

The Communicator

the Newsletter of the Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers Association



October 2015
Volume 16, Issue 3



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear LFLTA members,

How time flies! Already halfway through October which means not long before our 2016 LFLTA Conference.

This autumn your board has been busy organizing the 2016 Conference which

This autumn your board has been busy organizing the 2016 Conference ...

will take place this upcoming January in Baton Rouge. In addition to this, your board has been planning LFLTA Regional meetings, many of which have already taken place. If you are not sure in which Region you are located or to contact your Regional Representative, please, visit the website: www.lflta.net Also, there you will find information about the 2016 LFLTA Conference as well as information regarding the two \$500 mini-grants, our social media presence and many other resources available to LFLTA members.

LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear LFLTA Members,

We've started receiving some great looking proposals for presentations and round tables but we're still looking for more to create a well-rounded conference that address the needs of all languages, levels, and programs taught in Louisiana. LFLTA arranges fifteen 45-minute presentations and fifteen more intimate 25-minute round table presentations, which may be presented in the target language or in English. If you intend to submit a proposal, please go

This year, you have the opportunity to attend one of two free pre-conference WORKSHOPS

to www.lflta.net **right away** and complete the online form. The **DEADLINE is NOVEMBER 1, 2015.**

This year, you have the opportunity to attend one of two free pre-conference WORKSHOPS the morning of January 15 from 9:00 - 11:00. *Develop a Discourse Classroom* is presented by LFLTA Board Members Michele Braud and Melissa Monroe and is based on the teachings of Dr. Eileen Glisan and the newest 5th edition of *The Teacher's Handbook* with examples from their own classrooms. *Integrate Easy-To-Use Technology* is presented by Michael Dettinger, Director of LSU Foreign Language and German Instructor, and is a hands-on training focusing on Web 2.0. Each is limited to 40 participants. Register at www.lflta.net

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership is from conference to conference. Annual dues are renewable at conference: \$25/teachers; \$10/students are paid along with the registration.

WEBSITE

<http://www.lflta.net>

OTHER WEBSITES

<http://scolt.org/>

<http://www.actfl.org/>

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Keynote Speaker and Workshop Leader



Toni Theisen, the 2013 ACTFL President and the 2009 ACTFL Teacher of the Year, teaches French at Loveland High School in Loveland, Colorado where she is also the district WL Curriculum Representative. Theisen is a National Board Certified Teacher with a M.A. in Foreign Language Teaching and a M. A. in Education of Diverse Learners. She is also a Google Certified teacher.

Very active in the foreign language profession, Theisen has presented many workshops, keynotes and webinars for national, regional, and state conferences and has authored articles on Multiple Intelligences, Differentiated Instruction and Technology for the 21st century learner. Theisen presented “Activating Communication” as part of the first ACTFL Webinar series and also presented at the 2011 LARC STAR-TALK Institute at San Diego State University.

Theisen has participated on many committees including the revision of the World Languages teacher standards for licensure. She chaired the 2009 revision of the Colorado World Languages Academic Standards. She served on the committee for the National Board for Professional Teacher Standards in 2000 and was the co-chair for the revision committee of the NBPTS Teacher Standards for WLOE in 2009. Most recently she chaired the ACTFL 21st Century Skills Map committee in collaboration with the Partnership for 21st Century Learning.

Toni served as President of the Colorado Congress of Foreign Teachers in 1988-89. As an ACTFL Executive Board member from 2001-2005, Toni served as the program chair for the 2004 and 2005 conferences. She was the Local Chair for the CSC, SWCOLT and CCFLT Joint Conference in 1988 and the Program Chair for the 1991 Central States Conference.

Toni has received many honors including the ACTFL Nelson Brooks Award for the Teaching of Culture, The Colorado Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, the SWCOLT Excellence in Teaching Award and the Genevieve Overman Memorial Service Award from the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers.

What: 2016 LFLTA Conference

**Where: Marriott Hotel
5500 Hilton Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225-924-5000**

When: January 15-16, 2016



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Send all submissions or queries to

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

A number of board members will be rotating off of the LFLTA Board this year after successful completion of their service to Louisiana's professional organization of World Language Teachers. I would like to thank each of them for agreeing to serve within our community of professionals. It is my hope that each of you will extend a word of thanks to those who have served and consider yourself or someone you know for one of the many leadership roles within LFLTA. Nominations may be made at this year's conference. One of the best ways to thank our colleagues for their service is by joining the ranks of elementary, secondary and post-secondary educators from around the State who have already answered this call.

I wish each of you continued success this school year and hope to see each of you very soon.

Sincerely,

Scott W. HARRIS
LFLTA President

LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

This year our keynote speaker and workshop leader is National Board Certified Teacher, Toni Theisen, the 2013 ACTFL President and 2009 ACTFL Teacher of the Year. She is returning to LFLTA for our 50th anniversary. In 2010, Toni Theisen taught me how to make a wordle, a RAFT and a choice board. In fact many things I do today can be attributed to what I learned from Toni Theisen at that LFLTA workshop on technology and on differentiated instruction. I can't wait to discover what we'll learn at her keynote address "Activating Chaos to Invigorate Learning" and at her workshop "Activating Communication: Designing Learning and Creating Meaningful Assessments"!

