

The Communicator

the Newsletter of the Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers Association



Summer/Fall 2014
Volume 15, Issue 1



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear LFLTA Members,

Well another academic year has come to an end. It is at this time that we reflect upon the accomplishments of this past school year and make plans for the one that is just

LFLTA is forever grateful to LFLTA Representatives Jordan Aillet and Juan Álvarez and Centenary College's Dana Kress and his students as well as the City of Shreveport for welcoming LFLTA to Shreveport, Louisiana for the first time in LFLTA history!

around the corner.

LFLTA has had another successful year due to the tireless efforts of its board and members. Each of our Regional Representatives hosted a regional meeting in order to reach out to World Language teachers in the eight different regions of the State. Our 2014 LFLTA Conference entitled *World Languages on Common Ground* was another successful meeting of over 135 members! LFLTA is forever grateful to LFLTA Representatives Jordan Aillet and Juan Álvarez and Centenary College's Dana Kress and his students as well as the City of Shreveport for organizing, volunteering and welcoming LFLTA to Shreveport, Louisiana for the first time in LFLTA history!

LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings LFLTA Members,

Let me begin by saying that we are so happy that our organization was able to experience a new region of our state at the 2014 conference in Shreveport. It is our hope that, through trying out areas in which the conference has never been held, world language teachers from every corner of the state can see just what we are about and become more involved in our profession. Thanks to the LFLTA, our individual interest and drive to become better teachers can come together to make our standing as professionals and the importance of our subject more prevalent for our students, our schools, our communities, and in our state's decisions concerning education.

Our board is currently working tirelessly to bring you yet another great conference. This year's conference is being held in Kenner, Louisiana, at the Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport during the month of January. We have listened to your comments and suggestions, and we are striving to make every minute of the conference important and relevant to every member. We welcome the return of our keynote speaker and workshop leader, Mr. John DeMado, who is nationally known for his popular and inspiring presentations on methods for second language acquisition.

continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2015 Conference Information.....	2
Letter from the President	3
Letter from the Vice President...	3
LFLTA Board.....	4
Tech Tips	5
Best of LFLTA	6
Teacher of the Year	6
News from SCOLT & ACTFL...	7
Educators in the News.....	7

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/>

2015 LFLTA CONFERENCE

After careful consideration, the LFLTA site selection committee has selected the Crowne Plaza New Orleans– Airport in Kenner as the location for the 2015 Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers Association Conference. The dates for the conference are January 16 and 17 2015.



For more information concerning our **2015 Convention**, please visit your website:

www.lflta.net

Where you can download Teacher of the Year Nominations, Presentation Proposals as well as Mini Grant applications. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the website.

“Be prepared to laugh heartily and to reflect profoundly...”

JOHN DEMADO 2015 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

John De Mado’s address titled, **From Mastery to Proficiency: Shifting the Paradigm**, will delve into the difference between Language Mastery and Proficiency.

The long-standing goal of language instruction in America has been Mastery of the language studied. In the 1980’s, the new goal became Proficiency, bringing about an immense paradigm shift in our profession. This shift was further reinforced with the unveiling in Anaheim, CA of our National Standards for Language Learning in 1995.

What exactly is the difference between Mastery and Proficiency? Are the goals mutually exclusive? Through discussion, handouts, passion and visuals, this keynote address will highlight the distinctions.

- **Be prepared to laugh heartily and to reflect profoundly...**
- **Anticipated outcomes:**
- **Participants shall:**
- **Clearly distinguish between Proficiency and Mastery Instruction**
- **Be exposed to current language acquisition research**
- **More fully understand the role of grammar and accuracy in the language acquisition process**
- **Consider when and how to correct student error**

John De Mado will also facilitate Saturday’s Workshop titled: **Function-al Raps: One Way to Build Language Acquisition.**

For more information visit our website: www.lflta.net



Since 1993, Mr. De Mado has directed John De Mado Language Seminars, LLC, a full-service consulting firm dealing exclusively with language acquisition issues. He is co-author of *Allez, viens!* and *Bien dit!*, high school, proficiency-based, French programs published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, *En avant* and *En route*, a middle school, proficiency-based, French program published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, co-author of *¡Avancemos!*, a high school, proficiency-based, Spanish program published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, co-author of *¡Viva el español!*,

FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

This year's conference was truly a Louisiana conference for Louisiana teachers conducted by Louisiana teachers. Many World Language teachers from around the State came together to present a series of lecture and roundtable presentations. Invited to present the keynote address Friday evening was Valérie Thériez, LFLTA's 2013 Teacher of the Year. Valérie shared with us what motivates her to do what she does in her classroom day in and day out. Saturday's workshop, *A Practical Application of the New Louisiana World Language Content Standards*, was planned and presented by LFLTA Board members Jordan Aillet, Juan Alvarez, Michèle Braud and Melissa Monroe in response to requests made through evaluations submitted by attendees of the 2013 LFLTA Conference.

