

MCTLC Newsletter

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September 2010

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the MCTLC Newsletter!

David Paulson

Southwest Minnesota State University

Greetings, and welcome to a streamlined, printed version of the *MCTLC Newsletter*. In this latest incarnation of our association's journal, we hope to continue to keep you up to date with interesting articles, announcements of events and most importantly, help spark interesting ideas in the teaching of languages and cultures. Looking back just 20 years:

- we were transitioning from MCTFL to MCTLC
- parts of the *MLR* were still typewritten;
- Germany had just been reunified and Eastern Europe was in political flux;
- Europeans were talking about the ECU – European Currency Unit;
- Fighting foreign drug cartels was primary US initiative;
- Congressman Leon Panetta wrote that we were in the midst of a “quiet crisis of global competence” and that teaching other languages and cultures was key to addressing a possible conflict in Iraq, problems in the former Soviet Union, and most importantly the United State's status as a leader rather than a debtor. Twenty

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Instructions for Using the new MCTLC Website



Register on the web site. At that point you may become a member or renew your MCTLC Membership online on the website. Next, you can register for the Fall Conference and other conferences and workshops throughout the year on the website. And we didn't forget about social networking... There are instructions on the website for links to Facebook and Twitter. Information about other sites will follow soon. Once you have registered, be sure to completely fill out your personal Profile! Our sincere thanks to Paulino Brener for developing and supporting our new web site!

We want to be sure that information that you receive information that is relevant to you in your field! You can also post pictures of yourself, as well as some other pictures that you wish to share with other members. Of course, you can choose which information is visible to members on the website and keep other information confidential if you wish.

years later, the crisis is no longer “quiet” as the teaching languages and cultures, more important than ever, has been reduced or eliminated throughout the state and the nation.

It is endlessly frustrating when we consider that the risks that were identified are now crises, and many schools have slashed world languages and cultures. Most course materials have become increasingly unaffordable and many of questionable methodology – if any. Bill VanPatten and Jim Lee were authors of the telecourse *Destinos*, and subsequently wrote textbooks such as *¿Sabías qué...?* and *¿Qué te parece...?* that fundamentally were based on decades of research into adult second language learning that showed us the importance of immersing the students into the language, and teaching by means of the language.

The Natural Approach by Steven Krashen, and later Alice Omaggio's Teaching Language in Context provided us with a fundamental understanding of how adults learn second languages and strategies we can use to teach. Dr. John Janc wrote in the Summer 1996 of the Minnesota Language Review in his running series “Let's Keep Current” that recent ACTFL research suggested that French and Spanish students with whom researchers had discussed specific strategies for studying did better than their peers.

The Internet streaming programming online from all over the world, newer communications technology such as Skype and the expansion of the availability of the Internet in most schools and classrooms has opened up the world to our students as never before. However now we face online courses as our new reality. Can another language effectively be taught and learned online? We all hope you enjoy this wrap-around version of the MLR that accompanies the new Language Magazine. As always, we enthusiastically encourage your submissions of articles and announcements which we will be able to publish either in the Newsletter or on the website.

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EUROPASS (NOT EURAIL PASS!)

www.europass.ie (You must use the “www”) has templates in many languages to build a student’s language résumé – check it out!
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Executive Board

Note: The emails listed on this page are provided for MCTLC members to contact leadership. Email addresses are not to be used for solicitation purposes for any product or service. Contact the President with inquiries:

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Your Name Here!

We are looking for nominations or volunteers for future MCTLC Board positions. It’s the great way to network with colleagues and help build your career as an educator/ school administrator.

MCTLC Transforms Member Communication

Janice Holter Kittok, MCTLC President

Welcome back for the 2010-11 academic year. Inside you'll find your first copy of *Language Magazine*, a new MCTLC member benefit.

The MCTLC Board has carefully examined how to best communicate information, to foster member networking, to keep members informed on state and national professional initiatives as well as how to provide a medium for professional publication. Members have seen recent transitions from paper to electronic membership renewals, event registrations, calls for proposals, online conference program, email blast messaging and an enhanced website. These are effective, efficient and green changes to our communication system.


This school year we begin with adding *Language Magazine*, a monthly publication sent to all paid MCTLC members wrapped in the *MCTLC Newsletter*. Personally, I enjoy this top-quality publication with information that stretches me beyond Minnesota and beyond the most-commonly taught languages. As we prepare our students to be more globally-minded citizens, this magazine will help us to develop a broader knowledge base ourselves.



All Aboard the 21st Century Express!

**2011 Central States Conference on the
Teaching of Foreign Languages**

**A joint conference with the Indiana Foreign Language
Teachers Association**



**March 3-5, 2011
Hyatt Regency Indianapolis
Indianapolis, IN**

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MCTLC Fall Conference
October 21-22, 2010
www.MCTLC.org

Thursday, October 21:

Minnesota Language Proficiency Assessment Rater Training Workshop
Web 2.0 Tools to Build Cultural Proficiency
Content Based Storytelling
Meeting the Needs of Heritage Language Learners in Spanish
Evening: Language Specific Networking

Friday, October 22

Full day of conference events at Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center
Keynote Address by Dana Mortenson of World Savvy. winner of one of the 2010 40 Under 40 Leadership Awards
32 Breakout Sessions for teachers of all levels and all languages on a wide variety of topics including culture, assessment, art, music, literature, technology, storytelling, immersion, etc.

Exhibit Area to explore what's new in the way of resources.

Awards Luncheon to socialize with colleagues from across the state.

Languages and Levels

All languages taught in Minnesota schools: American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, Classical Languages, French, German, Hebrew, Hmong, Japanese, Minnesota Indigenous Languages, Somali, Spanish, Korean, and Persian. Whether you teach in kindergarten or at the university, you will find sessions and workshops that are useful to you.

MCTLC Newsletter

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