

NADSFL Newsletter

The Newsletter of the
National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Languages

Spring 2007

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Hola | Bonjour | Salve | Ciao | Privyet | Guten Tag | Konnichi wa | Hujambo

From the NADSFL President

Gregory Fulkerson
Delaware Department of Education



Dear NADSFL Members,

This year NADSFL turns 20 and we have much to celebrate. Our organization has grown from its founding membership of 6 in 1987 to 314 today. We have become a powerful entity focused on our mission "to promote excellence in foreign language education for all learners through professional development of foreign language supervisors". Our annual meetings provide opportunities for members to share innovations, reflect on current practices, and weave tight networks of mutual support. In the past couple of years, our membership has increased dramatically with many new supervisors who requested more support than our well-established Mentoring Members Program could give them. To augment our support, NADSFL established a Summer Leadership Academy to address critical knowledge of foreign language curriculum design, performance-based assessments, mentoring new teachers and general advocacy within the district system.

NADSFL is also celebrating a more prominent position in the international language landscape in Europe and in Asia. Along with representatives from ACTFL and NCSSFL, I represented NADSFL at the Council of Europe's Forum on Language Policy Issues in Strasbourg, France earlier this year. This was an eye-opening experience to learn what steps individual member states are taking to implement the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR). Many NADSFL members will soon be venturing even further abroad in China. As more of us are faced with establishing quality Chinese language programs in our districts, Hanban, the Office of Chinese Language Council International, has invited NADSFL to be a part of its Chinese Bridge Delegation this summer from June 23-July 1.

Not only is NADSFL's 20th birthday a time to celebrate, but it also provides us with a moment for reflection and learning. That's why our conference theme will be *NADSFL's 20th Birthday: Celebration. Reflection. Inspiration.* As you make your summer plans, take a few minutes to reflect on all the things you have to celebrate in your language programs. That is exactly what we will be doing at our annual meeting in San Antonio, November 14-17.

Best wishes for a summer full of celebration,
Gregory Fulkerson, Ph.D.
NADSFL President

Register today to
attend
NADSFL 2007
in San Antonio, TX!



Marriott Rivercenter
Convention Center
November 14-17, 2007

NADSFL 2007 Conference Preview

Happy Birthday to us! Happy birthday to us! That's right – NADSFL is turning twenty! We're no longer a teenager and we're ready to make our mark on the world! The 2007 NADSFL Conference promises to be one you don't want to miss. The Executive Board has put together a conference agenda full of sessions that will allow you to return home with new ideas and strategies to use in professional development offerings for your teachers. We have some special birthday surprises planned along with all the informative sessions you've come to expect and appreciate over the years. The conference theme of *Celebration! Reflection! Inspiration!* is reflected in all our activities.

Conference highlights include:

- **Celebrating Interactive Reading**
Engaging students with text is a powerful tool in instruction and ever more important when working with authentic materials.
- **Chinese Initiatives: Past, present and Future**
Hear about this past summer's trip, current programs being offered and plans for future opportunities for NADSFL members.
- **Celebrating LinguaFolio!**
Learn about how one district has gone about implementing LinguaFolio at all levels of instruction.
- **Reflecting on Professional Development**
Two of our most dynamic members will engage us in discussions about high quality professional development for our teachers.
- **Inspiration through Collaboration**
Our ever-popular site visits return with time available for seeing best practices at work in a variety of settings and through a variety of languages. Additionally, the annual ACTFL Delegate Assembly morning session has been revamped to address the needs and interests of NADSFL members and help us collaborate at all levels.
- **Inspiration for Cross-Cultural Understanding**
Learn about how Peace Corps resources can help us promote the goals of our programs and support teachers in their instruction.

Conference Registration Going Online!

NADSFL's 20th Birthday isn't the only milestone we mark this year – we will also move into the 21st century by moving conference registration online! The August Newsletter will have all the details about the online registration procedure but for now, here are the highlights!

Where? You'll be able to register simply by clicking on a link on the NADSFL homepage.

When? The registration link will be active in late August and will stay open until November 2nd. After that date, all registration must be completed onsite in San Antonio.

How? Simply fill out the online form, complete a short survey about NADSFL, enter payment information and click "submit". You'll be able to pay either by credit card or by mailing a personal or district check.

How much? Early Bird Registration – October 12th: \$40
Regular Registration – November 2nd: \$50
Onsite Registration – November 14th: \$60

Remember that your NADSFL membership of \$20 is NOT included in the conference fee. If you are not able to come to San Antonio, you will still be able to pay your membership dues online.

Thanks to these NADSFL Members for their service!

