



The *FLAGS* Pole

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**Big Discover Languages Event
Held at California State Fair**

By Nicole Naditz

Have you ever played Fox and Geese? Umake? Dithwai? How about Cows and Leopards or Tiu-ü? Maybe you've played Mühle or the Native American game Gins? Could playing games help with language advocacy? CLTA decided to find out with an ambitious community outreach event. On August 17, there was a special *Discover Languages*® event held at the California State Fair and FLAGS made it happen!

The activity was held in the youth education building at the fairgrounds. Hundreds of children and families stopped by to play those children's games from around the world—and they took away a greater appreciation for the benefits and importance of multilingualism. To prepare for the event, I researched and constructed the games over the summer, which come from countries as diverse as Germany, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Iceland, among others. Twelve volunteers, mostly from FLAGS, including ACTFL's 2007 National Language Teacher of the Year Christine Lanphere, taught the games and gave information on where the games

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There's a great teacher at my school! How can I show them how much they are appreciated? Isn't there a FLAGS award? Maybe I'll read inside to find out how to recognize that teacher this year!!

**FLAGS Fall Conference
brought out the technology
buffs in all of us!**

by Kristina Jenkins

Technology is a challenge to some of us. Even those of us who use it a lot always have something new to learn. So where do we start? Of course, everyone wants to know how they can use technology in their classroom, how can they use it to enhance teaching a language. But before that, you have to actually know how to maneuver around the programs. With that in mind, FLAGS launched a very successful conference to teach members the basics and some not-so-basics of PowerPoint on September 20th at Bella Vista High School, where there just happens to be a set of 30 mobile laptops. Despite some sometimes obstinate computers, Christine Lanphere, Kristina Jenkins, and Nicole Naditz managed to take a group of 27 teachers through the basics of PowerPoint.

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CLTA Feb 26-Mar 1, 2009
RIGHT HERE IN SACRAMENTO!!!!
At the Double Tree across from Arden
Fair Mall

The FLAGS Pole

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Foreign Language Association of Greater Sacramento

President & CLTA Rep:

Ruth Ward

Natomas High School

president@flagsteacher.com

VP/Conference Chair:

Inga Templeton

Mira Loma High School

vicepresident@flagsteacher.com

Membership/Treasurer:

Christine Lanphere

Natomas High School

membership@flagsteacher.com

treasurer@flagsteacher.com

Advocacy & Webmaster:

Nicole Naditz

Bella Vista High School

advocacy@flagsteacher.com

webmaster@flagsteacher.com

Awards Chair/Newsletter Editor/Secretary:

Kristina Jenkins

Oak Ridge High School

awardschair@flagsteacher.com

Historian:

Marie Robb

Center High School

historian@flagsteacher.com

At-large members:

Tanya Zaccone

Center High School

Carol Eberhart

Sacramento State University/American River College

The Presiden't Perch A Letter from Ruth



Hello Everyone:

Welcome back to a new school year. The weeks since summer have flown by, and here we are ankle-deep in autumn leaves! We hope you have been consulting the FLAGS website at www.flagsteacher.com for information on this year's important issues and exciting activities.

To give you an update, last August 17th, the all day FLAGS International Interactive Games Exhibit created by Nicole Naditz for the State Fair was a great success. Families visited our booth to play games, talk about language learning, take the "Are you smarter than a language teacher" quiz, and spin the wheel for Discover Languages merchandise. We even had a surprise visit from Julie Shok Tam, Miss Asia Sacramento 2008! You can watch the slide show at www.flagsteacher.com/discoverlanguages.htm. The event was so well received that we are planning to return to the fair next summer. As Nicole says, "It is a lot of fun--you get to play games and give away free stuff, so volunteers are sure to be a hit with the fairgoers." Please consider joining us for a three-hour volunteer shift next summer. It's fun to get involved!

