



The *FLAGS* Pole

Volume 7, Issue 2
March, 2006

Wordsmiths Working Wonders

by **Nicole Naditz**

Communicating in writing is hard--even in your native language. So how do we help our students express themselves in writing in a second language? Anna-Marie Gonzalez and Lynne Guerné, two members of the Capital Foreign Language Project Leadership Team, set out to provide FLAGS members with tools that would enable them to design and assess writing prompts for students.

Granite Bay High School served as the site for the workshop on January 21. 25 local language teachers joined us for a terrific program that opened with examples of poor translations into English from the book "Here Speaching American". These examples of signs posted in



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CLTA SOCIAL! LET'S CELEBRATE FLAGS!

Please join the FLAGS Board and your fellow colleagues for a social prior to the Friday night banquet at the CLTA Conference in Fresno on Friday, March 24, 2006, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Check the CLTA Conference bulletin board for the room number.

Discover Languages, Discover the World

By *FLAGS Advocacy Chair,*
Nicole Naditz

After a successful "2005: Year of Languages" campaign which garnered national attention for California, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages has embarked on the next phase of public outreach. "Discover Languages, Discover the World" is a ten-year initiative that aims to continue the buzz started during the Year of Languages. At this time, ACTFL is still developing the national strategy,

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The FLAGS Pole

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The President's Perch: A letter from Carol

Howdy Everyone:

It's spring (almost) and boy, am I ready for some sunshine! Fortunately, FLAGS has some fun events coming up that are sure "pick-me-ups." Rather than gobbling up a large amount of newsletter space reviewing all the great events FLAGS sponsors, I will focus attention on two or three of the most important.

First on the list is the **CLTA Conference in Fresno, March 22 - 25, 2006**. I've reviewed the list of workshops and interest sessions in the program, and there are some fabulous offerings. Although it is late to register, it's not impossible. Check the CLTA web site at www.clta.net for details and deadlines. FLAGS will host a social Friday evening for all members who are attending, and in honor of our very own **Tanya Zaccone**, who will be passing the "torch" to the next CLTA President. Please look for information about the location in the hospitality area.



FLAGS, in collaboration with the Capital Foreign Language Project (CapFLP), is sponsoring a **Language and Cultural Immersion Day** on April 1, 2006. This is a day for teachers of French, German, Japanese and Spanish to immerse themselves in the language and culture they teach. It will be held at CSUS from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. It's only \$15.00 and you must bring your own lunch, but native speaker facilitators are busy right now preparing a day of fun and challenges just for you! To register go to the FLAGS calendar on the web site at www.flagsteacher.com. The flyer includes a direct link to the registration page.

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March 31, May 6, 2006

FLAGS Board meetings

All members are welcome

Contact: Carol Eberhart (916) 481-1940

March 11, 2006, Time: 6:30 pm

Fifth Annual Teacher Awards Dinner

Location: La Strada Pasta & Grill

A celebration of outstanding FLAGS teachers. Registration information at www.flagsteacher.com.

March 23-26, 2006

CLTA 2006 Conference in Fresno

We look forward to seeing you there! Check for registration information on-line at www.clta.net

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



April 29, 2006

4th Annual World Language Day, CSUS

Check for information on-line at www.csus.edu/worldlanguageday

May 6, 2006

Tenth Annual FLAGS Student Awards Breakfast

Location: Denny's Restaurant, 3520 Auburn Blvd.

Join your colleagues to honor one of *your* outstanding students. See page 4 of this issue!

CLTA CORNER



Check the web!
www.clta.net

What's up with CLTA? Check it out here...

Catch the most recent edition of the **CLTA News** online soon. Look for it at www.clta.net. It has all the latest news!

The Annual Conference in Fresno is around the corner. We hope to see as many FLAGS folks as possible in Fresno for the annual conference. Look for a FLAGS social on Friday evening before the banquet. **Look for information on the CLTA "Futures" Leadership Academy** at conference. The Futures program will focus on younger teachers who demonstrate leadership abilities. So... keep your eyes peeled for potential candidates and let FLAGS know!

Great news! Santa Barbara is back! CLTA and CFLP will be offering a shortened version of the annual Santa Barbara Summer Seminar. As in the past, it will take place in early August on the beautiful campus of UC Santa Barbara. The abbreviated format of 3 ½ days makes it possible to offer the seminar at the usual rate of \$600 - \$700 per person (double occupancy.) Single rooms are slightly higher. Look for a flyer in your CLTA conference materials, or check out the CLTA web site for details.



National French Week was magnifique at Bella Vista High School!

by Kristina Jenkins

The students of Bella Vista High School spread the word about French over the week of November 2-8, 2005. My French Club approached me and said "isn't French week in November?" and the planning started. To start, I wanted to get as much attention as possible in the community to help build the program—and any French program, for that matter.

