



Kansas World Language Association Newsletter, April 2007

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Peggy Boyles, Spanish teacher, author, consultant, teacher trainer, Outstanding Oklahoma Foreign Language Educator, and ACTFL Florence Steiner Award recipient has agreed to be our keynote presenter. Some members will remember her presentations on the National Standards at our 2000 conference. This year she will help us explore teaching culture and art. We are pleased to have her back and hope you all like her new topics as much as we do. (More about Peggy at www.peggyboyles.com)

FRIDAY WORKSHOP: Taking a Behind the Scenes Tour with Cultural Instruction!

By looking “behind the scenes” of cultural practices and products, students can begin to discover the perspectives and values of the culture they are studying. Although culture has traditionally been taught by offering students bits and pieces of cultural information, providing strategies for our students to guide them to think reflectively about both their own culture and that of the target culture can help them get beyond the outer layers of cultural awareness and begin to penetrate the core perspectives. By using authentic sources, we can design activities and assessments that lead our students to become “cultural anthropologists” and to discover the deeper layers of cultural understanding. Workshop participants will see and discuss examples of activities and assessments that use art, movie clips, websites and other authentic resources to develop cultural activities that will enhance the units they teach. So start popping the popcorn! Google to your heart's content! There can be method to our madness!

SATURDAY WORKSHOP: A Heads-Up from the Master Artists: Tips for Integrating Art into World Language Instruction

Imagine what it would be like to teach French with Pierre-Auguste Renoir by your side! What secrets could Frida Kahlo whisper into your ears as you teach Spanish vocabulary and grammar? What tips could Heinrich Hoffman offer you as you explore German culture? This workshop will model a variety of methods to integrate art into the classroom in a communicative way. Attendees will participate in a variety of activities with the presenter and will then create similar activities and performance-based assessment tasks throughout the workshop to use in their classrooms. Examples will be given in Spanish, French, German and Japanese, although all are applicable to all languages.

2007 Session Proposals

Submit session proposals by June 1. Find the “Call for Presentations” [form on our website](#). Fill it out, then copy it, and send it in. Use your own copy of the proposal as a guide for

planning your presentation over the summer, getting feedback from us, if you need it. The organization does require you to be a current member, register for the conference, and to follow the proposal form assurances. Vice President Chuck Thorpe (cthorge@ksu.edu,) will be compiling session proposals, organizing them into four time slots, and helping clarify expectations.

Annual Awards – Teacher of the Year, Ermal Garinger Scholarship, Mini-grants, Loren Alexander Award, and VIPs

Take a look at all of the admirable colleagues around you who have not been recognized for their hard work and professionalism. Then nominate one of them for the Teacher of the Year Award. This year we are considering combining our award with the ISE Award of Excellence, which includes a monetary gift 'reward'. This and the other four types of awards granted by our association have a June 1 deadline. Explanations concerning each award can be found on our [webpage](#). Please act now to help us reach deserving folks.

AATF Kansas News

Gail Burkett received the French Educator of the Year Awards from chapter president Nora Kelting during their November 2006 meeting. Not only has Gail helped recently with the *Concours* but she has been an important part of French education in Kansas for thirty years. Read more about this award, and other news, in the latest [Kansas AATF News](#)

Seeking new Executive Secretary

The Executive Council seeks a dedicated member willing to serve as executive secretary. The position requires an average of 16 hours per month, and is perfect for an 'empty nester' or part-time teacher needing to supplement income. For more information, read more [on our website](#), contact Jerry Smartt (jerrysmartt@friends.edu) or Phyllis Farrar at the address below.

State Standards Review

The Foreign Language Curriculum Standards adopted in 2000 are scheduled to be reviewed and updated in 2007. A committee of approximately 25 people will convene on May 5 at the Salina Public Library to plan a summer work session. Possible revisions and additions intend to make the more document more useful for district and classroom curriculum planning. Improvements could include more specificity of indicators, including grade levels and proficiency levels, more direction for assessing specific indicators, and more detail. Representation is especially needed for French and less commonly taught languages, but all volunteers would be welcome. Look at the general information on the [KSDE website](#), then contact Phyllis Farrar, using her work address of pfarrar@ksde.org.

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