Speaking of getting involved, we would like to thank those FLAGS members who attended our September 20th Fall Flags Workshop at Bella Vista High School on "PowerPoint for Language Teachers: from the Basics to the Best". We were pleased to be able to give participants a free 2GB flash drive on which to review the wonderful presentations of Christine Lanphere, Kristina Jenkins, and Nicole Naditz. Christine introduced participants to the fundamentals of effective PowerPoint presentations, Kristina added transitions, images, and sound, and Nicole took us into the high tech world of embedded audio, video and web links. Our 27 participants came away with some very useful skills they could immediately use in their classrooms.

Last September we were also fortunate in getting our draft Foreign Language Standards. Capitol Foreign Language Project members spent Saturday, October 4th at Sacramento State making suggestions and revisions to the draft. We sent these to Arleen Burns, the Foreign Language Consultant of the California Department of Education, whom you can reach by phone at (916) 323-5818, or by e-mail at aburns@cde.ca.gov. To view a copy of the draft standards, due to be adopted in March of 2009, please go to <http://www.clta.net/standards/>.

As to future events, we at FLAGS are looking forward to seeing old members and new at the 2009 California Language Teachers' Association Conference, to be held at Sacramento's Double Tree Hotel on Arden Way from Thursday, February 26th through Sunday, March 1st. We will be hosting this important event, but it will only be meaningful if you are there! On Thursday, there will be a 12-3 workshop, a 4:30-7:30 workshop, and

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ONE FRIDAY EACH MONTH

FLAGS Board meeting

All members are welcome

Contact: Ruth Ward

(530)661-4117

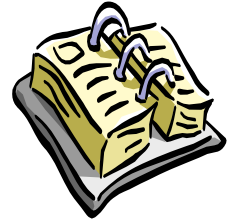
February 26-March 1, 2009

CLTA Conference at the Double Tree Hotel
on Arden in Sacramento

March 21, 2009

FLAGS Spring Share-a-thon, Center HS

April 2-4, 2009

SWCOLT Conference, Norman, Oklahoma**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**

April 24, 2009

FLAGS Teacher Awards Dinner

May 2, 2009

FLAGS Student Awards Breakfast

June 15-19

CapFLP Summer Institute

July 2-5, 2009

AATF Conference in San Jose!*("Perch" continued from page 2)*

in between a 3:00 to 4:30 PM Gala Exhibits event during which participants will be free to peruse the wares of the many vendors who will be displaying their state of the art language acquisition merchandise.

On Friday, there will be an 8 to 11 AM workshop, a 12:00 to 3:00 PM workshop, and many 4:30 to 7:30 PM workshops, and another opportunity from 3:00 to 4:30 PM to examine the vendors' exhibits. On Saturday, there will be hour-long interest sessions starting at 8 AM. We will have the traditional Friday night dinner at 8 PM, Saturday luncheon, and the gala Sunday brunch, complete with entertainment on the big stage by a dynamic African dance group.

Our theme for this year's CLTA conference is "Raising the Standards, Raising the Bar". Please help us to raise the bar by attending and, perhaps even presenting. We are eagerly looking for more presenters of three-hour workshops and one-hour interest sessions. To fill out an online application to attend or to present, please go to <http://www.clta.net/conference/>. This will be an event you won't want to miss!

We also hope you will come to our FLAGS Spring Share-a-thon on March 21st from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM at Center High School, during which participants will exchange teaching ideas and strategies they gathered at the CLTA Conference. To get more information about all these engaging events, please go to <http://www.flagsteacher.com/>. There you will find the FLAGS activities calendar, as well as flyers, maps, directions, registration forms, etc. In addition, you will see announcements on advocacy issues, links for specific languages, and super opportunities for you to tell us what you would like to see FLAGS do for you in our periodic "FLAGS Polls." There is even a link to the electronic version of the **FLAGS Pole**, just in case you've misplaced your copy.

But there are yet more events in store for language teachers this spring! In May and June of 2009, the Capitol Foreign Language Project will be offering several fabulous professional development opportunities. First, CapFLP is planning a two-hour and an 8-hour version of an EL workshop on Teaching the Standards to EL Students Across Content Areas. Stay tuned for specific dates, times, and places.

