave. NE Albuquerque, NM 87109

I would like to receive future mailings by _____ e-mail, _____ snail mail or _____ both.

2007-2008 Membership
Join your colleagues in NM OLE

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| AATF | Joyce Lentz | Madison MS | Lisa Nix |
| Cibola HS | Dr. Danielle Allen | Mayfield HS | Maricela Duarte |
| Bernalillo HS | Charlotte M. Woods | NM OLE | Kathleen Zipf |
| Bernalillo HS | Elizabeth Gonzales | retired | Phaedra Shively |
| Bernalillo HS | Judy Dunken | Rio Rancho HS | Nancy Oakes |
| Bernalillo HS | Lorraine Leftwich | Rio Rancho HS | Rosa Castillo-Wilson |
| Governor Bent ES | Denise Arthur | Rio Rancho HS | Sam Butler |
| Hobbs HS | David Arcangeli | Rio Rancho Mid-High | Luis Estala |
| Las Cruces HS | Lucy C. Tena | St. Pius X HS | J.D. Baca |
| Las Cruces HS | Natalie Goodwin | St. Pius X HS | Laurence Godret |
| Las Cruces HS | Pam Cort | Volcano Vista HS | Natalie R. Figueroa |
| Las Cruces HS | Rosemary Marquez | | |

NM OLE Administrator of the Year

Bruce Simmons was named Administrator of the Year for his continual support of the Rio Rancho High School World Language Program for the past three and half years. While serving as the Academy Head for the Humanities Academy at Rio Rancho High School during this time, he has

demonstrated support of the goals of world languages teachers and the growth of the staff. In this capacity, Mr. Simmons has provided leadership, encouragement and funding for the department.

He came into teaching 12 years ago from a varied background in business and federal government positions. Prior to teaching, Mr. Simmons had worked as an Industrial Engineer with Blue Cross and Blue Shield for six years and then as Operations Director with Freddie Mac for fifteen years. His teaching career has also been varied. He has taught Humanities, AP Government, AP Economics, Social Studies and the International Baccalaureate. His teaching assignments began at the Milford Mill Academy in Maryland where he taught for two years before moving to Rio Rancho High School.

As a teacher at Rio Rancho High School, his enthusiasm for teaching and learning in the Humanities Academy led him to become an extremely productive sponsor of academic extracurricular student organizations. Over the past several years, Mr. Simmons has coached two state champion academic teams: Mock Trial and We the People. As a result of his dedication and enthusiasm to academics, he was twice awarded the Education Star Award from the Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce and has received the Teacher of the Year Award from the Rio Rancho V.F.W. Post.

Mr. Simmons moved from the classroom to administration three and half years ago, and his support for students and enthusiasm for teaching continues. He guides curriculum in the Humanities Academy which is made up of 500 students whose interests are in English, Social Studies and World

Languages. His other duties in the academy include the building physical plant, budget and hiring teachers. Despite his demanding responsibilities, he continues to support student academics by sponsoring extracurricular organizations. He sponsors the Humanities Club, We the People, and Youth in Government, in addition to being an advisor to the National Honor Society.

His enthusiasm for education has impacted the World Language Department in many positive ways. He continually provides support through funding for conferences where language teachers are able to look for the latest upgrades in technology for the classroom and methodologies that directly impact student learning in the classroom. His vision of the importance of world languages has resulted in the hiring of a Mandarin Chinese teacher who will begin teaching this language in the spring term of 2008. His philosophy about world languages is reflected in his comment: "I feel that all students should become familiar with at least one language other than their own in order to complete a well-rounded education that will prepare them for a world where people need to understand each other better than ever before."

Bruce and Danise Simmons have been married thirty-five years, and they are both avid readers. Recently, they celebrated the marriage of their surviving daughter, Sarah, a 2007 honors graduate of the University of New Mexico. They love New Mexico, its culture and physical beauty.

THE 2008 LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

With the annual conference in Las Cruces, it was only fitting that NM OLE recognize one of the most influential teachers to have ever worked in New Mexico. **Thomas Keith Cothrun** not only taught 24 years, mainly at Las Cruces High School, developing an extremely strong German program, but, he extended his reach to the national level serving both as the President of the American Association of Teachers of German and as the President of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. At Las Cruces High School, he was responsible for the entire German program including a GAPP

exchange with two schools in Germany. Every year he was involved with the German immersion weekend in the South. He was a mainstay of all the language organizations including the TLCSNM and NM OLE. Keith served on numerous state education committees and worked at both the national and state level on the World Languages Standards – the 5 C's. With such a record of service, excellence, leadership and influence, NM OLE is honored to present the Life Achievement Award to Thomas Keith Cothrun. We all wish him much success in his next career at the College Board in Atlanta.

BEST OF NEW MEXICO

At the NM OLE annual LIFT-UP conference held on September 29, the session “Learning through Games” was selected by the evaluation forms to represent New Mexico at the SWCOLT conference in Salt Lake City from February 28 – March 1. **Lorraine Leftwich** and **Elizabeth Gonzales** from Bernalillo High School demonstrated how using games in the classroom can be an effective strategy to teach verbs and vocabulary, as well as to get students to extend their knowledge.