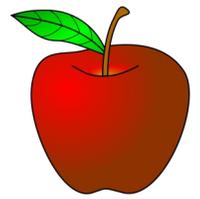
Concluding our 2016 conference will be our business luncheon where we announce the recipients of TWO \$500 MINI-GRANTS for purchasing classroom materials as well as LFLTA'S Teacher of the Year. This award recognizes one World Language teacher from Louisiana whose accomplishments in the classroom and community merit this recognition. Nominations for Teacher of the Year have closed, but we are accepting mini-grant applications until November 1.

The LFLTA conference will take place Friday January 15 and Saturday, January 16, which is the same weekend as the Martin Luther King Jr Holiday. Consider extending your stay in Baton Rouge and experience the revitalization that's going on here. Get tickets for the LSU Men's Basketball game, the Jewish Film Festival at Manship Theatre at or attend the downtown MLK March For Peace. www.visitbatonrouge.com

Find everything you need at www.lflta.net I can't wait to see you all in Baton Rouge!

Sincerely,
Michèle Braud

Teachers in the News



Alison Grooms was selected as the 2015-2016 High School Teacher of the Year for Bossier Parish. She is a teacher at Airline High School. She has been teaching at Airline for the past 3 years. Prior to that she taught Kindergarten at Bellaire Elementary School. Alison attained her Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas and her Master's in School Counseling from Baylor University in Texas.

Alison loves to travel. She has traveled abroad on 43 different occasions. Many of these trips have been mission trips. Alison also spent two years in Argentina while studying Spanish at an international school there.

Her ability to speak Spanish has allowed her to

lead many church mission trips into Spanish speaking countries and also serve as a translator. Her reason for learning Spanish is best expressed in her own words. "I never planned to teach Spanish! I was going to be an elementary school teacher! I learned Spanish because I made a promise to a 13 year old boy named Caesar in Guatemala that I would learn his language so I could communicate with others just like him one day. I wanted to be able to talk to the kids in the orphanages without using a translator to help them feel more comfortable. God's plan is SO much bigger than ours because a few years later, I was given the chance to teach at Airline!"

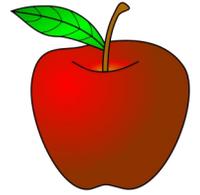
**Congratulations Alison Grooms 2015-2016 Bossier Parish High School
Teacher of the Year!**

by

Juan Álvarez



Teachers in the News



Pablo Menendez Pato was selected as Louisiana Elementary School Teacher of the Year at the Cecil J. Picard 9th annual Educator Excellence Celebration and Gala presented by Louisiana Department of Education in partnership with Dream Teachers and the Louisiana Association of Principals. This celebration honors the state's most exceptional teachers and school leaders.

Pablo has been teaching at Geraldine Boudreaux Elementary in Jefferson Parish for three years. Born and raised in northern Spain, Pablo Menendez Pato had been teaching English for three years in Spain before becoming part of the



“Profesores Visitantes” exchange program, in which highly qualified bilingual teachers were being recruited to American classrooms. Pablo earned a Master's Degree in Foreign Languages from the University of Oviedo.

Mr. Pato teaches Science, Social Studies, and Math in Spanish to second- and third-graders. His student achievement data and professional practice scores were so high that Kiplyn Pereira, principal at Geraldine Boudreaux Elementary selected him as teacher of the year at the school. Recently, the Jefferson Parish Public School System awarded him elementary teacher of the year and he went on to be selected as Elementary Teacher of the Year by the Department of Education.

[Click here for full article.](#)

During the Saints Falcons game, the New Orleans Saints honored Mr. Pato as the Saints/Chevron Teacher of the Week. Pablo received two VIP tickets and celebrity treatment throughout the game.

Congratulations Pablo Menendez Pato, Louisiana Elementary School Teacher of the Year!

[Click here for Saints Article](#)

By Juan Álvarez

A message from our Webmaster:

Where can you find updated information on our 2016 Conference? Our website: www.lflta.net. Our 2016 Conference pages are coming together and being updated daily.

Here are some of the things you can find now:

- Information about our 2016 Conference location
- Information about our Keynote Speaker and Workshop Leader, Toni Theisen
- Toni Theisen's Keynote and Workshop topics
- Online links where you can fill out and submit applications to present at our 2016 Conference as a Lecturer or Roundtable presenter
- Downloadable presenter forms that you can print and mail in



Available Now:

- Hotel reservation information
- Conference registration information
- LFLTA Teacher of the Year nomination information and applications
- \$500 Mini Grant Applications

Check our website www.lflta.com often for updated information.

Melissa

Remember to send your suggestions, ideas and news items to: [juan.alvarez@bossier schools.org](mailto:juan.alvarez@bossier.schools.org)

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The Communicator

The Communicator is published six times a year by the Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers Association.

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Keep in mind that space limitations may make it impossible to publish all submissions and that submissions may be edited for brevity and clarity.

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