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

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:



Happy New Year from MCTLC!

It is a privilege to represent you as the 2015 President of the Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures. Every day, world language teachers in Minnesota are teaching

towards proficiency, creating globally competent learners, and ensuring that the needs of all students in our classrooms are met. It is an honor to work with you and advocate for you throughout this year.

As I reflect on 2014, one of the highlights of my year was attending the 2015 ACTFL Convention in San Antonio, Texas in November. What an experience! I left inspired with great ideas for teaching and assessing language learning. During the convention, I met language teachers from around the country who had come together with a common purpose and the same passion of world language education.

As the Minnesota ACTFL delegates, Mary Thron, Frances Matos-Schultz, and I learned about the struggles and triumphs in world language education in other states. Mary Thron and Jan Holter Kittok addressed the delegate assembly to share Minnesota's success in advocating for a Seal of Bi-literacy which recognizes heritage speakers and exceptional Minnesota High School world language learners. MCTLC looks forward to educating Minnesota world language teachers about the Seal of Biliteracy and how to use this seal to recognize the achievements of students. One of the resonating messages of the Delegate Assembly is that all politics is grassroots. What we do in our schools, in our state, and in our region can have a powerful impact

nationally and serve as an inspiration for other states as they move language programs to the forefront of the national agenda. We must all use our voice and advocate for language learning. The ACTFL campaign to "Lead with Languages" has already reached Capitol Hill and is sending a clear message that learning languages is important for our economy, our national security, and our strength as a nation. As we begin a new year, it is the perfect time to consider how we can "Lead with Languages" in our schools and communities to promote world language education. To watch a video about this campaign go to this link: <http://vimeo.com/77166262>.

January is also a great time to start thinking about your professional development needs through workshops and other special events for world language teachers. If you haven't already registered for the Central States Conference, there's still time! With nearly 200 sessions and 34 workshops, you can be assured there is something for everyone including the best sessions from other states. As you make plans for this year, I invite you to join us in promoting world languages and celebrate the learning that goes on in our classrooms each day. I look forward to seeing you at future MCTLC events and I wish you a wonderful and prosperous 2015!



Minnesota was once again well represented at the ACTFL National Convention. Frances Matos-Schultz, former MCTLC secretary, Angela Carlson Lombardi of the University of Minnesota, and our Kay Edberg are pictured at the opening general session. The keynote speaker, Annie Griffiths, National Geographic photographer and global philanthropist, was also originally from Minnesota

Adult Learners Attend Language Camp in Minnesota

Bemidji, Minnesota — Apart from traveling to Europe for intensive classes, motivated Nordic language learners in North America need to be creative in their search for opportunities to acquire Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Icelandic, or Danish as a heritage or second language. Learning in a camp setting is one option for children and adults. The Concordia Language Villages (CLV) headquartered in Moorhead, Minnesota offer summer and academic year programs for adult learners, families, children and youth, and for people especially interested in the focused content of music, folk painting, or genealogy. Driven by a common philosophy of language acquisition, the CLV Swedish program for adults offers a week packed with a variety of classes and activities that all support the goal of language acquisition. The villages of Salolampi and Sjölundén, on Turtle River Lake near Bemidji, Minnesota, are used every year in the autumn for both housing and programming. Teachers and learners have flown and driven in from around the country to create a community of learners for seven days. During those seven days culture, morning gathering, raising and lowering the flag, and evening programs provided the content. There were language classes three times a day using a variety of instructional strategies including Total Physical Response (TPR). Fika or coffee break, was an important item in the schedule, with the group drinking gallons and gallons of Löfbergs Lila coffee accompanied by rusks, cinnamon buns, and a variety of pastries put together during the baking classes. In addition, three delectable meals were offered, featuring culturally authentic menus.

Learners met in classrooms where they read and translated texts, where they had some grammar points refined. The class work was content-based and focused on immigration, and they planned meal presentations, which was a means of introducing the menu in the form of a skit using props and target vocabulary. The absolute newcomers in the beginning level class had scaffolded learning tasks that focused on the four modalities of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Their reading work followed the patterns used in Direct Instruction (DI) Reading, frequently used in Minnesota Public schools, with lots of opportunities for unique repetition, active learning, and partner work. The outdoor environment was used to facilitate assessment, particularly during a learning activity called Tips Promenad (pro-men-ODD). This is a popular cultural component of life in Sweden, where one combines nature and learning in the form of a scavenger hunt. In the case of the beginners' class, questions utilizing target vocabulary were posted along a walking path, with three



Concordia Language Village staff posed on the grand staircase just prior to inviting the camp participants into the dining hall for a banquet. Carro, Ingrid, and Isa, stand in front, with Karl-Anders, Sigrid, Viktoria, Sandra, and Jaime in the second row. Viktoria, aka Elise Peters, is the Dean of the year-round programs.

Photo by: V. S. Arrowsmith

possible answer choices offered. Learners had to deduce the correct answer, mark it on their Tips scoresheet, and then locate the next question on the trail. The group assembled in the end to discuss answers. The instructor was able to see how well students could use the vocabulary that they knew, and the participants had fun while applying what they had learned in an authentic assessment. The whole village was the classroom, and free choice activities were offered daily, incorporating the target language in nature walks, weaving, baking, choir, folk crafts, language games, geography, films, and the opportunity to go to the bastu for a sauna.