They brought game ideas and templates for simple verb conjugation and vocabulary games using dice, spinners and other easily collected supplies. The audience learned how to adapt cheap finds from thrift stores for classroom use. Student produced board games used music, kinesthetics and culture to make learning fun. NM OLE is proud to support Lorraine and Elizabeth with a grant to help with expenses at the SWCOLT.

CALENDAR OF LANGUAGE EVENTS

November 5-11: National French Week www.frenchteachers.org

November 9: Deadline to order National German Tests for January testing. For more information go to www.aatg.org. or contact Ingrid Luchini at iluchini@zianet.com

November 12-16: 8th annual International Education Week

“International Education: Fostering Global Citizenship and Respect”

November 15: Goethe-Institut Stipends Application Deadline

November 16-18: ACTFL 41st Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Antonio, TX
www.actfl.org

AATG Annual Meeting in San Antonio TX www.aatg.org

December 1: Deadline for submissions for the AATF convention in Liege, Belgium July 16-19, 2008

January 11: Proposal Deadline for AATG 2008 Annual Meeting (Orlando FL)

February 18-27: National French Contest - Elementary School Levels. For more information go to www.frenchteachers.org or Kathy Zipf at kazipf@hotmail.com.

Feb.28-March 1: SWCOLT in Salt Lake City www.swcolt.org

March 1-23: National French Contest – Middle/High School Levels. For more information go to www.frenchteachers.org or Kathy Zipf at kazipf@hotmail.com

March 1: Deadline for AATF Summer Scholarship applications. Go to www.frenchteachers.org for more information.

Until March 3: AATG German Summer-Study Program Application Deadline

March 17: AATG Professional Development Summer Seminars Deadline

July 16-19: AATF Convention in Liege, Belgium

July 16-20, 2008: AP(R) ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008

Washington State Convention Center & Sheraton Hotel
Seattle, Washington

IN THE NEWS

UN Proclaims 2008 the International Year of Languages

On May 16 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed **2008 the International Year of Languages!** This proclamation is in recognition that "genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding." You can read the full press release on the UN Web site at:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10592.doc.htm>.

ACTFL is talking with UN officials about how we can work with together to promote 2008 in the United States and promote languages on a long-term basis with our *Discover Languages* campaign.

Learn more about ACTFL's sustained public awareness campaign, *Discover Languages ... Discover the World* and how you can participate at www.DiscoverLanguages.org.

Do you know how you will celebrate Discover Languages month in February 2008?

Visit www.DiscoverLanguages.org to see your colleagues' ideas and shop the Discover Languages store for products to help you promote language education—not just in February, but year-round!

AATF Book Club 2008: Belgique

1. La Belgique: le roman d'un pays by Patrick Roegiers
2. Nous sommes tous des playmobiles by Nicolas Ancion
3. Les Lieux communs by Xavier Hanotte

Concordia Language Villages Announces Mar e Floresta: In summer 2008, Concordia Language Villages will open Mar e Floresta, the Portuguese Language Village, the 15th language immersion program. Registration for youth opportunities and for staff employment will be available by October 2007 through the Concordia Language Villages website or by phone and mail. For more information call Patricia Thornton, Director of Summer Youth Programs at 651-647-4357 or Annette Kirchner, Associate Director for Communications, at 218-299-4916.

Chinese Immersion Charter School Opens in Massachusetts: In September the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School opened with an enrollment in K (22 students) and grade 1 (24 students). The school will add a grade each year until a full K-8 enrollment is achieved. The PPCI aims to prepare students for academic and personal success through rigorous study and instruction aligned with state and national frameworks and standards, augmented with Chinese language and culture. PPCI's goals are to graduate students with excellent scholarship, high proficiency in Mandarin Chinese and English, plus knowledge about and appreciation of other cultures.

New Jersey Launches Hindi Language Program: In August, the Edison School District in New Jersey announced a partnership with the International Education and Resource Network to enhance its existing language programs to include Hindi as an option for students in the district. The three-year program will initially create a Level 1 Hindi curriculum for implementation in September 2008. There are 400 million speakers of Hindi and currently only one high school in the United States offers instruction in the language. The project will link New Jersey students with those in India through iEARN-India's network of over 400 schools throughout India. This pilot project is made possible through a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP). iEARN which was launched in 1988 has grown to become the world's largest educational network for project-based learning, with programs in more than 118 countries. To learn more, visit www.iearn.org and www.us.iearn.org or e-mail iearn@us.iearn.org.

Proposal to Make Hindi a UN Language: There are currently six official UN languages – English, Russian, Chinese, French, Spanish and Arabic. To be adopted, the proposal would require a two-thirds majority in the 192-member General Assembly.

New Heritage Languages Website Unveiled: The Alliance for the Advancement of Heritage Languages has revamped its website to offer expanded content and improved navigation. Visit the site at www.cal.org/heritage/index.html.

