

MFLA Notes

SPRING

MARYLAND FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

2013



Promoting the study of world languages and supporting world language educators across Maryland

Think Spring!

From the Editor

We have just passed the mid-point of another academic year. It is hard to believe that the year is already half over—it seems like it just started! At this point in the year, many of our students decide to take an early spring break and need to be re-energized with new and different activities in our classrooms. Stay in touch with your MFLA support circle and get those new ideas to put into your world language lessons. Both you and your students will benefit from the



excitement you can create by bringing new ideas to your classes!

Don't forget the NECTFL Conference being held in Baltimore on March 7-10! And it's not too late to attend! On-site registration is still an option! What a great way to network with other language professionals and bring back renewed language enthusiasm to your classroom, school, and system!

MFLA Corresponding Secretary
MFLA Notes Editor

MFLANotes is published twice a year. Articles can be submitted at any time for publication. If space does not allow for all articles to be included in an issue of the newsletter, they will be held for the next publication date.

Newsletter Submissions

We encourage you to share information and news on a variety of topics: successes and achievements, special programs, best practices, technology tips, educational trips, presentations, conferences.

Email your submission(s) to the MFLANotes editor at:

popirusty@comcast.net

Use MFLA Article in the subject line.

NECTFL

Mar. 7 - 10, 2013 • Baltimore, MD

ACTFL

Nov. 22 - 24, 2013 • Orlando, FL



Sharing Thoughts, Expanding Minds

Join us for the 2013 MFLA Fall Conference
Oct. 11-12 at Anne Arundel Community College.



President's Message

Happy Spring everyone, and best wishes for a rewarding and creative 2013 from the Maryland Foreign Language Association! We hope to be seeing a lot of you this year.

As I begin my term as President, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to my predecessor, Leslie Grahn. Under her outstanding leadership, MFLA has prospered, offering you, our members, many opportunities to be active in professional development activities. We are extremely fortunate to have Leslie's continued leadership on our Board of Directors. I hope you are frequent visitors to our website (www.mflamd.org) and that you have renewed your membership for the 2012-2013 school year, in order to stay connected to our world language community.

This year MFLA plans to continue our focus on the 21st century, via opportunities for teachers to increase their proficiency in UDL (Universal Design for Learning), and STEM, engage in networking and web-based communication, and benefit from energizing professional development.

We are again fortunate to have the Northeast Conference in Baltimore this year, under the exemplary stewardship of our very own Dr. Arlene White. And it's not too late to attend - on-site registration is available for the 60th anniversary edition of the conference, to be held at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel on March 7-10, 2013.

This is a fabulous chance to refresh, recharge and reconnect right in our own backyard with the best of a national conference and the best of Maryland. Anne-Marie Lanz (Howard County), MFLA Language Teacher of the Year, is a finalist for the NECTFL Language Teacher of the Year. Crystal Dunkin (Charles County), is a MFLA Sans, Inc./Mead Leadership Fellow. And, Maria Lorena Grewe (Washington County) will be presenting the Best of Maryland session entitled, *STEM in the Foreign Language Classroom*, with ideas for incorporating STEM into your Level I classroom. In addition, there are a number of Maryland teachers presenting as well as experts from across the nation. I hope you will also consider taking advantage of a new option this year and become a member of NECTFL. Among other benefits, membership will give you a reduced rate for conference registration. Please visit www.nectfl.org for more information.

Because we will all be at the Northeast Conference this spring, there will be no MFLA Spring Conference. We will hold our Fall Conference on October 11-12, 2013, so be on the lookout for registration information. This year's theme will be *Sharing Thoughts, Expanding Minds*. We will be seeking presentation proposals for sessions and workshops as well. Maybe 2013 is the year to finally submit that idea you have been thinking about!

Finally, remember that spring is the season for MFLA's grants, scholarships, contests and award programs as well. I hope that this year is the year you will apply!

Wishing you a successful remainder of the school year, and thank you for all you do to help students develop their love of language and culture.