There is always a final banquet on the night before departure. This year, however, it was extra special as Elise Peters, Dean of the year-round programs celebrated her 25th year of service to the Swedish village. Christine Schultze, Vice President of Concordia Language Villages of Concordia College was in attendance to bestow the honors and the Evergreen Recognition Award. At this significant quarter-century mark CLV finds a unique way to appropriately acknowledge the individual and the work, and in this case Peters chose to have a scholarship fund established for adult learners in the Swedish program, the first CLV scholarship of its kind for the mature population. An evergreen tree was also planted in her honor at the CLV headquarters and international peace site in Moorhead. The banquet included language class group performances, presentations, and skits. There were toasts done Swedish style, some group singing, and the evening came to an end with everyone standing in a large circle, arms around each other, singing, "Hold my hand, my friend, hold my hand," in Swedish of course.

~Valorie Arrowsmith

Upcoming 2015 Events of Language Associations:

MN - AATF:

- Feb. 21, 2015: Mn AATF - **Cercle de lecture *Peste et choléra***, Patrick Deville Location: Macalester College, 170 Rice Hall, at 10am. FYI: See building #16 on the [Macalester College Map](#)
Info: [E-Mail to Laurent Déchery](#) ou [E-Mail to Françoise Denis](#)

le Grand Concours du français - 2015

- **Feb. 14th - 28th**, National French Written Contest
Grades 1 - 6 FLES
- **Feb. 21th - Mar. 22nd** Grades 7-12 Levels 01-5

Note: Contest dates are set by the local Chapter and should fall within this range of dates.

Information: [Grand Concours National webpage](#)

Information: [MN AATF Grand Concours webpage](#)

[E-Mail MN GC Contest Administrator, Carolyn Crane-Fisk*](#)

- Deadline for the FLES Poster Contest 2015: **March 1st**

MN - AATG:

- German Studies Association Call for Papers for the Thirty-Ninth Annual Conference, **Oct. 1st-4th, 2015** in Washington D.C. Go to www.gsa.org for more information. **Deadline Feb. 15th, 2014.**
- 2015 Chapter Project Reports Due **February 15th.**

MN-AATSP:

We are seeking nominations for President-Elect. The term of office is:

President-Elect – 2015

President – 2016

Past-President – 2017



We regret to announce that there will not be a Festival Quijote state contest this year. We hope to be able to offer a new and improved contest in 2016 and we are also looking for someone who would like to serve as Festival Quijote Coordinator – contact president@mn-aatsp.org for more information. Mark your calendar - the **National Spanish Exam Awards Ceremony** will be held on **May 16**. More information to come!

CENTRAL
STATES

CONFERENCE ON THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
THE
FRIENDLY
CONFERENCE!

**"Learn Languages, Explore Cultures, Transform
Foreign Languages Lives" in Minneapolis on
March 12th - 14th, 2015!**

Register today at: www.csctfl.org!

CSCTFL 2015 Keynote Speaker



Dr. Tove Dahl is the keynote speaker for the Central States Conference in Minneapolis in March. She is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at UiT The Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø, Norway. She is also the dean of Skogfjorden, Concordia Language Villages' (CLV) Norwegian language village, where she has been on staff for 36 years. Tove is a graduate of Augsburg College with a major in English (summa cum laude), and she has her PhD in educational psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation on native and foreign language comprehension was recognized with the Emma Marie Birkmaier Award for Doctoral Dissertation Research in Foreign Language Education by ACTFL and the Modern Language Journal. She has since worked with topics related to motivation learning for the Norwegian Institute for Research in Adult Education in Trondheim and UiT. At the University, Tove's interest in education for responsible global citizenship led to work on the board for the Norwegian Centre for Peace Studies (2004-2008). In 2008, the King of Norway recognized Tove and her Skogfjorden work by naming her a Knight of the First Class of the Royal Order of Merit for promoting the Norwegian language and culture in the USA. From a cultural perspective, her research has examined the experience of peace and multicultural education within the Concordia Language Villages context. Her current research is part of a large research project that involves over 50 researchers and is financed by the Research Council of Norway. With her background in learning and motivation, she and her team are exploring how visitors experience the High North through their interactions with the nature, people and culture of the region.

Save the date for these language opportunities at the Minnesota Zoo:

- February 3rd, 2015 - 9am - 12:30pm - French Language Day
- February 4th, 2015 - 9am - 12:30pm - German Language Day
- February 10th-11th, 2015 - 9am - 12:30pm - Spanish Language Days
- March 10th, 2015 - 9am - 12:30pm Chinese Language Day
- April 30th, 2015 - 9am - 12:30pm American Sign Language Day



An image from the MN Zoo language days web site.



2015 Central States Conference

A joint conference of the Central States Conference on the Teaching
of Foreign Languages and the Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures

**March 12 – 14, 2015
Hilton Minneapolis
Minneapolis, MN**

For more information:
www.csctfl.org



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