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

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:



Greetings from MCTLC!

The snow may not even be melted outside, but many world language teachers are already thinking about summer. For some teachers, summer means a much needed break from teaching. For world language teachers, summer often means

travel with students and additional responsibilities.

However, there is nothing quite as gratifying as that moment when your students excitedly tell you about conversations with native speakers, adventures navigating public transportation in a foreign country and all of the new foods they have tried.

When I first started traveling abroad with students, I was hesitant to include homestays as part of the trip. While I wanted my students to interact with native speakers, I was nervous about the challenges living with a host family would create. Would I be able to trust the host families to keep track of my students, enforce my rules, and provide them with the emotional support they needed to adapt to life in another culture? As the years have gone by, I have found that the advantages far outweigh the risks and I have incorporated homestays into all of my trips.

I strive to provide an authentic experience for my students wherever we are so they feel less like tourists and develop a sense of belonging. Many of the students who have traveled with me later choose to study abroad and develop a passion for travel. I believe the homestay experience helps students develop both language and cultural skills, while providing them with the confidence they need to travel independently later in life.

As we work to educate our students to become linguistically and culturally competent global citizens, it is

important to recognize that this process begins by providing students with opportunities to interact with native speakers, realia, and content from the target culture while they are in our classes. Whether it is during a regular school day or on a trip abroad, we must strive to push our students' boundaries and move them out of their comfort zones because only in doing so do we encourage them to grow.

I know that Minnesota world language teachers are working hard every day to provide a world-class education for students and I am happy to announce that the theme for MCTLC's Fall Conference is Educating Global Citizens. I invite you to submit a session proposal and share what you do in and outside of your classroom to educate your students for their roles as global citizens. I thank you in advance for sharing your expertise with other world language teachers and I look forward to seeing you at future MCTLC events. ~ Kay Edberg

Mark your calendars for these events and more opportunities for world language educators on page three!

❖ **MCTLC & MDE: April 11th, 9am-11:30am**, Preparing students for Certificate of Language Proficiency/Seal of Biliteracy at the Minnesota Department of Education Office in Roseville, Minnesota. To register and for details go to: www.mctlc.org/events.

❖ **MCTLC: April 25th, 8:30am – 3:30pm** “Rethinking What We Teach in the World Language Classroom” presented by Janice Holter Kittok at the University Center of Rochester in Rochester, Minnesota. Register online at: www.mctlc.org/events.

Cuba Nos Llama

Communist. The Enemy. Fear. Forbidden.

These are the messages drilled into the heads of children growing up during the height of the Cold War. It was a time when schoolchildren practiced going to the designated fallout shelter of their school to prepare for the day when communists would attack. Cuba is rarely mentioned in Spanish textbooks. History courses usually only mention Cuba in relation to the evils of communism, the Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis. The mystery of the unknown entices one to travel to the forbidden island in search of the “other stories”. Cuba nos llama. (Cuba calls us).

In the summer of 2000, Spanish teachers and MCTLC members, Barbara Cartford and Janice (Holter) Kittok traveled to Cuba for this very reason – to learn about Cuba from the Cubans themselves. Then, as it is now, the U.S. Department of Treasury forbids Americans to travel to Cuba as part of the economic embargo policy. The Center for Global Studies at Augsburg College was granted special permission to organize a travel program for educational purposes providing a rare chance for Americans to legally make the trip to an island just 90 miles from the Florida shore. The itinerary included unique opportunities to engage in open and frank dialog with community and political leaders. Cubans are very proud of their history. Billboards, monuments and quotes painted on the walls of clinics, workplaces and schools and public spaces demonstrate that the Cuban Revolution is not simply history. The ideals and vision of the revolutionaries are at the heart of the very fabric of Cuban life today.

The most striking takeaway insight was learning how eager the Cuban people are to get to know Americans. The average Cuban citizen has as little information about us as the average American citizen has about them. One of the most memorable moments of the trip is pictured here – singing Guantanamera with street musicians in Havana, but it wasn't the version commonly heard in the USA. The Cubans always added the following verse from José Martí's poem, *Cultivo una rosa blanca* (Verso XXXIX). It offers hope of the future relationship between our two nations.



Barb and Jan singing “Guantanamera” with Havana street musicians!

Cultivo una rosa blanca,
En junio como en enero,
Para el amigo sincero
Que me da su mano franca.
Y para el cruel que me arranca
El corazón con que vivo,
Cardo ni oruga cultivo:
Cultivo la rosa blanca.

I have a white rose to tend
In July as in January;
I give it to the true friend
Who offers his frank hand to me.
And for the cruel one whose blows
Break the heart by which I live,
Thistle nor thorn do I give;
For him, too, I have a white rose.