Russian Promotes Language at Home and Internationally: Russia has been pursuing a campaign ("2007-Russian Language Year") to promote the national language. In July, ministers in Moscow announced a series of plans, such as expansion of an international cultural foundation comparable with Germany's Goethe-Institut or the Alliances Francaises. The number of mother-tongue Russian speakers as well as second language speakers continues to decline. Russia's population is falling by 700,000 every year and

now stands at 142 million. The Russian government has launched a website in both Russian and English to promote Russian, www.russian2007.ru. It provides details on more than 100 international festivals and events, as well as publications and plans to build libraries.

Bridging Scholarships Awarded for Study Abroad in Japan: 79 undergraduate students from colleges and universities across the United States have been named recipients of Bridging Scholarships for Study Abroad in Japan. The winners will receive awards of up to \$4000 to assist with their living expenses while they study in Japan during the fall 2007 semester or the 2007-2008 academic year. Since 1999, a total of 790 scholarships have been awarded to students studying abroad in Japan. The program is administered by the Association of Teachers of Japanese (ATJ). More information can be obtained at the Japan-US Friendship Commission (www.jusfc.gov) or the ATJ website at www.colorado.edu/ealid/atj.

Dual-Language Options Distinguish Omaha Schools: The Omaha school district is poised to become the only district in Nebraska – and one of only 10 public districts nationwide – to offer a dual-language immersion program for students from kindergarten through graduation. According to the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), eight public school districts offered a Spanish-English dual-language program for students in all grades last year. One district offered a Cantonese-English option from kindergarten to graduation.

Middlebury College and Brandeis University Establish School of Hebrew: Middlebury College and Brandeis University have announced the establishment of the Brandeis-Middlebury School of Hebrew, which will open in the summer of 2008. As Middlebury's 10th Language School, it will be the newest summer program since the Portuguese School was inaugurated in 2003. The curriculum of the 7-week session will focus on modern Hebrew, and enrolled students will adhere to the Middlebury College Language Pledge, a formal commitment to speak the language of study and no other for the entire summer session. The school will also offer optional coursework for qualified students interested in developing their linguistic skills in classical Hebrew. For more details, contact Director of Institutional Collaboration and Marketing Jamie Northrup at 802-443-5856 or jnorthru@middlebury.edu.

The Goldman Sachs Foundation Prizes for Excellence in International Education
The Goldman Sachs Foundation and Asia Society are seeking applications for the 2007 Goldman Sachs Foundation Prizes for Excellence in International Education. The prize program was created in 2003 to raise awareness of the growing importance of international knowledge and skills for U.S. students and annually awards prizes totaling \$150,000 in five (5) difference categories, this year the state category is being expanded to also include the 100 largest school districts. Applications for the elementary/middle school, high school, district/state, and media/technology prizes are due **Dec. 3, 2007**. For more information and to access the online application, please visit <http://www.internationaleled.org/prizes>.

Language Corps Being Developed

The Department of Defense announced the implementation of a pilot "The Language Corps" over the next three years. The pilot Corps will include no fewer than 1,000 members drawn from all sectors of the U.S. population. Members will have the opportunity to join a dedicated pool or a national pool of linguists.

The national pool will consist of a larger national data base of volunteer members who may be available for activation for federal service during times of war, national emergency or other national needs. The dedicated pool will be comprised of a smaller number of members who agree to perform specific responsibilities and duties and serve a specific number of days per year.

The Language Corps, formerly the Civilian Linguist Reserve Corps, represents a vital new approach to address the nation's needs for professionals with language skills. This is an integral component of the Defense Department's comprehensive language roadmap and the President's National Security Language Initiative. The full [press release](#) can be viewed online at <http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=10845>

Foreign Languages and Higher Education: New Structures for a Changed World Report

In 2004 an Ad Hoc Committee on Foreign Languages appointed by the Modern Language Association (MLA) Executive Council began examining the current language crisis as a result of 9/11 considering the effects of this crisis on the teaching of foreign languages in colleges and universities. In reporting on their findings this group states: "Replacing the two-tiered language-literature structure with a broader and

more coherent curriculum in which language, culture, and literature are taught as a continuous whole, supported by alliances with other departments and expressed through interdisciplinary courses, will reinvigorate language departments as valuable academic units central to the humanities and to the missions of institutions of higher learning." The full [report](#) can be viewed at: <http://www.mla.org/flreport>

AATG Annual Meeting

Make plans now to attend AATG's Annual Meeting in conjunction with ACTFL **November 16-18 in San Antonio, TX.** From 7/17 through 10/8, cost will be \$195, and anytime after that the cost will be \$290.

