



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

Vol. III, No. 7

July 2012

From our President:



As members of MCTLC, we are the “grass tops” of the grass roots movement to advance the teaching of world languages and cultures. We organize, advocate and educate our broader base, the grass roots of parents, school board members, community contacts and our network of colleagues. This is an insight from the Delegate Assembly of the Joint National Committee on Languages (JNCL) and the National Council on Languages in International Studies (NCLIS) May 20-22 in Washington, D.C. Representatives from the state and national language and international studies organizations gathered with members of congress and the directors of national security and

education. We were reminded that Osama bin Laden was not brought down solely by the prowess of the Navy Seals. There were linguists transcribing, translating and interpreting intelligence information. Not only does speaking another language lead to higher level critical thinking skills, it leads to peace. Language sheds light on culture; it is not a mere transfer of information. Speaking another language builds rapport, keeps communication open, and avoids conflict. A nation that speaks other languages leads to global understanding so that we can establish and keep peace in the world. Sadly, the United States is the only developed country that does not graduate students who are proficient in a second language.

While education is primarily an issue of state funding it is essential that federal funding be granted because states do not always recognize the priority language education deserves. **Language and international studies** meet President Obama’s 2012 goal to create the most competitive workforce in the world. They improve access to and diversity in international education, ensure a world class education for all, and increase national security and global competitiveness. Finally, they strengthen the civic fabric of democracy.

I met with aides of MN Representative Colin Peterson and Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken to inform them of the over 3,000 language educators in our state and of the importance of continued federal funding of language education. **All offices expressed interest in attending an event or a program at a school if invited; now we need to extend the invitation.**

We attended a senate hearing, “A National Security Crisis: Foreign Language Capabilities in the Federal Government,” sponsored by retiring Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, long time champion of language education. The testimony which addressed how language drives economic growth, creates jobs, and fosters competitiveness for U.S. businesses shared the fact that only 27% of the Internet is in English today. This simply underscored the reality that one in every five jobs in the U.S. today depends on international trade and commerce.

Finally, we feted JNCL founder and executive director, J. David Edwards for his decades of service on his retirement. Beyond his indefatigable defense of language and international education, Edwards leaves a legacy of integrity. He wrote the original code of ethics for lobbyists. We met our new executive director, Dr. Bill Rivers, who comes to us with extensive experience in languages and business.

Remember we are grass tops strengthening the very fabric of democracy and establishing world peace!

✍ *Mary Thron*

**MCTLC Conference
October 18-19, 2012**

**Think Globally,
Engage Locally**

**John Rassias, Keynote
Pre-Conference Workshops**

Thurs: 10/18/2012

All Day Conference

Fri: 10/19/2012

http://www.mctlc.org/conference_2012



**Travel Photography for
Language Teachers
Creative Image Composition
With Kimerly Miller
July 12
Exposure & Light Conditions**

www.mctlc.org

July 10th deadline
Submit news, dates, and
articles.

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MCTLC Editor

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St. Paul, MN 55111

Bastille Day

Saturday, July 14

4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Hotel Sofitel

\$10

afmsp.org

German Student Kelly Braumberger from Tartan HS Awarded Scholarship



The U of M College in the Schools German Program awards a scholarship each year to a CiS student who plans to major in German at the U of M.

Pictured are this year's winner, Kelly Braumberger from Tartan High School along with her German teacher **Dave Rutledge**, on the right. Ginny Steinhagen, CiS German Coordinator is presenting Kelly with a memento in addition to the \$3000 annual 4-year scholarship. Also pictured are Prof. Barbara Wolbert and Prof. Rick McCormick, Chair of the Dept. of German, Scandinavian and Dutch. This picture was taken on April 25th at the CiS German Field Day at the U of M, which over 425 students attended.

Learn the Culture and the Language

By Luke Liu

Two years ago I came to the United States from Chongqing, China and entered high school as a Junior at The Winchendon School in Winchendon, Massachusetts. This fall I will enter Northeastern University in Boston. My most important lesson or advice for language learners is: *You must learn the culture as well as the language. If you learn the language without understanding the culture, this is useless and can even be disastrous.*



Luke Liu and friends at The Winchendon School

When I began at The Winchendon School, I took ESL classes to bring my English up to a high school level. I had already started to study English in China, beginning in middle school, with two 40-minute periods daily.