Kim Shinozaki
MFLA President

Maryland Language Teachers of the Year

2008 - Debby Doyle - Gerstell Academy

2010 - Souley Dounda - John Hanson French Immersion (Prince George's)

2011 - Sherri Harkins - Pittsville Elementary School (Wicomico)

2012 - Jodie Hogan - Anne Arundel

2013 - Anne-Marie Lanz, Burleigh Manor Middle School (Howard)



Anne-Marie Lanz

It's Here!



NECTFL is back in Baltimore in March 2013!

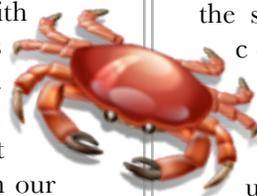
Arlene White
Salisbury University
2013 NECTFL Conference Chair

I invite you to the feast that awaits you at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, March 7-10 in Baltimore, Maryland at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel. The conference theme for 2013, “**Developing Leaders for Tomorrow’s Learners,**” should provide a sumptuous banquet for you as a world language educator!

It’s not too late for you to become a member of NECTFL! Visit our newly redesigned website at www.nectfl.org and sign up! This scrumptious offer is good for a reduced rate for conference registration AND 3 free pre- and post-conference webinars based on the following sub-themes: **Supporting the Professional: Leadership through Research, Resources and Relationships; Exemplary Practices to Support Enhanced Student Achievement and Beyond the Classroom Walls – Language Learning through Curricular and Cultural Connections.** This year, your professional development and networking smorgasbord can be greatly extended throughout the year. See the website for additional information!

On Thursday, we will have our pre-conference workshops with a FREE welcome dinner with the opportunity to meet the NECTFL Board, presenters and award winners. It is rumored that last year’s acclaimed crab cakes will again be on the menu!

On Friday, our exhibit hall will tempt you with the latest and best materials and resources that the profession has to offer. Bid on a variety of zesty morsels at our Second Annual Silent Auction and gaze in wonder at those colleagues remembered and praised on our



Wall of Recognition. An entire day of sessions for K-16+ teachers will make for a full plate of delectable bites, not to mention the tasty treats available at the Awards Ceremony and reception in the evening.

On Saturday, you will have another full day to savor a wealth of deliciously interesting sessions and peruse the exhibit hall one last time. In the evening, come and join in our Gala Diamond Jubilee Anniversary reception – a truly *cordeon bleu* affair!

On Sunday, if you are not yet satiated, there will be a FREE hands-on teaching lab with tantalizing ideas and resources ready for you to mix up with your own special brand of spices and energy for your classes on Monday! Just sign up for your preference when you register for the conference.

Would you want to stick to canned soup if you could have delectable homemade chowder? Can you afford to be so self-indulgent during these difficult economic times? Should you really cultivate your instructional palate and attend this feast? I think that YOU are certainly worth the investment! What better way to become the teacher leader that your students need? What better way to add flavor and zest to your classes?

As Conference Chair for 2013, along with all of the NECTFL Board of Directors and staff, we hope to meet and greet you in Baltimore. The weather is going to be beautiful, the sessions bountiful, and the



company the best! Registration information is available on our website. For additional information, visit our website at www.nectfl.org for conference updates or friend us on Facebook.

Will You Join Me?

Sherri Harkins
Wicomico County
2011 NECTFL Language
Teacher of the Year

There it sat in my inbox – “How you as a teacher can perform a miracle today”. Another service learning ad, I thought, but without a glance as to its sender, I clicked. The email that opened was more sobering than I had expected. The email was a fervent plea from an organization that has (& continues to) impacted my professional and personal life in so many ways – the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Language (NECTFL).

Before I ever thought about what a teacher of the year was, listening to other teachers in NECTFL sessions transformed an insecure new teacher into a classroom actress and leader. It was at NECTFL that I found great vendors whose wares filled my shelves with authentic materials for my students (& my dresser drawers with French t-shirts). Under the informal tutelage of other NECTFL attendees I discovered the teacher I wanted to be.

