

# MFLA NOTES

## MARYLAND FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

### February 28th Deadline

*The A & R Productions Scholarship open to MFLA members. This scholarship covers NECTFL registration.*

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### Harkins NECTFL LTOY

*A Wicomico County elementary and middle school French teacher has been chosen the NECTFL Language Teacher of the Year.*

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### New Board Members

*Seven MFLA members have joined the Board this year. They represent a diversity in languages and teaching levels.*

**Pages 7 - 8**

### MFLA on Facebook

*MFLA is extending its presence through digital networking and Facebook is just the start. See how to join our group page.*

**Pages 12 - 15**

## FROM THE EDITOR . . .

Technology is changing everything in our world today - even our world language classrooms.

Some of us still remember the days when technology meant that we had an overhead projector, transparencies, and Vis à Vis markers in our classroom. If you are as "experienced" as I, you remember the days when you left school with multi-colored fingers and transparency ink on your best tie.

Today, technology is changing faster than we ever believed possible - from desktops to netbooks, from chalkboards to interactive whiteboards, from Kodachrome to digital, from textbooks to ebooks, from print to multimedia - and we need to find a way to keep up. Exactly how do we, as world language educators, plan to keep up with the ever-changing trend in technology?

This is where you, as MFLA members, come into the plan. We want to establish a **Tech Tips** section in our newsletter, which would include ideas from members who integrate technology in their classrooms. How do you integrate technology in your world language classroom? Virtual field trips? Webquests? Podcasts? Blogs? Glogs? Listening to radio or TV broadcasts? Reading authentic news articles? Speaking with native speakers? Writing poetry or short stories?

Send your technology integration ideas to me at [popirusty@comcast.net](mailto:popirusty@comcast.net) and be sure to include your name, where you teach, and what you teach.

While you are thinking of those technology integration ideas, keep warm and dry!

Let's hope for milder weather so that you will be able to enjoy summer when it finally arrives (no more snow days)!



*Rusty Mumford*  
MFLA Corresponding Secretary  
MFLANotes Editor



### 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](mailto:popirusty@comcast.net)

*Use MFLA Article in the subject line.*

*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.*

# MFLA NOTES

## MFLA President's Message



Happy New Year and warmest wishes from the Maryland Foreign Language Association!

I would like to begin by acknowledging the exemplary leadership of Dr. Arlene White as our President over the last two years. Under her leadership, MFLA has increased our membership more than 10%, which was one of her goals as President. Dr. White's accomplishments also include the reorganizing of a collaborative relationship with our sister organization in the region, GWATFL. MFLA and GWATFL co-sponsored our Fall Conference in October 2010 at Anne Arundel Community College and are working together as the local committee for the Northeast Conference to be held in Baltimore on April 1 - 4, 2011. Additionally, a new scholarship has been established during Dr. White's presidency honoring our beloved colleague, Dr. Dora Kennedy, which will offer financial support to an MFLA member who teaches Latin, one of her loves. I could go on and on listing the accomplishments of this extraordinary leader. MFLA is grateful to Dr. Arlene White for her leadership as President and for her continuing leadership on the Board of Directors.

What a hard act to follow! As your newly elected President, I would like MFLA to focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century ways to communicate with our members and serve your needs. In addition to our website ([www.mflamd.org](http://www.mflamd.org)), listserv, and electronic newsletter, the Public Relations Committee is developing a communications plan which will include social networking and online professional development opportunities. Stay tuned for updates on this initiative.

**MFLA will not hold our annual Spring Conference this year , so we encourage our members to attend the Northeast Conference instead.**

Anyone you talk to who has attended the Northeast Conference, will tell you that they left energized, educated, and equipped. This conference, which has been traditionally held in New York City, is now coming to our backyard! We are excited that the Northeast Conference is being held in Baltimore at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel on April 2-4, 2011. Take advantage of this fabulous opportunity to deepen your knowledge around best practices, trends, and tools for language teachers K - 16. Go to [www2.dickinson.edu/progrg/nectfl](http://www2.dickinson.edu/progrg/nectfl) for more details. Hope to see you there at the Northeast Conference!

In closing, thank you for all you in your work in world languages and we wish you the very best for the rest of the school year.