With the help of my Principal, I was able to get a proclamation from the honorary mayor of Fair Oaks recognizing our celebration of "French Week". In addition, I had a class assignment for all my students to make posters displaying the value of learning French. What a huge success! Hundreds of posters got put up in every class-

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FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER SACRAMENTO
PRESENTS THE

TENTH ANNUAL STUDENT AWARDS BREAKFAST

WHEN: SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2006

WHERE: DENNY'S RESTAURANT
3520 AUBURN BLVD., SACRAMENTO, 95821, (916) 488-7449
SEE WWW.FLAGSTEACHER.COM FOR DIRECTIONS

TIME: 8:30—10:30 AM

Current **FLAGS** members may honor one of their students. The teacher, student, and the student's parents-four guests in total-are invited to a delicious breakfast and awards ceremony. The student will receive an award certificate and gift certificate. Please note that the nominating teacher must attend the breakfast in order to nominate a student. **Space is limited to 15 students**, so act fast to reserve your places—**postmarked no later than Monday, April 24, 2006**. You will find an "invitation" to print out for your student's family on the website at www.flagsteacher.com.

Please **e-mail** or mail the information below to: Christine Lanphere,
9400 Trenholm Dr. Elk Grove, 95758
membership@flagsteacher.com

Please print all information.

Teacher's Name _____

Teacher's e-mail address for confirmation of attendance _____

School Name _____

Student's Name _____

Total number attending (up to 4 people, including teacher and student) _____

Please write the name of your award — examples: Most Improved Spanish Student, Outstanding First-year Student, Most Enthusiastic German Student, etc., so that we can include it on the award certificate:

BREAKFAST CHOICES (Make your selections as you arrive):

Original Grand Slam Breakfast

2 eggs any style
2 buttermilk pancakes
2 bacon strips
2 sausage links
Juice, coffee and milk

Fabulous French Toast Platter

3 thick slices grilled golden brown
with powdered sugar
2 bacon strips
2 sausage links
Juice, coffee and milk

Vegetarian / Vegan option

Quaker oatmeal
Applesauce or fruit
Juice, coffee and milk

(*"Discover Languages", continued from page 1*)

but here in Sacramento, we have already begun to organize events. You can check out the most current events on the "Discover Languages" link of our website, but here are two tidbits to get you started.

On April 8, a free cultural performance event will feature local students presenting vocal and instrumental music, dance and interpretive poetry. Several of these students have been preparing for this event since October and it promises to be a wonderful evening. Join us on April 8 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Mesa Verde High School Performing Arts Center. You can find a map on the FLAGS web site in the Event Calendar.

In addition to this outstanding event, there is great news from the Sacramento County Fair. Not only were local language students (*your* students) invited to exhibit again at this year's fair, but for the first time ever, students will have the option of submitting video projects in world languages other than English. Now is the time to get your students excited about this opportunity. Start saving those projects. Like last year, the entry costs \$1 per piece and students may submit more than one piece of work. All formats will be accepted. Check the FLAGS web site in mid-March for the entry forms. If you'd like to help judge, contact Nicole Naditz at advocacy@flagsteacher.com.

We also have stage time reserved for this year's fair. If any of your students would like to present their skits, dramatic readings, music or dance, please contact me and check the web site later in March for details on performing at the fair.

Mark your calendar for CSUS World Language Day!

Saturday, April 29, 2006, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm is the **4th Annual World Language Day** at CSU Sacramento. This FREE event is great for students and their families. Check out the offerings or sign up to present an interest session at the World Language Day website at:

<http://www.csus.edu/worldlanguageday>

(*"Wordsmiths", continued from page 1*)

poor English around the world highlighted just how difficult it can be to communicate even simple ideas in another language.

Following these excerpts, participants looked at sources for writing prompts and the facilitators provided time to practice writing multiple-level prompts based on a similar theme. Attendees gained experience writing prompts that are appropriate to various student levels based on a single picture or narrative theme. Recycling is great!

Finally, participants joined language-alike groups and both Spanish and French teachers had the opportunity to look at student writing samples and assess them according to Advanced Placement and Granite Bay High School writing rubric guidelines. This led to interesting discussions as the participants realized the importance of scoring consistency between readers. Anna-Marie and Lynne guided each group in a discussion of norming. Several participants mentioned how valuable this would be with the grading of district or departmental essay exams they give at their own sites.

All told, Anne-Marie and Lynne led all attendees through a wonderful day of networking, fun and learning centered on the power of the written word.

When in Rome...

well, maybe when in Sacramento!

Do your part to create a fabulous regional affiliate, FLAGS!

