

# The Communicator

the Newsletter of the Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers Association



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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear LFLTA members,

I hope this letter finds each of you enjoying your summer with family and friends. This time outside of the academic year allows us to change our focus from the day to day running of our classrooms to something different and just as important. Many of us use this time to conduct or participate in workshops and conferences, to coordinate world language excursions with our students and colleagues, to refine or reconstruct units for the next year, events including the

*Your LFLTA Board is busy planning different events including the 2016 Conference...*

2016 LFLTA Conference for the upcoming school year. Each of our Regional Representatives is planning a regional meeting to take place this fall. At this meeting your Regional Representative will inform you of what is taking place within or simply to relax. Whatever it is that you are doing, I hope you are having a good time doing it. Your LFLTA Board is busy planning different our organization as well as provide you with an opportunity to make connections with other World Language teachers in your area. Please consult LFLTA's website ([www.lflta.net](http://www.lflta.net)) in order to find the contact information of your Regional Representative if you have not already done so.

## LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Hello LFLTA members,

After so many years of being an LFLTA member and board member, I am happy to be able to serve as your Vice President and help coordinate the 2016 convention! This will be our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will be the focus of this year's theme, "Celebrating 50". We heard your praise in hosting the convention over the Martin Luther King Jr weekend and so this January 15 – 16, 2016 (MLK weekend) we will have the LFLTA conference in Baton Rouge at the Marriott right off I-10. A hospitality committee is already formed compiling great places to dine and visit as well as interesting outings during free time and post conference.

*Toni Theisen was awarded the ACTFL Teacher of the Year and went on to become President of ACTFL.*

Perhaps some of you may recall the dynamic Toni Theisen who presented at the 2010 conference in Alexandria. I know that for me the ideas she shared that weekend on scaffolding lessons, differentiated lessons and offering choice boards to students absolutely changed the way I teach. Toni Theisen was awarded the ACTFL Teacher of the Year and went on to become President of ACTFL. We have invited her back for our anniversary conference to share new ideas and current practices that are relevant to multiple languages, all levels of instruction, and immersion education. I encourage you to check out the LFLTA website to find out a little more about Ms. Theisen.

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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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Keep in mind that space limita-

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

I would like to let you know that Jordan Aillet has stepped down as LFLTA Vice President due to his acceptance of a teaching position in Texas. LFLTA's Executive Board has appointed Region II Representative Michèle Braud as Interim Vice President. She will complete the remainder of Jordan's term. Please join me in thanking Jordan for his years of service to our association and the State.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your contributions to LFLTA. I am looking forward to another successful year as we continue to grow as professionals through our association.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Harris  
LFLTA President

## LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

And now we look to the leaders in our state to help establish the conference. Of course, that is you, the members of LFLTA. I encourage you to reflect on what works well in your professional life; lesson plans, curriculum, networking, management, extracurricular activities etc... and share those ideas with others. When reflecting, consider what you know now that would have been helpful earlier, consider compliments you have received from parents, students, administration, and colleagues, consider sharing recent learning and programs. Remember that as an educator, you are a presenter. You present every time you stand in front of students and instruct them or lead them to new understanding. A lecture or round table presentation is just to a different audience. Contact your Regional Representative or me if you have more questions about presenting and complete the online forms at LFLTA.net. The pre-conference workshops were such a hit that we're looking for new ideas. If you have a special interest that you would like for me to pursue, please contact me.

Please make plans to come to the 2016 LFLTA conference and bring a friend!

Can't wait to see you next in Baton Rouge next January!

With the warmest regards,

Michèle Braud

# CONFERENCE 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***



### **Michelle Braun appointed Interim Vice President**

During the Summer Retreat, Michele Braud was appointed as Interim Vice President by the LFLTA Board.