Also at the 2014 Conference, LFLTA awarded the 2014 Teacher of the Year Award to Fabienne Sizemore for the work she has done at FLAIM Baton Rouge as well as the Baton Rouge community. LFLTA also recognized three outstanding World Language teachers as finalists for this award: Silvana Allen, Claudia Cilla and Billie Jean Kellough. Fabienne will go on to represent Louisiana at the 2015 SCOLT Conference as she competes for the SCOLT 2015 Teacher of the Year in Atlanta, Georgia March 5, 6 and 7, 2015. In the meantime, if you would like to nominate a colleague or yourself for the 2015 LFLTA Teacher of the Year Award, please send his or her name to Annie Rivera, Chair of LFLTA Awards Committee, at the following address: arivera@lincolnschools.org. More information about the LFLTA Teacher of the Year Award may be found at www.lflta.net.

Every year, in order to help fund classroom and school community projects of World Language teachers in Louisiana, LFLTA awards two minigrants, each worth up to \$500. This year the LFLTA received two applications for the minigrants. The two teachers who applied and were awarded the minigrants were Tia Lebrun and Juan Alvarez. Please, consider a project that you have wanted to take on at your school. LFLTA can help with the bill! Information about the minigrants including the application may be found at our website: www.lflta.net

In closing, I would like to say that I am looking forward to another successful year. I would like to thank each of the members of LFLTA that played a part in this year's conference, especially those who were nominated and elected to the LFLTA Board to serve Louisiana's community of World Language teachers. After all, LFLTA is an association of teachers who come together as teachers for teachers.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Harris
LFLTA President

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

The opportunities for development in our careers available to us are many. Of course, the conference is an opportunity for one to gain a great amount of insightful information, but there are other opportunities that the LFLTA offers to its members. Please visit our website to learn more about how to apply to receive one of our two \$500 mini grants that are awarded at the conference. Also, do you know a teacher who inspires you with their methods or innovation in the classroom? Through our LFLTA Teacher of the Year program, a Louisiana teacher is chosen to represent our state at the Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT). Self-nominations are also accepted. All forms can be found on the website, www.lflta.net.

Our organization allows us as teachers to come together to exchange practices for the efficacy of our teaching and the success of our students. We invite you to share classroom activities, ideas, technology, strategies, etc. by offering to present at either a round table session or lecture presentation at January's conference. What you may feel is common knowledge may be completely unknown to many of us. It is up to us as members of a professional development organization to strive to expose each other to great teaching methods! These forms can also be found at our website, www.lflta.net.

Involvement is the key to the success of not only our organization, but to the standing of our profession as well. Please consider volunteering to take the position of your regional representative if his or her term is expiring. The experience of collaborating with teachers from all over the state in an organization that strives to create a relevant, useful and inspiring conference for your colleagues as well as advocating the importance of your profession is none other than gratifying.

Thank you for being a member of an organization whose goal is to help us to become better at an evolving and challenging but nonetheless wonderful profession.

Sincerely,

Jordan Aillet – LFLTA Vice President

Executive Board

President

Scott Harris
University Laboratory School
Baton Rouge, LA
sharri9@lsu.edu

Vice President

Jordan Aillet
Bird High School
Shreveport, LA
jaillet@caddo.k12.la.us

Secretary

Sarah Young
Wes Monroe High School
West Monroe, LA
sarahyoung@opsb.net

Treasurer

Melissa Monroe
Alexandria Country Day School
Alexandria, LA
mmonroe@acdsonline.org

Newsletter Editor

Juan Álvarez
Benton High School
Benton, LA
juan.alvarez@bossierschools.org

Website Administrator

Melissa Monroe
mmonroe@acdsonline.org

The Communicator

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

Send all submissions or queries to Juan Álvarez

juan.alvarez@bossierschools.org

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:

www.lflta.net



Region 1

Leah Morton-Gittens leahmortongittens@gmail.com
Andrea Ruiz aruiz@isl-edu.org

Region 2

Michele Braud mbraud@ebrpss.k12.la.us
Lilian Carver lcarver@lsu.edu

Region 3

Soazic Pougault soazic.pougault@free.fr

Region 4

Valérie Thériez valerie_theriez@saintmartinschools.org
Laure Warner lbwarner1031@cox.net