Sincerely,

Leslie M. Grahn, MFLA President



*In partnership with MFLA & GWATFL*

### **Strengthening Connections: Colleagues, Content, & Curriculum**

Charlotte Gifford, Chair  
Greenfield (MA) Community College  
**April 1 - 4, 2011**

**Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel**

#### **What Makes Us Unique?**

- "Voluntourism" activities - do some good!
- Nightly foreign films
- Career-changer & interview areas
- Webinars
- Offsite tours
- Networking in the "Teacher's Lounge"

#### **What Makes Us Great?**

- Huge exhibit area
- High-quality sessions - all languages & levels
- Immersion in language & culture
- Professional development credit
- High-quality program; friendly service
- Connecting before, during, & after the event

Register, Reserve a Room, Research Sessions

[www.nectfl.org](http://www.nectfl.org)



# MFLA NOTES

## MFLA Board Officers

Leslie Grahn – President  
 Monica Abuliak – 1st Vice President  
 Adriana Bonsteel – 2nd Vice President  
 Tricia Powell – Recording Secretary  
 Rusty Mumford – Corresponding Secretary & Newsletter Editor  
 Kim Shinozaki – Treasurer

## MFLA Board Members

Sharon Birch - Wicomico County  
 Sally Buser – Allegany County  
 Erin Cooper – Calvert County  
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 Debby Doyle – Gerstell Academy  
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 Deborah Espitia – Howard County  
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 Maureen Helinski – AACC  
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 Billy Muñoz – Glenelg Country School  
 Tyrone Parker – Baltimore City  
 Amy Peterschmidt – Bryn Mawr School  
 Ann Rader – College of Notre Dame  
 Kim Riley – Anne Arundel County  
 Jeffery Samuels – Laureate HE  
 Jason Slanga – Baltimore County  
 Susan Spinnato – MSDE  
 Melynda Vélez – Harford County  
 Arlene White – Salisbury University  
 Earleen Wiseman – Allegany County  
 Alice Zhang – Baltimore City



## MFLA Gives Back Through Its Award Programs

The *Visual Arts Contest*, the *Ann Beusch Scholarship*, the *Escola Grant*, and the *Celeste Carr Study Abroad Scholarship* are four of the MFLA’s popular awards which support its members and their students. We are proud to announce two new awards programs this year, the *A & R Productions Scholarship* and the *Dora Kennedy Scholarship for Latin*. Read the descriptions below, check out our informative website, and find the awards program to meet your professional development goals! Mark your calendar now so you will not miss important deadlines. Full details at [www.mflamd.org](http://www.mflamd.org) **Deadlines are April 29, 2011**, unless otherwise noted.



**A & R Productions Scholarship:** To support a teacher’s attendance at the NECTFL conference through free registration. **Deadline is February 28, 2011.**

**Ann Beusch Scholarship:** For a graduating high school senior who intends to pursue a major in a foreign language and become a world languages teacher.

### **Celeste Carr 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 Grant:** A generous grant awarded to a world languages teacher to support a curricular project.

### **Maryland Language Teacher of the Year:**

The 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 2012 Maryland Teacher of the Year?

**Visual Arts Contest:** This year’s theme is *World Languages and Beyond: Gateway to Global Communities*. Students from elementary school through higher ed are eligible to participate as long as their teacher is a MFLA member. Not only are there cash awards, but the overall winning entry is incorporated into the design of our Fall Conference Program and all of the winners and their teachers are honored at our conference luncheon.

## February 28th Deadline!

**A & R Productions Scholarship**  
 for FREE registration to the Northeast Conference  
 April 1 - 4, 2011 • Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel

Download the application from our website: [www.mflamd.org](http://www.mflamd.org)

# MFLA NOTES

## MFLA Member, Sherri Harkins, Named NECTFL Language Teacher of the Year!



Congratulations to the Maryland Language Teacher of the Year, **Sherri Harkins**, for this amazing accomplishment. Sherri is a teacher of French in Wicomico County. She holds a B.A. in Public Relations from Elizabethtown College (PA) where she also minored in French. Sherri represents an unconventional path to language teaching. After several years working as a businesswoman, Sherri changed careers and became certified in French and English Language Arts and has been teaching French in the middle school since 2001. Currently, Sherri divides her teaching among two distinct learning groups: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (Content-based French FLES) and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade (Exploratory) and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (French 1). Sherri's passion and her positive and proactive attitude are just a few of the many things that make Sherri part of our elite corps of

world language teachers in Maryland. We are very proud to of Sherri and wish her the best as a representative of world languages for the region and for the next round. Sherri will proceed to the ACTFL Conference (Denver, Colorado) in November 2011 to vie for Language Teacher of the Year at the national level.