More importantly, over the years, NECTFL helped me find my voice as a world language advocate. Many of you know that I take any and every opportunity to speak about the benefits of world language education, but I must confess I have been remiss in advocating on an even more important topic – our professional development!

As the email noted, too many of us are our ignoring our obligation to our profession. We cringe when

For 60 years, NECTFL has hosted an amazing conference but it has also been:

- **advocating** for you in Washington and in the region's state capitals
- presenting **free workshops** in rural and urban districts that have few resources
- holding **webinars**, including free webinars for the newest members of the profession
- reaching out to **specific language groups** so they are always included
- publishing a **free online journal** with articles and reviews
- **nurturing leaders** to take on the tasks that will face us in the future
- and most important -- **exploring and reflecting upon what we need them to do for us and for our community today and in the future.** (taken from NECTFL membership email 2/14/2013)

we hear that we have to attend school-based professional development. We lament the days we spend in PD that we then have to adapt to address our classroom needs. As teachers we owe our students, our colleagues and our profession the responsibility to grow as life-long learners. The Northeast Conference is one-stop professional development – whether it's Common Core, assessment, classroom management, or the 21st Century learner.

I can hear you now - but I don't have the time or it's too expensive. Worse yet, some of you are thinking there is no reason for me to attend. I disagree. We are, once again, facing extreme changes in education. The benefits of the Northeast Conference reach far beyond your classroom walls and further than just class on Monday morning. Attending any aspect of the conference ensures your growth as a professional AND works to “**sustain an organization that has never faltered in sustaining you since 1954.**”

Denis Waitley (American author and productivity consultant) shares that “All of the top achievers I know are life-long learners...looking for new skills, insights, and ideas. If they're not learning, they're not growing...not moving toward excellence.” I hope you join me in moving towards excellence at this year's NECTFL conference in Baltimore, March 7th through 10th!



A More Interesting Twist on True / False

Arlene White
Salisbury University

Create a manipulative with a smiling and a frowning face.

These can be placed back to back on a sheet of paper or cardstock or can be placed back to back on a popsicle stick. You can provide one for each student or put students in groups with one set of faces per group.

Try any of the following activities. Samples are given in English but would be in the target language of your classroom. Ask students to explain their response.

1. Ask students to listen to or read a sentence and decide if it is TRUE or FALSE from a factual point of view and show the face that represents that.

EXAMPLES:

$2 + 2 = 5$ (FALSE)

The French Revolution began in 1789. (TRUE)

2. Ask students to listen to or read a sentence and decide if it is TRUE/real or FALSE/make believe and show the face that represents that.

EXAMPLES:

A mountain is higher than a hill. (TRUE)

Pigs can fly. (FALSE)

3. Give students a word, orally and/or in writing, with two definitions and ask them to indicate which is the true definition with the smiling face.



EXAMPLES:

a library: a place to purchase books (FALSE)

a library: a place to borrow books (TRUE)

4. Ask students to listen to or read two sentences and decide which one is TRUE/correct or FALSE/incorrect from a grammatical point of view.

EXAMPLES:

The student is looking for their book. (FALSE)

A spider has ate legs. (FALSE)

5. Ask students to listen to or read two sentences and decide which one is TRUE/present tense or FALSE/past tense (or any 2 tenses you wish to use).

EXAMPLES:

She goes to the movies with her family. (TRUE)

I went shopping for some boots. (FALSE)

6. Ask students to listen to or read a sentence that states a position and decide if they agree with the opinion (TRUE) or disagree with it (FALSE).

EXAMPLES:

All students should student a second language.

All students should get 8 hours of sleep each night.

There's an App for That!



Try out some of these cool iTunes apps from MFLA board members Erin Cooper, Leslie Grahm, Jeffrey Samuels, and Kim Shinozaki.

Haiku Deck (Free)

Similar to PowerPoint; quick to use

Halftone (Free)

Take a photo, add effects, add text, & email it or send it to Facebook, Instagram, Dropbox, etc.