Attend a Board meeting: find out what is in the works and let us know what you'd like to see planned in future.

If you get inspired, join us on a regular basis as an **At-Large Board Member**.

We want your input!

(*"National French Week", continued from page 3*)

room at school and in a number of area businesses (a little bit of extra credit goes a long way!).

French Club members decorated T-shirts and everyone wore them to school one day. We had a *crêpe* party at lunch one day, music on the quad, we played *pétanque* at lunch, and we showed a French comedy at lunch two days that week.

A few students also visited an elementary school where they taught the students the colors in French through an art project making faux stained glass windows with construction and crepe paper.

To finish the week off, we had a fabulous dinner at a Moroccan restaurant, which included a belly dancer! This week got a lot of students involved, even those not in French and brought some much needed awareness to the study of French and languages in general.

Editor's note: Congratulations, Kristina! If you would like to learn more about National French Week, please contact Kristina at awardschair@flagsteacher.com

Take the **FLAGS Poll** on-line today!

Thanks to the outstanding work of our webmaster, Nicole Naditz, **FLAGS** members have access to a website loaded with information about upcoming events and links to resources for our classrooms. You have undoubtedly checked it out at least once by now.

A new feature on the website is the "FLAGS Poll" - an on-line survey for **FLAGS** members. Simply click on the link and answer the questions to help the Board better serve you by designing programs that meet your needs. It's fast and easy!

The "Poll" will be changed periodically to help us gather information about different topics, so you may receive messages in future to encourage your participation again.

Check it out!

A Truly Amazing Year!

By **Christine Lanphere**

What an understatement! 2005 and the start of 2006 have been a whirlwind of blessings for me and bring new challenges.

Last year, I was humbled by the beautiful nomination letter written by my friend, Nicole Naditz, and by the enthusiastic support of Tanya Zaccone who nominated me for the California League of High Schools (CLHS) Region 3 Educator of the Year competition. CLHS recognizes educators (teachers and administrators) who demonstrate leadership and are agents for school reform and improvement. I was selected as one of 10 finalists who were honored at a superb dinner event last April. At the end of the evening, I was completely astonished to hear them announce my name as the Educator of the Year from Region 3.

This singular honor meant that I was then in competition for the state EOY with 10 other EOY's from around California. This took place in January, 2006, at the CLHS state conference in Monterey. Again, I was so grateful for the support of my colleagues, Tanya, Nicole, and Carol Eberhart who attended the conference with me as presenters and to celebrate. Nicole, Carol, and I each did presentations highlighting how techniques used in language classrooms are applicable to other disciplines and also showcasing the Capital Foreign Language Project here in Sacramento. We think we did a bang up job getting the word out about the importance of studying languages other than English!

The celebrations revolved around the EOY dinner at the state conference. Each of the 11 finalists were introduced by the Region's Trustee—David DeArcos from Region 3—and then each finalist spoke about the significance of being an educator in California. I have to say it was one of the most nerve-wracking things I've done! While I was not ultimately selected as the state EOY, every one of the finalists had an amazing story and I am so honored to be listed among them.

I encourage you all to consider your colleagues' amazing work. Then challenge yourself to nominate these professionals for any one of the numerous awards out there: **FLAGS** Outstanding Teacher, CLTA Outstanding Teacher, CLHS Educator of the Year, and so on. Believe me, it really rejuvenates your spirit to have colleagues support and celebrate your work.



Nicole Naditz, Tanya Zaccone, Carol Eberhart, and Christine Lanphere at the CLHS State Educator of the Year dinner in Monterey

Meet the Board: Kristina Jenkins and Marie Robb

Kristina Jenkins, FLAGS' new Awards Chair, teaches French 1-4/AP at Bella Vista High School. Before teaching French, she studied at UC Davis and then got her Master's in French through Bowling Green State University. While at Bowling Green, Kristina spent a year studying in Tours, France. She later taught English in a high school near Nantes before returning to California to get her teaching credential.



Marie Robb earned credentials in both French and English from San Diego State University, but her love is teaching French. She started the French program at Center High School and has been teaching there for 23 years--so long that she is now teaching her students' children! In 2003 Marie served as the local Awards Chair for the CLTA conference in Sacramento. Her spare time is devoted to her family, traveling and scrap booking, a hobby that made her a logical choice to become FLAGS Historian.



Welcome, Kristina and Marie!

("President's Perch", continued from page 2)

For more information, please contact me, Carol Eberhart, at 916-278-5784, or email me at transwiz@comcast.net.

Please don't forget the 10th Annual *FLAGS Student Awards Breakfast*, Saturday May 6, 2006. This year we will meet at the Denny's on the corner of Watt Avenue and Auburn Blvd. at 8:30 am. This event is always so wonderful. It's an opportunity to recognize one of those students who really stand out, for whatever reason. If you have never participated, I hope you will consider honoring a student this time. The honoree receives a certificate and a little "something extra" just for being such a great student. Check the web site calendar for all the details.