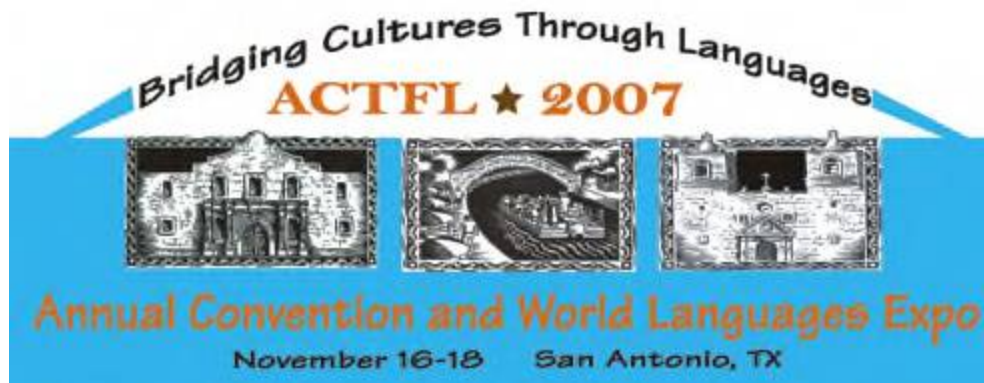
*To get these rates, you ***must*** be a 2007 AATG member.*

To register for the convention go to:

<http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4593>

The **AATG Awards Luncheon** will be on Saturday, November 17. The cost is \$35 if the ticket is purchased before October 8. After that, the cost will be \$42.

Housing is also now available on the ACTFL Web site under Convention & Expo (<http://www.actfl.org>)



ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo

November 16 - 18, 2007

ACTFL Convention and World Languages Expo - Fast Approaching!

If you haven't decided to attend the ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in San Antonio, Texas from November 16-18, 2007 (Pre-convention workshops, Thursday, November 15), make your decision today! Check out the Online Program of all sessions and events. You will be amazed at the huge variety of educational sessions for all languages and all levels.

You still have time to [register online](#) at the onsite rate! If you have already registered and received a confirmation, please do not respond.

Need to reserve a sleeping room? Most of the hotels are already full so your choices are limited. It is critical that you make your room reservations before **housing closes on October 22, 2007**.

Did you know that ACTFL is providing a NEW feature to its Online Program this year? You are now able to search the entire program and develop your own personal schedule online before you get to the convention. Just login to the [Online Program](#) at www.actfl.org and follow the instructions. Be sure to check for any changes when you get to the Convention.

To learn more about the **ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo**, visit the [convention and expo](#) area of www.actfl.org. You must be registered for the Convention to attend the Onsite Career Center.

Other highlights include information about The World Languages Expo, where you can visit more than 300 vendors displaying their latest products and services. This year the schedule has dedicated time for you to visit the Expo.

You will find more information about this year's Opening General Session keynote speaker, actor, director and producer, Tony Plana who will be speaking on "Bridging Cultures through Languages".

Following the Opening General Session, ACTFL will kick-off its first ever **Foreign Languages Film Festival** with an address by Mr. Plana on "Using Theater in Teaching Languages". Featured foreign language films and other activities are planned throughout the Festival during the convention. This event is included in your Convention registration and requires **no additional fee to attend!**

ACTFL is hosting a **Faculty Lounge and Cyber Café** in the Exhibit Hall for the first time to give you and your colleagues more opportunities to network.

You will find complete housing and registration information in the Preliminary Program booklet as well. You can still go to the **ACTFL web site at www.actfl.org** to make your hotel reservations and register. Register early for the best rates!

Most of the meetings and sessions will be held at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center but some meetings and events will be held at the Hilton Palacio Del Rio and the Marriott Riverwalk Hotels. The OPI pre-convention workshops will be held at the Hyatt Regency's Losoya Conference Center.

If you have never attended the ACTFL convention and need some financial assistance, you can apply for an **ACTFL First-Time Attendee Stipend**. Additional information can be found in the [2007 Convention and Expo area](#) of www.actfl.org.

If you would like to earn college credit for attending the ACTFL Annual Convention, please review the [Guidelines for College Credit](#) found in the [convention & expo area](#) of www.actfl.org for information on how you can develop an Independent Study Course.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio for a fantastic Convention!

Onsite Career Center

ACTFL will be hosting an Onsite Career Center during the **ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo** Nov. 16-18, 2007 in San Antonio, TX. Employers are signing up for private interview space—you need to go online and let them know you are available for interviews during the **ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo**.

To designate your availability for interviews during the Convention, go to <http://jobcentral.actfl.org>. A special icon will appear on jobs for which employers will be interviewing and on resumes so individuals can note availability for interviews. Employers will e-mail to schedule interviews, so be sure to check your e-mail regularly. You can also apply for positions in which you are interested.

ACTFL to Publish New Book for New Teachers!

"The Keys to the Classroom ... A basic manual to help new language teachers find their way" will be published by ACTFL just in time for sale at the San Antonio convention November 16-18! This 96-page book, written by Paula Patrick, is designed to provide new teachers and those preparing to enter the profession with the guidance and

confidence they need to launch their careers successfully. Chapters walk the reader through the first week, the first year, and following years, and it includes sample letter templates and lesson plans, as well as tips on handling those difficult times every teacher faces. It's a great way for administrators to support those in the early stages of teaching and to welcome new faculty members, and it should be "must reading" for students in methods courses.