Mental Case Classroom Edition (Free)

Create flashcards containing images, audio, vocabulary or full written descriptions with many customizable features; practice or distribute them to others

Musée du Louvre (Free / HD version available for \$2.99)

Provides information & images of the museum's more famous holdings; includes search features, photo galleries, detailed images & a timeline

Sock Puppets (Free; upgraded version for \$3.99)

Create lip-synched videos & share them; add puppets, props, scenery, & backgrounds

Sonic Pics (\$2.99)

Similar to **Haiku Deck**, but allows you to record a voice-over

Stitcher Radio (Free)

News, comedy, sports, radio, & podcasts from around the world

UDLinks (Free)

Developed by MSDE to search for resources based on the principles of UDL; search for lesson plans, multimedia, practice, games, or tutorials to engage all learners

Whiteboard (Free)

Allows you to record voice-over whiteboard tutorials & share them

What is a MOOC?

Jeffrey D. Samuels
MFLA Treasurer

One thing about technology and language learning never changes: the rate of change and innovation. It's rapid at its best and a complete blur at worst. I sometimes oscillate between wanting to know all about the latest and greatest applications of technology, innovative pedagogy, and education policy trends and approaches on the one hand; and wanting to hide under the covers and bemoan the seemingly constant trendiness and cuter-than-life movements and acronyms that plague our profession on the other. No Child Left Behind. Blue Ribbon schools. STEM subjects. The "Core." Web 1.0. Web 2.0. And now, MOOCs. Then again, I guess we're lucky not to be mired in drill and kill or the Grammar Translation Method. Also, we're lucky to be part of MFLA, where the K-12 and Higher Ed worlds come together.



So what is a MOOC? Its origin is largely in Higher Ed, and it stands for "Massive Open Online Course." According to Morris and Stommel, "A MOOC is not a thing. A MOOC is a strategy. What we say about MOOCs

cannot possibly contain their drama, banality, incessance, and proliferation. The MOOC is a variant beast -- placental, emergent, alienating, enveloping, sometimes thriving, sometimes dead, sometimes reborn" (Morris & Stommel, 2012). Uh-huh. I'm not sure I'd go quite that far, but let me put it in more concrete terms. The idea is that a course is offered online, usually for little to no charge, no academic credit, and for various reasons such as benevolence, experimentation, or as an alternative to the traditional classroom setting. The idea is that people should use online resources such as learning management systems to collaborate and to promote each other's learning. Its roots are grounded in the open access movement. Toward that end, it is not a surprise that there are already three large entities building a reputation for hosting MOOCs and refining their application as best practices and shared experiences and reflections occur. These include Coursera (<http://www.coursera.org>), Udacity (<http://www.udacity.com/>), and edX (<https://www.edx.org/>).

www.edx.org/). Coursera is a private company started by faculty and partners with over 30 universities around the world. edX is a partnership among some quite weighty traditional brick-and-mortar institutions such as Harvard University and M.I.T. Given the high profile and visibility of many of the institutions that participate in the MOOC movement, one tends to think that it may have some staying power. Time will tell, of course.



For world languages educators, it is a very short leap from "how exciting" to "how will this work for language education?" After all, teaching certain subjects online is inherently easier for faculty--and mastering it at an acceptable level is easier for students--than other subjects. A review of edX and Udacity's offerings reveals a heavy orientation toward the sciences, particularly Information Technology and Computer Science. Courses such as edX's "Introduction to Computer Science and Programming" and "Software as a Service" would on the surface seem to be natural fits for this learning paradigm. Procedural and tacit knowledge, acquired with interactive opportunities and individual study and reinforcement, make perfect sense for topics such as programming. Coursera has gone well beyond that, and through its equally impressive partner institutions (Johns Hopkins, Duke, Columbia...), offers 20 categories of courses ranging from traditional sciences to humanities, social sciences, and the arts. However, a search of all courses reveals only one course related to our profession, and that course is "Natural Language Processing." Cognitive science and I.T. deserve our full respect, but it's interesting that so far the 3 most significant purveyors of MOOCs haven't ventured directly and squarely into world languages. Call me biased, but I'll bet you agree that language learning is where the rubber really meets the rue.



