



# The *FLAGS* Pole

Volume 10, Issue 3  
May, 2008

## FLAGS Outstanding Teachers

By Ruth Ward

At six P.M. on Friday, April 11, 2008, the Foreign Language Association of Greater Sacramento proudly presented its seventh annual Outstanding Teacher Awards Dinner at the Sacramento State University Restaurant.

The two very deserving recipients of this award were Jeanne Kirchofer and Christina Cardiasmenos, both of whom teach at Laguna Creek High School in Elk Grove. Jeanne, who currently teaches French and Cardinal Unity, earned her Master's of Foreign Language Education and her B.A. in French at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She taught French and ESL at various sites before joining our region in the 1990's. A long-time workshop presenter at CLTA as well as co-department chair and leadership team member at Laguna Creek, Jeanne recently became a CapFLP team member. She currently leads the STEP (Striving Toward Equity of all People) program at Laguna Creek. She takes students on bi-annual trips

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Jeanne Kirchofer, Outstanding Teacher and Christina Cardiasmenos, Outstanding New Teacher.

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## World Language Content Standards

California is still on track to adopt world language content standards this fall, but all language teachers have an important role to play before that can happen. Sometime this summer, the draft standards will be made

available for public review and comment. It is **extremely important** that as many teachers as possible look over the draft standards (which will be available online) during the review period and provide comments and feedback. Please **provide FLAGS with your home email** or any email address you will actually be checking this summer so that we can send word to you as soon as the draft standards are made available. Send addresses to [email@flagsteacher.com](mailto:email@flagsteacher.com). Please put "home address" in the subject line.

## The FLAGS Pole

Published by the

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## Biggest Language Display Ever at the County Fair

By Nicole Naditz, Advocacy

Once again, FLAGS members outdid themselves and let the students' work shine at the Sacramento County Fair. Projects were entered in French and Spanish and all high school levels were represented in the projects. This year, we had a beautiful corner set-up with some student work displayed on walls and other projects displayed on shelves, giving the exhibit a multi-dimensional feel. Projects included student-created cities, pamphlets on healthy eating, booklets to prepare young children for travel abroad, educational displays on historical periods and figures, mandalas with literary analysis, journals, family albums, vacation scrapbooks, and student-created murals with analysis in the target language. The fair manager was so impressed, that one mural from Bella Vista High School won the Fair Manager's Award!

Our judges worked hard judging the pieces, but there simply weren't enough judges to handle the volume of work submitted. As a result, it was impossible to determine a "Best in Class" this year. Please consider being a judge next year if you are not entering projects. If there are enough judges, it should only take about an hour of your time and the students really appreciate the recognition for their work. Of course, it is also good publicity for our programs, so your service as judges is vital!

ONE FRIDAY EACH MONTH

**FLAGS Board meeting**

All members are welcome

Contact: Carol Eberhart

(916) 481-1940

June 23-27, 2008

**CapFLP Summer Institute** at Sacramento State.

November 21-23, 2008

**ACTFL Convention**, Orlando, Florida

August 15-September 1, 2008

**California State Fair**, Sacramento, featuring language and cultural activities

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**



February 26-March 1, 2009

**CLTA Conference** at the Double Tree Hotel on Arden in Sacramento

April 2-4, 2009

**SWCOLT Conference**, Norman, Oklahoma



County Fair Exhibits (above)

Inga Templeton and her student Kensal Murph, Mira Loma H.S. at the Student Breakfast

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★  
★ **CLTA 2009 here in Sacramento!** ★  
★ **“Raising the Standards-Raising the Bar”** ★  
★ Plan to attend! Plan to help out! Contact a ★  
★ board member today! ★  
★  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Moving Up to the Big Time

Nicole Naditz, Advocacy



After years of working with the Sacramento County Fair, CLTA and FLAGS now have a relationship with the California State Fair. Check out the fair this August to see a first-ever language and culture activity for all children attending the fair! This exciting opportunity will provide advocacy on the importance of multi-lingualism and cultural understanding to literally thousands of school-age children and their families.

This year's fair runs from August 15 through September 1 at Cal Expo. More information available at <http://www.bigfun.org>.

## Student-Created Exhibit on Francophone Africa

French 4 and AP students from Bella Vista High School presented the schools (and possibly the region's) first-ever student-created museum: **Legends and Legacies: Perspectives on French-Speaking Africa** on May 31st at the Alliance Française in Sacramento.

The museum featured information on selected aspects of the history of francophone countries in Africa, representations of visual and performing arts from those countries, and student-created artistic pieces influenced by the themes they studied in preparation for the museum. Exhibits were planned and designed by students and all narratives to accompany the exhibits were written by students.

During the exhibit, some students were available to meet. All costs associated with the museum were funded by a grant from the American Association of Teachers of French. For more information on the museum or this unit, contact Nicole Naditz: [nnaditz@sanjuan.edu](mailto:nnaditz@sanjuan.edu).



Bella Vista students preparing for the Francophone Africa museum exhibit.

# Membership Corner



As we end another school year (hard to believe), FLAGS only has 66 members who have renewed with CLTA and FLAGS for 2008, and there are still 34 members from 2007 who have not yet renewed their membership for this year. Normally, we have 80-90 members each year, so, this is a record low membership level.