In addition, from June 15 through June 19, CapFLP will be offering a French and a Spanish strand of Cultural Perspectives, a week long, 40 hour immersion seminar in which French teachers will experience the extraordinary resistance of the French to Nazism during World War II, and Spanish teachers will deepen their understanding of the contemporary cultures of the Hispanic world. The following week, from June 22nd through June 26th, CapFLP will also be sponsoring a week long Developing Leadership Seminar. Participants will have a unique opportunity to grow professionally as presenters while improving their own teaching practice. Continuing Education Units will be available.

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**CLTA CONFERENCE
IN SACRAMENTO!
WHAT A BENEFIT!**



As you hopefully already know, CLTA is at the Double Tree across from the Arden Fair Mall this February 26-March 1st, 2009. Great reasons to come:

- **all new: many 4:30-7:30 PM sessions Friday (so you can come after school!!)**
- great workshops and interest sessions with stuff you can use!
- mingle, socialize, and simultaneously get new ideas!
- good food and company
- close to home
- win a free European trip from ACIS
- see outstanding teachers receive awards and grants (you could be one of them!)
- exhibitors with the latest materials, fun stuff you can buy, and information on topics such as travel

More details on Conference: This year CLTA is earlier than ever! What does that mean? Well, first of all, it means, start planning now. Secondly, it means you'll be able to use all those great ideas for even more time this very school year.

If you'd like to see the prices, please go the CLTA website: <http://www.clta.net/conference/regfees.html>. Actual workshops offered will be available for you to see soon. Usually there are numerous workshops all day Thursday and Friday, but this year we are offering many more Friday afternoon, so there are more opportunities to attend. Of course, all day Saturday and Sunday there will be the usual interest sessions. You may register just for the weekend portion, add meals, or also add workshops.

And I'm sure you're dying to know **how you can help out!!** Well, if attending workshops isn't enough for you, and you'd like to help as well by sitting at the registration or hospitality desk for a couple of hours or filling a similar spot, please email **Tanya Zaccone** right away:

tzaccone@surewest.net. She'll be thrilled to hear from you.

What else is great about CLTA: they **recognize outstanding teachers**. So if there's a teacher at your school you'd like to appreciate, go to the CLTA website (again) and print out the nomination form. Maybe you'd like a little something for yourself? Why not apply for a grant to study abroad this summer? CLTA has grants to study for a few weeks in France, Quebec, Spain, Italy, and Germany (and possibly Japan and China). There's even a grant to help new teachers attend conference (Sydney Gorman). You need letters of recommendation for all the awards and

("FLAGS conference" continued from page 1)

Teachers came with an idea in mind they wanted to teach and were able to set up slides, input information, insert pictures, transition between slides, and finally insert video and sound. How are they going to remember everything they learned? FLAGS gave each attendee a 2GB flash drive to take home with all the goodies they learned!! We were thrilled to be able to do that.

Our next step will be to apply the technology directly to the foreign language classroom. So look for future FLAGS workshops!! If you ever have an idea for something you would like us to offer, please feel free to contact a board member at any time!

Membership Corner



Welcome back to a new school year! By now, most of us are well into the routine of school, and it's a great time to take care of an annual routine: renewing your membership with FLAGS and CLTA.

A major focus at the state and local level this year is building and expanding membership. This past year, FLAGS only had 66 members who renewed for 2008, which was a record low membership level. The state CLTA conference will be hosted by FLAGS this coming February 26-March 1, which will be a wonderful opportunity for local teachers to attend this informative and exciting gathering of language teachers from around the state. So now's the time to act!

So far, we have 13 members who have renewed for 2009. Thank you! 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 "2009", you're current. 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 (PowerPoint for Language Teachers and a FLAGS Super Share-a-thon), the Teacher Awards Dinner and Student Awards Breakfast, as well as sending 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, 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

CLTA CORNER

- Conference: Feb 26-Mar 1, 2009 at Double Tree Hotel across from Arden Fair Mall in Sacramento
- Affiliate Contest: The affiliate with the greatest percentage increase of new CLTA members will receive a free registration package for the 2010 conference.
- 2009-2010: CLTA will celebrate its 40th anniversary!
- Membership cards will no longer be sent out. Instead, you'll receive an email confirmation with an image of a card you may print if you wish.
- Deadline for CLTA awards and grants is January 5, 2009.