Michele is a National Board Certified Teacher and in 2012 was a finalist for the East Baton Rouge Parish Teacher of the Year. She teaches French and is the World Language Department Chair at Baton Rouge Magnet High School in Baton Rouge, LA. Michele has also served on various local and state committees including the state committee for designing the new World Language Content Standards. She received her bachelor's, master's and specialist degrees from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge where she continues to work with future teachers. Michele has completed study programs in France and Belgium.



### ***A message from our Webmaster:***

Where can you find updated information on our 2016 Conference? Our website: [www.lflta.net](http://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

#### **Coming Soon:**

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

# The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana

**The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana** (CODOFIL; “*Conseil pour le développement du français en Louisiane*”) is Louisiana’s Office of Francophone Affairs (*Agence des Affaires Francophones*). The agency has multiple legislative mandates that include tourism, economic development, culture, education and international relations in French. To fulfill these mandates, CODOFIL works to provide access to economic, international, educational, cultural, and professional opportunities in French that add value to the linguistic and cultural identity of all Louisianians.

CODOFIL enjoys privileged relationships with governments, cultural and private structures and media outlets throughout the francophone world. Through CODOFIL, Louisiana is a signatory of cultural accords or MOUs with the governments of France, Belgium, Senegal, and the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Québec.

CODOFIL is dedicated to establishing stronger links between the Louisiana French and Creole culture – especially the linguistic traditions – with the global economy. CODOFIL sponsors foreign associate teachers from the francophone world and continues to develop Louisiana teachers for French Immersion programs throughout the state with the *Escadrille Lafayette* program.

Today, CODOFIL’s focus is on building “Francophone spaces” in communities where Louisiana French identities may be re-generated or “re-acquired.” With the assistance of this state agency, communities become empowered to endow themselves with the elements that will fashion this identity, i.e., public services, signage, and commercial products and services all in Louisiana French. In order to sustain that Louisiana French brand, CODOFIL aims to grow the French Immersion model and thereby create the linguistically skilled workforce that will assure the opportunities for future generations to live, work, and play *in French* in Louisiana

in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The CODOFIL team is dedicated to leveraging the Louisiana French and Creole languages and cultures for economic opportunities not only for the traditional fields of French education and Francophone tourism, but also for activities in sectors such as defense, humanitarian aid, media production, agriculture, oil and gas, etc. *L’agence des affaires francophones fait de bonnes “affaires”!*



Bottom row, l-r: Samantha Cook, Jennifer Rodriguez, Peggy Feehan.

Top row, l-r: Jean-Robert Frigault, Charles Larroque



Congratulations to LFLTA member, **Tia Lebrun!** She was chosen to represent Louisiana as a delegate to AATF at the 2015 National Conference in the Canadian Province of Quebec.

While there, Tia became the administrator for the French National Exam for the state of Louisiana, was named as the Social Media Coordinator for the state chapter, and was awarded a one week study abroad, immersion session from College de Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatiere.

**This is a fun and engaging closing activity that I have used in my classroom very effectively.**

Stacey Clark a French and Drama teacher at Parkway High School in Bossier City submitted this activity:

I begin by doing a "what is this? this is a..." exchange. I start with the trash can (empty it out or do "bag" as your next item and put clean bag in the trash can) You can add the sentence "I am putting the X in the trashcan" if you want. Go around the class snatching things from students and continuing with "what is this? this is a X" and then put the item in the trashcan. Doubles and triples are fine, but try to get as many funny things as possible (someone's shoe, phone, purse etc.) End by doing "what is this? this is a chair." and putting a chair on top of the trashcan, and then pick a student (what is this? this is a student/girl/boy.) and put them on the chair. Have the students get out a piece of paper and pencil and give them 30 seconds to write down as many items as they remember (including numbers-- as in 3 pens). Have them switch papers and check off items as you remove them from the trash can and call out "Whose is this? That's my X." Give a prize to the person with the highest number of items (and perhaps also to your poor victim on top of the trashcan for being a good sport.) Reviews class and personal items, gender and possessive pronouns.

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.

Please visit our website:

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