The 2006 conference was a time of transition for the NADSFL Board. We'd like to thank the following members for their many years of service to NADSFL and for helping us get to where we are today!

Debbie Davis, Executive Secretary
Sherrie Petterson, Secretary
Fran Maples, Treasurer
Pat Barr-Harrison, JNCL Delegate
Sharon Watts, Mentoring Members Chair
Max Pugh, Webmaster

ADVOCACY UPDATE

JNCL/NCLIS Executive Summary 2007

J. David Edwards, JNCL/NCLIS Executive Director

- The 110th Congress has addressed reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. In the previous Congress, both the House and Senate passed bills but they were unable to reconcile them. The Senate has taken the lead on HEA and is considering provisions to add foreign languages to Title II, Teacher Quality Enhancement, and Title VII, Areas of National Need.
- In Title VI of HEA, Foreign Languages and International Education, both chambers are considering provisions that will increase outreach, provide undergraduate scholarships, improve study abroad, and increase minority participation. Previous provisions to address complaints and compliance or to create an Advisory Board are being reconsidered.
- The National Research Council of the National Academies has just released their Congressionally-mandated study of Title VI and the Fulbright-Hays Program. Generally concluding that these programs are doing a good job, NRC does make 12 recommendations for changes such as more study abroad, increased minority participation, finding a better way to measure language proficiency, becoming more transparent, improving data gathering, and, most important, these programs should be under the direction of an executive-level position that requires presidential appointment and Senate confirmation.
- Consistent with this last recommendation, legislation is being drafted to create an Assistant Secretary of International Education in ED.
- Both the House and Senate have begun holding hearings and considering legislation to reauthorize Elementary and Secondary Education, No Child Left Behind. Changes impacting foreign languages would include new provisions creating support for articulated K-12 programs, language partnerships, and loan forgiveness for language majors/teachers. A new Partnership Program in Foreign Languages is being drafted as part of the Foreign Language Assistance Act.
- Legislation has been introduced in both houses to create the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation consistent with the Report of the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program to increase the number of college students that study in developing nations.
- The bipartisan America Competes Act has been introduced by a group of highly influential Senators based on recommendations by the National Academies and the Council on Competitiveness. The bill would increase the number of AP and IB programs dealing with math, science, and foreign languages, develop more math, science, and critical foreign language teachers, and create a new program of articulated critical foreign languages from elementary school through postsecondary education.
- In January, the Senate held hearings on "Lost in Translation: A Review of the Federal Government's Efforts to Develop a Foreign Language Strategy". In part, the hearings were related to legislation in both chambers to create a National Language Coordination Council to assess and develop strategies to address the nation's language needs in national security, diplomacy, intelligence, economic competitiveness, education, and other areas.
- Legislation has been introduced in the House to create the Shirley Chisholm U.S.-Caribbean Exchange Act to further educational exchanges between the nations of the Caribbean and U.S. schools.
- Also introduced in the House by Reps. Moore and Shays is H.R. 1718, a bipartisan bill to provide teachers of foreign languages the same loan forgiveness as teachers of math and science up to \$17,500 if they teach for five years.
- Finally, the President's budget request for FY 2008, level funds Title VI/Fulbright-Hays at \$105.175 million but requests increased funding of the Foreign Language Assistance Programs (FLAP) to \$23.8 million. As part of the new National Security Language Initiative (NSLI), \$24 million in new funds are requested for Advancing America Through Foreign Language (K-16) Partnerships, \$5 million for a Language Teacher Corps, and \$3 million for a Teacher to Teacher Initiative for summer sessions for foreign language teachers.

The Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council for Languages and International Studies (JNCL/NCLIS) are composed of sixty-four member organizations representing approximately 200,000 language educators and professionals. JNCL/NCLIS members deal with the languages taught, studied and used in the United States including the commonly taught and less-commonly taught languages, English to Speakers of Other Languages, American Sign Language, the classics and bilingual education. Our member organizations are involved across all educational levels (Pre-K to adult learners) and are engaged in teaching, research, translation and interpretation, distance learning/computer-assisted instruction, materials development, assessment, student and faculty exchanges, and study abroad, among other areas.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

