



MCTLC Newsletter

*Our Mission is to Advance the Teaching of
World Languages and Cultures in Minnesota*



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MCTLC Presents Two Outstanding Candidates for Vice President

According to the changes made in the Constitution in 2009, each year the members of MCTLC will elect a new Vice President. The election will be held at the Fall Conference. The winner will serve one year as Vice President, the second year as President Elect, then a year as President, and finally a year as Past President. Please read the information on our two outstanding candidates so you are prepared to vote at the conference.

VP CANDIDATE: MARJIE HAY

Greetings, friends and colleagues! My name is **Marjie Hay** and I'm excited about the prospect of serving as the next Vice President of MCTLC. I have been involved with our amazing state world language association for the past six years as a metro regional representative and most recently as the Historian. This past summer I read through MCTLC's entire archived collection of MN Language Reviews and recent newsletters and was greatly inspired by the dedication and spirit of past board members. I aim to grow our membership and to better connect our members by organizing more formal and informal gatherings and workshops. I hope to increase our members' awareness of resources through our website and (cont. next column)

to stand as a political and social advocate for world language education in MN and beyond. This fall I begin my 14th year of teaching. I currently teach Spanish at Brooklyn Center Jr./Sr. High School. After graduating from Colorado College I taught English and Speech in Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, and Colorado for five years. I moved back to Minnesota in 2003 to teach Spanish and enrolled in graduate school at the University of MN where I recently earned my M.Ed. in 2nd Languages and Cultures.

VP CANDIDATE: KAY EDBERG

It has been a privilege to serve the members of MCTLC as Membership Chair during the past year. As a candidate for MCTLC vice president this year I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and allow members to get to know me better. I graduated from Eveleth-Gilbert High School and attended Mesabi Community College and Bemidji State University where I received a B.S. in Spanish and Secondary Education. As part of my undergraduate work I studied abroad at the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara. After several years of teaching, I received a scholarship from the Spanish government and earned a Máster Universitario en Lengua y Cultura Españolas from the Universidad de Salamanca. I currently teach four levels of high school Spanish in Mora including two concurrent enrollment classes. I have also led several trips with students to both Spain and Costa Rica. As I look toward the future of MCTLC, I hope to encourage more members to get involved in our organization. I encourage you to share your ideas on how MCTLC can better serve you, the members and I look forward to seeing all of our members at this year's conference. We have 50 years of tradition to celebrate and the obligation to make the next 50 years even greater.

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Exploring our MCTLC History – Marjie Hay, MCTLC Historian

1. MN Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (MCTFL) is established in 1961 by: Jermaine D. Arendt (Mpls. Public Schools), Emma Birkmaier (U of MN), Dale Lange (U of MN), Allen Hibbard (White Bear Lake Schools), and Mary Moen (Central High, St. Paul). The council's main efforts were to organize a fall meeting and build a network for world language teachers across the state.
2. *Observations of an Eavesdropper* column begins publication in the MN Language Review. Authors James O'Neill and Elaine Fuller Carter continue submissions of *Observations* for over twenty years!
3. In 1989, John Janc's column, *Let's Keep Current*, debuts in the MLR and continues publication
4. In the fall of 1994, MCTFL approves organizational name change! MN Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures (MCTLC) is born anew!

Paulino Brener continues to improve and expand our website. Here are some of the features you can now find there:

- **Job listings** are posted as soon as we receive them.
- The **Swap Shop** can help you locate used curriculum items you are looking for or to help clean out your department storage room if you have curriculum materials you are no longer using but hate to throw away.
- The **Forum** allows you to network using the framework of the **5 C's of our National Standards**.
- The "**About Us**" tab allows you to see all the agendas, minutes, and budget reports of our board meetings.

Congratulations to MCTLC members!

- ✓ Congratulations to **Allison Spenader** for her published article, "Language Learning and Acculturation: Lessons from High School and Gap-Year Exchange Students" published in the Summer issue of the *Foreign Language Annals*.
- ✓ Congratulations to **Barbara Cartford** for being recognized for 20 years of service to the Concordia Language Villages and to **Paulino Brener** for 10 years.

Our Golden Past, Our Golden Future: A Conference You Will Not Want to Miss

Because this is our 50th anniversary celebration, this conference will be special in many ways. The luncheon will be a gala affair with lots of door prizes and a chance to meet MCTLC's former presidents and Emma B. Birkmeier award winners. If you know retired teachers who have not come to the conference in a while, please invite them to this conference so we can all have a chance to share our experiences. But this conference is not only about our past, it is also about our future. And if you are a new teacher there are plenty of great reasons to attend the conference.

- Four workshops on **Thursday**
 - **Incorporate Culture in Your Lessons: Culture-based TPR Storytelling** by Barbara Cartford
 - **Function-al Raps: A MUST for the 21st Century Toolbox** by John De Mado
 - **Using the Interactive Board to Enhance Chinese Teaching** by Jiao Li
 - **Assess for Success: How to Develop Standards-based Curriculum Anchored with Performance Assessments** by Lisa Shafranski
- The keynote address is "**Sisyphus Was a Language Teacher**" by John De Mado. A popular presenter at Central States and ACTFL conferences, he will be in Minnesota. John's hard-hitting insights into learning challenge the intellect. His provocative style stimulates thinking and professional growth, thus serving as a catalyst for change. Above all, humor abounds, serving to punctuate even the weightiest of topics. He will also be doing a three hour workshop on Thursday on producing raps for your classroom, and a session on Friday on error correction in the classroom.