Look for this exciting new publication in the ACTFL Booth outside the entrance to the Exhibit Hall at the ACTFL Convention in San Antonio, TX. It's priced at \$22.95 for ACTFL members, \$26.95 for non-members. Following the ACTFL Convention, the book will be on sale in the ACTFL book store at www.actfl.org, and bulk quantity pricing will be available.

Announcing the *NEW* Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative in Conjunction with the ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo

ACTFL is pleased to join forces with the U.S. Department of Education's Title VI office to offer sessions from its popular regional summer workshops during the ACTFL 2007 Annual Convention on Friday and Saturday, November 16 and 17 at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

The Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative was designed by teachers for teachers in order to provide technical support, professional development opportunities, and recognition for teachers of all content areas and grade levels. Research confirms that teachers are the single most important factor in raising student achievement and the Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative aims to strengthen the efforts of the U.S. Department of Education to provide the necessary support for teachers.

Teachers may be able to earn professional development credit through their district or state for participating in these sessions. To attend you must [register](#) for the ACTFL Annual Convention at www.actfl.org.

Teacher-to-Teacher Sessions

An Integrated Approach: What is it?

This session will demonstrate how to teach Mandarin in a contextualized setting by incorporating a meaningful use of the language into everyday activities. You will use the idea of travel to examine how authentic print and non-print materials can be adapted to support the CLASS and ACTFL standards for Chinese language learning in the five areas of Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons and Communities. Finally, you will leave with practical examples to help you develop entertaining content-based, performance-based, and standards-based activities and assessments in the upper grades.

An Interactive Approach to Teaching and Assessing Chinese with Technology

In this session, you will experience a variety of technology-based activities that can be integrated into the teaching of middle and high school students. This session will

demonstrate how to effectively use e-mail and PowerPoint in the classroom, as well as other Web-based resources.

Assessment that Motivates: Performance-Based Assessment in the Foreign Language Classroom

This session focuses on the importance of using performance-based assessment in the foreign language classroom not only as a way to determine what students know and can do but also to motivate students. You will have the opportunity to examine a number of assessment options that can be used in the foreign language class and you will zero in on the great value of performance-based assessment tasks as a promising vehicle that can show students what they are capable of doing with the language they are learning and can keep them enthused and motivated about their progress.

From Master Plan to Lesson Plan

During this idea-packed session you will engage in using some exciting techniques that improve student acquisition and proficiency and make students more motivated and responsible for their own learning. You will identify your local and state objectives (assessment and curriculum) for what students will know and are able to do and work "backwards" to design activities for immediate use in the classroom!

Interpersonal Communication: Making It Happen in the Chinese Classroom

This session will examine the characteristics of interpersonal communication as one of the three modes of communication. You will explore what interpersonal communication is and isn't and will consider ideas for engaging students in meaningful activities in the Chinese classroom.

Journal Writing in the Foreign Language Class

In this session, the presenter will begin by introducing the audience to traditional uses of the journal in the foreign language class. This approach will only be a springboard for exploration of newer and more meaningful journal instructional techniques that target the development of high-level literacy skills. Specifically, the emphasis in this session will be placed on the foreign language learner as a "user" of, and participant in, the rapidly globalizing world.

Outcomes, Assessment, and Instruction in the Elementary Foreign Language Classroom

This presentation will touch on ways to build school and community support for a Chinese language program while focusing on some strategies needed to attract non-heritage speakers without any prior knowledge of China or Chinese and maintain their interest. Strategies for teaching about Chinese culture without sacrificing language instruction, the use of authentic materials at all levels, and connecting to student interests through thematic units, storytelling and songs will be shared.

Pair and Group Work in the Foreign Language Classroom

Pair and group activities provide a variety of ways in which foreign language teachers can increase practice opportunities for students to improve their communication skills.

Providing meaningful pair work for novice learners in particular, however, can be challenging when students' language proficiency is limited. In this highly interactive session, you will explore a variety of pair and group formats developed by Spencer Kagan for general educational settings and apply them to specific foreign language activities.

Planning for Performance Assessments

This session explores assessment modes and rubrics as essential instruments that guide teaching and learning. You will investigate links between assessment practices and the national standards for foreign language learning. You will gain understanding of using both formative and summative assessments in thematic units that are aligned with the national standards. The concept of backwards design will help you focus your teaching on performance assessment activities. Examples will be based on a high school Russian program, but you can adapt the material to teaching any foreign language in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Read Analytically and Write Effectively in Mandarin Chinese

Reading and writing are two key elements in developing any student's literacy skills. In this workshop, fundamental reading theories will be introduced, and reading strategies that unlock the meaning of texts will be discussed through interactive group work. You will also learn methods for teaching writing processes that students can use as tools to communicate their thoughts more effectively in school assignments, projects and real-life situations.

First Foreign Languages Film Festival to Debut at ACTFL 2007!

ACTFL's first Foreign Languages Film Festival will be held in the Lila Cockrell Theater of the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center during the Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in San Antonio, November 16-18, 2007. Here is the on screen line-up of the major award-winning films being featured this year thanks to our many partners in this effort.

