

The IWLA Bulletin

A Newsletter for the Members of the Iowa World Language Association

Volume XVI No. 3

Spring 2010

From the President: Sara Blanco

It's that time of year again! Is it just me or do you feel like your work load triples just as the weather gets nice? It's also about that time of year, for the PK-12 teacher at least, when those darlings that entered your classroom in August are beginning to lose their charm. If you are like me, the frequency of deep breathing exercises has increased greatly in your day. Keep breathing friends, we're almost there, the end is in sight.

There is some uplifting news to share from the Executive Board and happenings in the state. First of all, an exciting proposition appeared in House File 2270. State Representative Ako Abdul-Samad authored a bill to require Iowa school districts to teach a foreign language in grades one through six. The bill asks that districts add this to their curriculum by 2012. You can read the bill by going to [http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/linc/HF2270 Introduced.pdf](http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/linc/HF2270%20Introduced.pdf). As an Elementary Spanish teacher myself, I am so pleased that Representative Abdul-Samad realizes the necessity and developmental appropriateness of early language education.

Next, an idea came up during an Advisory Council meeting at the fall conference to tap into businesses to provide scholarships for world language teachers to attend the IWLA conference. Districts are short on funding for professional development and we don't want teachers to miss out on needed "sharpening of the saw" as Stephen Covey would say. Therefore, we are in the process of creating a form that you can take to a business and pursue this possible scholarship source. Look for this to appear on the IWLA website soon.

In addition, is the work to have World

Languages added to the Iowa Core Curriculum. Contact was made to the Cheryl Mullenbach who is the contact person for the Social Studies content area. Social Studies was recently added and we thought we could use the process they went through as an example of how to get World Languages added. The feedback was not what we had hoped it would be. We also contacted the administrator of the Iowa Core Curriculum, Cindy Yelick, to begin communication and to receive guidance in this process. We are hopeful that we can set up a meeting with her to further discuss this project. The commission continues to collect letters of support and we are looking for more people to serve on a committee to continue working on this sizable project.

Those of you who attended the fall conference know that our Immediate Past President, Patricia Calkins, is spear heading the use and integration of Linguafolio in the state of Iowa. We are forming a Linguafolio Committee to work on this project and the Executive Board thought it would be appropriate to add a Linguafolio Representative to the Advisory Council. At our last meeting we voted Patricia in as the first representative of that committee. If you are interested in serving on the newly formed Linguafolio committee please contact Patricia at patricia.calkins@simpson.edu.

I feel so fortunate to be serving on the IWLA Executive Board at a time when so many great projects are in the works. It really is inspiring to see so many working to improve the quality of world language education in the state of Iowa. To all of you out there, making your contribution through your teaching and classroom, it is such a privilege to serve you through IWLA.

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**THANKS FOR YOUR
LEADERSHIP,
OFFICERS OF IWLA!!**

Conference Update

By: Patricia Calkins

As Past President of the IWLA, I have been working to organize our next meeting. The next conference of the Iowa World Language Association will be held on October 8 and 9, 2010 at the Downtown Marriott in Des Moines, 700 Grand Avenue. Once again we will be fortunate to be holding our meeting at the same time as the World Food Festival in Des Moines' East Village area, so that you can not only enjoy networking with your colleagues but can also sample international cuisine and entertainment as well. The Downtown Marriott is located in the center of Des Moines, close to major cultural attractions. There is easy parking available at a city parking garage just across the street.

The topic for this year's conference is "Languages Are Everyone's Business," by which we would like to highlight how world language educators and business persons are natural allies in building an Iowa for the 21st century. Our speaker is Ogden sculptor, poet and creative consultant David Williamson. Mr. Williamson will present a keynote address entitled "Is the Language of Business Foreign to You?" as well as a workshop, "Same Planet. Different Worlds," which further develops his ideas. The workshop will be presented twice on Friday. As the IWLA moves forward with LinguaFolio and forges new alliances to strengthen the conditions for language learning in Iowa, we need to learn how to find common ground with others whose interests dovetail with our own. Mr. Williamson can help us learn how to make those alliances, whether we are comfortable functioning in the business world or not. Descriptions of his presentations are found below.

Is the Language of Business Foreign to You? *The connections between world languages and business success have never been stronger. As a foreign language educator, are you able to position yourself strategically in the new economy? Is MBWA a part of your daily vocabulary? Are you able to spot a Blue Ocean business even if it's located on land? Do you think Lean Six Sigma is a new diet plan? Get ready for a crash course in biz trends which will prepare you for a world in which the edge is dead, the box doesn't exist, and the sky is no longer the limit.*

Same Planet. Different Worlds. *The better story doesn't always win. Those who tell their story better . . . win. That's why creativity has become a survival skill in the emerging economy. Whether you are selling languages or laptops, it's important to be able to tell your story in compelling ways. This session will maximize your creativity and give you powerful insights about teaching verbal skills in nonverbal ways.*

We are still seeking proposals for presentations at the 2010 conference. The proposal form can be found on the IWLA website <http://www.iwla.net/conf/prop.html>. As a new service this year, you will be able to fill out and submit the proposal form electronically. Proposals are due by June 20, 2010. We're very happy to have you submit your proposal to present singly or as part of a team. Your colleagues are looking forward to the great ideas you have to share!

Come join us for this year's IWLA conference. You can refresh your teaching with new ideas, network with old friends or make new ones, enjoy some international entertainment in the East Village, and learn how to help the IWLA strengthen the position of language learning in Iowa, all while staying in a comfortable hotel in downtown Des Moines. Be watching for conference registration materials at the end of the summer. See you in October !



Grant Code Number: _____ (assigned by IWLA)

2010 IWLA Grant Application Form

Please type or print neatly so that materials may be clearly copied for members of the Grants Committee. Any identification information will be filled out on the following page to ensure anonymity for the Grants Committee.

Language(s) taught: _____

Level(s): _____ FLES _____ Middle School _____ High School _____ Post-Secondary

Description: Write a brief description of the project for which you are seeking IWLA funding.

What, if anything, makes this project innovative or unique?

How many people will benefit from your project? Who are they?

Total amount you are seeking for funding: \$ _____
(Amount may not exceed \$500)

Have you done the following to make this a complete grant application?

- Completed the above project description?
 - Attached a required, itemized budget for your project?
 - Read the IWLA guidelines on the following page and completed your personal/school contact information?
- Understood that, if funded, you will be expected to share your work with members of IWLA either through a presentation at the annual conference or through an article written for the *IWLA Bulletin*?

Mail all application materials to the current President-Elect of IWLA:

Wade Petersen
 2911 SW Glenbrooke Blvd.
 Ankeny, IA 50023

email:
 wadecp@netins.net

Remember to keep a copy of all materials for your records. Thanks!
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IWLA Grant Applications Guidelines:

- Grant recipients must be members in good standing of the Iowa World Language Association.
- Grants from the IWLA will be determined by the availability of funds from year to year, based on the budget. **Grants to individual teachers will not exceed \$500.**
- Grants are primarily for, but not limited to, innovative projects. Priority is given to requests which are unique in nature, and which clearly demonstrate an ability to reach great numbers of teachers and students.
- Requests to support applicants' travel to target cultures will not be considered, nor should applicants submit requests to be paid for the time they spend on a project.
- **The deadline for applications is May 1st.** Recipients will be notified of grants by September 1st and will be recognized in a ceremonial presentation at the IWLA Conference luncheon.
- Upon notification of acceptance, the applicant will be allotted one-half of the funds allocated. The remainder of the grant will be forwarded only when receipts for all expenses for the approved project have been submitted to the IWLA President-Elect, who will verify that the project is completed. The President-Elect will then notify the Treasurer to forward the remaining grant money to the recipient.
- If a project is funded, the recipient is also expected to share his or her work in one of two ways:
 - a brief article submitted to the *IWLA Bulletin* or
 - a presentation at the annual IWLA conference.***This must be done within one year after the termination of the project.***
- Applications will be coded to ensure anonymity of applicants for the benefit of the Grants Committee's selections. Please avoid language on the application that would easily identify the person, school, or district involved.

IWLA Grant Application Identification Information *(include the form below with your grant application)*

Date: _____ **Grant Code (assigned by IWLA)** _____

Applicant's name and position: _____

School name/address/phone:

Home address/phone:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

The following is to be completed by your school principal, superintendent, or department head.

I understand that _____ has applied for a grant from the Iowa

World Language Association to support a project involving _____

I am confident that he or she is capable of completing this project as described in the application, and I support this work.

Signed: _____ Position: _____ Date: _____

ACTFL 2009
Speaking Up for Languages...
The Power of Many Voices

By: Mary Doyle

The 2009 ACTFL Conference took place In San Diego, California November 20 – 22, 2009. The delegate assembly was held on November 19th.

Sunny San Diego was host to over 6,000 language educators from around the globe. From the delegate assembly through the closing session on Sunday there were a wealth of opportunities and experiences to be had.

The Opening Session featured Steve Hildebrand as the Keynote Speaker. Steve Hildebrand is the former Deputy Campaign Manager for Barack Obama. His address was titled “Organizing for Change: Foreign Languages and the Obama Administration” Mr. Hildebrand focused on how many of the same strategies used in a campaign can be applied to the task on enlisting grassroots demand and support for stronger language programs across the US.

He began his address by talking about the population trends in the next 10 – 15 years and the changes likely to take place in our cultural diversity in the U.S. He quoted President Obama on the topic of language learning, “Every child should speak more than 1 language” Powder Spring, GA campaign rally. “We should be worried about teaching our children another language”.

His message focused on the economic and social issues involved with learning another language stating, “If we want to sell our good we should be able to communicate with our business partners in their languages” An English only focus marginalizes communities who speak other languages.

He also stressed that activism is critical in moving language study forward. We need

to know the records and public statements of state and local politicians. We need clear, short and positive talking points. We need to publicize the success stories and we need to get top business people, companies, parents and others to come together both in real time but also online and through technology (Face book, Twitter, etc)

Hildebrand urged us to raise our collective voices as advocates for the importance of foreign language education to our nation’s economic, political, and social survival. Yes, he was preaching to the choir, but his message confirmed the importance of our profession and enhanced the strong sense of camaraderie already evident among the throng.

Ideally, the general public would also see the importance of multilingualism to our nation's ability to communicate with trading partners and foreign governmental agencies.

This is a link to the video he showed to encourage all of us to look to the communication trends for now and the future. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIFYPQjYhv8>

ACTFL 2009
The Delegate Assembly

By: Mary Doyle

The 2009 ACTFL Delegate Assembly was held all day on November 19th, 2009. Representatives from state language associations were present as were officials and representatives from ACTFL and other professional organizations.

The List of Agenda Topics:

1. College Board Vertical Teams for Foreign Languages
2. Changes in Advanced Placement Program
3. National Initiatives in Foreign Languages: Education Department, U.S. House and Senate
4. The Stimulus Legislation
5. State Perspectives on Language Educa-

tion Priorities

6. 21st Century Skills
7. Credit Flexibility
8. New American Diploma Project
9. Enrollment Statistics and Impact on Programs
10. Standards and their impact on programs
11. State level Advocacy Efforts
12. Startalk and its impact on Foreign Language Programs
13. Position Statements on Technology, Class Size, Heritage Languages, and Use of Target Language

Presentations, discussions, implications and future planning were all a part of the day.

It was obvious that several main areas of concern are present throughout the US. Agenda item number #3, National Initiatives in Foreign Languages: Education Department, U.S. House and Senate” was a very interesting and informative discussion. I would encourage all IWLA members to follow the national initiatives through any of the government websites that address the topic, check with your own U.S. House and Senate representatives and ask questions about their involvement.

Another big topic was #6 21st Century Skills. ACTFL is working on a framework for inclusion of languages into the Core Curriculum. This will assist all states and state coordinators in working to include world languages as part of the Core curriculum.

There were a variety of other important ideas brought forth; discussed and positive constructive plans were made in many of the topics.

A full report of the Assembly can be read in the January 2010 issue of the ACTFL “Language Educator” journal. Many of the individual sessions at ACTFL 2009 continued the focus on 21st century skills, on language advocacy, on technology

strategies and materials. The ACTFL library has many of the sessions available.

<http://community.actfl.org/ACTFL/ACTFL/Resources/ResourceLibraries/Default.aspx>

Many of the 2009 convention presenters have linked their documents, power points and other materials to the library resource listing.

It is critical for world language programs in Iowa that we continue to advocate for our programs, that we continue to stress the need for a state foreign language consultant and we continue to be represented at the regional at Central States and the national level at ACTFL. As we face smaller budgets, program cuts and changes in national initiatives in education we will be best served by working together, educating ourselves about the issues and heeding the advice of the ACTFL keynote Steve Hildebrand to become strong connected advocates for our profession.

NEEDED:
Exhibitors for the 2010
IWLA
Conference
For more information
contact:
Julie Wilhelm:
jwhelm@iastate.edu
Regina Schantz:
rschantz@washington.k12.ia.us

IWLA Executive Board Meeting
Saturday, December 12, 2009
Marshalltown Public Library

Attendees: Stacy Amling, Sara Blanco, Patricia Calkins, Erik Ladner, Carrie Mulvihill, Wade Petersen.

Meeting called to order at 9:12AM.

Review of Minutes of last meeting - Thursday, October 8, 2009.

President notifies the Teacher of the Year of going to Central States as IWLA nominee. Need to change on website so that grant proposals come to Wade and he will send to Grace. Wade to remove names and identifying information. Wade planning e-mail blast in February to publicize grants. Encourage them to become members in order to apply for grants.

President-Elect as point person to make website changes. Contact info for Executive Board should be updated.

Membership

There was a brief discussion on doing away with membership fees. We don't get very much money from memberships above and beyond the conference. Anyone who is a FL teacher could say they are a member and if they participate in events, etc. Paying membership could be keeping people away. Can save \$600/year and e-mail blast Bulletin rather than mailing out. Can do e-mail blast out to all 1200 FL teachers. With technology and budgets as they are, we should re-think the way we do business.

People join to come to the conference. Conference fees were set to cover the conference, and don't need to consider any portion of that for membership fees.

Need to make sure that there isn't something in ACTFL that says you can't have people who come to the conference without paying to be members.

Not as much pressure to emphasize special benefits for members.

Presenting at the conference the following year could be required for a grant,

rather than membership. Program chair just needs to remember to contact them.

The e-mail blast is helping to reach out to new teachers who didn't know about the organization in the past, especially through teacher education programs. If they are able to come to the conference, they will. We can give them something that they want through the e-mail connection.

Could just change amount in by-laws to \$0, but the by-laws may need to be updated. Could still ask for donation for scholarships, grants, etc. Could pay voluntary membership fee. Money will be used for grants, scholarships, etc.

Communications

Should set up IWLA e-mail address to send messages to the e-mail blast. Also, would have officer accounts set up—IWLA president, IWLA vice president. Could be good for people to be able to contact IWLA easily according to office. Then the address wouldn't change from year to year. We should also remove years from forms wherever possible to save from having to recreate items from year to year.

We cannot sell the e-mail blast list because when e-mail addresses were provided, all were told the list wouldn't be sold and they wouldn't get junk e-mail.

Erik will check with Julio on how to be able to send the 1200 member message out at one time. Perhaps the limit of recipients could be increased. Ask Julio for an e-mail service recommendation. Some schools are seeing the messages as spam. Some website updates were also put together for assistance from Julio.

Receiver could put the sender on their own personal safe-list so that the message doesn't get kicked back. Individuals can try to do it. Wade could put a note at the bottom of the message to have them check to allow for future messages. Could help cut down on having to

send messages back each time.

Patricia Calkins made a motion to approve the minutes, with the second by Erik Ladner. Motion carried.

Conference concerns

Next year's conference likely will be impacted by budget cuts. Schools have cut professional leave and paying conference registration and fees. Teachers will have to take personal leave and potentially pay for subs, transportation, lodging and the conference. We need to plan appropriately. For pre-conference plans, could put together want ads to help arrange for roommates. There could be long term consequences due to budget problems.

May look to a Saturday one-day conference in 2011, 2012, 2013. 2010 is in Downtown Marriott again. Potentially also 3-4 more years after next year. Folks very happy with location, staff, space, etc. Issues like parking, etc. should not be an issue once attendees get used to the hotel's location.

We could do a survey to find out people's thoughts about where school districts stand for next year, looking ahead to the future conferences. Are you planning on attending no matter what? Will you definitely not be there? Does it depend on state funding? Would you attend a Saturday-only conference in 2011? This year we have already contracted for Friday for this year. We can re-negotiate some things, but can't cancel Friday.

If we negotiate multiple years, do we go back to normal weekend? Extra week helped a lot for turnaround time to get registration, getting things approved and paid. Board meetings often at end of month. It was a benefit this year to have the extra week.

Future conference discussion will be added to business for next meeting.

Iowa Core Curriculum

Have position statement and we are still getting letters. Next step to prepare to

have the meeting. Need to determine who will go. Wade, Sara, Carrie and Tammy should attend.

Need to update members and get more foot soldiers. This is a big economic commitment. Need to inform them, get them to get others involved. In the next 3 months, need ground support, especially from industries in town. Wade will contact the e-mail blast list and in the near future, we'll have to send out marching orders and draft the committee. Will have initial blast out before Christmas.

Cheryl Mullenbach is social studies person at Department of Education. Need to also work with Cindy Yelick from Iowa Core Curriculum. Start with Cheryl, then core curriculum people, then to Judy Jeffrey.

Board needs to become driving force of the plan. Sara wants to be able to represent the board.

Need to include wording for "as funds apply". Waivers are available to not go according to the Iowa Core Curriculum.

Look at other states for what they are doing for curriculum. If we had a supervisor, it would be better. If we go to LinguaFolio, would have to work with state FL supervisors anyway.

Need to get supervisor as part of core curriculum. No money to get supervisor, so have to push it through. Do we have the time and ability to be part of the Iowa Core Curriculum? If we can't get the \$47K staff person, then how do we get the millions to get it included in the core curriculum? We may be asked to develop the core curriculum for foreign languages.

Linguafolio would give us more tangible benefits. We could improve our situation through our organization with Linguafolio. It can help us take care of our own to get us all working together. Then the ICC can get us to the state supervisor.

We need to think of how all the work gets

done besides the six people on the board. We need a panel of 20 teachers around the state to convene to help us. We need to draft the ICC committee and determine what their role is.

We need ad hoc committees for ICC and for LinguaFolio. LinguaFolio coordinated through AAT's. We have some long-time members/retired members who would probably come back to help on one of these projects. There are some early in their careers who may want to be involved also.

Patricia will contact heads of AAT's to get input and put together ad hoc committee on LinguaFolio.

Sara will e-mail Marcia and Tammy to let her know where we're going. Send to everyone in the commission. Tell them we've met, we decided that we need to get information and rally some foot soldiers. Lots of questions need to get answered and we need to work on our next steps through Cheryl and at Cindy Yelick at the ICC.

Treasurer's Report

Good year in terms of income. Expenses include ACTFL for Mary Doyle, most big expenses for the year have been paid. Marriott came in under what they agreed to. Final bill from Marriott was \$28,771 and we had contracted for \$30,000. We made our room reservation minimum. They were very conscientious about the bill and had billed twice for something, but made the necessary change.

Overall up about \$8700 for the year so far. Need to write 2 checks for speaker honorariums and small gifts for program chairs.

Veridian account is at \$25,305.43. \$23,656.77 is in the savings account. Stacy will transfer \$10K from Veridian account to savings.

Susan Sandholm Pederson had never been taken off as a signer. Stacy is now a signer on the account. When insurance policy was written, it was set up so that

only the treasurer has access to the account, as there is a cheaper premium.

We can add someone else to the accounts without immediate impact on the insurance. Anyone else on our current executive board is excluded from touching the money. We can re-write when the policy is changed. Need to make it so that it's someone who has been given power by someone on the membership. We can change in 2 years. Premiums may rise by \$20 to have a 2nd person on there. Until June 30, 2011, policy is as it is now.

Sara nominated Keeka to be asked to serve as the second signer until the policy is changed. Erik seconded, and the motion carried.

Of the \$533 yearly charge for insurance, \$200 to cover fraud, etc. The rest is to cover liability.

Marcia Rosenbusch had mentioned in keynote to set aside \$5 from every registration to send a teacher abroad in a scholarship program as a self-sustaining project. This could help to promote our name and support our organization through providing opportunities. For this conference coming up, could set aside \$5 per registration for the next year.

Not our goal as an organization to be sitting on a big pile of money.

Look at increasing number of grants and scholarships that we offer. We had been running at a deficit, but now are in a better position to offer more services to membership. However, we need to be careful in the next couple years.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 23 in the same location.

Erik Ladner moved for adjournment. Patricia Calkins seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Teaching in the Target Language

By Erik Eisele
Spanish Education Major, UNI

As a pre-service teacher, I have found that the biggest discrepancy between what I have been taught and what I have viewed in the classroom is using the second language (L2). I have been taught that L2 should be used from the beginning to the end of a language class, rather than using L1 to explain ideas or topics. I have noticed during many of my experiences working with teachers that they rely on L1 to explain some of the information and therefore the students are unable to fully understand the language.

My education has taught me to use the L2 in the classroom when possible and I believe that this is a great idea. It will help the students with their listening comprehension and learn vocabulary without actually having to tell them what the specific words mean. I have found that the students who are submerged in the language learn more about the language and are less afraid to speak, which I feel is one of the biggest deterrents for students learning a foreign language in a classroom. On the other hand, I have experienced classrooms that use L1 for almost all of the instruction and the students in general are unable to speak clearly in the L2 and are also more afraid to speak L2 and will try to use L1 whenever possible.

I have observed many different types of classroom languages and techniques from Elementary Spanish to High School French. During my experience in these classrooms, I have found that when the teacher uses L2 for everything, the students are then succeeding. For example, in the French 3 classroom, I was astonished how much of the language juniors in high school have attained in only 3 years of studying. However, there are the teachers that never use L2, unless it is to give page numbers or very basic ideas and it is normally followed by the L1 equivalent and

therefore the students wait for the teacher to use L1. When viewing a Spanish 2 classroom, I found that students would ignore the beginning directions and wait for the teacher to explain it in English. I found that these students were behind in their L2 achievement.

Overall I feel that future teachers, like myself, as well as tenured teachers, need to be reminded that using L2 in the classroom not only helps the students learn listening skills, but their ability to speak also increases. If teachers only use L1 or minimal L2, students are losing out on the experience of learning a language because they are getting directions or ideas in L1 and then are unable to use it on their own. For the past, present, and future foreign language teachers, remind yourself and other foreign language teachers that using L2 in classroom may seem hard, but it is a necessity and without it, our students will continue to suffer.

Deadlines:

Fall issue—July 1, 2010

Winter issue—November 15,
2010

REMINDER:

The winter and spring editions of the IWLA bulletin are no longer published on paper. To read those issues check the IWLA website, iwla.net under back issues.

IWLA Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, March 6, 2010
Marshalltown Public Library

Attendees: Sara Blanco, Patricia Calkins, Erik Ladner, Carrie Mulvihill, Wade Petersen.

President Sara Blanco called the meeting to order at 9:22 AM.

After the minutes from the Saturday, December 12 meeting were read, Patricia Calkins moved for approval and it was seconded by Wade Petersen. The motion was carried

Old Business:

Bulletin Deadline Reminder

April 1 deadline for spring Bulletin submissions.

Patricia will submit an article about the speaker at next conference and a preview of the conference. Once the new bulletin is released, Wade will send a link to the Bulletin. Should mention HF 2270 that was filed by Rep. Abdul-Samad.

Patricia will interview Candace Sherwood and Erik Ladner will interview Jean-Pierre Taoutel as Teachers of the Year.

Could ask ACTFL (Mary Doyle) and Central States (Keeka) people for submissions. Jason Noble for update on project from grant funds.

Need encouraging submissions, perhaps from methods students or high school students.

We should include new teacher section to share perspectives of people throughout experience in profession.

Website Changes

Erik worked with Julio on making a lot of updates. He will pass on the grant form, information on Teacher of the Year awards. The membership form PDF file still has 2007-2008 on it under Member Benefits. May take off the links for

Member Benefits and Becoming a Member links to eliminate the subpage and just have one main page for members.

No Central States Reports from 2007, 2008, 2009 on website. Could just remove the link from the website, but will ask Keeka if she can submit something for the webpage. There are also dead links for an archived Bulletin.

Easiest way to put things on the IWLA main page is to post on the IWLA Facebook page. Next e-mail blast, encourage people to join the IWLA Facebook page.

Get photos from Juan of the award winners and the conference to include on page. Erik will get photos from Juan for website.

Could put videos/photos on website in a trailer form in order to entice people to come to the conference.

There is no website that would support a mailing list of 1200 people that would be available to us publicly. Blocks of 200 may be possible. Wade currently sending 35 e-mails to get messages to everyone. Wade will maintain his system for now.

Lots of positive feedback overall from the e-mail blasts.

Survey

No survey for conference. Will do one next year after the conference.

Difficult to get it done when it is the responsibility of the new person coming in who doesn't have the documents, background or process information.

Plan to do a survey every other year, but if other needs arise, we can have a survey on conference or other items.

Will move the survey duties from Vice President to President-Elect. Erik will do the survey next year.

Iowa Core Curriculum

Sara has not heard back from Cindy Yelick with Iowa Core Curriculum. She will check back with her to at least meet

with her face to face. We need feedback from her on steps to take and where we need to go.

Some people on the e-mail blast have shown some interest.

We need the Department of Education consultant to help us progress.

Discussion should be planned with Advisory Board as well to find out if there is actual willingness to follow through.

We need to find other channels to find out what can be done, potentially moving on to education policy advisor in Governor Culver's office.

An update in the Bulletin will be included to let people know that we're still working on making the contacts, but just don't have a lot of news.

New Business:

Issue with Advisory Council Meeting

Large meeting room not available at Marshalltown Public Library for meeting. Marshalltown Community College could be an option. Sara will look into other locations. Erik will scope out Ames locations.

Offer from Marriott

We could attempt to negotiate to 33K and 36K as opposed to the 35K and 38K that they are proposing. We should let them know that we are expecting fewer people to attend the conference. We could negotiate also for the same 3-5% increase in valet and food and beverage increase as they are proposing with the room. We locked in 30K for 2009-2010, we could ask to lock in at 33K for 2011-2012.

We can release some committed rooms in advance of the conference if necessary.

We may need to consider again not basing the conference in a hotel to save money. Awards luncheon costs a lot of money, and we need to determine if that is necessary. A Friday or Saturday conference could be an option.

Without a keynote, and the environment

that we have, you don't want it to just become teaching demonstrations. We still need to keep the kind of expert contact.

In the past, had conference at Iowa State campus, and some complained about having to drive from hotel, but a luncheon can still be held in that environment and we can provide a similar experience.

If we're going to commit to Marriott, need to be prepared to sign contracts in September 2010 for 2011 conference.

Decisions for 2013 conference with Marriott can't be made until after 2010 conference.

\$0 Membership

The by-laws only give guidance as far as increases in dues. The amount of dues is set by the Executive Board. We could set this as being open membership. The money the organization makes on membership only is not significant and those who don't come to the conference often don't pay for membership.

We should not do away with membership dues, but suspend them and keep open possibility to reinstate them. Otherwise if deemed necessary to have dues, could only increase by 25% from current dues.

This opens up grants and other options to all. People must only apply for membership, submitting their information.

Erik Ladner made a motion to suspend membership dues as of September 30, 2010. Patricia Calkins seconded. All present in favor. Motion carried.

There will be information in the Bulletin about this decision and also in the e-mail blast with a link to the Bulletin to get folks to consider the conference.

Selling membership list to vendors

Erik Ladner made a motion that we not sell our membership list to vendors. Wade Petersen seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Scholarships for teachers to attend conference, funded by businesses

Need to determine how to administer it so that everyone has a chance for funding. We could put together a form that would include conference costs and such and the member can send the form to businesses so they see what the cost is and an official source of information, and offer documentation to show their donation. Organization would sign the form saying that the person registered, attended.

Stacy and Carrie will work on form. One page submission form that a member could send to a business in order to get support to go to conference. Would it be advance payment or reimbursement? Work with Stacy to find out what companies would need as far as our ID number, etc. for them to get it designated as a donation.

Something like this is more doable than us setting up a specific fund and determining how it will be distributed.

Need to be prepared to e-mail out form in May. Sara will make reference to it in her article. Stacy/Carrie will get a draft to the executive board for the meeting in April.

\$100 to technology workshop presenters

Need to determine if we do another technology workshop. Perhaps need to designate someone not on executive board or advisory council to handle all the details.

Could do more technology workshops during the conference. Ask people to bring own laptop.

Linguafolio

Patricia contacted Ali Mueller from University of Nebraska-Lincoln and she is willing to help us. Patricia unsure of what we need right now and they will want to know that.

She also contacted the National Conference on State Supervisors of Language and Kentucky and Nebraska people were referenced as good contacts, but

Patricia has not heard back from them. Without a state supervisor, it could be very difficult to get something coordinated.

Patricia is planning to go through the AAT's right now until we can proceed on the state level.

This is Patricia's last year on the board, so need to consider the future of Linguafolio presence. We need to create Advisory Board position or to create a special committee, or both.

Wade Petersen moved that we create a Linguafolio committee and Advisory Council representative. Erik Ladner seconded. All present approved. Motion carried. President Sara Blanco appointed Patricia Calkins chair of Linguafolio committee and as Advisory Council representative for Linguafolio.

We will need to think about how the professional development would be carried out to prepare for Linguafolio. Universities will have to step up to host these institutes.

Miscellaneous

A materials swap was suggested for the IWLA conference. We are hesitant to organize it ourselves, as we don't want to be responsible for leftovers and getting rid of things, but could certainly suggest putting up posters or notifying people if someone wants to do this in their room, or could distribute materials or make them available through AAT meetings.

We need to make sure people are aware of Central States and Grant opportunities. Could be a permanent link to add to the page. For spring bulletin, right after Central States, it may be too early. May be something for the fall bulletin in more appropriate timeline.

Ask Dawn Frye to present conference report at executive board meeting after advisory council. If she cannot attend, a written report would be good.

Patricia Calkins made a motion for adjournment, Erik Ladner seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 12:00 PM.

The Power of Travel Abroad

By: Erik Ladner

Sometimes fate steps in when you least expect it. While I was still mulling topics for this article, we at Central College were holding the annual meeting of our Study Abroad directors who had traveled here from eight countries on three different continents to promote our programs to students. For those of us in the Modern Language Department, this is always an exciting time as it allows us to renew our contacts with our directors, and expose our students to all of the wonderful opportunities that study abroad has to offer. As I attended one of the meetings for students going to Spain this fall, I could not help but to be envious of them and the life-changing experience on which they are about to embark. As I contemplated this, I began to reflect on how important such experiences are in inspiring our students and expanding their world views.

As teachers of world languages, we all know the benefits, professional and personal, that the study abroad experience offers our students. What may not be so evident, however, is that for many students that major or minor in a second language, their desire to pursue language study at the college level is a result of having traveled to another country prior to beginning their post-secondary studies. Increasingly I see among my students a number who have traveled abroad (in my case, to Spanish-speaking countries) during their high school years, with many of them pointing to those experiences as one of the primary motivators for why they chose to pursue languages after high school. I personally credit the opportunity to travel to Mexico while I was in high school as a major factor in my decision to major in world languages (Gerald Hollingsworth- if you are reading this, THANK YOU!). Many years later, I had the opportunity to co-direct a summer program in Brazil, and it was only then that I fully understood from the teacher's point of view the impact that study abroad can have

on a student's outlook and world view.

What can we as teachers of world languages do to bring this opportunity to our students? The first obvious answer is to lead study abroad trips in our schools. For many of you, I am preaching to the converted, but for others, particularly new teachers, this is something you might not have had a chance to explore. On the surface this might seem like an easy and fun idea, though great consideration should be given before deciding to take on this responsibility. If you are comfortable with assuming responsibility for your students, there are many reputable companies that provide guided tours for high school groups (many, incidentally, pay part or all of the teacher's expenses provided there are enough students traveling). What you will find is that after returning, your students will be far more energized and engaged in the classroom, and the stories they will tell their friends will promote excitement in your courses among peers that didn't go, often times extending into the following one or two school years after the trip.

Beyond simply taking students abroad, there are other ways to encourage students to travel. Many external organizations provide our students opportunities to travel abroad. To the extent you are aware of them and are in a position to recommend them, many churches offer mission trips that provide students a wonderful opportunity to travel, interact with speakers of another language, and also gain a service-learning experience. There are also many foundations that offer scholarships for study abroad. Although many are targeted to semester or year-abroad programs, some also promote shorter programs. One website I would recommend looking at for more information about these opportunities is <http://www.studyabroadfunding.org/>. This site offers an extensive list of scholarship opportunities organized by countries, areas of study and personal interests. This site, incidentally, also offers resources for

teachers and professional as well.

Speaking realistically, many of our students cannot study abroad for a number of reasons, most notably financial. An alternative is to bring the study abroad experience to the classroom. There are many virtual tours available online of a place that can serve as a cultural lesson and a source of follow-up conversation. Personally I have found Youtube to be one of the best resources for finding such visits, though there are many other sites that offer video tours of cities and countries around the world. Another alternative (which many of you may already use) is to have students develop their own "virtual tours", in which they present a place to the class in the target language. These are wonderful alternatives for bringing our students into contact with distant lands and cultures without having to actually leave the classroom.

As this academic year winds down and you begin thinking ahead to next school year, I encourage you to consider how you can incorporate the promotion of travel abroad into your courses. For those that have the opportunity to go abroad, it is a life-changing experience that will benefit them on levels beyond the advancement of their language proficiency. Even if you are not able to convince students to study abroad, exposure to the idea is often enough to serve to inspire them to dream, and that is the ultimate value of including the abroad experience, real or virtual, into our language courses.

2010 Central States Report

By: Keeka Baedke

The 2010 Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages was held on March 4-6, in Minneapolis. It was an excellent conference! It was great to see many IWLA colleagues in attendance. The program was filled with informative and invigorating sessions and workshops that explored current topics. The exhibit hall had something for everyone. And the confer-

ence provided great opportunities to spend time with old friends and to meet new ones.

I would like to encourage you to start making plans now to attend next year's conference in Indianapolis, March 3-5, at the Hyatt Regency. And if you do decide to attend, please pay your Advisory Council membership in August and contact me about possible ways to enhance your conference experience by representing IWLA at various workshops, meetings and trainings.

I look forward to our future involvement in Central States together!

Good news from Central States!

By: Keeka Baedke

This fall I was nominated for a position on the Board of Directors of the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. I was informed just before the March conference that I was one of three directors elected.

It has been an honor and a privilege representing Iowa at the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages for the past four years at the Delegate Assembly, as a presenter, and on the Advisory Council. I look forward to serving IWLA and CSCTFL in this new capacity for the next four years.

Here are some of my goals:

IWLA Participation in all Central States workshops and programs, including the Extension Workshop, the Delegate Assembly, and the Leadership Program.

IWLA members apply for scholarships offered through CSCTFL

IWLA to apply for a Central States grant every year to help fund an organization initiative.

IWLA to establish a process for the annual selection of the Iowa nominee for the Central States Teacher of the Year

Thank you, IWLA for being my home and for helping me explore my broader community!



Iowa World Language Association
www.iwla.net

2010
Nomination
Deadline:
April 30

Iowa World Language Association “Educator of the Year” Nomination Form

Please nominate a person whom you believe exemplifies the best in teaching at his/her particular level and who has provided outstanding service to the profession in the state of Iowa and to the Iowa World Language Association. Service to the IWLA may be in the form of, but not limited to: presentations to the IWLA or subgroups thereof, such as outreach workshops; support groups; service on the Board, Advisory Council, or on IWLA committees; sharing results of grant work; articles contributed to the *IWLA Bulletin*; and other such contributions. **Recipients must be members in good standing of IWLA.** Recipients are selected on these criteria alone. No consideration is given to the candidate’s language specialization. You may not nominate yourself.

Past recipients of this award are not eligible. These outstanding educators include:

Jim Becker, Lydia Ruiz, Marcia Rosenbusch, Nile Vernon, Anne Volkman, Donna Grunstad, James Graham, Sandy Nyhus, Shelly Winters, Magdalene Mujica-Voy, Michael Oates, Barbara Maitland, Toni Baugher, Walter Chatfield, Janine Shelley, Barbara Peterson, Dedi Walker, Rosemarie VanDyk, Patricia Westphal, Janet Brown Lowe, Evelyn Bress, Joan Pace, Joan Lewis, Jacques Dubois, Lieselotte Ritter, Jane Klaver, Linda Wilson, Ana Peck, Cheryl Voelliger, Connie Smith, Tom Dougless, Jurgen Koppensteiner, Russ Freerking, Alicia Van Bergen, Denise Murray, Nelle Hutter, Heidi Galer, Jeanette Borich, Sally Clute, Donna Van Bodegraven, Eunice Van Tuijl, Holly Kaptain, Kerisa Baedke, Mercia Foster, Paris Sangrene, Trish Colburn, Larry Pace, Joye Lore-Larson, Lowell Hoeft, Hildegard (Pochy) Morales, Jere Brands, Moira McCluney, Tatiana Spektor, William Hemmes, Shelly Power, Tammy Dann, Steve Christianson, Dawn Frye, Wade Petersen, Patricia Calkins, Kay Wells, Lindsey Rice Cornwell, Susan Sandholm-Petersen, Beth Vandervilt, Terri Gebel, Anna Marasco, Dawn Bratsch-Prince, Sara Blanco, Elizabeth Zwanziger Page, Coralie Turner, Lisa Sobotka, Anne Lair, Candace Sherwood, Jean-Pierre Taoutel

My nominee for the IWLA “Educator of the Year” is:

Elementary/Middle School (K-8)
 Secondary (9-12)
 Post-Secondary

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Attach a typed statement with this nomination form indicating why you feel this Iowa educator merits the award on the basis of service to the profession in the state of Iowa and to the IWLA.

You must identify yourself for this nomination to be considered valid:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number and E-mail: _____

The Iowa World Language Association also recognizes members whose entire careers have reflected the best in world language teaching and in service to the organization with **The Distinguished Service Award**. If you would like to nominate someone for this extremely special award, please give his/her name, address, and phone below.

Mail all nomination materials to the current President-Elect of IWLA:

Wade Petersen, 2911 SW Glenbrooke Blvd., Ankeny, IA 50023

email: wadecp@netins.net

Reflections on Student Teaching

By: Amy Roberts, Spanish Education Major, UNI

Student teaching has really been one learning experience after another. I am amazed at how much I have progressed and learned as a teacher, both through observation of my cooperating teachers, and from my own experience in the classroom. I have discovered which classroom management strategies work best for middle school students; what goes into the planning and grading of a group project; and how best to avoid panic and chaos at the mention of an oral exam. However, what has had the biggest effect on me personally, has been being able to see and reaffirm everyday the reason I decided to be a teacher in the first place; which is the relationship a teacher is able to develop with each group of unique, individual students.

Before I started my student teaching experience, I was very nervous and more than a little scared of the great unknown I was about to enter into...an unknown also referred to as Middle and High School Spanish. I wondered what I had gotten myself into, and how I was going to be able to handle seven periods a day of tough middle and high school students, who I was sure were most likely going to eat me alive on my first day. After surviving that first day, though, and getting settled into being part of the classroom, I was both relieved and excited to discover that my reasons for becoming a teacher were still there. As I began to become more involved and part of the everyday life of the classroom, the relationships I was able to develop with the students both reignited, and reaffirmed my passion for teaching.

I truly love the Spanish language, and it is wonderful to have the ability to share that skill with so many different students. Knowing that I've had even the tiniest positive effect on a student's life, though, even if it's just making them smile every once in while, is what makes teaching a passion for me rather than just a profession. No matter what language you speak, all children understand kindness. Even if they don't necessarily show it, and if you as the teacher never

know that your smiles mattered to anyone, I guarantee that they did matter to someone. I've learned to enjoy kids for who and what they are, and although some days my "passion" for teaching is thoroughly tested, I have learned to remind myself that there is a reason I'm doing what I'm doing, and that I wouldn't have it any other way!

IWLA Suspends Membership Dues!

by Wade Petersen

At its [March 5th](#) meeting, the Executive Board of the Iowa World Language Association has voted to suspend "membership dues" to our organization beginning [September 1, 2010](#).

Why this? Why now? We are a progressive organization that is flexible enough to move with the times and to adapt to the needs of Iowa teachers. We all know that Iowa schools have been hit hard with budget and staff reductions. In fact, we have seen many school districts cut programs in their world language curriculum. We realize that many districts, in an effort to save money, are eliminating professional development by denying time and money for teachers to attend conferences. This scares us.

"Membership" in an association has always prompted the question, "What do I get for being a member?" It USED TO mean that you were simply on the mailing list and got a copy of the *IWLA Bulletin* which contained articles, ideas, information and registration forms for the next conference (and if you missed a conference for any reason, you were not included in the next year's mailing). It also meant that you were able to apply for grants and that you were eligible for Educator of the Year awards. It also separated us, as educators, into teachers and schools who could afford to send staff to a conference and into those who could not. The Board felt it was time to adopt the "big tent" policy...there is room enough in our organization for ALL Iowa world language

teachers.

Since IWLA maintains a constantly-evolving website (www.iwla.net – thanks to Julio Rodriguez at Iowa State), information is now available to anyone who wants access. We do not have to rely on sending out a newsletter by mail to members. During the summer of 2009, a comprehensive email list of over 1100 world language teachers in Iowa was compiled; this has proved to be a vital tool in our efforts to increase communication with ALL world language teachers in Iowa. Now, everyone receives updates, registration forms, and calls for advocacy.

So what does this all mean? You are granted status as a “member” of the Iowa World Language Association if you so wish it. The membership dues in the past were included in the cost of the IWLA Conference and helped to fund our programs throughout the year. Very few individuals ever sent in separate “membership dues” who did not attend the conference. Simply put, the cost you will now be charged to attend the Conference will include the amount of money we need to put on the conference and to fund our organization; no part of this will be designated as “membership dues.” Teachers are common sense people who realize that conference costs continue to rise. The Board of the Iowa World Language Association believes we offer the BEST conference for creating opportunities and finding resources for practicing teachers to update their skills and improve their teaching and for encouraging the use of new teaching methodologies and technologies in language education.

We welcome all comments and suggestions. The Iowa World Language Association is looking to the future, and we need every world language teacher in Iowa to be a part of the vision!

Want to become a more active member of the IWLA?

Run for Vice President or Central States Representative

If you are interested in one of these positions contact one of the IWLA Officers.

Upcoming Conferences.....

AATF—July 4-7. Philadelphia, PA

AATSP—July 10-13, Guadalajara, Mexico

IWLA— October 8-9, Des Moines, Iowa

ACTFL— November 19-21, Boston, MA