## Mark Your Calendar Now!

Even though we may see snow on the ground right now, April will be here before you know it. And joining our spring garden blooms, the annual Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages is going to be in our backyard the first weekend in April 2011!

Moving from New York City to the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel on the edge of Fells Point, NECTFL will be hosting over 200 hundred sessions and workshops along with over 100 vendors – all with world language teachers in mind. There will be immersion workshops, technology sessions, panel discussions, best practice explanations, plenty of resources, and LOTS more to allow you to reaffirm, reenergize, and renew your teaching and your classroom.

As always, there will be excellent representation from our MFLA ranks as presenters, but there will also be lots of others from a variety of school districts across the region including perennial favorites such as Greg Duncan, Marty Abbott, John DeMado, and Helena Curtain, who was the MFLA Fall Conference Keynote presenter last year, to name but a few. Simply put, this is an event you don't want to miss!

Listening carefully to their constituents, NECTFL has moved the main conference days to Saturday and Sunday but they'll also be offering some wonderful and innovative workshop opportunities that will extend into Monday. Two special workshops include a French immersion session at the Walters Art Gallery and a Spanish immersion session at the National Aquarium. So, plan now to spend the weekend in a gorgeous hotel with fabulous world language enthusiasts like yourself.

Registration is now open and you can find additional information on the NECTFL website ([www.nectfl.org](http://www.nectfl.org)). Early bird registration will be available until March 7<sup>th</sup>, so don't miss the chance to take part in an exciting professional development event at a reduced cost. This is your chance to join about 2500 other world language educators from 40 states and 10 countries in celebrating the joy and beauty of language!

# MFLA NOTES



## Professional Development

*Arlene White*  
Associate Professor of French,  
Salisbury University

**WHAT** is professional development? Professional development is an activity that allows you to grow as a teacher in order to better engage and educate your students. Professional development comes in many forms – reading an article in a professional journal; discussing that article with colleagues; attending a conference; presenting at a conference; videotaping yourself and reflecting on what happened in your class on a particular day; creating materials and analyzing their effectiveness – and the list goes on.

**WHY** should you do professional development? If you believe that being a teacher means that you are constantly a work in progress, then it only makes sense to be a lifelong learner in the ways that suit you best. It is important to stay current with critical trends in our profession and understand their implications in our classroom. If you were having open heart surgery would you want a surgeon who is using 20<sup>th</sup> century theories and techniques? We have an obligation to our students to provide the best and most current instructional strategies to engage and involve them in their own learning.

**WHEN** do you do professional development? The simplest answer to this question is “regularly.” That may be

influenced by family or economic constraints. It may be influenced by where you are in your career and life and what specific needs you or your students have. It may be influenced by what is available to you.

**WHO** is in charge of your professional development? **YOU ARE!** You are the expert in knowing what kind of professional development you need, when it is available and how you can integrate your newly found knowledge into your particular classroom setting. This may mean making decisions about time, money, energy and effort but in the end, these decisions are yours to make.

**WHAT** does professional development mean to you? Take a minute or two to think about how you would answer that question. You have already taken an important first step by being a member of MFLA. This organization can provide you many opportunities for professional development throughout the year in a variety of ways that can suit your lifestyle and professional needs. You have access to talented colleagues who are willing and able to share their expertise with you. Perhaps your New Year’s resolution this year was related to professional development and this will be the year that you keep and enhance that resolution.

## Upcoming Conferences



### NECTFL

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel  
April 1 - 4, 2011

### AATF

Montreal, Quebec  
July 6 - 9, 2011

### AATSP

Washington, D.C.  
July 6 - 9, 2011

### MFLA

Location TBD  
October 21 - 22, 2011

### ACTFL

Convention Center, Denver, CO  
November 17 - 20, 2011

### AATG, AATI, CLTA

Convention Center, Denver, CO  
November 17 - 20, 2011



# MFLA NOTES

## MCPSS Presents First World Language Webinar

**Judy Klimpl**  
*Supervisor of World Languages, Montgomery County Public Schools*

The World Languages office of Montgomery County Public Schools gave its first webinar for teachers in December. What had started as a face-to-face presentation on vocabulary instruction for about 20 middle school teachers grew to an interactive webinar providing professional development for more than 150 teachers.

The world languages team (instructional specialists, Lucia Daubresse and Françoise Vandenas and supervisor, Judy Klimpl) developed the PowerPoint presentation and provided video clips of teachers. Staff members from the Office of the Chief Technology Officer provided all the technical support which included incorporating the video clips into the presentation, producing the webinar, as well as being present to assist participants with any technical problems. In many schools, teachers participated as an entire department, which replaced their monthly meeting. The webinar was archived so that teachers who were unable to take part originally can now do so at any time.

Participants were asked to interact and share in a variety of ways throughout the 45 minute webinar. There were opportunities to participate in an emoticon-based survey, to

answer yes/no questions, and to contribute to an on-going live chat.

Despite some technical glitches and the newness of this manner of professional development, the webinar was well-received by teachers:

- I hope we can have more of these throughout the year. It's great to see what other teachers do!!!
- It was cool to do this for the first time. I see advertisements about such work related meetings and now I see how easy it really is. Saves time and money and is equally as effective, maybe even more effective.
- A bit overwhelming at first, but I totally loved it. I wish we had had more time to share. I could have stayed for another hour!
- I highly recommend the webinar experience in a group. My department had a great time

The next webinar will be on assessments in world languages. There are also long-range plans to hold more focused webinars on topics such as teaching Advanced Placement and teaching Spanish for Spanish Speakers.



## Howard County Public Schools Explore Elementary World Language Programs



The Superintendent of Howard County Public Schools has added world languages to his goals for the 2010 - 11 school year: *To develop a long-range plan for offering World Languages at the elementary level.* This initiative is strongly supported by the Board of Education. As a result, a committee with broad representation from across the

school system and community has been meeting since September to develop a long range plan for elementary world languages. The committee has considered program type, language choice, curriculum and assessments, scheduling, staffing, K - 12 articulation, phase-in, and budget. The committee's work will be presented to the HCPSS Board of Education on April 28, 2011.

In the interim, the school system has initiated an after-school world language program that focuses on science and social studies themes. The fall program, *Our Five Senses*, was delivered through Chinese, French, and Spanish at seven sites. The winter session, *Weather Wise*, has expanded to 16 sites in Chinese, Korean, and Spanish.

# MFLA NOTES

## Meet Your New MFLA Board Members



**Sharon Birch**  
*Spanish*  
**James Bennet High School**  
**Wicomico County Schools**

Sharon Birch is in her 30th year of teaching Spanish. She has taught every level of Spanish, from exploratory to AP. Sharon graduated from Salisbury University, studied in Mexico and at Millersville University for graduate work. Her teaching career began at Worcester Preparatory School in Berlin, MD, where she taught for 10 years. The remainder of career has been in Salisbury, MD. Her philosophy for teaching Spanish (or any language) is that **everything** must be communicative in nature, and wrapped in culture. Her favorite mode of teaching is through music. Sharon also firmly believes that we must meet students where they are, in their world, and that involves the world of technology, which is her third love (after language and music!). Sharon is the mother of three, with the youngest still in college at the University of Maryland, and two out successfully from the University of Delaware and Florida Atlantic University. When not immersed in Spanish, technology or music, she is usually found working with handbell choirs and chimes at her church. Sharon has been directing choirs for 15 years, and she currently has four choirs at Asbury United Methodist Church.



**Billy Muñoz**  
*Spanish*  
**Glenelg County School**

Billy Muñoz a veteran of 24 years in the Baltimore County School system, the last ten of which were spent at Pikesville High School. Other placements included Catonsville, Randallstown and Milford Mill High Schools. Billy has a BA from the George Washington University and an MA from the University of Denver. Her original major was Speech and Drama which to this day she claims to be the best preparation for World Language teachers! When Billy decided to become a Spanish teacher, she opted for

total immersion in Madrid through Towson, at UMBC, and in Puebla, Mexico through the University of California. Eight years ago Billy became a “Reader” for the AP Spanish Language Program through the College Board. Recently, she became involved with the Praxis exam, listening and qualifying speech samples in Spanish. Today she can be found teaching Spanish I through VI (AP Spanish Literature) at Glenelg Country School and to adults at Carroll Community College. Billy has traveled widely in Spain, Mexico, Chile and Ecuador. She is a member of AATSP and has been a member of MFLA for many years. Billy is the mother of two beautiful Chilean-Americans. In her free time, she likes to go to dance Salsa and eat Latino food with her Meetup Groups; Blackbelt Spanish and Españoles en Washington DC.



**Amy Peterschmidt**  
*German*  
**Bryn Mawr School**

Amy Peterschmidt holds a BA in Psychology from Randolph Macon and a MA in German Literature from the University of Virginia. Amy has also completed a post-graduate fellowship at the University of Tuebingen and a year of teaching English at a Gymnasium in Chemnitz, Germany. Amy brings a wealth of experience in teaching in both the public and private school environments. In addition, she has taught German at the university level and has been a Master Teacher for gifted and talented summer programs. Amy has led numerous workshops with a focus on writing and speaking strategies for venues such as the Maryland Foreign Language Association, the Goethe Institute, and the upcoming Northeast Conference in Baltimore. Amy has been a member for over ten years of Traindaf, a leadership training group created by the AATG and other institutes concerned with the future of German. Amy’s teaching reflects a long-term interest in Total Physical Response Storytelling (TPRS). She is also interested in the teaching of English Language Learners and arts integration as future endeavors. Amy possesses a keen interest in photography.

# MFLA NOTES

## Meet Your New MFLA Board Members



**Anne Rader**  
*Spanish / Latin*  
*College of Notre Dame*

Ann Rader is a product of Baltimore County Public Schools where she returned to teach, after earning as one of her majors the first Spanish degree ever awarded from Western Maryland College. After a 24-year career as an analyst with the federal government, she returned to the classroom to teach high school Spanish and Latin in Howard County. Upon retiring from public school teaching, she accepted a position at College of Notre Dame of Maryland where she is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish and working toward a Ph.D.



**Kim Riley**  
*French*  
*Annapolis High School*  
*Anne Arundel County Schools*

Since moving to Maryland in 1995, Kim Riley has taught French I through AP, and has recently been trained to teach Language B in the International Baccalaureate curriculum. When needed, she has also taught Spanish I. Her background as a high school educator is unusual as she has taught in private, public, and boarding schools. Currently, she is a member of the World Language Department at Annapolis High School in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Kim received her B.A. in French with a minor in English from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and later earned her M.Ed. from Loyola University in Baltimore, Maryland. Kim has been a member of AATF, MFLA, and ASCD for many years. Since 2008, she has presented regularly at MFLA conferences on such topics as classroom management, brain-based language learning strategies, and creating a thematic unit on Occupied France. Kim is excited to contribute to the continued success of the MFLA Board of Directors.



**Jason Slanga**  
*Latin*  
*Delaney High School*  
*Baltimore County Schools*

Jason Slanga spent most of high school and college studying networking and computer programming. Meanwhile, he discovered a love of Latin and teaching. He graduated with a degree in Ancient Studies from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), and currently teaches Latin in Baltimore County. Jason still enjoys programming and web-design, and maintains the websites for Dulaney High School and *Septentrionalis Americae Latinitatis Vivae Institutum*. He is also the state sponsor of the Maryland Junior Classical League. When he is not speaking and teaching Latin, Jason teaches technology in a way that is meaningful to teachers and students alike. In 2008, his presentation on Digital Storytelling was selected as "Best of Maryland," by the Maryland Foreign Language Association (MFLA) and the following spring he presented at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL).



**Melynda Vélez**  
*Spanish*  
*C. Milton Wright and*  
*Edgewood High Schools*  
*Harford County Schools*

Melynda Vélez is an 18 year educator in Harford County Public Schools. She is a graduate of UMCP and Loyola College, and taught for 11 years in a secondary world language classroom. Melynda has spent the last 7 years as a Teacher Mentor in secondary classrooms. She serves as a member of the HCPS Cultural Proficiency Steering Committee and is the founder of LASOS, Inc. Melynda's passion is working with people to help them explore the beauty of learning another language and culture and empowering them to engage in the world around them.

# MFLA NOTES



## News from the Advanced Placement Program®

Based on current models of best practices in classroom instruction, the AP Program has revised several courses and exams in history, science, and **world languages**.

### What's Changing

#### 2011 - 12

- [AP French Language & Culture](#)
- [AP German Language & Culture](#)

#### 2012 - 13

- [AP Latin](#)
- [AP Spanish Literature & Culture](#)

For more information, check out the AP web site at <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>

## Summit on the Future of German

*Maureen Helinski*  
*Anne Arundel Community College*

For various reasons, especially the bad economy, many German programs are facing tremendous challenges and some have already been cut or will be cut soon, if we are not proactive. Many years ago, we faced the same problem and our chapter acted and hosted 2 conferences on "The Future of German in Maryland, DC and Northern Virginia." It is time again to hold a summit on the future of German language instruction in our area.

Invited is everyone with a vested and principal interest in keeping German programs at all levels healthy, or who just care about the teaching and learning of German language and culture in our area. In particular, we like to invite colleagues who have successfully started new programs or have had big success in recruiting new students to their existing programs.

To make this summit more inclusive and more successful, we would like to invite representatives from the following groups/institutions/ organizations:

- German students from all levels who care about German (2 representatives from each level)
- German teachers/ professors from all levels (schools, colleges and universities)
- Principals and school superintendents who have supported or would be willing to support adding German to their offerings
- Representatives from the Austrian, German, Swiss and other Embassies
- Representatives from cultural organizations (Goethe Institut, Deutsche Schule, ZfA, etc.)

- Representatives from German-American organizations (German Society, Bürgerverein, AGAS, German Historical Society, German-American Heritage Museum, etc.)
- Representatives from German or German-American businesses (Lufthansa, Siemens, T-Mobile, BMW, Mercedes, Audi, Bayer, BASF, SAP, Knorr Corporation, Heidelberg Cement, Lindt, Hariboo, DW, ARD, ZDF, etc.)

This is a very ambitious project, and we will need everyone's help. More information will be available at our website in the next few weeks.



**Summit on the Future of German**  
The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC  
Saturday, February 26, 2011, 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM

For more information:

<http://www.marylandnovadc.aatg.org/>

# MFLA NOTES

## GWATFL/MFLA Joint Fall Conference a Huge Success!

*We communicated. We collaborated. We participated.*

On October 15-16, 2010, GWATFL and MFLA hosted their annual fall conference at Anne Arundel Community College. This year's theme, "Go Global: Communicate, Collaborate, Participate," was exemplified by the variety of workshops, swap shops, sessions, and networking opportunities available to



attendees. Friday's program featured our keynote speaker, Bruce Cohen, Director of Overseas Staffing for the Peace Corps. Friday Swap Shops included topics such as strategies for using technology, teaching heritage speakers, ideas for addressing the 5<sup>th</sup> "C," project ideas, and effective use of film

and video. Following a reception break, participants chose between six options for 2-hour workshops in French, German, and Spanish or one focused on technology or differentiation. A sixth option provided the opportunity for participants to attend a screening of the movie, "Speaking in Tongues."

At our eighth annual MFLA banquet, we honored our finalists for the 2010 Maryland Language Teacher of the Year. Our runner-up, Jane Tarwacki, is a Spanish teacher at Greenbelt Middle School in Prince George's County. This year's recipient is Sherri Harkins, French FLES and Exploratory teacher at Pittsville Elementary School in Wicomico County. Sherri will be Maryland's nominee for Language Teacher of the Northeast Region.



Saturday's program included 50 session choices, access to vendors in our Exhibits Hall, and a prize drawing as a closing activity. Session topics included music, hands-on activities, art, listening skills, authentic materials, and classroom management and were targeted to educators from the elementary to higher education levels in multiple languages. The session that was chosen as "Best Of" by MFLA is "Implementing Arts Integration and Artful Thinking in Your

Classroom," presented by Pat Klos from Anne Arundel County. She will represent MFLA at the Northeast Conference in Baltimore in April.

A few other fast facts:

- Once again this year, participants were able to receive CPD credit for attending the conference, participating in an online community, and completing follow-up activities.
- We broke attendance records this year, thanks to our collaboration with GWATFL.
- Feedback from the conference was highly favorable. Participants appreciated the variety of sessions, commented on the excellent presenters, and commended the overall organization of the conference.

MFLA wishes to thank our friends at GWATFL, our presenters and facilitators, the student volunteers from Anne Arundel Community College, and our on-site liaisons, Tomas Edison and Maureen Helinski, for their contributions to making this year's conference a resounding success.



Next year's fall conference is currently in the planning stages. Stay tuned for details.

### *Read what your colleagues say:*

*"The organization of the conference was outstanding."*

*"The presentations that I attended were well-planned, interesting, and very useful."*

# MFLA NOTES

## Surfing the Web

### Presentation Tools

Here are some great online presentation tools worth checking out:

<a href="http://ahead.com">Ahead ahead.com</a>	A non-linear presentation creation site that allows users to upload images, videos, files from Adobe & MS Office as part of the interactive presentation.
<a href="http://animoto.com">Animoto animoto.com</a>	Use video, photos, and music provided to create great videos. Or upload your own media. Publish to any webpage, blog, wikispace, etc.
<a href="http://museumbox.e2bn.org">Museum Box museumbox.e2bn.org</a>	Build up an argument or description of an event, person or historical period by placing items in a virtual box. You can add text, images, video and sound to the side of the cubes
<a href="http://my.brainshark.com">My BrainShark my.brainshark.com</a>	Upload your presentation, document or video. Narrate it, share it, track it. Create voice-over presentations. Make talking photo albums. Produce podcasts & more.
<a href="http://www.photoshow.com">PhotoShow www.photoshow.com</a>	Turn your photos into a musical <i>PhotoShow</i> in just minutes.
<a href="http://prezi.com">Prezi prezi.com</a>	Create presentations of texts, images, videos, PDFs, drawings and present in a nonlinear way. Move beyond the slide.
<a href="http://prezentit.com">PreZentit prezentit.com</a>	Create presentations in a few clicks, wherever you are. Work with your team in the same presentation <b>at the same time</b> . Download and show presentations even without an Internet connection.
<a href="http://voicethread.com">Voicethread voicethread.com</a>	Create a slideshow of images or video that you and others can comment on by text, audio or video. Embed into any webpage.
<a href="http://www.vuvox.com">Vuvox www.vuvox.com</a>	Fast layout and customization of photos, video, text and music. Add media hotspots, narrate interactivity. Publish to any webpage



### Tech Tip



Do you want to capture the fascination with 3D in your classroom? When you search for images, add **ANAGLYPH** to the search terms. The 3D pictures can be inserted into a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation just like you would do with any other image. The only investment that you would have to make would be those lovely cardboard 3D glasses which are available on-line.

### Build Your Wild Self

The New York Zoos & Aquarium provide a great site in which students can design their "wild self." First, they design their human self. Then, they choose their favorite animal parts and go wild. Then, have students engage in a variety of listening, speaking, and writing tasks based on their designs.



<http://www.buildyourwildself.com/>

# MFLA NOTES

## Announcing MFLA's Facebook Group

Jeffrey D. Samuels

Have you noticed that more and more organizations are joining the social networking revolution?

If you're at all like me, your website bookmarks are overflowing, your iPhone has more apps than an orchard, and even your local pizzeria wants to connect with you. It's enough to make you want to dust off that rotary dial phone and yank the cable out of the wall.

But, fear not! While you can't turn back the clock (OK, reset the digital clock to an earlier hour because you can't "turn back" a clock's hands anymore...), you don't have to dive into the class 5 rapids of today's technology. There are ways to wade in gradually, at your own pace, without being left out in digital exile.

Your MFLA Board has been discussing these very issues of late. While we recognize the benefits of technology, social networking, and greater digitally-mediated interactivity among our members, we are equally committed to implementing these innovations in a measured, thoughtful manner. Sure, we could launch a myriad of digital initiatives at once, but we recognize that a number of our members would prefer that we roll out our digital presence in a more systematic fashion. And, doing so provides us an opportunity to promote digital literacy among our members by meeting them where they may be, and helping them to explore, experiment, and to make their own decisions about how they delve into this brave new digital, and yes multilingual, world.

With this in mind, I would like you to know that we will begin to make some additions and upgrades to our organization's digital presence over the next year or so. I would also like you to know that we will make sure that our official communications are easy to access, consistent, and accessible to all of our members, regardless of their familiarity with the latest trends in social networking or their level of technology access. At the same time, I want to assure you that we recognize that we must keep moving forward as many of our members and affiliated organizations do the same. I hope you will you join us in this.



So, what is our first step to take together?

After much consideration, we concluded that **Facebook** is an ideal place for establishing a social network for our organization. Facebook allows individuals to connect to each other as well as to the organizations and businesses with which they interact in their personal or professional lives. It is also a good example of a "sandbox;" in other words, a "place" where we can try out features and functions, while offering a moderate level of user-friendly interactivity to those members of the organization who wish to establish or reinforce their connections.

It is my pleasure to invite you to establish a Facebook account and to join our **Maryland Foreign Language Association Group Page**. Below, you will see step-by-step instructions as well as screen shots to guide you. This will take approximately 10 minutes of your time, which includes reading the instructions below and establishing your Facebook account. You may wish to print this article, have it handy, and then refer to it as you follow the steps on the following pages.

### Before you begin:

1. Signing up for Facebook and joining our MFLA Group Page are not required. This is merely a service that the MFLA Board is offering for our members. We will continue to communicate through our official channels, such as the MFLA website and the listserv.
2. Many people create two Facebook accounts – one for personal networking and one for professional networking. To do this, you will need to have two email accounts so that you can associate one email account with each Facebook persona.
3. You will want to review your account settings and security settings after you have created your account and have explored the various features and buttons on your main page (more about this at the end of the article).
4. MFLA in no way is recommending that you divulge personal information or any compromising information via Facebook. Take a gradual and measured approach to what you choose to upload, post, or share on any internet-based site.

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OK, let's get started. To join our Facebook Group, you will need to **create an account** first.

**Step 1** – Multiple sub-steps; see screen shot below.

1. Navigate to <http://www.facebook.com>.
2. Fill in your information in the fields under Sign Up. For demonstration purposes we have created an exemplar account named MFLA Member.
3. Fill in your first name.
4. Fill in your last name.
5. Enter your email address.
6. Enter your email address again to confirm it.
7. Create a unique Facebook password for yourself and enter it next to New Password. Note: this should not be the same password you use for your email access. Make it something you can remember easily, but not something others can guess.
8. Select your gender and birthday information from the drop-down menus. Access to this information that you can choose to restrict later.
9. Click the Sign Up button.

The screenshot shows the Facebook homepage with the 'Sign Up' form filled out. The form fields are: First Name: MFLA, Last Name: Member, Your Email: \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*.com, Re-enter Email: \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*.com, New Password: \*\*\*\*\*. Below the password field are dropdown menus for 'I am' (Select Sex) and 'Birthday' (Month, Day, Year). A green 'Sign Up' button is at the bottom of the form. The page also features a 'Heading out? Stay connected' banner for mobile devices and a footer with various links and copyright information.

**Step 2** - You can search for friends and colleagues, but you don't have to. You can skip this for now, and you can always conduct a search for existing Facebook contacts later from your main page. If you want to skip this step now, click on the Skip this step button on the bottom right.

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled 'Are you friends already on Facebook?'. It contains a search bar and a 'Find Friends' button. At the bottom right, there is a 'Skip this step' button.

**Step 3** - You can fill in your educational and employer information, but you don't have to. You can skip this for now, and you can always provide it later from your main page if you choose to do so. If you want to skip this step now, click on the Skip button on the bottom right, just next to the Save and Continue button.

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled 'Fill out your profile info'. It contains fields for 'High School' and 'College/University'. At the bottom right, there is a 'Skip this step' button and a 'Save & Continue' button.

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**Step 4** - You can upload a profile photo or graphic image, but you don't have to. You can skip this for now, and you can always upload one later from your main page. If you want to skip this step now, click on the Skip button on the bottom right, just next to the Save and Continue button.



**Step 5** - Now that you have created your account, you can search for our Group Page. Note that there is a search area at the top of your page, in the middle of the blue title bar. Facebook will ask you to complete the sign-up process by emailing you a link that you will need to click in order to confirm your enrollment. You can do that now, or return to it later.



**Step 6** - In order to find our Group Page, you will need to search for it. Type "MFLA - Maryland" into the search field, as in the highlighted area below.



**Step 7** - From here, you can request to join, as you can see in the right portion of the highlighted area, or view our Group Page first. Click on the name of our organization to view the Group Page itself, and then you can join from there.



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**Step 8** – Once you have opened our Group Page, submit your request to join by clicking the highlighted button just to the right of our name.

Note that the administrators of our page will need to approve you. We may open this page to other Facebook users in the future, as a means of promoting the organization, but for now we are concentrating our efforts on promoting the page among current members of the organization. We hope you will find it useful, and we encourage you to explore its various features and functionality. Don't worry, you won't break anything! So, poke around and see how this page can benefit you and your colleagues!



Here's your homework.

Now that you have joined Facebook and have found our Group Page, don't forget to complete the elements of your profile that you wish to, and to begin to network with your MFLA colleagues and other friends! Some things you might want to do to get started:

1. Customize your account and security settings using the buttons on the top of your main page. Did you notice you can even change the language settings? Why not use Facebook in a second language, once you are familiar with its functions?
2. Upload a photo or graphic image to serve as your profile photo.
3. Post information about yourself in the fields provided – whatever you are comfortable sharing with friends and colleagues.
4. Search for other people you know, organizations to which you belong, or other interests that you have. You'd be surprised how many group pages and fan pages are out there!
5. Decide who can see various elements of your Facebook page via the security settings. For example, you may wish to allow only friends to see your birthday information, but friends as well as their other friends to see your photos. Or, you may wish to hide your birthday information and share photos just with your friends. Many of these elements can be customized.
6. Don't forget to see who else is a member of the MFLA Group Page, and connect with them! Hint: you are more than welcome to start with me.

Above all, please let us know how our page is helpful to you, and what features you'd like to see!