This year we are delighted to announce that **we have approximately forty different breakout sessions!** You can check the website at www.mctlc.org for complete descriptions. Note the diverse selection – there should be something here for everyone! Friday Break-Out Sessions include:

1. Language Immersion Teacher Demand: 2011 and Beyond
2. Embedding Global Competency in World Language Instruction
3. Applying Integrated Performance Assessment in Chinese Language Learning
4. Error and Language Acquisition
5. Writing in Collaboration
6. Green Germany: Curricular Materials for School and University
7. The Calendar Method
8. *French or Foe* in the Classroom

9. Adding to Your Cultural Toolkit
10. Goethe – Up Close and Personal
11. Bridging Language and Content and Proficiency Levels
12. Chopsticks and Brushes Are Not the Only Tools You Give Your Students to Learn Chinese!
13. Reflections from a First Year Early Language Teacher
14. Activities for COMMUNITIES and CULTURE in the Language Classroom
15. *Le Système Educatif*
16. Rater Training for Proficiency: What Do Teachers Say about Its Impact on Their Teaching
17. Get Them Talking With Art and Music
18. Preterite-Imperfect: Achieving Advanced-Low Levels
19. Using Linguafolio for Chinese and Arabic: What the Data Show
20. Keep Students Engaged and Moving!
21. Midwest French Heritage
22. Cultural Experience: An Important Component of Mandarin Chinese Education in the USA
23. How to Engage Students in FLES Programs
24. *Kunst auf Deutsch*
25. Puppet Show: *The Adventures of Juan*
26. Keep Middle School Students Engaged!
27. Online Story Making
28. Interactive Global Activities
29. Empowering Yourself to Conduct Teacher Research
30. Moving from Reading for the Gist to Analysis
31. Ten Golden Reasons to Travel Abroad with Your Students
32. Assessing What Matters: Integrating Assessments in Curriculum and Native Language Culture
33. *Neuer Blick Berlin: multi-kulti und noch mehr!*
34. What Good Does a Semester Abroad do?
35. “Street” Smarts: Increasing Cultural Competency through Street Signage
36. Effective Digital Learning In Chinese Class and Beyond
37. Two Italian Teachers’ Views on Understanding by Design
38. Motivating Students: Making Language Real
39. Make and Take Unit in Under an Hour

Plus:

Several more Friday sessions, a variety of Thursday Workshops, and an exhibitors’ hall with displays of the most up to date resources, snacks, and opportunities to network with exhibitors and attendees. **We are offering a special this year. If you bring along a colleague who has not attended a conference before, you will receive a \$15 reimbursement at the registration table. So think of someone who would love this conference and bring him/her along!**

It Was On My Bucket List

This summer I accomplished one of the things that was on my bucket list—a trip to Cuba. I had the marvelous opportunity to travel with a Witness for Peace delegation to Cuba to learn about the educational system there. We visited schools, universities, the Ministry of Education, and museums. Cuba has the highest literacy rates in the world, and after visiting their country, it is easy to see why. They truly have a standards based system that insures an equal education to everyone in the country, no matter where they live. Everyone I talked to mentioned that they considered the education of its citizens to be the highest priority of their government. The system begins in early childhood and continues through the post graduate level. All education in Cuba is paid for by the state including the cost of books and room and board if students live in areas where the specialty they desire is not offered. Special needs children are identified early and offered a comprehensive education that uses current best practices. The highlight of my trip was the visit to the Museum in Honor of the Literacy Campaign that took place soon after the Revolution of 1959. The pictures of those who volunteered, from the very young to the very old, and of those who were martyred in the cause of teaching others to read, left my heart filled with love and devotion to the cause. One picture stands out in my mind. Thousands of volunteers marched with giant pencils held like rifles through the streets of Havana declaring death to illiteracy in Cuba. How I wish every society would make the same commitment to eradicate illiteracy. Being a language teacher, of course I was interested in how languages other than Spanish are taught. English instruction begins in the 4th grade and continues until high school graduation. There are also opportunities for students to learn French and German. The Cuban government is enhancing an exchange program with the Chinese government through which Cubans teach Spanish in China and Chinese teachers teach Chinese in Cuba. I had a chance to examine the curriculum used in the 4th through 6th grades to teach English. I only looked at the student workbook, but it was integrated with a series of videos, one for each lesson. Each lesson was short with a clearly defined objective for the student. The lessons progressed clearly from comprehension to production, from oral language to written, from the simple to the more complex, and ended by integrating the new skill into what the student had learned previously. I got the feeling that after each lesson the student would leave the class able to clearly articulate what they had learned that day. As I was traveling with a number of people who did not speak Spanish, I had the opportunity to speak English with many Cubans, and I was very impressed with their level of proficiency. I came away from my ten day trip with a profound admiration for the Cuban people and a strong desire to continue to learn about their country. I did not cross Cuba off my bucket list. I intend to go there many more times before I lose the opportunity. *Betty Lotterman* MCTLC President

MCTLC Newsletter

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FALL CONFERENCE OCT 20-21 BROOKLYN CTR, MN

For over 50 years MCTLC has been the professional organization for all of Minnesota's world language teachers. Each year we hold a conference that features an exhibit hall, a keynote speaker, 40 breakout sessions, 4 workshops, and an award luncheon. It is *the* premier professional development event of the year for Minnesota's world language teachers. We all look forward to the conference as a way to reconnect, renew our energy, and stay current with new methodologies and curriculum. This year the conference is on October 21 in Brooklyn Center, MN.

**TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE – VISIT:
MCTLC.ORG***

Click on **REGISTRATION IS OPEN:** Complete Conference and Hotel information is available at our site. You may also simply register on-site:

Friday, October 21 2010 - 7:00am – 5:00pm

Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6155 Earle Brown Drive, Brooklyn Center, MN

*Note: You MUST pre-register for the Thursday Pre-Conference Workshops. Visit our website MCTLC.ORG to register and for information about this exciting event!