On a personal note, I thank all of you for the award you recently conferred upon Jennifer Lammerding from Bella Vista High School and me. FLAGS is so close to my heart that to be included among its "Outstanding Teachers" is an honor I take very seriously. It's such a privilege to work in this profession, and in particular with the talented and dedicated people in FLAGS, that to be counted among this caliber of teacher is truly overwhelming. Thank you so much.

That's all for now! Take care and keep up the great work I know you all do with such heart.

Con cariño,
Carol

Gracias, merci, danke!

Welcome new **FLAGS** members!

We are thrilled to welcome the following new members:

Rosa Beach	Oak Ridge HS
Danielle Burman	Loretto HS
Christina Cardiasmenos	Laguna Creek
Naoko Eshbaugh	Granite Bay HS
Jennifer Lammerding	Bella Vista HS
Shanna Laney-Perez	Edison HS
Belen Lee	Student Tchr
Jill Skinner	Sheldon HS
Dolly Ruiz	Student Tchr
Ana Maria Sierra	Merryhill Schl
Sharon Worthington	Woodcreek HS

We want to fill this space with many names!
Please help us make it a reality!

Encourage your new colleagues to join us!

Holiday Spirit Alive and Well at Mira Loma High School

This past December, the Mira Loma High School French Club held its Second Annual Toy Drive. Their goal this year set by their advisor, Alain Negretot, was to collect 100 toys for needy children. Last year, they collected 85 toys in their first effort. Their hopes were grandly fulfilled as they collected 150 toys to donate to the Salvation Army.

The students presented their collection to the Salvation Army at Mira Loma High School at an event covered by News 10. Many thanks to those who supported the event and congratulations to the Mira Loma French Club!

Membership Corner



FLAGS is off to a strong renewal year in the state with 88 members who have renewed with CLTA and FLAGS for 2006. We've even welcomed some long-lost members back to the fold! However, in the past, we've done much more: in 2003, FLAGS had a record 160 members and last year, we had 115 members.

If you are not sure whether your membership is up to date, check your mailing label: your membership year is printed beside your name. If it says "2006", you're current. Thank you! If it has another year printed, it's not too late! Please send in your renewal today. Some of you may have renewed or joined when you registered for the CLTA conference, so that information might be on its way to me. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact me at membership@flagsteacher.com.

As advocates for the language teaching profession, please take a moment to encourage your colleagues who are new to the profession (or new to your school) to become involved with professional organizations such as FLAGS & CLTA. Tell them to check out our new website, www.flagsteacher.com, and let them know how important it is to network with other professionals and receive the support that membership brings.

FLAGS and CLTA deserve to be at the top of your "To Do" list. Please take a moment to complete the form on the next page and send your check in today. We certainly appreciate your support.

Christine

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER SACRAMENTO

(A regional affiliate of the California Language Teachers Association)

Membership Application or Renewal

January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006

Circle One

New Renewal

Name (please print)

Title (circle one) Miss Ms. Mrs. Sister Dr. Mr. Rev. Brother

Home Address CA

number street city zip

Home Phone (.....)..... School Phone (.....).....

School Language(s).....

School Address CA

number street city zip

E-mail Fax

(New members) I was encouraged to join by

FLAGS dues (\$17 Regular, \$10 Student, \$5 Retiree) \$_____ (A)

CLTA dues (\$45 with FLAGS membership
\$50 with no FLAGS membership
\$40 Student or Retiree) \$_____ (B)

TOTAL (A + B) \$_____

If paying **FLAGS & CLTA dues**, please make check payable to **CLTA** and send it with this form to:

MARGE SOTOMAYOR, CLTA Membership
PO Box 123
Ferndale, CA 95536

If paying **FLAGS dues only**, please make check payable to **FLAGS** and send it with this form to:

CHRISTINE LANPHERE, FLAGS Membership
9400 Trenholm Dr.
Elk Grove, CA 95758



**FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF
GREATER SACRAMENTO**

c/o Christine Lanphere
9400 Trenholm Drive
Elk Grove, CA 95758

**Check out the FLAGS
website!
www.flagsteacher.com**



What's *your*
membership status?

Have you been wondering if you'd renewed your FLAGS & CLTA membership? You can tell by looking at the mailing label on this newsletter. The membership year that you have paid through is printed beside your name!

Please renew today!



Does FLAGS have
your e-mail?

Help us update our membership rolls with e-mail addresses so we can communicate time-sensitive information to you!

Send your e-mail address to
Christine Lanphere at
membership@flagsteacher.com.