



Thanks for another great CLTA Conference!

By Nadine Elwood—Local Conference Chair, Orange County

The suitcases are packed; the bags are crammed with handouts. Your head is probably stuffed with new ideas too—and that's a good thing because that was our goal during the four days that we gathered in the OC: to provide you with a fantastic educational and networking experience!

We hope you gained as much from the conference as we did. We hope that you learned something you didn't know before you came, that you enjoyed the chance to renew old acquaintances and to forge new ones, that you acquired insights that will make you a better teacher. On behalf of the CLTA and FLA-OC Conference Committee, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this conference's success: our esteemed presenters and key note speakers, our member volunteers, our CLTA Board members, and, of course, you, our participants, whose commitment to the profession is evidenced simply by your attendance.

The 2008 Conference, held at the beautiful Marriot in Irvine, welcomed over 600 guests. The beautiful program was put together by Alice Bell, with a cover designed by the students of Esperanza High School. At the registration desk, guests were greeted by the tireless and kind Sue McKee and Marge Sotomayor. The Local Registration Chair, Maria Andersen and her team, and Hospitality Chair, Karen Donner and her team, spent many hours greet-

ing and guiding guests. Thursday and Friday attendees had they opportunity to attend in-depth workshops.

Friday evening, I had the pleasure of greeting our guests and turning the program over to CLTA Executive Director, Lorraine D'Ambruoso, who introduced the Palos Verdes/Long Beach area Assemblywoman Betty Karnette, friend of education and especially of World Languages, who was the honored guest and speaker at the banquet. In these difficult times of cuts in education spending, her words were hopeful and motivational.

Guests enjoyed the ballroom decorated by local chair Krista Whyte and her team, in Tiffany blue and black with romantic white candles, carrying out the beach theme of *Coastin' the Communication Highway*. The evening was highlighted by the awarding of the government grants and the Memorial Scholarship. The evening closed with entertainment arranged by local chair Flo Martin. We were treated to talents of the Josho Daiko Japanese Drummers from the Soka University in Laguna Niguel and fabulous Bavarian dancing from the Dunaj International Folk Dance Ensemble. Among the dancers was OC Spanish teacher, Christina Garner.

Saturday morning began with 16 sessions per hour! The FLA-OC team was in place and student assistants greeted the guests and helped to

guide them to their sessions. The AV equipment was orchestrated by local chairs, Mike Shellman and Gabriel Cueva with team members Steve Picht and George Elwood-Miranda. The Exhibit Hall, staged by Carol Sparks, was full of energetic exhibitors.

Saturday's Plenary Sessions was informative and educational. Jean Treiman, Executive Director of the California Subject Matter Project, was the honored speaker.

CLTA President Lewie Johnson honored Principal Dave Flynn from Esperanza High School in Anaheim for his constant support of World Language teachers and professional development. Equally impressive were the 2008 CLTA Outstanding Teacher Awards announced at the luncheon.

Saturday night, conference attendees spread out in different directions to enjoy the numerous restaurants in the OC! The French Consulate was gracious enough to stage a three hour complimentary immersion workshop for French teachers that evening...with champagne...of course!

Sunday morning came early, with guests up and running for the 8:00 and 9:00 sessions. The Gala Closing Brunch, with the indefatigable Paula Hirsch presiding, was delicious and well attended. Entertainment, arranged by local chair, Joanie Kirshenbaum, treated guests to beautiful dances presented by the Jaruti Ghardi Indian dancers.

The highlight of the morning was an engaging and entertaining speech by Dr. Yvonne Chan, Principal of the Vaughn Next Century Learning Center in Pa-coima, California. Her dedication to the school has earned the school API scores that are amazing. ACIS and Lynn Freeman gifted another trip to Europe...won by a first year attendee! The thank yous and farewells were bittersweet.

Behind the scenes many OC teachers were stars on the conference team!

Publicity was aided by Tina Matic. Goodies, freebies, and "etceteras" were put together by Megan Elwood-Miranda. Sean Edwards and Lily Jacquot organized presidents. Evaluations are being tabulated by Elisabeth Strauss and Ursula Rovel.

The 2008 conference was very successful and launches the preparations for the '09 Sacramento Conference at the Sacramento Doubletree Hotel, February 26-March 1. Start saving now! Don't let budget cuts keep you from attending!

We are a special group! Do something for yourself that will benefit your students! Submit your proposals for consideration in the '09 program. Your thank you? *Free registration!!!* The deadline for submission is August 15.

We look forward to seeing you again at CLTA's 2009 Annual Conference in Sacramento. Thanks for coming to the OC, have a great year, and an even better summer journey!

Quality Speakers Abound at Irvine

By Lorraine D'Ambruoso, CLTA Executive Director

This year's conference attendees were treated to exceptional speakers, from a fairly new teacher to a well-known principal to the Executive Director of the California Subject Matter Projects.

The Plenary session was dedicated to leadership, and began with an address from Jean Treiman. She alluded to the Governor's Report on Educational Excellence, in which he stated "The way to attract the best and the brightest to school leadership is to treat them like professionals." Jean believes that teachers are at the very core of education and are THE solution to reform.

She then asked us to think about our current professional platform and to ask ourselves if there is a professional platform that we are especially interested in. She then went on to state that there are four organizations in California that allow and enable us to ascend our platforms. They are the CTC (Commission on Teacher Credentialing), CFLP (California Foreign Language Project), CLTA, and our own classrooms.

The CTC issues our credentials, the baseline needed to enter the profession. Credentials are a form of power. We assure the continuing validity of credentials by participating in the Commission's work / process.

CFLP engages teachers at all points on the continuum, from first year teachers to those ready-to-retire by delivering high-quality, in-depth professional growth programs. These programs strengthen teachers' knowledge. Our profession is weakened when what passes for expertise is not what it should be, so we should all be part of a professional development organization.

CLTA engages all of us in conversations about the norms of good teaching and good foreign language teaching. CLTA helps us become stronger as a result of our deeper discussions about needed reforms.

We affect and further educational reform when we return to our classrooms with deeper knowledge of good teaching and greater understanding of and compassion for our students.

Jean believes that CLTA and CFLP must accelerate the development of expertise to permit each of us to be on the platform where we want to be. The word **reform** comes from **form**, which means **idea** and the prefix **-re**, which means thinking **again** about the ideas that you bring to your practice. She concluded by stating, "**Teachers are the reform that education needs.**"

We also asked CLTA's and SWCOLT's

Teacher of the Year candidate Jamin Lynch to speak about his path to leadership. Jamin believes that there are six aspects of leadership.

He began by stating that one does not need a membership, a degree or a title to be a leader. It requires only that one take charge of a situation and make it better. Secondly, he firmly believes that "doing good, meaningful, positive work in our classrooms is leadership. We model professionalism, punctuality, fair play, organization, humor, kindness, high expectations, empathy, a passion and knowledge of subject matter, and a strong belief that students can and will learn." You need only to think back to a teacher who inspired you to realize the truth of his statement.

In this era of belt-tightening, it is easy to become discouraged. Jamin believes that one's "mindset of personal pedagogy" is what makes the difference. Would you rather embrace a job filled with nothing but obligations or a career ripe with unending opportunities? If you choose the second, then you can be an agent for positive change.

Jamin's fourth piece of advice is to think of yourself as a pioneer, blazing a trail for your professional self. He did that, and it led to his obtaining National

Board Certification —after only 8 years of teaching.

Finally, Jamin stated that most successful leaders agree that the way to be a successful leader is to lose one's ego— to become a better listener, more collaborative, and a steward rather than a monarch.

Jamin believes that “Within each one of us exists a leader, and that we need to continue developing ourselves as leaders.” Are we all ready to accept that philosophy? I hope so, because more than ever before, language and culture education is in need of leaders. It needs you!

The Sunday Gala Brunch saw the return of Yvonne Chan to the CLTA family, after her first appearance at the last UC Santa Barbara Summer Seminar, where she left the participants in awe. She repeated that effect in Irvine. Yvonne is the incredible bundle of energy whose story was presented in the March issue of this wrap-around. Principal of Vaughan International Studies Academy in Los Angeles and member of the State Board of Education, she believes that educators need to turn risks into opportunities. She has certainly done that, and she inspired everyone at the brunch with her message entitled “Surfing the Communication Highway.”

As educators, we face many issues. There are competing factors such as standards-driven instruction, assessment and accountability, time, the achievement gap, the drop out rate, and the realities of diminishing fiscal resources and aging facilities. There are also needs that we must address. The world is now flatter than it has ever been; global in-

teraction and interdependence have increased the need for an extremely well educated work force. We need to regard our cultural heritage and diversity as assets. And we must take advantage of the communication highway.

So as world language and culture educators, what is the message that we send to our constituents? We must send the message that we as a discipline are relevant; we are a need, not a luxury. Language education adds value to school reform by using existing assets and helping develop the workforce needed to steer us into the future. Language education is good for all students. It is a right.

Our message should be that we are CHAMPIONS; we believe in:

C = Cohesive, integrated programs

H = High performing teacher teams

A = Achievement that can be measured

M = smart use of media and technology

P = Partnership with organizations

I = Incentives

O = Oral and written communication

N = Networking of schools

S = Sustainability

Vaughan, a school where 78% of the students are English learners and 100% receive free or reduced meals, is definitely a champion:

C - Chinese is a core subject for all.

H - Teachers are all highly qualified.

A - There is support to raise achievement.

M - Language lab & laptops

P - Vaughan partners with the Asia Society and the community college.

I - The travel incentive is a bonus.

O - Oral and written communication are emphasized.

N - Vaughan networks with other schools.

As a State Board of Education member, Yvonne is uniquely positioned to plead our cause in Sacramento. And what is that cause? It is the need for the state board and the CDE to create learning standards, to develop instructional frameworks, to adopt curricular materials for those standards and frameworks, to design assessment instruments, and to provide professional development resources to ensure that our students receive the best language and culture instruction possible. It is the need for the Legislature to provide the resources for research and development, to consider alternative credentials, and to provide incentives for teachers. If we all work together, nothing is impossible. Vaughan and Yvonne Chan have proven that!

CLTA would like to thank this year's speakers. You added immeasurably to the conference offerings and sent us home with renewed inspiration and dedication to our profession and to our students.

CLTA Officers

President: Lewis Johnson lewisjohnson@charter.net
Pres-Elect: Sylvia Jones Sjonescflp@aol.com
Past Pres: Tanya Zaccone tzaccone@surewest.net
Treasurer: Sue McKee suemckee@cox.net
Membership: Marge Sotomayor mjsotomayor@suddenlink.net
Secretary: Sue Korsinen sekorsi@earthlink.net
Conference Coordinator:
Paula Hirsch phirsch@windwardschool.org
Newsletter: Karen McDowell knicolaysen@cruzio.com
Advertising: Nadine Elwood Dino718@aol.com
Futures: Carol Moir cmoir@smjuhsd.org
Advocacy: Nicole Naditz advocacy@flagsteacher.com
Executive Director:
Lorraine D'Ambruoso lorda@ix.netcom.com

Please let us know what you think of *Language Magazine*, CLTA's latest service to its members.

CLTA Award And Grant Winners

Outstanding Teacher

👤 Genevieve Champness

👤 Evelyne Charvier-Berman

Glencoe-McGraw/Hill Teacher-Leader

👤 Dominique van Hooff

Hal Wingard

👤 Suzanne Charlton

👤 Hélène Chan

President's Award

👤 Dave Flynn (Principal of Esperanza High School)

French Government

👤 Sally Everett Beaupré (LangAbroD)

👤 Beth Tudor (LangAbroD)

Goethe Institut

👤 Zehra Otus (LangAbroD)

Japan Foundation

👤 Jordanna Potter (LangAbroD)

👤 Shawn DeHaven (LangAbroD)

Quebec

👤 Evelyn Bejarano (LangAbroD)

Spanish Government Grant

👤 Sue Mathews (LangAbroD)

Memorial Scholarship

👤 Carol Marissael (LangAbroD)

CLTA News

P.O. Box 123, Ferndale, CA 95536

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