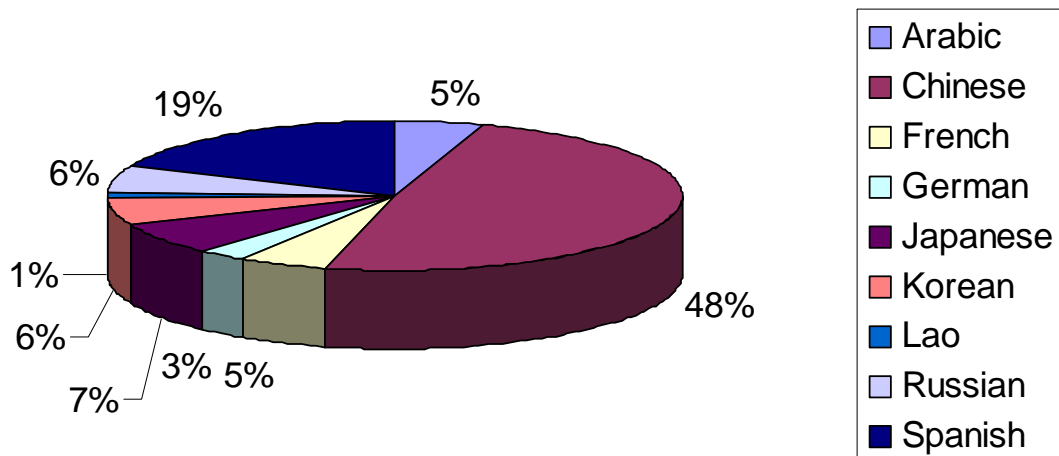
Where did FLAP 2006 go?

In 2006, FLAP added a competitive priority to its grant application, stressing the need for more programs in “critical languages”. While these languages did receive the majority of the funding in 2006, the following charts show that grant applications for the more commonly taught languages were still funded. Because of the large number of high-quality applications that were not funded in 2006, the US Department of Education does not anticipate issuing a request for proposals for this year. Instead they will use this years monies to fund additional applications submitted in 2006. Be sure to check http://www.ncele.gwu.edu/oela/OELAprograms/4_FLAP.htm for updates and additional information.

Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP)
2006 Recipient Language Distribution

Language	Number Receiving Grant
Arabic	5
Chinese	50
French	5
German	3
Japanese	7
Korean	6
Lao	1
Russian	6
Spanish	19
Total:	102

**Foreign Language Assistance Program
(FLAP)
Language Distribution**



REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

Central States Update (CSC)

Steve Brock (for Thomas Sauer)

A crowd of about fifteen supervisors and administrators, including Past-ACTFL President Paul Sandrock and Past-NADSFL President Peggy Boyles attended the NADSFL networking session on Friday afternoon. Attendees began the session with a discussion of assessment and its many subtopics. Among those items discussed were backward design and the role it plays in assessment, district assessment, the Minnesota Language Proficiency assessments, and online assessment options including STAMP for grade 6-12 students and the new NOELLA for grade 3-6 students.

The second discussion topic focused on non-traditional languages and the many challenges districts and teachers are facing as they begin these programs. Attendees discussed the need for district and school "buy-in" needed to begin and continue programs and the role the community plays in supporting programs. Additional discussion centered around the concerns of language teachers and the effects new programs and classes have on their traditional language programs. Participants suggested that NADSFL consider conducting a long-range survey of new programs and their effect on existing ones, an idea that many thought sounded like a good dissertation topic. As conversation continued, discussion turned to federal support for new programs through grant initiatives such as the FLAP program and the HANBAN trip to China this summer.

As the session came to a close, Peggy Boyles, in her new NADSFL role as Mentoring Members Chair, talked about the importance of mentors and mentees and signed up potential new members for mentoring.

Southern Region Update (SCOLT)

Jackie Cinotti-Dirmann

Dozens of NADSFL members as well as several NCSSFL members from the southern region had the opportunity to visit with their supervisor colleagues from around the south during the SCOLT conference in Atlanta in March 1-3. They attended networking events including a Thursday dinner and Friday breakfast.

Several new members joined us Saturday morning for our annual NADSFL meeting. Our invited speaker was the always-inspirational Peggy Boyles. Peggy spoke to the group about our role as teacher trainers and shared research on adult learning styles.

Special thanks to our generous sponsors: McDougal Littell, EMC Publishing and Stevens Learning Systems.

Northeast Update (NECTFL)

Sebastian Leone

On Saturday April 14, fifty-five devoted and enthusiastic NADSFL members attended our breakfast and enjoyed an exciting and informative program made only better by the honored guests and featured speaker at this event. Much appreciation and many thanks go to The Wright Group/McGraw-Hill as well as to Ines Lormand and Steve Gravino for sponsoring our outstanding breakfast. Without their continuing support to our organization, this event would not have been possible.

Jaya Vijayasekar, from the NECTFL Board of Directors welcomed us to NECTFL 2007. We were delighted to have NADSFL President Gregory Fulkerson and Vice President who also addressed the group.