Translation from www.allpoetry.com

~ Barbara Cartford and Janice Holter Kittok

Question of the month: How do you encourage your students to get out of their comfort zones, interact in the target language, and experience other cultures? Share your ideas in a virtual conversation at the MCTLC Teacher's Café on Facebook.

President-Elect, Martin Pflug



What inspired you to teach a World Language?

I would say the process of learning another language and about other cultures is what truly inspired me, because it afforded me the opportunity to share with others this joy of discovering other worlds. The discovery of completely different ways of describing the world around us made the doors to adventure open for me and

gave me a desire to share and grow throughout a lifetime. Being able to do this professionally has been a great privilege.

What is one or more of your passions for World Languages?

Cultural competency and global citizenship; being aware of the ongoing process that is cultural exchange and understanding and how that fits in with global awareness. I am passionate about being prepared to learn from others, growing intellectually and emotionally while helping bring the world together by way of social justice. As Pope Paul VI said "if you want peace, work for justice." I believe ongoing growth in cultural competency can help tremendously in facilitating justice across the globe.

How many languages do you speak?

In addition to Spanish and English, Portuguese and a bit in Italian. I am very rusty at this time as I am in need of travel to Brazil and then Italy to spend some time there to brush up and take it to the next level!

In how many languages do you know even a word or phrase?

Russian, German, Ojibwe, Italian, French, Spanish, English, Japanese, Latin, Chinese, and Q'anjob'al.

How long have you been a language educator?

More than twenty years; fifteen years full-time and five years part-time.

If you could live in any foreign country which one would it be, and why?

That's a tough question, could I move from country to country every six months or so? That would be ideal! So for starters I am thinking right now Brazil since your previous question got me thinking about Portuguese and some friends of ours that live there that I would like to visit. I could also work on my Portuguese of course and see if I could lose my tendency to speak too much in "Portuñol" and the cuisine also calls "o meu nome".

Conference 2015: Educating Global Citizens

The success of every MCTLC conference depends on the quality, excitement, and innovation of our presenters. MCTLC thanks and acknowledges you for your willingness to share your ideas and expertise with Minnesota language professionals. This year our theme focuses on educating our students for their roles as world citizens. As you craft your proposal, please consider the many ways you address global citizenship in your classroom. How do you encourage your students to think globally? How do you engage them in activities that go beyond your classroom walls? What technologies are you using to prepare your students for their roles as future leaders in a global society? Priority will be given to proposals that address these questions, but we welcome all proposals that would be of interest to the world language teaching community.

Sunday, April 12 — Deadline to submit proposals

Friday, October 23 — Conference, Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center

Saturday, October 24 — Post-Conference Workshops, Location TBD

Acceptance and Registration

PROPOSAL ACCEPTANCE: Presenters will be notified of proposal acceptance by May 20 via email with further instructions to register with their presenter discount code.

REGISTRATION: Presenters and co-presenters agree to complete early bird registration by July 1. Sessions with unregistered presenters will not be placed on the program.

THANK YOU our conference depends on Minnesota language professionals' talents and willingness to share them. We thank you for stepping forward!

Upcoming events in Language Associations:

- ❖ **MN-AATF: April 11th, 10am**, Cercle de lecture: *Dans l'ombre de la lumière*, Claude Pujade-Renaud at **170 Rice Hall, Macalester College**. FYI: See **building #16** on the Macalester College Map link at the site below. For information e-mail Laurent Déchery ou Françoise Denis by clicking on their email links at: <http://mnaatf.org/Calendar1415.htm>
- ❖ **AATG : April 15th**, Deadline for Summer Study Program Application more information at: <http://www.aatg.org/events/>
- ❖ **CSCTFL : April 15th**, Deadline for proposals for 2016 Conference on March 12th-14th. Go to : <http://www.csctfl.org>
- ❖ **CARLA : May 2nd, Workshop: Developing more complex speech through critical thinking** with Elaine Tarone and Maggie Broner. For more information go to: <http://www.carla.umn.edu/presentations/index.html>
- ❖ **CARLA: May 14th-16th**, *Changes and Challenges in Language Teacher Education*: Ninth International Conference on Language Teacher Education, The Commons Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information go to: <http://www.carla.umn.edu/conferences/LTE2015/index.html>
- ❖ **AATSP : May 15th**, NSE / Poster Contest Awards Ceremony, Wellstone Center, St. Paul, Minnesota. (catered by El Burrito Mercado)

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Janice Holter Kittok
is a sought after presenter whose practical, interactive, thought-provoking and entertaining seminars consistently receive rave reviews. She is a knowledgeable and intuitive master teacher and education leader who knows how to engage her audience.

“Rethinking What We Teach in the World Language Classroom”

Full-day Workshop

Saturday, April 25, 2015

**University Center
Rochester, RCTC campus**

Register at
<http://www.mctlc.org/events/>



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For ads, comments, and corrections to the newsletter, contact Lisa Perez at editor@mctlc.org.