What is a MOOC?

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There are plenty of courses online for language learning, although they tend to be created and hosted by universities for the benefit of their own enrolled students. As such, they are oftentimes really attempts at converting an on-ground course to an online course for the purposes of convenience, freeing up classroom space, or meeting an institutional mission to increase online offerings. Others have truly thought about and mastered the pedagogical approaches and unique requirements of successful online learning. Our profession is starting to take notice as well; a growing presence in professional organizations for those interested in promoting and studying the effective pedagogies and learning paradigms for asynchronous, synchronous, and technology-based language learning has emerged. What appears to be the first language MOOC will begin very shortly in Spanish (Spanish MOOC spanishmooc.com). While, this endeavor appears to be the brainchild of a language teacher working for a technology company and not the result of a collaboration of Ivy League and land grant public universities, there is no reason to expect that the resources, cooperative learning, and use of computer-assisted language learning materials (CALL) will be any less robust. I wonder whether the big 3 are watching.

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MFLA

MARYLAND FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

Cash Awards for German Students

Maureen Helinski
Anne Arundel Community College

The German Society of Maryland is again offering cash awards and scholarships to high school and college students of German. The Society donates \$5,000.00 each year to high school students of German who score above the 85% on the AATG National German Exam. The money is divided among the students with the high scores and presented at an awards ceremony in May at the Zion Church in Baltimore.

For the second year the German Society is paying for a high school student to study in Germany with the AATG Summer Program. This student must be nominated by a member of the German Society. Last year this award was won by Leah Dignan of Fallston High School.

Another German Society program provides up to 4 awards of \$800.00 each to outstanding students at Maryland colleges and universities who have declared a German major. The Baltimore Kickers Club provides two additional awards of \$800.00 to German majors at Maryland universities. More information about these awards, and the applications, can be found on the German Society website: <http://www.germansociety-md.com/>



MFLA

Awards & Scholarships

Due April 20, 2013

Ann Beusch Scholarship

For a graduating high school senior who intends to pursue a major in a world language and become a world languages teacher.

Celeste Carr Travel Study Abroad Scholarship

Awarded to a teacher in support of professional development through a study abroad program.

Dora Kennedy Scholarship for Latin

Awarded to a Latin teacher to pursue professional development in the teaching of Latin.

Escola Teacher Incentive Grant

Awarded to a world language teacher to support a curricular project.

Maryland Language Teacher of the Year

MFLA begins its search for the Maryland LTOY each Spring and celebrates the winner at the Fall Conference Banquet in October. Are you or someone you know the 2014 MD Language Teacher of the Year?

Visual Arts Contest

Students from elementary school through higher ed are eligible to participate as long as their teacher is a MFLA member. The overall winner's design is displayed on the cover of the Fall Conference Program.



Visual Arts Contest: Are You Connected?



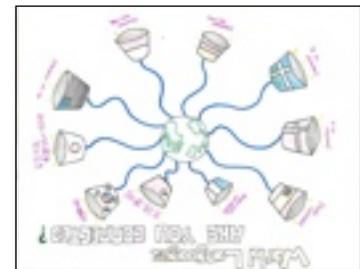
Middle School Category II Winner
McKenzie Kirby
Mother Seton School
Teacher: Sherrin Wahlgren



High School Category II Winner
Jamie Smith
Hammond High School
Teacher: Jennifer Hopping



Higher Ed Category I Winner
Dominique Watts
Morgan State University
Professor: Bertrand Tchoumi



High School Category I Winner
Eunbyul Park
West Nottingham Academy
Teacher: Ilse Lopez-Trigo

Deborah McGee Mifflin Johns Hopkins University

Each year, the Maryland Foreign Language Association (MFLA) promotes the theme of the Fall Conference through its Visual Arts Contest. World language students in all grades, whose teachers are members of the MFLA, are invited to visualize the theme either on paper or in digital format and submit their creation to the contest. Winners take home a monetary prize and are honored at the Fall Conference.