FRIDAY, November 16

10:45am – 12:00pm Opening of Festival by ACTFL President followed by a presentation by Tony Plana

12:15pm – 2:15pm Preview of Tony Plana Panamanian Film/Discuss w/Director

2:45pm – 4:45pm *Respiro (Trama)* sponsored by the Embassy of Italy

5:15pm – 7:15pm *Der Umgekehrte Blick (The Gaze Back)* sponsored by the Austrian Cultural Forum

7:45pm – 9:30pm *Soldados de Salamina (The Soldiers of Salamis)* sponsored by the Embassy of Spain

SATURDAY, November 17

- 8:00am – 9:15am Chinese Films: A Window to Chinese Language and Culture
- 9:30am – 11:30am [*Not One Less*](#) sponsored by the Embassy of China
- 12:00pm – 1:15pm Bridging Cultures through Film: A Virtual Exchange for your Classroom
- 1:45pm – 3:45pm [*Koo Koo Yakyuu*](#) sponsored by The Japan Foundation
- 4:15pm – 6:15pm [*Les Amitiés Maléfiques*](#) sponsored by the Embassy of France
- 6:45pm - 8:45pm *Das Leben der Anderen* (The 2007 Academy Award Winner) sponsored by the Goethe-Institut

JOIN US IN SALT LAKE CITY
February 28-March 1, 2008

The Southwest Conference on Language Teaching is a regional foreign language teachers' organization that hosts an annual conference in partnership with state foreign language teacher associations. The participating states in SWCOLT are Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah.

The purposes of the organization include:

- disseminating and publicizing information, data, and materials which promote, develop, and enhance the study and teaching of languages together with their literatures and cultures; recognizing and publicizing excellence in second language study and teaching;
- promoting the work and interest of state language organizations;
- cooperating with state, national, and international organizations whose purpose is to enhance second language study and teaching.

A great Opportunity -- Spend 2 Weeks in Mexico Next Summer

IUSI – SWCOLT Professional Development Award

In cooperation with SWCOLT we offer two weeks of travel, study and fun in the beautiful colonial city of Querétaro to a qualified Spanish teacher. This professional development award is made annually, and includes tuition, room and board with a Mexican family, excursions and complete pre departure orientation. It is designed for a high school Spanish teacher in early career. Perhaps a colleague? Maybe you!

See our programs at www.iusi.org and contact Linda Bedson

2008 SWCOLT Scholarship Chairperson 480-419-4400 or E-Mail: bedsonl@cox.net for further details. Or contact us at Interamerican University Studies Institute: 800-345-IUSI (4874) or office@iusi.org

And if you have a student who would like an intensive Spanish and environmental biology experience next summer, please forward this announcement to them!

NOTES ON A CONFERENCE

By Shannon Szuszalski

Sandia High School

Hi, everyone! I was lucky enough to win the NMOLE stipend to attend the SWCOLT convention in Las Vegas last April. Because two of us from Sandia High School attended together, I shared the stipend with my colleague Jenny Halpern. We appreciated the stipend, because conference proved to be informative and the fact that it was in Las Vegas added to the fun. We would like to share some highlights of our experience with the membership.

Jenny, who teaches French, found the workshop on France during the Second World War the most beneficial. The speakers were informative and gave useful handouts. As a result, she has decided to add a unit on France's reaction during WWII to her

curriculum. She bought the DVD La France Divisee with study guide by Eileen M. Angelini and Barbara P. Barnett. The DVD shows both the collaboration and the resistance of France during WWII. It features interviews of historians and people who lived through the war. A study guide includes the historical chronology, a glossary of French terms, and class activities. The workshop presenters also provided a list of additional French classroom resources and Holocaust references in French, Spanish, German, and Italian. She also bought a documentary DVD about Marcel Jebelot, a survivor of Auschwitz, who began a new life in Paris. In the interviews, his French is eloquent and comprehensible and he manages to be positive in his

discussion. Yet, he reminds us of the importance of remembering man's inhumanity to man. Jenny is excited about this unit. In addition to the French history and language presented, the universal theme of tolerance is relevant today . Jenny would be happy to share the resource and references with anyone interested.

I attended many workshops, but the one that stood out was a Reading Rainbow workshop presented by Jason Fritze. Mr. Fritze is a dynamic speaker who I know from his TPRS workshops. In this workshop, we learned about the importance of reading in the foreign language classroom and worked on techniques to incorporate reading from the very beginning. Research supports the idea that we should have students reading in level I, rather than waiting until the upper levels. The workshop demonstrated how to use children's big books to

increase vocabulary acquisition by doing story hour with the kids. Big books in English can even be adapted by simply translating the text and pasting the foreign language text into the book. Certain glue sticks transform any paper into removable post-it style paper.

We learned about using story books for reader's theater in the classroom, involving students in acting out the stories and/or filming the stories as a class presentation. I am working on integrating some reader's theater units related to the Blaine Ray TPRS readers in my classes this year. I would recommend the Reading Rainbow workshop to anyone who has the opportunity to attend. One need not be a TPRS teacher to benefit from the workshop.

