



CLTA Online Newsletter Fall 2015

WELCOME TO THE CLTA ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Depending on our professional situations, many of us are now settled in with our classes and routines, and can even glimpse the end of the year, and the semester. Please let us know how we can improve the Newsletter to better meet your needs at exec-director@clta.net.

CLTA welcomes Barbara Bowden to the CLTA family as she assumes duties of CLTA Webmaster. Barbara is performing her job with skill and enthusiasm, and we appreciate her important contributions.

You may have noticed more traffic on CLTA Facebook, along with weekly questions to start professional discussion. Brook Johnson is enhancing our online presence in this way, and as an additional CLTA Facebook “admin” she brings passion and expertise to her job. We invite you to participate in these discussions.

Angela Martínez has offered to help out with Google, as we transition from current procedures to a more integrated approach. We have several Board members and other leaders who are proficient in all things Google, and we all welcome Angela to the club.

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ACTFL UPDATE [\(Home\)](#)



INSPIRE. ENGAGE. TRANSFORM.

ACTFL is coming to San Diego! This is California's turn to welcome colleagues from around the nation and the world, **November 20-22, 2015** (Preconference Workshops Nov 19).

Remember that CLTA members do not need to be ACTFL members to attend the ACTFL Convention and World Languages Expo. So just use your CLTA membership to sign up for the San Diego ACTFL Convention & Expo.

There are more than 700 educational sessions and more than 250 exhibiting companies. This is an international event bringing together more than 6,000 language educators. Don't miss the outstanding speakers, including Rick Steves.

See more at: <http://www.actfl.org/convention-expo#sthash.x4ukbV35.dpuf>

ELIZABETH MATCHETT NAMED CLTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2016 [\(Home\)](#)

CLTA is pleased and proud to share the name of The California Language Teachers' Association (CLTA) nominee for the Teacher of the Year (TOY) competition at the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching (SWCOLT) in Honolulu, Hawai'i, **March 4-5, 2015** (preconference workshops March 3). California's candidate is Elizabeth (Liz) Matchett, Spanish teacher from Henry M. Gunn High School in Palo Alto, California.

Each year the Awards Committee peruses an ongoing and evolving list of all award winners and educators of exceptional background, practice, and ability to advocate for the profession in the national forum. From that list, and cross-referencing with current issues in the profession, a TOY choice is made. That person must go through a rigorous process of portfolio, and interview at the SWCOLT Conference. The nominee is also expected to present a "Best of California" session at the SWCOLT Conference as well.

Liz is preparing her portfolio for submission to SWCOLT and is excited to represent California. She plans on presenting an interest session at SWCOLT as "Best of California" as well as competing in the TOY program.

Don Doehla, CLTA TOY 2015, will formally present Liz to the membership at the Annual Conference in Visalia. The winner of the SWCOLT regional will go on to the ACTFL National TOY competition in 2017. For more information about previous California Teachers of the Year, and other Awards, go to go.clta.net/clta-awards-grants-programs/

AWARDS & GRANTS [\(Home\)](#)

Nominate a colleague for a CLTA Award! Decide which travel/study grant is right for you!

The consulates of governments and foundations that normally provide grants have been contacted; we need only wait for the go-ahead from head offices to verify that grants will be available. Meanwhile, descriptions of grants are available on the website (clta.net) for your perusal. It is important to our partner governments and foundations that there is robust competition so they know the travel/study grants are valued by our membership. And, as most of you know, the typical experience yields a fantastic learning opportunity not only for the teacher, but also for the students, who reap the benefits through enhanced linguistic and cultural lessons in the classroom.

Are you the person – who attends the Awards Banquet and vows to nominate a colleague for a very deserved award ... next year? We all know a colleague who has made significant contributions to the profession, who excels in the classroom, or who should have been recognized long ago, but has not. You can be the person who changes all that, by nominating that person for one of the awards offered by CLTA ... this year!

SPOTLIGHT ON AFFILIATE: CVWLA (Central Valley World Language Association) [\(Home\)](#)

BIG THANKS TO CVWLA FOUNDING TEACHERS!

Thanks to these talented and visionary founding and first Foreign Language Teachers' Association Board Members in the Central Valley, now known as CVWLA, we can continue their legacy of such activities as Language Camps, Language Fairs, Language Teachers Conferences, Students' scholarships, and professional development. CLTA CONFERENCE COMES TO VISALIA IN 2016!

The first board meeting was held at the Fresno State Campus. Later it moved to a rotating basis from High School to High School, thus allowing creativity of community and school leadership to come into play

Ratifying Committee to set up the Central Valley Foreign Language Association.

The date is November 6, 1974.

The first officers were:

President: Hazel Tucker;

Vice-President: Keith Sauer;

Recording Secretary: Charline French;

Corresponding Secretary: Mike Giovanetti;

Treasurer: Jim Cardella

The dues were \$3

Central Valley World Language Association.CVWLA.

The date is September 30, 2015

The current officers are:

President: Nancy Perez

President Elect: Lizbeth Hershberger

Secretary: Maria Robles

Past President: Erica Garcia

Treasurer: Martha Hernandez

Webmaster: Jorge Vargas

Conference Chair: NereydaMaroot

The dues are \$20.00

We are continuing the tradition to offer an annual one-day conference @ Fresno City College, World Language Fairs @ local high schools and Language Camps @ the beautiful Sierras around the valley every other year, as well as an annual Students' Scholarship awards ceremony @ local schools.

CLTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016 IN VISALIA HOSTED BY CVWLA [\(Home\)](#)



And speaking of conference, be sure to be a part of the CLTA Annual Conference in Visalia, hosted by CVWLA, **March 17-20, 2015**. The Annual Conference offers current and usable professional development, networking, outstanding speakers, exhibits, and much more. Look forward to the fabulous Friday Night Awards Banquet with a DJ and dancing after, the popular Sunday Brunch with lots of free giveaways!

Although the deadlines have passed, there are still open spots for presenting interest sessions, so please consider submitting a proposal for an interest session. Our conferences are strong because of the contributions of our members, and sharing our own classroom lessons, experiences and ideas are at the heart of who we are. You can find the proposal form on the website go.clta.net/presenters/.

MEMBERSHIP [\(Home\)](#)

Just to mention two of the many benefits of membership – reduced conference fees, and free webinars are back!

By joining your state and local professional associations, you support the many efforts of the profession, including advocacy on the state and national level, the promotion of languages and cultures, encouraging respect for linguistic and cultural diversity, and providing continuing professional development to help teachers of all levels to improve the quality of instruction. As a member, in addition to being informed by email of the latest developments in language and culture teaching and learning, you qualify for reduced prices for conferences. And this year,

your membership will allow you to register for the ACTFL Convention, without joining ACTFL. Membership is open! Consider gifting a new colleague or a colleague who hasn't yet discovered the value of belonging to the state professional organization.

SWCOLT NEWS ([Home](#))

SWCOLT is the regional parent of CLTA. The states that belong to SWCOLT, in addition to California, are Arizona, Colorado, Hawai'i, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah. Our own Paula Hirsch, CLTA Conference Coordinator, is currently Vice-president of SWCOLT.

SWCOLT announces several scholarship opportunities for members:

The SWCOLT Lynn Sandstedt Memorial Scholarship

The Centro MundoLengua Scholarship

The Universidad Internacional-The Center for Linguistic Multicultural Studies he Cemanahuc Educational Community Scholarship

The SWCOLT Chinese Scholarship

For information about the awards, requirements and deadlines, go to <http://www.swcolt.org> and click on AWARDS. You can also contact SWCOLT Scholarships Chairperson, Pamela Young, jeunejovent@gmail.com.

SUMMER SEMINAR 2015 ANOTHER RESOUNDING SUCCESS ([Home](#))

"There was no question that I would attend 2015 after attending 2014. I ... have referred this summer seminar to my colleagues and administrator as the best professional development I have had anywhere." This was just one participant's valuation of an experience that is often described as a life-changer.

The July 17-22, 2015 Summer Seminar at U.C., Santa Barbara, presented "Common Core, World Readiness and Inter-culturality: the Passport to Global Leadership. In addition to an Orientation General Session, Summer Seminar provided five additional daily general sessions, all based on the seminar theme. General session presenters included Gregory Duncan, Jacque Bott van Houten, Ali Moeller and Sheri Hurlbut.

The Co-Conveners are Dr. Duarte Silva of Stanford University and Director of CWLP, and Lorraine D'Ambruso, past Executive Director of CLTA. Other supporters of the 2015 seminar include STARTALK, ZfA Deutsche Auslandsschalmbeit, the Japan Foundation Los Angeles, and the College Board Advanced Placement Program, and Sheila Bong from Avánt Assessment, LLC. The strands included a variety of languages and levels, but all geared toward the common theme. The strands included Heritage Speakers of Spanish, Integrated Performance Assessment, Italian AP Language and Culture, Project-Based Language Learning, Teaching

Japanese for Global Leadership, Tech Tools and Curriculum Design for Teaching and Learning in the Common Core Era, and STARTALK Leadership Development for Teachers of Critical Languages and Culture.

Summer Seminar once again hosted a Student Strand, designed for university students who have not yet decided to become world language and culture educators, but who are nominated by their professor due to their background and potential to succeed in the profession. One student commented, “as a participant of the Student Strand I can say that the whole seminar was very inspiring and helpful to the overview of what it is to become a teacher.”

FIRST ANNUAL SUMMER SEMINAR CLTA TOWN HALL MEETING [\(Home\)](#)

A very special time and place can sometimes create magic, just as we might say the Summer Seminar creates magic for many each year.

A very special guest, Vernon Jones, was in attendance to explain and assist in the official adoption of the Sylvia Jones Memorial Scholarship, an endowment fund set up in Sylvia’s name by Vernon, her husband, and Norman, their son. Vernon presented the certificates and checks to the nine recipients of the first distribution of funds for the purpose – a partial scholarship to assist mid-career teachers in attending Summer Seminar. Sylvia, CLTA and CWLP super-star member, held the Summer Seminar close to her heart. For more information about Sylvia and the partial scholarship, go to go.clta.net/sylvia-jones-legacy-scholarship-for-mid-career-teachers/. Vernon, a language and culture supporter and philanthropist in his own right, is an honorary member and is invited to honor our recipients at the Second Annual Town Hall meeting.

The energy, enthusiasm, and creative ideas that emerged from the first ever Town Hall Meeting brings dynamism and vitality to our association. Even after the meeting, a group, let’s call them “Angela’s Group of 9” detailed specifically how they believe we can make positive changes in technology, process, and so many other concepts. But these members (and new members!) are not complainers – they also gave specific ideas about what they would like to do to contribute to the growth and relevance of CLTA. Here is one quote, “What an exciting Town Hall Meeting! It is such a good feeling to know that you all truly care about what we have to say and are willing to listen to some of our personal experiences and take our advice into account. Thank you so much for that.” CLTA members are the essence of who we are and what we do, and we vow to continue to find more and better ways for all to have a voice that is heard.

SAVE THE DATE - SUMMER SEMINAR 2016 [\(Home\)](#)

CLTA and CWLP (California World Language Project) invite you to begin planning for The 27th Annual Summer Seminar. **July 15-20, 2016**, at U.C. Santa Barbara. This is a premier professional

development opportunity that attracts language professionals from across the nation and the world. Look for a variety of general linguistic and cultural pedagogical topics and language-specific strands.

More information is coming soon to your inbox and at www.clta.net

A FAMILY JOURNEY BY NANCY PEREZ ([Home](#))

De vez en cuando, especialmente en días lluviosos, al escuchar el silbido del tren que se acerca, recuerdo la madrugada cuando nos subimos a la combi de mi padrastro, con una sola maleta cada uno, pero con un mundo de sueños en la mente. Así emprendimos el viaje que nos llevaría de un lado del país al otro. De Matamoros Tamaulipas, México a Fresno California. La travesía duró tres larguísimos días, entre paradas intermitentes por carreteras inmensas, llenas de luces, espectaculares brillantes e incansable tráfico. Por fin nuestro viaje terminó y nuestro destino cambió totalmente. Nueva casa, nuevos amigos, nuevos horizontes. Ya no había marcha atrás.

Aprender el idioma era la prioridad número uno en la casa. Nuestra madre como siempre nos impulsaba a buscar nuestro porvenir en la educación: “La educación es la base del éxito” su dicho favorito. Aparte de ir a la escuela en la mañana, por la tarde íbamos a la escuela de adultos a seguir aprendiendo y mejorando el inglés. Cuando llegamos aquí, mi hermana Nery y yo ya teníamos nuestro diploma de maestras de primaria, Liz and Ninfa ya estaban por terminar la preparatoria, y mi hermano menor había terminado el primero de secundaria, pero aquí vendríamos a empezar desde cero. Este inmenso país y el apoyo incondicional de nuestra madre nos dio la oportunidad de continuar nuestra vocación por el magisterio. Los cinco hermanos recibimos nuestro

Once in a while, especially on raining days, as the whistle of the train approaches, I remember the morning when we got into our stepfather's minivan, with only one piece of luggage each, with a world of dreams in mind. That's how we begun our road trip that would take us from one side of the country to the other. From Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico to Fresno California.

The trip lasting three very long days, between intermittent stops over immense roadways, filled with bright lights, shiny billboards and endless traffic. Finally our trip ended and our new destiny changed forever. New house, new friends, and new horizons were ahead of us. There was no return.

Learning the language was priority number one at home. Our mother would always encourage us to find our future by educating ourselves. “Education is the foundation of success”, that has always been her favorite phrase. On top of going to school in the morning, we would go to an English class in the afternoon to improve our English. When we got here to the United States, my sister Nery and I already had our Elementary teacher credential from México. My other sisters Liz and Ninfa were finishing up their high school years to receive their diplomas and my brother had just finished 7th Grade. However, we had to start from the bottom. This great country of ours and the unconditional support of our mother gave us

posgrado de la Universidad Estatal de Fresno, así como nuestra credencial y maestría, y ejercemos como profesores de español. Nuestra pasión, no tan solo por enseñar sino por transmitir nuestra herencia cultural a las nuevas generaciones, inspiró también a tres de nuestras sobrinas a ser maestras.

Nuestras raíces se han profundizado más en este país y nuestros recuerdos de infancia y juventud se van alejando cada día más como ese tren que desaparece a la distancia. Ese tren que se aleja y se lleva con él mi nostalgia. Nunca dejaré de recordar esas calles inundadas de bellos recuerdos, de risas y juegos infantiles como tampoco dejaré de agradecer por los recuerdos nuevos que se nos han cruzado en el camino.

Nuestros lazos familiares nos han unido cada día más y sin sentirlo, han pasado ya más de 30 años de nuestra llegada a California.

Nuestra familia de seis ha aumentado a 33 y sigue creciendo. No hay reunión familiar en la que falte ese toque mexicano, del que estamos tan orgullosos. -

Nancy Pérez

the opportunity to continue our goal to become teachers. We all got our BA, Credential and Masters Degree from Fresno State University and we are all working as Spanish teachers. Our passion, not only for teaching, but to promote our cultural heritage to new generations has inspired three of our nieces to become teachers as well.

Our roots have engraved themselves deeper in this country and our childhood memories are becoming more distant every day as the train fades away. The train that moves further away takes my nostalgia with it. I will never forget our streets filled with joyful memories of childhood games, but at the same time I will always be grateful for the new memories that are forming along the way.

Our family ties have united us more each day that passes by. Without noticing 30 plus years have gone since our arrival to California. Our family has grown from six to 33 and it continues to grow. There are no family events without that Mexican touch we are so proud of having. -Nancy Pérez

THANK YOU for the contributions you make every day to the profession.

UPCOMING EVENTS RECAP

ACTFL Convention & Expo San Diego, CA, **November 20-22, 2015** (pre-conference workshops Nov 19) www.actfl.org

SWCOLT Conference, Honolulu, Hawai'i, **March 3-5, 2016** <http://www.swcolt.org>

CLTA Annual Conference hosted by CVWLA, Visalia, CA, **March 17-20, 2016**
www.clta.net

27th Annual SUMMER SEMINAR, Santa Barbara, CA, **July 15-20, 2016**, (and Second Annual CLTA Town Hall Meeting) www.clta.net