Welcome new members!!

Mizue Kumagai	Mira Loma HS
Ilse Martin	Student teacher
Arleen Schaller	Encina HS
Ann Clark-Tyler	Elk Grove HS
Bill Ware	St. Patrick & St. Anselm
Laura Dubcovsky	UC Davis
Paul Bardwil	Global Educational Facilitation

FLAGS TEACHER AWARDS

The FLAGS board cannot nominate teachers for an award, so we're counting on you, our dedicated members, to please nominate a colleague this year as an Outstanding Teacher. This year's dinner will take place April 24th. The process is fairly simple. Write a letter of nomination, collect three letters of recommendation, get a resume of the person, show off that fabulous someone to us! We want to hear about them and recognize them! Forms and information will be available soon on the FLAGS website.

(“State Fair”, continued from page 1)

were from. There were also three student volunteers who came in shifts to help with the games.

Of course, no exhibit area would be complete without a prize wheel. Families lined up to spin the wheel for Discover Languages merchandise, ranging from pencils to wristbands and magnets, to bumper stickers and sticky note pads—all spreading the Discover Languages message.

In addition to the fun and games, CLTA volunteers also gave away brochures on the benefits of language study and the booth area featured informational posters about the benefits of language learning and proficiency. While browsing the information, some of the older fairgoers tried their hand at an adapted version of the “Are You Smarter than a Language Teacher” quiz (available at <http://www.discoverlanguages.org>).

One of the day’s highlights included a surprise visit from Julie Shok Tam, Miss Asia Sacramento 2008. She saw us listed in the fair program and came to look for us. It turns out that she has been participating in various pageants for seven years, and always uses language and study abroad as her competition platform. It was a joy to see her at our booth.

All of the volunteers felt that the day was a great success. Confirmation came when I received a card in the mail from Michele Johnson, the manager of the Youth Education Building at the California State Fair. Johnson had passed by the booth throughout the day and in her card she commented on how lively and fun the exhibit area was. She was so pleased, that she asked us to consider returning next year.

(“President’s Perch” continued from page 3)

Oh, yes, one more crucial and joyful issue: Teacher Award nominations. FLAGS members may nominate individuals in three categories of awards: Outstanding New Teacher, Outstanding Teacher, and President’s Award. At the flagsteacher.com website, you can download all of the forms from the links provided at the bottom of the page. The **Outstanding New Teacher Award** honors a teacher new to the profession who has been a world language teacher for three years or less, **Outstanding Teacher Award** honors an accomplished teacher who has been a world language teacher for at least four years and who is an inspiration to everyone, and the **President’s Award** recognizes a person who isn’t a world language teacher, but whose support and efforts give us strength and keep our programs vibrant. This award is for administrators, district personnel and community members who share our commitment to language education. Please nominate someone at your school site! Let’s help our colleagues and allies get the recognition they deserve!

Whew! That’s all for the moment. Stay well and continue the fantastic work you do that makes us all proud of our profession!

Un abrazo,
Ruth Ward
Acting as FLAGS President until Carol Eberhart returns, victorious, from her battle with cancer.



State Fair volunteers (from left to right): Carol Nutt, Evelyn Bejarano, Miss Asia Julie Shok Tam, Catherine Lucero (Bella Vista student), Nicole Naditz, Marty Abbott (Director of Education, ACTFL), Carol Brown, Christine Lanphere



FLAGS PowerPoint Conference

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF
GREATER SACRAMENTO**

c/o Kristina Jenkins
120 Sierra Woods Circle
Folsom, CA 95630

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

**Do we have your correct
email address?** If you're not getting emails from us, email Christine at membership@flagsteacher.com. Make sure to put us in your "safe email" list.



**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!

Keep the momentum of
"Year of Languages" going in your school
and community.

Discover more today on the ACTFL website at **www.discoverlanguages.org**!



Discover the World!
www.discoverlanguages.org

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages