

## From the President

Dear Colleagues:

I want to thank all of you who attended the 2007 Spring Conference at the Inverness Hotel and Conference Center in Denver. More than 600 of you attended the nine Thursday and Saturday workshops and 48 Friday and Saturday sessions. I greatly appreciate the session presenters' willingness to share their expertise with CCFLT conference participants. The variety of topics presented was truly remarkable!



A big thank-you goes out to the 42 exhibitors who displayed their products. Without their financial support, CCFLT would not be able to underwrite the conference. Several exhibitors generously sponsored conference activities, donated prizes, and presented sessions.

Most of all, I would like to thank the CCFLT Board of Directors. They are an awesome group of foreign language educators who volunteer their valuable time to put on a fabulous conference, and I have so enjoyed working with them.

Congratulations to our newly-elected CCFLT Board members whose terms begin this August. In this final newsletter issue of the school year you will find photos of those new CCFLT leadership team members as well as numerous other photo memories from the Spring Conference.



As you near the end of another fulfilling school year and begin thinking ahead to the next, please consider applying for a CCFLT Fall Grant, or nominating a colleague for a CCFLT Special Award or the ACTFL *Teacher of the Year* award. Look for information about these opportunities in this newsletter.

It has been an honor and a pleasure serving you as CCFLT President this year. Thank you for allowing me to lead this wonderful organization for a second term.

Best regards,  
Judith Cale

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**Have a question about dues?**

Please write or call:

Deena Tunnell  
 CCFLT Executive Secretary  
 P.O. Box 621  
 Englewood, CO 80151-0621  
 303.789.3216  
[pdtunnell@msn.com](mailto:pdtunnell@msn.com)

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David Burrous, Editor  
 Alisa Burrous, Layout Editor  
 Phone: 303.666.8957  
[d303burrous@msn.com](mailto:d303burrous@msn.com)  
[a303burrous@msn.com](mailto:a303burrous@msn.com)

**Advertising rates and policies**

You are invited to advertise in the **CCFLT Newsletter**. Commercial ads which support the mission of **CCFLT** and are of interest to the profession, including tour and book ads, are accepted at the following rates:

<i>Size of Ad</i>	<i>Charge</i>	<i>Size of Copy</i>
Full Page	\$250.00	7 1/4" X 9"
Half Page	\$125.00	7 1/4" X 4 1/2"
Half Page	\$125.00	3 1/2" X 9"
1/4 Page	\$75.00	3 1/2" X 4 1/2"

Price is for publication in the **CCFLT Newsletter** one time. If you have questions regarding appropriate software for ads, please contact the Editor. Advance payment is appreciated. Checks made out to **CCFLT** should be sent to the Executive Secretary, Deena Tunnell: 303.789.3216 or [pdtunnell@msn.com](mailto:pdtunnell@msn.com)

**Board of Directors, 2006-2007****Officers:**

Judy Cale, President, Smoky Hill HS ..... [bobjudycal@msn.com](mailto:bobjudycal@msn.com)  
 Mira Canion, President-Elect, Erie HS ..... [miracanion@yahoo.com](mailto:miracanion@yahoo.com)  
 Yumiko Guajardo, Past-President, USAFA ..... [yumiko.guajardo@usafa.af.mil](mailto:yumiko.guajardo@usafa.af.mil)

**Elementary / Secondary Representatives:**

Norma Arroyo, Fossil Ridge HS ..... [narroyo@psdschools.org](mailto:narroyo@psdschools.org)  
 Douglas Bowman\*, Evergreen HS ..... [dglb Bowman@earthlink.net](mailto:dglb Bowman@earthlink.net)  
 Pam Centeno\*, Cheyenne Mountain HS ..... [centeno@cmsd.k12.co.us](mailto:centeno@cmsd.k12.co.us)  
 Lulu Cruz-Gosnell\*, Silver Creek HS ..... [c\\_lu\\_lu@yahoo.com](mailto:c_lu_lu@yahoo.com)  
 Alison Eustice\*\*, Colorado Springs School ..... [aeustice@css.org](mailto:aeustice@css.org)  
 Stacy Muenzenmayer\*, Horizon HS ..... [stacy.muenzenmayer@adams12.org](mailto:stacy.muenzenmayer@adams12.org)  
 Debbie Singer, Monarch HS ..... [debbiemoin@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiemoin@yahoo.com)  
 Jalen Waltman, Lewis-Palmer District 38 ..... [jwaltman@lewispalmer.org](mailto:jwaltman@lewispalmer.org)

**Post-Secondary Representatives:**

Obdulia Castro, Regis University ..... [ocastro@regis.edu](mailto:ocastro@regis.edu)  
 Hideko Shimizu\*, CU Boulder ..... [shimizu@colorado.edu](mailto:shimizu@colorado.edu)

**At-Large Representatives:**

Joanne Pasqua\*, Metropolitan State College ..... [pasqual@mscd.edu](mailto:pasqual@mscd.edu)  
 Elvida Henry\*\*\*, Skyway Park ES ..... [elvida@cmsd.k12.co.us](mailto:elvida@cmsd.k12.co.us)

**Non-Voting Appointed Members:**

Angela Brehm, Webmaster, USAFA ..... [angela.brehm@usafa.af.mil](mailto:angela.brehm@usafa.af.mil)  
 David Burrous, Newsletter Co-Editor, BVSD ..... [d303burrous@msn.com](mailto:d303burrous@msn.com)  
 Alisa Burrous, Newsletter Co-Editor, retired ..... [a303burrous@msn.com](mailto:a303burrous@msn.com)  
 Gudrun Clay, PEALS Editor, Metropolitan State College ..... [gudrunclay@aol.com](mailto:gudrunclay@aol.com)  
 Deena Tunnell, Executive Secretary ..... [pdtunnell@msn.com](mailto:pdtunnell@msn.com)

- \* designates first year of a two-year term
- \*\* designates a board member appointed to complete the second year of a board member who resigned
- \*\*\* designates a board member appointed to serve a one-year term for a board member who resigned

**CCFLT Website:**

<http://www.ccflt.org>

**CCFLT ListServ Email Address:**

To send a message to the ListServ, use this address: [ccflt@lists.mscd.edu](mailto:ccflt@lists.mscd.edu)

**CCFLT ListServ Website:**

[http://lists.mscd.edu/read/all\\_forums/](http://lists.mscd.edu/read/all_forums/)

If you wish to change the email address to which your CCFLT Listserv email is sent, please go to: [http://lists.mscd.edu/read/all\\_forums/subscribe?name=ccflt](http://lists.mscd.edu/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=ccflt) and join again with the new email address.

Angela Brehm, Webmaster  
[angela.brehm@usafa.af.mil](mailto:angela.brehm@usafa.af.mil)

## Mira Canion, Incoming CCFLT President for 2007-2008

It is with great pleasure that I assume the office of CCFLT President for the upcoming school year. My term officially begins at the end of our last Board meeting of this year in May, but in actuality I have been preparing for CCFLT '07-'08 for nearly a year already!



Because I know that many of you like to plan ahead for the annual CCFLT Spring Conference, I would like to announce that the **46th Annual CCFLT Spring Conference: *Commandeering the Seven Cs*** will take place February 14-16, 2008 at the Holiday Inn at DIA. Choosing a conference site has definitely been my major challenge this year.

Membership in CCFLT continues to increase, and the number of Spring Conference attendees grew by leaps and bounds this year -- an increase of 100 participants over our 2006 conference. There are numerous considerations when we look for a conference site: sufficient and sizeable break-out rooms for Friday and Saturday sessions, a spacious and comfortable exhibit hall for the many exhibitors who so generously underwrite conference expenses, accessible parking at reasonable rates for attendees, and reasonably-priced hotel rooms for our members. As you saw with this year's conference at the Inverness Hotel, some session rooms were standing-room-only, and so many exhibitors contracted for our conference that their booths were overflowing into the hallway. ¡We have become una conferencia grande!

Many hotels are too small to accommodate the size of our conference; many large-sized hotels

declined to offer us a proposal for 2008, including the Inverness in Denver and the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, because of a huge discrepancy between the large amount of meeting room space we need and the low number of sleeping rooms our members book. The CCFLT Board could choose to pay additional rental fees at those hotels and pass on the fees to its membership, but we choose not to do so. Instead we have chosen the Holiday Inn at DIA for our 2008 Spring Conference.

The hotel's conference facilities are exciting -- 70,000 square feet of meeting space ... a free airport shuttle that will be so convenient for out-of-town workshop presenters and exhibitors ... free parking ... easy highway access ... and an opportunity to extend our contract there for multiple years. The facility gives our conference a chance to expand even more.

I look forward to working with the CCFLT Board and to serving our membership during this next exciting year. Please plan to take part in our many upcoming events, including the next exciting Spring Conference. Come pirate some teaching treasures!

### 46th Annual CCFLT Spring Conference

February 14-16, 2008  
Holiday Inn at DIA

### *Commandeering the Seven Cs*

with guest presenters  
Dr. Helena Curtain and Blaine Ray



## 2007 CCFLT Election results: Welcome new Board members!



**Norma Arroyo**  
**President-Elect '07-'08**

Dear Colleagues,

I am ecstatic to begin serving you as the CCFLT President-Elect next year. At February's Spring Conference I

had the opportunity to meet and catch up with so many of you. Besides the great new ideas offered at many of the workshops and sessions, it's the collegiality that "pumps me up" the most. Since I moved here 4 years ago, my experience with this organization has been the most rewarding membership of any since my previous 14 years out East. Not only do we enjoy such wonderful participation from our Colorado teachers, great leadership, and a devoted Board of Directors, but our goals and thrust to improve the teaching and study of languages is outstanding.

Education in Colorado is currently undergoing many positive changes, and our world language teachers are finally being recognized for our instruction of much more than verbs and vocabulary. As we work to adopt the 5 C's, we highlight the fact that language is not learned in isolation. Creating a classroom culture of high expectations for all students is another very important aspect of teaching which needs our continued attention. During my term of office I would like to help support these two areas of instruction and to do whatever I can to provide professional development opportunities for teachers.

I want to thank the CCFLT Board of Directors for having such faith in me and supporting my decision to run for this office. My experience with this wonderful group is what encouraged me to continue to serve the organization. I hope every one of you will consider running for the CCFLT Board at some time in your career. It is a most rewarding experience, and one you will always remember fondly. I look forward to continuing the great work of our professional organization, expanding friendships, and supporting language teachers in Colorado!

### At-Large Representative



Sarah Dodson-Knight  
French, ESL  
Colorado State University

### Post-Secondary Representative



Pete Kastner  
German  
University of Northern Colorado

2007 CCFLT Election Results, continued

**Elementary/Secondary Representatives**



Debbie Cody  
French, German, English  
Pueblo South HS



Dawn Lee Mayo  
Spanish  
Alamosa HS



Anna Crocker  
French, Spanish  
Jefferson County Public Schools



Tracey Lonn  
Spanish  
Englewood HS

**Reminder of CCFLT dues increase**

At our annual business meeting, held October 14, 2006 in conjunction with the CCFLT Fall Conference, the membership in attendance voted unanimously to approve a membership dues increase. The increased rates will take effect **July 1, 2007**. Including the multi-year category discounts, the increased dues structure will be as follows:

One-year professional .....	\$35
First-year teacher .....	\$20
Student .....	\$20
Retired.....	\$20
Two-year professional.....	\$60
Three-year professional .....	\$85
Five-year professional.....	\$120

## 2007 Awards and Grants

Each year at the Spring Conference, the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers honors those individuals who have contributed extensively to foreign language education. In addition, CCFLT awards grants and scholarships to deserving individuals. Please join in congratulating this year's winners.

*(Conference photos by Dale Crum.)*

### New Teacher Scholarships



Brian Merritt  
Niwot HS



Kendra Omlid  
Loveland HS



*Genevieve Overman*  
*Memorial Service Award*  
Michael Nettleton  
Smoky Hill HS

### Grant Winners



*\$500 Spring*  
*Innovation Grant*  
Martha Slayden  
Air Academy HS



*\$1,000 Ronald W. Walker*  
*Memorial Grant*  
Linda Mayer  
Discovery Canyon Campus



*Excellence in Teaching Award*  
Donna Stutzman  
Pueblo Central HS



*The CCFLT Creativity Award*  
awarded posthumously to  
Kris Wells  
Cheyenne Mountain JHS, Retired

In honor of our dear friend and colleague,  
this award will be known in future years as  
*The Kris Wells Creativity Award.*



*ISE Language Matters Award*  
María Rey-López  
Metropolitan State College  
of Denver



## Kris Wells Memorial Fund

The CCFLT Board of Directors recently voted to create a Memorial Fund in honor of the late Kris Wells.

Donations to this fund will be deposited in a designated account separate from the general CCFLT funds and will be used exclusively to support the professional development of teachers.

If you wish to contribute to this fund, please send a check payable to CCFLT, with *Kris Wells Memorial Fund* indicated on the memo line, to:

Deena Tunnell, CCFLT Executive Secretary  
P.O. Box 621  
Englewood, Colorado 80151-0621



### ***Peals Journal:*** **Call for articles for the Fall issue**

*Gudrun Clay, editor*

The Spring issue of *Peals* is currently in production and will be mailed to CCFLT members in April. The deadline for submission of articles for inclusion in the Fall issue is **September 15**, with the publication set to be mailed in October.

Elementary, middle, and high school teachers are invited to submit material for publication. Please consider sharing those exciting classroom activities that are working well for you, or teaching tips that may be especially helpful for beginning teachers.

Please submit your article as a Microsoft Word document, with any pictures in jpeg format, to the editor at [clayg@mscd.edu](mailto:clayg@mscd.edu).

### ***Mark your calendars ...***

**CCFLT Fall Conference 2007**  
in combination with Linguafest

### ***Unlocking Cultural Treasures with the Keys of Literacy***

#### **Morning speaker:**

Jason Fritze  
*National Board Certified  
World Language Teacher  
and World Language Literacy Expert*

#### **Afternoon activity:**

Target language groups discuss literacy

Saturday, October 20, 2007  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
Erie High School, Erie

## Seeking K-12 Teacher of the Year Nominations

Judith Cale, CCFLT President

CCFLT is actively seeking nominations of K-12 teachers for the national *Teacher of the Year* award. Please consider nominating a colleague or self-nominating. **Submissions must be postmarked on or before April 14, 2007.**

To be considered a candidate for the Colorado *Teacher of the Year*, please submit the following items:

1. Letter of recommendation from a professional colleague.
2. Letter of recommendation from a supervisor.
3. Letter of recommendation from a current or former parent or student.
4. Curriculum Vitae of no more than five (5) pages.

### Please mail the above required documents to

Deena Tunnell, CCFLT Executive Secretary  
P.O. Box 621  
Englewood, CO 80151-0621

**postmarked on or before April 14, 2007.**

From all the nominations received, CCFLT will select the Colorado K-12 candidate to compete at the SWCOLT regional conference in April 2008.

Once the candidate is selected, there will be additional requirements for the candidate to complete in order to qualify at the regional level. They include but are not limited to the following:

5. Five-hundred-word (500) first-person statement on the value of learning language and culture.
6. Statement of willingness to participate in all required activities associated with the award (form provided by ACTFL) including:
  - a commitment to attend the respective regional conference for a personal interview (The regional organization may provide reimbursement of some expenses);
  - if selected as their regional winner, a commitment to attend the ACTFL Annual

Convention (hotel, registration, and transportation are paid by ACTFL); and

- willingness to serve as a spokesperson for the profession, based on availability (form available on the ACTFL website).

For additional information regarding the K-12 *Teacher of the Year* award, please see the SWCOLT website at [www.swcolt.org](http://www.swcolt.org) and the ACTFL website at [www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org).

If you have questions, feel free to contact Judith Cale, CCFLT President, at [bojudycal@msn.com](mailto:bojudycal@msn.com).

### ***Building Future World Language Leaders: a March 2008 workshop***

Judith Cale, CCFLT President

**Issue:** It has become progressively more difficult to secure candidates for the CCFLT Board of Directors and other positions, even though the number of world language educators is steadily increasing in Colorado. CCFLT would like to implement a better structure for identifying leaders as well as a plan to recruit more world language educators for leadership positions, and to hold scaffolding events to train potential world language leaders. **Through a grant from the Central States Conference (CSC), CCFLT will hold a one-day workshop in March 2008 to address this issue.**

Among other topics, workshop attendees will learn how to present a session of current methodologies and interests, what leadership opportunities are available throughout the state and region, and how to procure support from administrators and those already in leadership positions when presenting new ideas. After completing the workshop, the participants will be asked to seek a world language leadership position in their school or university, district, or within CCFLT.

Department coordinators and school administrators are encouraged to nominate educators who have leadership potential to take part in this workshop opportunity. Educators may also self-nominate. More workshop information will be forthcoming in the August newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Judith Cale, CCFLT President at [bojudycal@msn.com](mailto:bojudycal@msn.com).

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual CCFLT Teacher Innovation Grants Program

### *Spring Application for Fall 2007 Grants*

*Application deadline ... April 28, 2007*

Each fall, CCFLT presents two monetary grants to teachers. If you have an idea for a project for your classroom, please consider applying for one of the following grants:

23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Innovation Grant .....	\$500
23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Innovation Grant .....	\$250

The CCFLT Grants Committee is looking for project proposals that are ... innovative, creative, interesting ... student-oriented ... practicable, feasible, and ... projects that can be shared with colleagues.

To be eligible for the grant, the applicant must be a current CCFLT member and have been a member for at least one year. **If awarded a grant, you must present the results of your project at the Spring Conference or submit an article to be published in the *Peals* journal.** Please note that CCFLT does not fund requests for release time, textbooks, or materials to be marketed for profit.

#### **To apply for one of the above-mentioned grants, please submit the following:**

1. Cover letter  
 Include your name, home address/city/state/ZIP, home phone, email address, school name, school address/city/state/ZIP, school phone, and the date of your application.
2. Project goal and rationale  
 What is the goal and rationale of your project?  
 How is your project different from projects already in existence?  
 What does recent research say about the potential success of your project?
3. Steps toward project completion  
 Describe the individual steps you are planning to take to reach your goal.  
 What is the proposed date of completion?
4. Benefits to students and program  
 How will your project directly affect student learning?  
 How will your project enhance your foreign language program?  
 Will you present the results of your project at the Spring Conference or submit an article to be published in the *Peals* journal?
5. Budget detail  
 What is the amount of your request? \$250 or \$500?  
 Specify your expected expenses.
6. Two letters of support  
 Include a letter of support for your project from one colleague and one administrator, no longer than one page each.

**Proposals for Fall Innovation Grants must be postmarked by April 28, 2007**  
 Applicants will be notified of the Grant Review Committee's decision by May 31, 2007.

*Please send your complete application to:*

Deena Tunnell, CCFLT Executive Secretary  
 Fall 2007 Grants  
 P.O. Box 621  
 Englewood, Colorado 80151-0621

*Paid advertisement*

***7<sup>th</sup> Annual***  
**National TPRS® Conference 2007**  
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**Inventor of TPRS®: Blaine Ray**  
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\*All prices go up \$30 after June 1<sup>st</sup>

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# Center for Asian Studies

## Gateway to AP Japanese and Beyond: July 23-27, 2007

The Center for Asian Studies at the University of Colorado, in collaboration with the Alliance of Associations of Teachers of Japanese, announces a Summer 2007 workshop for high school and college teachers of Japanese, focusing on the AP Japanese Language and Culture program which was launched during the 2006-07 school year. Twenty participants will be selected to attend this 5-day workshop in Boulder, Colorado. The curriculum will include intensive advanced language training, focusing on reading and writing skills; pedagogical grammar; development of curricula for AP Japanese classes; and discussion of how high school and college teachers can work together, based on analysis of the results of the first AP Japanese Language and Culture exam which will be administered in May, and of the way those results are received by college Japanese programs.

The faculty directors of the workshop are Laurel Rasplica Rodd (University of Colorado) and Sufumi So (George Mason University), both of whom have been active in developing AP Japanese and in working with teachers across the high school/college divide. The faculty will include college and high school teachers as well as representatives of the AP program.

The cost of travel (up to \$400), full room and board for six nights, and materials will be covered by the workshop's sponsors. Graduate credit may be available at the participant's expense for a cost of \$100.

Teachers at both high school and college levels, native- and non-native-speaking, are eligible to apply for this workshop. To apply online, please go to <http://www.aatj.org/workshop2007.html>. **The deadline for applications is May 1, 2007.**

**For further information contact:**

Susan Schmidt, AATJ office  
[susan.schmidt@colorado.edu](mailto:susan.schmidt@colorado.edu)  
303.492.5487

Are your CCFLT dues current?

A membership renewal form is located on page 19 of this newsletter.

Renew your dues at today's rates before the July 1 increase.



### Planning ahead ...

- April 28, 2007 ..... Fall Grant applications due
- July 1, 2007 ..... CCFLT dues increase takes effect
- July 15, 2007 ..... August newsletter articles due
- September 15, 2007 ..... *Peals* articles due
- October 20, 2007 ..... Fall Conference/Linguafest
- October 31, 2007 ..... Session proposals due
- November 15, 2007 ..... Award nominations due
- February 14-16, 2008 ..... Spring Conference

## Fall Conference 2007 in combination with Linguafest

Saturday, October 20, 2007

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Erie High School, Erie

Morning speaker ..... Jason Fritze

Afternoon activity ..... target language groups

### *Unlocking Cultural Treasures with the Keys of Literacy*

While many students learn about cultural products and practices, they tend not to shift their behavior and speech according to cultural perspectives and thus lack full cultural competence. To this end, literacy is the key, and our map is world language literacy expert Jason Fritze. He will be helping us guide students through the deep waters of culture by modeling ...

- a thematic unit built around a core of authentic texts
- effective reading strategies that engage readers
- several comprehensible input approaches that build background knowledge
- how to simplify texts in both vocabulary selection and cultural content

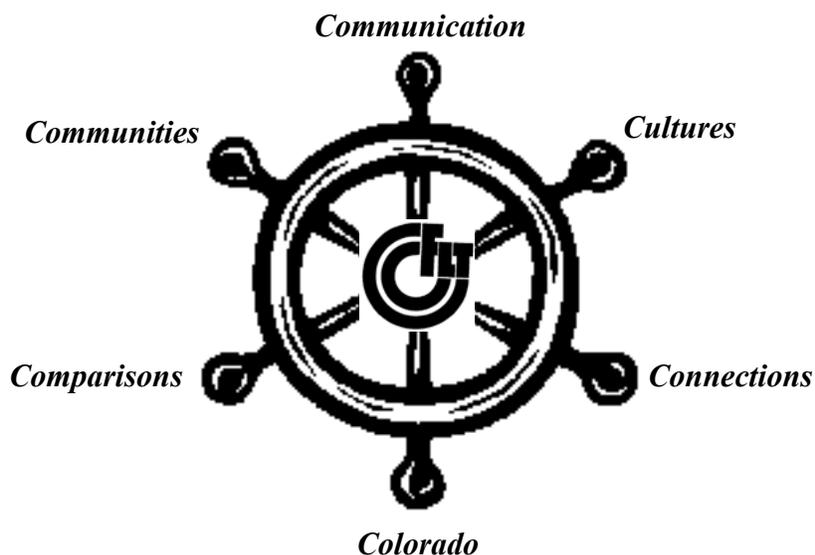
After lunch, our state language organizations -- AATF, AATG, AATSP, CCLTC and CJLEA -- will facilitate discussion of literacy in the target language. This will be a practical, hands-on session where participants will be given readings to evaluate. Participants will choose texts around which they will create simple thematic units, ready to use in the classroom on Monday morning. Participants will discuss the following questions:

- What underlying cultural values and cultural themes are most important?
- What series of texts will build cultural knowledge in manageable steps?
- What are the proficiency levels of the texts?
- How can the texts be simplified if necessary?
- What vocabulary and structures need to be pre-taught?
- What extension activities will engage students in communication about the themes?

*Jason Fritze is a highly-sought speaker in the areas of reading in the World Language classroom and comprehensible input methodologies. A National Board Certified teacher in World Languages, he has foreign language classroom experience ranging from elementary to university level, and uses the latest second language acquisition research and the national Standards for Foreign Language Learning to guide his instruction and workshops. Jason is well known for his enthusiasm and lively presentations that give participants opportunities to try out the new strategies they are learning.*

**46th Annual CCFLT Spring Conference**  
February 14-16, 2008  
Holiday Inn at DIA

**Commandeering the Seven Cs**



All hands to the conference deck ... Hoist the session sails ... Prepare to be Boarded!  
As pirates, we'll be searchin' for teaching treasures!



***At the workshop helm:***

**Dr. Helena Curtain**

Early-language specialist and author of *Language and Children -- Making the Match*

**Blaine Ray**

Inventor of TPRS® and author of the *Pobre Ana* novel series

***Mark your calendars now!***

## ***Session Proposal Form***

### **46th Annual CCFLT Spring Conference**

February 14-16, 2008      Holiday Inn at DIA

We have all gleaned ideas shaped by workshop leaders and peer presenters from prior CCFLT conferences. Isn't it time you shared yours? We welcome your proposal for the Spring Conference 2008.

Presenter name _____	Co-presenter name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City _____ State ____ ZIP _____	City _____ State ____ ZIP _____
School name/address _____	School name/address _____
Home # ( ) _____ Work # ( ) _____	Home # ( ) _____ Work # ( ) _____
Email _____ Fax ( ) _____	Email _____ Fax ( ) _____

**Note: Attach an extra page to include the above information for additional co-presenters.**

**Please attach the following information to this form:**

1. Presentation title as you would like it to appear in the conference program. **Limit, ten words.**
2. Abstract for the conference program that would best describe your presentation. **Limit, three sentences.**
3. A one-page description or outline of your presentation, identifying content, approach, and materials to be used. State expected benefits to the participants as well. **Limit, one page.**

**Mark the following as they apply to your session:**

4. Language(s) of session: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Language(s) of examples and/or materials: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which term best describes your session?  
 Articulation \_\_\_\_\_ Assessment \_\_\_\_\_ Bilingual/ESL \_\_\_\_\_ Early learning/FLES \_\_\_\_\_  
 Methods/Techniques \_\_\_\_\_ Special Topics \_\_\_\_\_ Technology \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which standard(s) does your session address?  
 1.1 Listening \_\_\_\_\_ 1.2 Speaking \_\_\_\_\_ 1.3 Reading \_\_\_\_\_ 1.4 Writing \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Culture \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which level(s) does your session address?  
 Beginning \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_ Extension \_\_\_\_\_
9. What length of session would you prefer?  
 One hour \_\_\_\_\_ Two hours \_\_\_\_\_
10. CCFLT will be responsible for an overhead projector and screen or VCR with TV monitor as projector, as requested. Check below if you will need this audiovisual equipment:  
 Overhead projector \_\_\_\_\_ VCR with monitor \_\_\_\_\_

In confirming a session at the CCFLT Spring Conference, presenters must be current members of CCFLT and pre-register and pay for the conference as well. Note that presenters are responsible for their own expenses, including copies of their materials and handouts. Please plan for 75 copies.

**Please submit your proposal to Mira Canion, CCFLT President, at [miracanon@yahoo.com](mailto:miracanon@yahoo.com). Deadline for receipt of session proposals is October 31, 2007.** The electronic form (Pdf) will soon be available at: <http://ccflt.org/conferences/springconf2008/htm>. Please "copy & paste" to your word processing program (MS Word, Apple Works, Nisus Writer, etc.) and send it via attachment. Please contact Mira with any technical questions regarding submissions.

## CCFLT Spring Conference 2008 Awards Nomination Form

We've gone electronic! It has never been easier to recognize a fellow educator!

We want to make it even easier for you to acknowledge a fellow teacher with a special recognition award. The person in your department who goes above and beyond! The one who always develops innovative and exciting activities for students! The teacher who has increased enrollment and has led the way to academic excellence! Express your appreciation, your admiration, and your gratitude by nominating him or her for a CCFLT Special Recognition Award which will be presented at the Spring Conference next year. Only teachers who have been CCFLT members for a full year prior to nomination may qualify for an award; members of the Board of Directors are not eligible.

### **The Genevieve Overman Memorial Service Award**

Presented to a world language educator for dedicated and long service to the teaching profession, as well as commitment and leadership in serving CCFLT.

### **The Excellence in Teaching Award**

Presented to a world language educator who has excelled in classroom instruction.

### **The Program Leadership Award**

Presented to a world language educator who has provided exceptional leadership and innovation in programs beyond the classroom level.

### **The Kris Wells Memorial Creativity Award**

Presented to a world language educator who has demonstrated exceptional creativity and innovation in the field of world languages, whether in teaching, administration, or materials development.

### **The New Educator Award**

Presented to a world language educator in the first five years of teaching, who exhibits a great deal of potential in developing ideas for world language education.

### **The Friend of Foreign Languages Award**

Presented to an individual or group from outside the world language teaching profession who has made significant contributions to the teaching and learning of world languages.

Please create one Word (Rich Text Format) document in which you include the following: **(1)** a cover page with the required information given below, **(2)** a letter of nomination of two pages or less, **(3)** a maximum of three letters of support of one page each. Combine these components into ONE document and send it as an attachment to the CCFLT Executive Secretary at [execsec@ccflt.org](mailto:execsec@ccflt.org) by November 15, 2007.

The cover page **must** include the following information:

#### **About the nominee:**

- Nominee's name
- Award category
- School
- Years of teaching experience
- Phone (H)
- Phone (W)
- Address, city, state, ZIP
- Email address

#### **About the nominator:**

- Nominator's name
- Phone (H)
- Phone (W)
- Address, city, state, ZIP
- Email address

#### **About the nominee's supervisor:**

- Supervisor's name
- Title
- Phone (W)
- Email address
- School
- School address, city, state, ZIP
- School district name

- » Please email this information and supporting letters as noted above to the CCFLT Executive Secretary at [execsec@ccflt.org](mailto:execsec@ccflt.org).
- » In the message line, write *CCFLT Awards Nomination* and attach the electronic copy of your nomination packet.
- » Allow one week for verification from the Executive Secretary that the packet was received.

## Japanese Consulate offers school visit program

*Yayoi Shaw, Office of the Consulate-General*

The Consulate-General of Japan at Denver offers free school visits to introduce local students to Japan and Japanese culture. The program is an educational outreach program by which the Consulate can send office staff to schools to give classroom presentations, including activities using various cultural items, videos and other materials. A typical presentation is about one hour long and covers a general introduction to Japan.

The Consulate office can try to accommodate specific topical requests, although popular standard topics include *Japanese Greetings, Kanji Writing and Demonstration, Japanese Holidays and Festivals, and Traditional Japanese Games, Toys and Activities*. Other topics, such as history, the public school system or Japanese government policy on specific issues, may be arranged by request.

Most materials can be provided by the Consulate; equipment such as DVD player, notebook computer and screen, etc, should be arranged on site.

To schedule a session at your school, please send a written request providing the following information:

- school name and address
- contact name and information
- requested dates and times
- grade levels
- group size
- presentation subject
- background knowledge about Japan
- other information you deem appropriate

*Send your request to:*  
Public Relations Department  
Consulate-General of Japan at Denver  
1225-17th Street, Suite 3000  
Denver Colorado 80202

For further information, feel free to contact the Office of the Consulate General, 303.534.1151, or [cgjd-pr@qwest.net](mailto:cgjd-pr@qwest.net).

## Social Security and teachers

*Lorraine D'Ambruoso, Executive Director, California Language Teachers Association*

Even though you are a teacher who pays into the State Teachers' Retirement System, you may also do consulting work or other jobs for which Social Security taxes are deducted. Or you may have a spouse who pays into the Social Security system.

What you may not know is that there are two federal laws under Title II of the Social Security Act that could cost you a significant portion of those taxes that you and/or your spouse paid into the system: the **Government Pension Offset (GPO)** (<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/1007.html>) and the **Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)** (<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/1045.html>). These provisions state that as a teacher who will be collecting a pension from a public agency, you may not be eligible to collect a spouse's Social Security benefits upon his or her death, and you will lose almost 2/3 of whatever Social Security benefits you have earned.

Senator Dianne Feinstein has determined that under current law, public employees are penalized and held to a different standard when it comes to retirement benefits, and this inequity also makes it difficult to recruit teachers, firefighters, and other public employees. She has introduced

the Social Security Fairness Act (S. 206) aimed at eliminating the WEP and GPO provisions of the Social Security Act.

How can you help support this effort?

1) **Call** Senator Baucus (D-Montana), Finance Committee Chair, 1.202.224.2651, and Senator Grassley (R-Iowa), ranking member of the Finance Committee, 1.202.224.3744 and tell them you support the Social Security Fairness Act (S. 206).

2) **Help** get this information out to everyone you know, especially fellow teachers and other school employees, police officers, railroad workers, and firefighters - anyone you know who would be affected by this legislation.

## Advocacy Update

*Judith Cale, CCFLT President*

The theme of this year's CCFLT Spring Conference was *Discovering the World Through Languages*. President Bush designated February as *Discover Languages Month*. On January 26 he stated, "By studying languages, Americans can demonstrate a compassionate interest in the lives of others, learn about different cultures, and gain a better understanding of the world."

On January 25, Rita Oleksak, President of ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) testified at a hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. The title of the hearing was *Lost in Translation: A Review of the Federal Government's Efforts to Develop a Foreign Language Strategy*. At this hearing, Ms. Oleksak declared that there is a need for systemic change and expansion of language programs at all levels of instruction. There is also a need for a focused approach to teacher recruitment and professional development to address the shortage of highly qualified teachers in all languages. She believes legislation is necessary for language education to become an integral part of the education for all students. It is not surprising that here in Colorado we have the same needs. Many schools are cutting language programs, yet research indicates that learning a foreign language promotes cognitive development in students which leads to higher academic achievement.

Two sessions on Friday afternoon at our Spring Conference focused on the status of foreign languages and our Colorado state standards. At these sessions and during this conference, we promoted a letter-writing campaign to the State Board of Education to encourage them to adopt state standards that are aligned to the national foreign language standards. Conference participants supported CCFLT's efforts by submitting their comments. CCFLT was fortunate to have Evie Hudak from the State Board of Education and Barbara Medina from the Colorado Department of Education attend the sessions and the Keynote Luncheon.

Federally, foreign language education and programs are now being funded at the highest levels of the last two decades. Language acquisition state grants are being funded at \$670.8 million this year. President Bush is

requesting the same amount for next year as well. The Foreign Language Assistance Program is being funded at \$21.7 million, and President Bush is asking for an additional \$2 million in 2008.

Please contact your state and federal legislators, and strongly encourage them to continue to fund foreign language education. As we well know, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to find highly qualified foreign language teachers. Educators need to talk to their students about becoming teachers. Currently, the federal government has higher education grant programs for international education and foreign language studies worth \$105.7 million for foreign language teachers in critical needs languages. Consider our future and what you can do to advocate for it.

### ***Call for proposals ...***

#### **Central States 2008:**

#### ***Turning Today's Students into Tomorrow's Stars***

March 6-8, 2008 • Dearborn, Michigan

Have you noticed how today's students have changed in recent years? It seems that more of them don't do homework, don't study, don't pay attention in class, and don't have any idea why they aren't learning. What's more, it seems that more and more parents have either given up or are wringing their hands in frustration.

CSC would like to issue a challenge to all of you hard-working, determined, and committed teachers out there to share some of your successful strategies and techniques with us at our 2008 conference.

Suggested topics of interest include:

- motivating reluctant learners
- new methods and techniques
- differentiated instruction
- teaching study skills
- dealing with children of poverty
- communicating with and assisting parents
- classroom management: rewards, discipline, grading systems, etc.

Visit the Central States website

[www.centralstates.cc](http://www.centralstates.cc)

and complete an online session proposal form.

The deadline for proposals is April 15, 2007.

## State World Language Advisory Council (SWLAC) at the 2007 CCFLT Spring Conference

*Martie Semmer, SWLAC Co-Chair*

The State World Language Advisory Council (SWLAC) is playing a major role in moving forward initiatives that will strengthen K-12 foreign language education in Colorado. During the informative and productive sessions at the Spring Conference, ideas and strategies emerged that can provide momentum to our professional endeavors. Session highlights follow:

- **Making Choices Through Collaborative Voices** – Those who attended this session were energized at what guest speaker Barbara Medina, Ph.D., CDE English Language Acquisition Unit (ELAU) Director, had to say to us. She was supportive of the SWLAC goals including the advancement of the draft of the proposed Colorado Model Content Standards in Foreign Language. In addition, she noted the need for SWLAC to be somehow under the auspices of CDE. Dr. Medina mentioned that a good fit may be with the ELAU. She also noted that in the changed political climate, CCFLT should look at having a lobbyist as other organizations do. Another of Dr. Medina's recommendations was that foreign language presentations be scheduled for non-foreign language conferences, such as the Colorado Association of School Boards of Education (CASBE), Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), etc. Dr. William Maloney, Commissioner of Education, is resigning on or before June 30, 2007. As is always the case when a new Commissioner takes over, changes are inevitable. **Note:** Toni Theisen informed participants of the SWLAC Wikispace <http://swlac.wikispaces.com/>.
- **Important dates:** April 28, 2007 – SWLAC meeting; October 5, 2007 – Combined Foreign Language Administrators of Colorado (FLAC)/SWLAC meeting.
- **Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Higher Education Admission Requirement (HEAR) Foreign/World Languages Assessments Task Force** – Gully Stanford, Director of Pre-Collegiate Partnerships College In Colorado, and Vicki Leal, CCHE Academic Policy Advisor, directed task force members in the charge of identifying test-out options of the two-year HEAR Foreign Language requirement. Currently, the CCHE HEAR Foreign Language Requirement states that in order to be admitted to four-year public institutions of higher education in Colorado, students need at least two years of a foreign language in high school. Currently, implementation of the Foreign Language Requirement will begin in 2010. For those who choose not to take two years of a foreign language or cannot take two years of a foreign language, they will have the option to test out of this requirement. The purpose of the HEAR Foreign/World Languages Assessments Task Force is to identify assessments that can be used as test-out options. The Task Force is answering specific questions regarding each test-out option so that CCHE can make recommendations to local schools. The test-out proficiency level for listening, speaking, reading and writing is Novice-Mid of the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines. Mr. Stanford noted several bills that CCFLT and SWLAC should be aware of. He also mentioned that CCFLT should consider having a lobbyist, and SWLAC should consider meeting with key people at CCHE and in the Governor's Office.
- **CCHE & the College Track Requirements: An Opportunity for Some, A Struggle for Others. How Can We Help?** – Evie Hudak, State Board of Education (SBE) Congressional District 2 and SWLAC liaison to the SBE, and Cathy Chaten, Human Resources, Jefferson County Schools, were guests for this session. Ms. Hudak presented attendees with insights regarding the SBE role, and her interest in foreign/world language education issues is providing us with strategies to advance our initiatives and issues with State decision-makers. She also recommended that we consider hiring a lobbyist. She took notes of our concerns and understands the need for the SBE to approve the proposed Colorado Model Content Standards in Foreign Language. There was significant discussion regarding the teacher shortage that is contributing to the reluctance of school districts to accept the CCHE HEAR two-year foreign language requirement. Ms. Chaten noted that foreign language teachers are in a teaching category that is currently and in the near future experiencing one of the highest retirement rates when compared with teachers in other teaching categories. At the same time, graduating teacher candidates from teacher preparation programs in the field of foreign languages are among the fewest when compared with teacher candidates in other fields.
- **CCFLT Letter-Writing Campaign to State Board of Education** – A special thanks goes out to all of you who wrote a letter at the CCFLT Conference to the State Board of Education to express the need for the State Board of Education to take steps to approve the proposed Colorado Model Content Standards for Foreign Language.

**CCFLT New member / Membership renewal / Change of address Form**

Joining and renewing are easier than ever now that we've added a credit card payment option. To keep the CCFLT Newsletter and Peals coming, just fill out the following form and send it in today.

*Please take a moment to check the mailing label on this Newsletter to verify that your CCFLT membership is current. Membership dues will increase in July 2007, so take advantage of the current lower rates with a multi-year membership.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Language(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Levels you teach or administer \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership:** *CCFLT membership must be current in order to register for conferences during the academic year. Please select the appropriate category:*

- Professional member, one year ..... \$30 \_\_\_\_\_
- First-year teacher, one year..... \$15 \_\_\_\_\_
- Professional member, two years ..... \$50 \_\_\_\_\_
- Professional member, three years ..... \$70 \_\_\_\_\_
- Professional member, five years ..... \$100 \_\_\_\_\_
- Joint membership, one year, one household ..... \$42 \_\_\_\_\_
- Student member, one year ..... \$15 \_\_\_\_\_
- Retired member, one year ..... \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total payment enclosed** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Remit total amount due by check payable to CCFLT or provide credit card information:**

VISA or MASTERCARD number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZIP Code of the billing address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the following, as applicable:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Contact me regarding committee work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sign me up to be a session host at the Spring Conference.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tell me more about being nominated for and working on the CCFLT Board of Directors.

**Mark your selection below:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to receive only a hard copy of the newsletter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to receive only an electronic copy of the newsletter.

Please forward this form and payment to: CCFLT, P.O. Box 621, Englewood, CO 80151-0621  
 Questions? Contact Deena Tunnell at 303-789-3216 or [pdunnell@msn.com](mailto:pdunnell@msn.com)

## **23rd Annual CCFLT Fall Grants**

### **Application deadline April 28, 2007**

Each Fall, CCFLT presents two monetary grants to teachers.  
If you have an idea for a project for your classroom,  
please consider applying for one of the following grants:

**\$500 Fall Innovation Grant**

**\$250 Fall Innovation Grant**

For more information, please visit the CCFLT website at  
<http://www.ccflt.org/grants.htm>

See page 9 for application information for grants to be awarded in the Fall 2007.

**The Newsletter of The Colorado Congress of  
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David and Alisa Burrous, Editors  
CCFLT  
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