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 "2008", you're current. Thank you! If it has another year printed, it's not too late! Please send in your renewal today. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact me at membership@flagsteacher.com.

The FLAGS Board really counts on your membership to meet our plans for professional development programs, maintaining communication, and offering services for students and teachers in the area. This year, we have sponsored two conferences (Using authentic images in the classroom and Emerging 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies), the Teacher Awards Dinner and Student Awards Breakfast, as well as sending quarterly newsletters and maintaining the FLAGS website as a resource for educators. Please help us to achieve our goals by renewing your membership.

Also, 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 website, [www.flagsteacher.com](http://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 page 7 and send your check in today. We certainly appreciate your support.

*Christine*

## Emerging 21st Century Technologies: Winter Workshop

By Kristina Jenkins

On Saturday February 9th, about 20 people attended one of the most amazing and helpful workshops I have ever been to. We convened in a computer lab at Sacramento State, ready to learn a few things about integrating technology. Well, we all left with a lot more than "a few things". Even I, who am fairly computer literate, left elated with what I had learned from our outstanding presenter from CapFLP, Jennifer Hill, Spanish teacher at Granite Bay High School. We brushed up on Power Point and learned about exciting internet resources for the language classroom. Later, we found out about podcasting, which was new to just about everyone. With a digital voice recorder or even just a cell phone, it turns out you can create recordings of your students and post them online. You can even record native speakers and bring your own conversations with them into your classroom! Some of us had been wondering how to get to videos on sites such as YouTube when your district blocks them. We found out how! We also saw some examples of websites and got ideas on how to start our own and what kinds of things to include. As you all know, technology can be daunting for some. In any case, it takes a long time to learn anything in depth, but we left with a new wealth of knowledge and a starting place for our next adventures in technology.



Marie Robb at Student Breakfast with her student, Armin Evlic, Center H.S.

("Teacher Awards", continued from page 1)

to France, leads conversation groups outside of school, and recently traveled to Senegal to broaden her knowledge of the francophone world.

Christina Cardiasmenos is finishing her third year of teaching Spanish at Laguna Creek High School. She earned her B.A. in Spanish at UC Davis with minors in Education and Human Development while doing several internships in schools. She completed her credential at Sacramento State in 2005. Christina continues to challenge herself today in a Master's of Spanish program. She has involved herself in professional development through FLAGS, CLTA, and CapFLP. She also participated in a year long staff group called S.E.E.D. on diversity.

The approximately 20 guests in attendance celebrated Jeanne and Christina's success by feasting on an entrée of stuffed portabella mushrooms or chicken picatta, accompanied by roasted red potatoes, salad, vegetable, bread, coffee, ice tea, water, and cake. FLAGS Awards Chair Kristina Jenkins did a fine job of organizing and decorating, and FLAGS Historian Marie Robb's professional events scrapbook was a hit with everyone. All present enjoyed the collegial atmosphere of the Sacramento State University Restaurant, which is one of the many venues at which this event has taken place in the past.

Winners of the FLAGS Outstanding Teacher Award are chosen through nomination process; both nominator and nominee must be FLAGS members. In addition to awards for teachers, FLAGS also offers a President's Award to a Friend of the Profession. Past FLAGS Outstanding Teacher Award winners have included Evelyn Bejarano, Carol Brown, Kathy Ferroggiaro, Silvia Barron, Christine Lanphere, Tanya Zaccone, Julia Leeds, Kathy Moore, Nicole Naditz, Inga Templeton, Ann Walkup, Kazue Masuyama, Jennifer Lammerding, Carol Eberhart, Naoko Sugano McHale, and José Oseguera.



Kathy Colvin, Oak Ridge H.S. (right) with student Ahn Ngo (left front)

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**Student Awards Breakfast**  
 By Kristina Jenkins  
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I feel so proud of my students and always think there can't be a better student than my most fantastic student. For those of us at this year's FLAGS Student Awards Breakfast, we know that many of us feel that way about those special few students. On Saturday May 3rd, eleven teachers ate breakfast with a student and his or her family and then shared why that student was being honored. Each student sounded like the perfect student to have in class. In fact, several teachers mentioned "you just want to have 30 of her in your class".

This year we feasted on individually selected "Grand Slams" from Denny's while we engaged in bonding conversations with our students. We then listened to students from Oak Ridge, Laguna Creek, Bella Vista, Natomas, Center, and Mira Loma High Schools as well as American River College receive awards for being outstanding or dedicated or improved students of language.

This is my favorite event of the year because you really get to thank the student who has made your year better day in and day out or to recognize a student who has gone above and beyond or even just made great improvement. My student was so excited to find out about the award and very moved after the breakfast, and I feel like I have made a bond even stronger.

Consider nominating a student next year to recognize. This type of event is here for you, so take advantage of it!



Kristina Jenkins (right) with student, Jessica Sandoval, Oak Ridge H.S.



**FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF  
GREATER SACRAMENTO**

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**Check out the FLAGS  
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**Do we have your correct  
email address?** If you're not getting emails from us, email Christine at [membership@flagsteacher.com](mailto:membership@flagsteacher.com)

*Check out the new standards  
online and make comments  
so they don't go away! Details  
inside.*



**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!**

The "Year of languages" is not finished....  
it's moving into  
the future!

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