All in all, the SWCOLT Las Vegas convention was a fun and educational weekend and I thank NMOLE for the opportunity to receive the stipend.



ACTFL

2008 Call for Proposals is Now Open!

Here is your chance share your knowledge and findings! The Annual Convention and World Languages Expo of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) will be Friday, November 21 (Pre-Convention Workshops scheduled on Thursday, November 20) through Sunday, November 23, 2008 in Orlando, FL. The theme for this year is ***Opening Minds to the World Through Languages***.

2008 Call for Proposals

The ACTFL Convention features over 500 educational sessions covering the whole spectrum of the foreign language profession. The entire selection of sessions is designed to provide attendees with an exciting array of sessions and events to further their knowledge and help them be better teachers or administrators. We welcome you to submit a proposal for consideration. When you login, please read carefully the Submission Guidelines, the Presenter Responsibilities and the Rubric used in the review

ACTFL Annual
Convention and World
Languages Expo
Nov. 21-23, 2008
Orlando, FL

process before submitting your proposal.

The 2008 Call for Proposals is now open on the ACTFL web site at www.actfl.org.

ACTFL members already have an account in this system. To login, your user name is your surname/family name and your password is your ACTFL member ID.

If this is your first visit to the ACTFL 2008 Submission and Online Program site AND you do not have an ACTFL user account, you will need to create a new user account. Once you have created a user account you can access the site through the user login.

DO NOT create a user login each time you visit the site.

When you submit a proposal, all correspondence between ACTFL and its co-sponsoring organizations will be done via email generated through this site which is hosted by All Academic. You are asked to check your "junk mail" file and to have your "spam blocker" settings allow emails from DO_NO_REPLY@allacademic.com.

If you have not received any email messages by the advertised deadlines, you may login to the Call for Proposals online system to check the "Message Center" for emails sent from ACTFL or any of the co-sponsoring organizations.

ACTFL
700 S. Fairfax St.
Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22314
headquarters@actfl.org
703-894-2900 (ph)
703-894-2905 (fx)
www.actfl.org



Visit our website at: <http://www.nclrc.org>

A new school year is here, and we are pleased to introduce these new features this month:

- Our new **Study Abroad Blog, Candice al Dente, *live from Italy!*** Read about her obsession with gelato...and comments on her language classes, too.
- Our **Teacher Diary** is now written by a teacher *educator*, Bill, who teaches language teacher candidates at a state university.
- **Teaching Heritage Learners: Root Words** provides insights from a teacher of Spanish and a researcher of heritage learners of other languages.



★ Announcements:

- **The East Coast Organization of Language Testers** announces ECOLT 2007, Current Practices in Language Testing, November 2 - 3, 2007; at The George Washington University, see www.cal.org/ecolt/
- **The Language Materials Project (LMP)** has augmented its offerings for K-12 teachers. Now you can search for materials based on target audience (e.g., elementary, secondary, post-secondary or heritage learners.) The LMP has also added detailed citations of several hundred items for younger audiences. Find it at www.lmp.ucla.edu .
- **LinguaVista** is a new website that allows one to locate high-level language programs in the United States and abroad. You can take a look at LinguaVista at linguavista.casl.umd.edu
- Check out our expanded **Teacher's Calendar** with **international conference listings** and all **state and language-specific language teacher conferences**.

Troubleshooting:

If your email client does not recognize the links in this webzine, or the links do not work, you can go straight to the NCLRC newsletter online page by clicking this link www.nclrc.org/newsletter.html or copying and pasting the link into your browser address bar.

★ Feature article

Getting Students to Talk in the Target Language

★ Culture Club

Edited by Christine Meloni



Sheila Cockey

What are some ways to engage and involve our students with oral conversation from the very beginning? What are some ways to continue that exciting entrée through the year and through their career as language learners? **Read more...**

★Teacher's Diary

This year our focus changes from classroom language teacher to teacher educator. Bill is a teacher educator in Columbia, South Carolina, and shares his reflections on teaching new language teachers.

Dear Diary,

Wow, it's the beginning of a new school year ... More than any other year, I'm more anxious about the school year and so are my students, for different reasons... As for my students, they are multitasking constantly. Some are working in area schools as teachers with provisional teaching certificates... The others are enrolled in the traditional education program. Regardless of their current position, they all remain worried about spending so much time/money and exerting so much effort to become an educator while wondering if they'll get a job teaching upon graduation. **Read more...**

★Teaching Heritage Learners: Root Words



Edited by Jamie Lepore Wright. This new column features an article on a topic related to heritage language learning. We plan to alternate between articles on teaching heritage learners of Spanish and other languages. This month's focus is on teaching heritage learners of Spanish:

Case Study: Founding a High School Spanish for Native Speakers Program

by Belinda Sauret, Ph.D., Oakwood, Georgia Imagine that you are in this situation: As the school year starts you are looking forward to teaching the opening year of the Spanish for Native Speakers classes, the first in your school that is 36% Hispanic. When you go to the bookroom, you find no textbooks on the foreign language shelves other than those for beginners. **Read more...**

★Readers' Corner

Here's where you, our dear readers, can TALK BACK! This month we ask about teaching culture.