Our featured guest speaker was John DeMado, president of John De Mado Language Seminars, Inc. His topic was, What exactly is this illusive commodity known as language? John spoke about Mastery vs. Proficiency. He focused on meaning over form and accepting language that is less than accurate from our students. He emphasized the importance of language practice in our classes and acquiring vocabulary in order to build literacy skills. He had us all laughing and enjoying every moment of his presentation as he enlightened us. He instilled this important notion, the skills students acquire in world language classes will furnish the essential level of literacy that is crucial to succeed on state mandated tests.

My appreciation goes out to our invited guests NADSFL President Gregory Fulkerson and Vice President Jennifer Eddy. It was indeed an honor to have John DeMado as our gifted speaker on such important issues in our profession. We hope to see all of you at NADSFL 2007 in San Antonio.

Pacific Update (PNCFL)

Brandee Mau

NADSFL members in the Pacific Northwest region will have the opportunity to network with each other during the Rocky Mountain Language and Culture Conference and Retreat. PNCFL will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the Wyoming Foreign Language Teachers' Association during this event October 25-27 in beautiful Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

NADSFL members Mimi Met and Greg Duncan will have a prominent role in this exciting conference. I invite you all to be with us!

Have you heard about...?

...the recent MLA report

In May, the MLA released a report entitled "Foreign Languages and Higher Education: New Structures for a Changed World." The report calls for "a broader and more coherent curriculum in which language, culture, and literature are taught as a continuous whole" instead of the more prevalent literature and grammar-based programs seen on most campuses across the country.

A summary of the report recently appeared in the Chronicle of Higher Education. NADSFL members may access the summary article "MLA Report Calls for Transformation of Foreign-Language Education" for free through this link: <http://chronicle.com/temp/reprint.php?id=qcv2cpcq8c6ghwyrvllkn13pl5xrgily7>

The entire 15-page report itself may be read online at <http://www.mla.org/flreport>

... online registration for the NADSFL Conference?

Beginning with the 2007 Conference, NADSFL members will register online through a secure web site! Online registration will allow NADSFL to better monitor registration numbers and allow members the choice of paying conference fees and membership dues with either a credit card or a check.

With this new system come new deadlines and fees scales:

- Early Bird Registration– October 12th: \$40
- Regular Registration – November 2nd: \$50
- Onsite Registration – November 14th: \$60

Be sure to look for more details in August on the NADSFL website and in the Fall newsletter.

...the NADSFL Mini-Grants

Two years ago, thanks to the generous support of sponsors, NADSFL revived its mini-grant opportunities for members. We have now given two grants and received many more applications. The NADSFL board has created the following timeline for grant applications each year.

Application Window: December 1-February 1

Award Notification: March 1

Award Summary: NADSFL Conference in November

It's not too early to begin formulating a grant proposal for the next application window. Please contact Priscilla Russel at Priscilla_Russel@monet.prs.k12.nj.us with questions about the grant and the application process.

... the ACTFL Language Learner Registry Site

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) has launched a new initiative, the Language Learner Registry (LLR), an on-line registry of language learners - all languages - all levels of proficiency. This registry is part of the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Tester Training program.

Registry members are paid \$25 each time they are interviewed for a practice test by a Tester Trainee during a Tester Training Workshop.

Interested individuals will register themselves into the Language Learner Registry, will be responsible for updating their contact information if that changes, and will be communicated with directly when practice tests need to be scheduled in their language.

You oughta be in pictures!



NADSFL President Gregory Fulkerson with other ACTFL members at the Council of Europe's Forum on Language Policy Issues in Strasbourg, France. We'll hear more about this event in November.



NADSFL members David Jahner and Mimi Pet discuss the importance of engaging professional development with Peggy Boyles in Atlanta.



NADSFL member from Florida and other southern states enjoy dinner during the SCOLT conference held on Atlanta, Georgia. Thanks to the support of sponsors NADSFL members had several networking opportunities.

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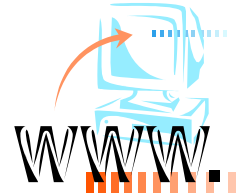




National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Languages

<http://www.nadsfl.org>

The NADSFL Web site is your source for up-to-date information about the organization and upcoming events!



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Send news articles and information for upcoming issues of the NADSFL Newsletter via e-mail to:
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Place
 Postage
 Here

**Begin making plans now to attend
 NADSFL 2007: November 14-15, 2007
 Extra rooms have been blocked for NADSFL members at
 The Marriott Rivercenter – downtown San Antonio, TX!**