The 2012 theme, "World Languages: Are You Connected?," elicited images of new media connecting learners and cultures across the globe. This year, twelve MFLA member teachers in eight schools involved their students and sent in entries!

Check out the winning entries of the 2012 contest. All contest winners received their certificates and

monetary awards in ceremonies at their respective schools. The students will also be honored along with their teachers at the Fall Conference on Saturday, October 13, 2012.

As you plan your curriculum for the year, be sure to put the 2013 MFLA Visual Arts Contest on the calendar for **APRIL 2013**. The deadline for entries is always in the last week of April.



Overall Winner / Middle School Winner
Nicholas Martineau
Dunloggin Middle School
Teacher: Gergianne McNeirney-ReWalt

Chinese Certification & Development

University of Maryland College Park

Qin Yao & Qiong Xia
Doctoral Students
College of Education

Alice Zhang, the Chinese Language Teaching Expert & Co-Director of CCLTCD presented how to become certified in Chinese language teaching in the US to the students in the National Taiwan Normal University, National Taiwan University and National Chengchi University in January 2013. In addition to the information session, Ms. Zhang presented the standards of world language education in the US to Taiwan students. She introduced the popular five Cs in the field of language education. She demonstrated one example for each standard so that the audience could have a good understanding of them. She explained that these are also the goals of foreign language education in the US, language learners are expected to acquire communicative abilities in the target language to be able to appreciate the target culture, navigate in the target language communities, and do comparison with and make connections to their first languages and cultures. None of these goals stand alone; all are interconnected. She talked about a set of teaching principles that language teachers need to adhere to. These teaching principles promote the systematic and topic-and-standard oriented syllabi, student centered teaching, comprehensible input, culture, language and content integration, age appropriate and meaningful

textbooks, as well as effective evaluation.

On top of the topics that are directly related to teaching and learning, she discussed how to improve other qualities of Chinese language teachers. Etiquette is the focus on this topic, and the discussion ranges from daily dressing to personality. Then she talked about the job market of Chinese language teachers in the US, based on the data from NFLC, ACTEL, Education Week and Maryland State Department of Education. Overall, the job market shows the number of Chinese language learners has increased fast and Chinese language teachers are in great need. Lastly, she showed the audience a list of recent graduates from CCLTCD and their placement. By July 2012, there had been over 100% employment, which including school systems within and outside US and state department of education. She also shared follow-ups of three graduates, which were encouraging and inspiring.



Congratulations!

Crystal Dunkin (Charles County) MFLA Sans, Inc./Mead Leadership Fellows candidate has been selected by NECTFL as a recipient of the award

Anne-Marie Lanz (Howard County) MFLA Teacher of the Year has been announced as a NECTFL finalist for Teacher of the Year.

Way to go MFLA members!

This could be you, so consider applying for an MFLA scholarship or award.

Visit our website for more information: www.mflamd.org

SAVE THE DATE!

**OCTOBER
11 - 12
2013**

**MFLA
FALL
CONFERENCE**

**Anne
Arundel
Community
College**

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MFLA Spring Outreach in Northeast Maryland

Each spring, the Maryland Foreign Language Association (MFLA) offers a mini, regional conference for members. This outreach effort began in 2006 on the Eastern Shore. K - 12 world language teachers, college professors, and pre-service interns attended a workshop that targeted strategies for building language skills, then went out together to dinner.

The next year, MFLA returned to the Eastern Shore to repeat the outreach with a different workshop, again followed by dinner.

Hence was born the concept of an annual regional outreach. The years 2008 and 2009 found

MFLA in the Northwest part of the state at Frostburg. This was followed by two years in the Southern part of the state in St. Mary's and Calvert Counties.

This spring marks the second year up in Harford and Cecil Counties. The workshop session has grown to two or three offerings, and dinner remains a tradition.

MFLA will be taking a look at continuing this for next year and deciding which part of the state to visit. Maybe it will be in your area. If you're interested in hosting the MFLA outreach, drop us a line at dwespitia@yahoo.com