When you've given a reading or listening assignment how do you follow up in class for understanding?

What's new in the Culture Club? Three rooms have been completely renovated. **The Banquet Hall** features a recipe for Very Versatile French Crêpes from the French Embassy in Washington. **The Music Room** includes reviews of CDs in French by Camille; in German by Nena, Annett Louisan, Sportfreunde Stiller, and Udo Lindenberg; and in Spanish by Vicente Fernandez. **The Photo Gallery** has two contests, the **Where in the World? Mystery Photo Contest** and the **What in the World? Mystery Photo Contest**. Check out the Photo of the Month and photos of graffiti in Barcelona. In the **Internet Media Room** you will find a link to Candice's Blog from Rome (see below). Please take a few seconds to respond to the **one-question survey** on the Home Page of the Culture Club.

★Study Abroad Blog: Candice al Dente

Candice is a student friend of ours on a program in Rome, who is corresponding with Lisa Carlucci, an Italian teacher, and our own Christine Meloni. Follow her adventures throughout this semester as she learns all about Rome. You can comment or give her suggestions, too.

Friday, September 7, 2007: "I haven't had any Italian language classes yet, but I find myself learning words through street signs and ordering food. . in Rome, I find myself constantly using the same words over and over again which helps me solidify not only the vocabulary, but also my accent. Additionally, it is extremely helpful to hear different Italians say words, because you can pick up on all the different intonations. Something I learned the other day after seeing what I thought was an argument on the bus was that when Italians speak loudly it is not a sign of disrespect or an argument. It is a way for them to show that they are paying attention to the conversation. ...This weekend we will be going to La Notte Bianca! If you have any suggestions on what to see during this event let me know!" **Read Candice's Blog**

★Dear YANA



Classroom Solutions: Teaching in the Target Language

By Sheila Cockey. YANA stands for "You are Not Alone." Your questions on challenges in your classrooms are answered by an expert on languages and culture teaching. This month's question:

- I want to teach in the target language (TL) as much as possible, but with level one students it is difficult. I will start doing it and we'll see how it goes. Do you have any ideas for me?

Answer our **Poll**

What is the best listening material that you have found for your language? Click here to answer the **Question**

We received a surprisingly large number of responses to our back-to-school poll in the August 2007 newsletter! The question was: **How do you feel at the beginning of the school year?** **Here is a breakdown of the results, from 117 total responses ...**

★Teacher's in the Classroom



Summer Institute Reflections: Kathy Watlington
This summer Panola College Spanish Professor Kathy Watlington attended *Total Immersion for Spanish Teachers* an institute provided by the National Capital Language Resource Center. **Read more...**

★Languages...? Ask Dora

Dora Johnson is a Program Associate at Center for Applied Linguistics, and answers reader's questions related to languages. This month's question:

- My goal is to speak and read Arabic. I would like to learn in an environment that will progress at my pace, and not according to a set schedule.

Read Dora's answer...

Read YANA's answer...

★Tech for Teachers



Let the Dry Erase markers dry out; try Skrbl! by Ben Redmond, George Washington University
Borrowing its concept from schools around the world, Skrbl (pronounced "scribble"), a new online application, provides users with a simple and fun way to share ideas, files, and photos, all with the ease of writing on a classroom whiteboard. For language educators looking for a truly interactive, free discussion board to communicate with both colleagues and students in real time, this represents quite a step up from dry-erase markers. **Read more ...**

★Professional Development, Conferences and Funding Opportunities

We've compiled the conference announcements in one easy-to access place, the Teachers' Calendar. *Find out what conferences are coming your way this year **here...***
*Also, see grants and scholarships **here***

★Critical Languages

Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian, and more

Columbia University announces its **Asia in the Curriculum** symposium; CASLS is looking for teachers and students to participate in their third and final year of the **FLAP grant-funded project, NOELLA Read it all here...**

★NCLRC Staff

We asked for your contributions in August, and got several responses from readers with ideas for articles. Thanks for your contributions to the Language Resource! In September, we added to our staff of student interns. See their bios and pictures on **our staff page**. The first new contribution, by Ben Redmond, can be seen in our **Websites for Teachers** column.- Jill Robbins, editor

The Language Resource is a monthly publication of the National Capital Language Resource Center **<http://www.nclrc.org>** to provide practical teaching strategies, share insights from research, and announce professional development opportunities for all foreign language educators.

Funded by the US Department of Education through Title VI, we are a consortium of Georgetown University, The George Washington University, and the Center for Applied Linguistics.

Also available on our website

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|--|---|
| Culture Club | Elementary Immersion Learning Strategies Resource Guide |
| Arabic K-12 Teachers' newsletter | The Essentials of Language Teaching |
| Sailing the 5 Cs with Learning Strategies: A Resource Guide for Secondary Foreign Language Educators | Developing Autonomy in Language Learners: Learning Strategies Instruction in Higher Education |
| Portfolio Assessment in the Foreign Language Classroom | Russian for Russians |