Region 5

Jennifer Zambrano jennifer.zambrano@cpsb.org
Melanie Dees mdees@episcopaldayschool.org

Region 6

Donna Grimes dgrimes@acdsonline.org

Region 7

Laura Addington addington.laura@gmail.com
Stacy Clark stacy.clark@bossierschools.org

Region 8

Angela Shephard angshep21@hotmail.com
Annie Rivera arivera@lincolnschools.org

MEET YOUR BOARD:

My name is **Annie Rivera**. I am Cuban-American and I teach Spanish at Ruston High School in Ruston, LA. I've been teaching there for slightly over 7 years, and I love it. I am glad to have an opportunity to work this year on the LFLTA Board.

MEET YOUR BOARD:

My name is **Stacy Clark**, I am currently teaching French at Parkway High School in Bossier Parish. I have been teaching for 24 years, mostly French and Drama. A military spouse I have taught or subbed in 5 states and the District of Columbia, as well as OdDS schools overseas. This is my second term on the LFLTA Board.

MEET YOUR BOARD:

I am **Laura Addington** from Region VII. I am Nationally Certified. I teach at Caddo Magnet High School. I teach Spanish II Honors, Spanish III Honors, as well as Spanish IV and V and advanced Placement. I speak seven languages. I am also the Athletic Director.



TECHNOLOGY TRENDS: Useful Apps for the World Language Classroom

In this 21st century it is clear that technology is becoming a new "language" in education. As language educators, it is important for us to be aware of what is available technology-wise within and/or outside our classrooms. So here are a few apps and websites that many educators have found useful or are looking to incorporate in the future:



1. **Class Dojo (app/web)**

Class Dojo is a great classroom management app that lets you track participation, attendance, and more, using an easy and friendly format. It's also very customizable so you can add classes and also share reports with students and parents.



2. **Educaplay.com (web)**

Educaplay.com is a Spanish website with an array of customizable games and puzzles that you can make and use in virtually any language. It's very user-friendly but you'll need some time to try it out.

3. **Duolingo (app/web)**

Duolingo is a program designed for people who want to learn a new language. It offers Spanish, French, Italian, German, and Portuguese with users learning at varying levels. Users must type translations using new vocabulary and also use grammar concepts correctly. It won't replace the language classroom but it could keep students engaged in the language outside of class.

4. **Evernote (app/web)**

Evernote is a great tool for teachers to keep their ideas organized and available on all devices. Keep class ideas from pics, web, and friends organized in notebooks. Create to-do lists, grocery lists and more.

5. **Quizlet (app/web)**

Quizlet is a flash card program where users can create digital vocabulary flash cards in almost any language. What distinguishes *Quizlet* from other flash card apps is that the user can hear the words in the target language correctly pronounced.

6. **Adobe Voice (app for iPad only)**

If you already use or are looking to use iPads in the classroom, this may be a great resource for you! This app allows the user to turn their stories into animated presentations. There's no text involved and Adobe helps keep things simple by providing some creative boundaries. It seems like an awesome way to get students using and sharing the target language in a fun and creative way.

These are just a few resources that hopefully will enrich your lessons or provide some organization for your many ideas, but we would love for you to share with our world language community what technology has been useful for you.

Article Submitted by:

Annie Rivera, 6/17/14

We invite you to share your own ideas and class tools with our membership. Please submit your articles to:

juan.alvarez@bossierschools.org

2014 BEST OF LFLTA

JESUS GARCIA AND MARIA OTERO

Jesus Antonio Garcia and Maria Otero were selected by conference attendees as the **2014 “Best of LFLTA.”** As such, they will represent LFLTA at the SCOLT convention.

Maria and Jesus’s presentation lecture presentation featured interactive activities where participants were able to learn how to use different Web 2.0 tools and how to apply them in the classroom. Attendees were required to bring their own devices so that they could investigate the different tools that were presented and gain first hand knowledge.

Some of the comments received after their presentation included:

“very engaging and interesting” “immediate usability”

MEET YOUR BOARD:

Lillian Carver has been teaching Spanish at the elementary level for the last 7 years at the LSU Laboratory School in Baton Rouge. Her family is from Cuba and her first language is Spanish. She was born in New Jersey and moved to Florida when she was 4 years old. She has been in Baton Rouge for the last 8 years and has truly enjoyed embracing the culture. She really looks forward to serving on the LFLTA board as a representative for the next two years.

“Her wish is to touch as many lives as she can while doing what she loves”

2014 LFLTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

FABIENNE SIZEMORE



Fabienne Sizemore

Originally from Belgium, Fabienne moved to Louisiana 23 years ago. She has 2 children, Roxane is 18 years old, and Nathan is 17 years old.

The first 9 years, Fabienne taught French in classes from Kindergarten to 8th Grade, then for the last 14 years she has been a 1st Grade French Immersion Teacher. Her wish is to touch as many lives as she can while doing what she loves. Fabienne’s motto is “If you have the choice between watching and dancing, I hope

MEET YOUR BOARD:

My name is **Angela Shepherd**. I teach Spanish 1, 2, & Dual Enrollment at Sterlington High School in Monroe, LA. I have been teaching Spanish for 10 years. I serve as the Electives Department Head at our school, the Varsity Dance sponsor, and a tour leader with EF Tours. I love to travel & spend time training my German shepherd.

MEET YOUR BOARD:

Laure Warner, representative for Region IV, is originally from the south of France. She has lived in Louisiana for 18 years. Her career began in the tourism industry in New Orleans and she has been teaching FLE in Lafayette to fourth and fifth grade students for the past eight years. She was also named a finalist for Louisiana Teacher of the Year in 2013!

MEET YOUR BOARD:

Currently teaching 1st grade French Immersion at Cecilia Primary. **Valérie Thériez** has been teaching for 27 years. She has taught every grade level from 2 years old to 5th grade. She came from France to Louisiana through the CODOFIL in 1999. She has received the title of Elementary School Teacher of the Year Region 4 at the LACUE conference in 2011, the title of **LFLTA Teacher of the year in 2013**, the title of teacher of the year of Cecilia Primary and the title of State Teacher of the year in 2014.

NEWS FROM SCOLT– ACTFL

This year's **SCOLT** Convention will be March 5th-7th in Atlanta, Georgia. SCOLT will be teaming with SEALLT and FLAG to celebrate its 50th anniversary at the Renaissance Concourse.

The **ACTFL** Convention will be November 21-23 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

AATF 2014 Convention will be in New Orleans on July 19-22, 2014

ACTFL offers a variety of grants and scholarships for teachers of various languages. Visit their website <http://www.actfl.org/professional-development/scholarships-and-grants> if you need further information.

TERRI HAMMAT RECOGNIZED BY FRENCH CONSULATE

Palmes Académique

(Decorations for Service to Education)

IN ORDER TO RECOGNIZE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF FRENCH IMMERSION, **MRS TERRI HAMMAT** AND **MRS NICOLE BOUDREAUX** WERE ELEVATED TO THE RANK OF OFFICER IN THE ORDER OF THE PALMES ACADÉMIQUES, AND **MRS MICHÈLE HAJ-BROUSSARD** AND **DR. THOMAS KLINGLER** TO THE RANKS OF KNIGHT. THE CEREMONY TOOK PLACE AT THE SENATE OF LOUISIANA AND GAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO THE CONSUL GENERAL OF FRANCE TO ACKNOWLEDGE TOGETHER WITH ERIC LAFLEUR, DAN CLAITOR AND CONRAD APPEL, THE FRANCE-LOUISIANA PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION AND THE CODOFIL'S ROLE.

As it appeared in *La Gazette* the Information Newsletter of the French Consulate in New Orleans.

Please follow the link so that you can see the complete article in the La Gazette:

<http://fcl.frenchculture.org/drafts/51624/html>

RECOGNITION OF IMMERSION PROGRAM IN LAFAYETTE

As it appeared in the Advocate

Our Views: An Honor to Lafayette ADVOCATE STORY

June 12, 2014

When Santana Mitchell began studying French in Lafayette's language immersion program, he could not foresee the honor of visiting the City of Light as a guest of the people of France. The 16-year-old is one of 60 students from across the globe invited to France to meet with other bilingual students of French. He is the only student from the United States to be selected. Mitchell will study and tour with his fellow honorees in Paris and Vichy for 10 days this summer, all expenses paid. We congratulate him and his teachers, including French teacher **Marianne Cheramie**, of Lafayette High School, but we also are delighted with the French government's initiative in promoting the study of one of Louisiana's formative languages.

Follow the link to read complete article:

<http://theadvocate.com/news/opinion/9298403-123/our->