In Chongqing, there had been about 50 students in each class. The teacher mainly taught us vocabulary lists, as if we were learning Chinese character lists. Most of my English teachers could read and write English but were not proficient in speaking. After five years of English classes at an elite international business high school (we were headed for international business careers), I was admitted to The Winchendon School.

At The Winchendon School, I immediately understood the importance of going to class, listening to the teacher, and doing my homework. My impression was that my study habits were excellent and my English was progressing. However, when I got an F in a class, after having completed all work with grades of at least 80% or a B, this was a complete shock.

When I spoke with my teacher about this, he was cordial and honest. He told me that he had not heard a word from me in class, ever, all quarter, and thus my participation grade was 0. This is what brought my overall grade to an F, despite the fact that all of my written work was B or above.

At that point I realized that though my English was sufficient, my understanding of the American academic culture was completely deficient. In China, we sit, listen, and take exams. Our exam grades determine our academic success. Moreover, in class, a student would never want to bring attention to themselves by talking or interrupting the teacher's presentation. In the US, we are expected to participate in the class discussions, contributing our ideas and what we have learned from the assigned readings. In conclusion: ***Learn the culture as well as the language when learning a second language.***

Are we making a difference in our students' lives?

A former student wrote to her Credit Abroad leader from Concordia Language Villages:

Hello there Jan.

It's funny how life works out sometimes because I recently was cleaning out files with my mother when we came across info from my trip to Spain with a group of students in 1997...you were the leader of this group. The funny thing is we have already crossed paths a second time at the Central States Conference in Milwaukee this year. I actually sat next to you at the Advisory Council meeting. Remember me?

And, guess what!? I'm a Spanish teacher now looking for my first full time gig somewhere in Des Moines, Iowa. I just wanted to touch base and say thank you for making my trip to Spain so wonderful. That trip was just the beginning for me in continuing my love for teaching and learning Spanish.

Thanks again.

India Morrow

Teaching world languages, we are changing lives.

Kimerly Miller, an amateur travel and architecture photographer for more than thirty years, led a travel photography workshop for



language teachers in Roseville on June 14, 2012. She will do another on July 12th. See the MCTLC website for details.

2012 Minnesota French Competition School Participants



Clare Hagen (scheduler, awards) & Annie Muske (organizer).

Academy of Holy Angels (52)
Benilde-St. Margaret's (132)
Bloomington Kennedy High School (32)
Breck School (71)
Central High School (121)
Chaska High School (66)
Como Park Senior High School (35)
Coon Rapids High School (12)
Cooper High School (29)
Harding High School (50)
Hidden Creek Middle School (3)
Highland Park Senior High School (14)
International School of Minnesota (36)
Lake Country School (83)
Lakeville South High School (34)
Mahtomedi High School (16)
Marcy Open School (42)
Mes Amis French School (3)
Minnehaha Academy (13)
Minnetonka High School (13)
Northfield High School (58)
Prior Lake High School (20)
Rochester John Marshall High School (74)
Rochester Mayo High School (85)
Rochester Century High School (78)
St. Paul Academy & Summit School (89)
St. Peter Middle & High Schools (13)
Tartan High School (23)
Washburn High School (34)

Bravo!

Le Grand Concours

National French Exam

1861 Minnesota students
29 schools
48 teachers
(97,353 US National Contestants)

Levels 01-5
110 MN National Winners

4.....1st place
5.....2nd place
7.....3rd place
155.....4th-10th Place



FLES
36 MN National Winners

Levels 01-5
243 MN State Winners

Five MN National Laureats from Breck School and Mme Jodi James.



Carolyn Fisk, Le Grand Concours Administrator, presents a medal to one of Minnesota's 155 national winners at the May 18 Awards Breakfast at Coffman Union.



For comments, questions, additions, and corrections to the newsletter, please contact Jodi James at editor@mctlc.org.