

- **Fall
Conference
2012**
- **ACTFL
Information**
- **Advocacy**
- **NAT
Updates**

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

ACTFL Proficiency	2
NAT's	3
NAT's	4
Awards of Excellence	5
JNCL	8
NILA Poster Sessions	9
Award	9

Visions & Views

SUMMER 2012

Message From the President

Message from the President

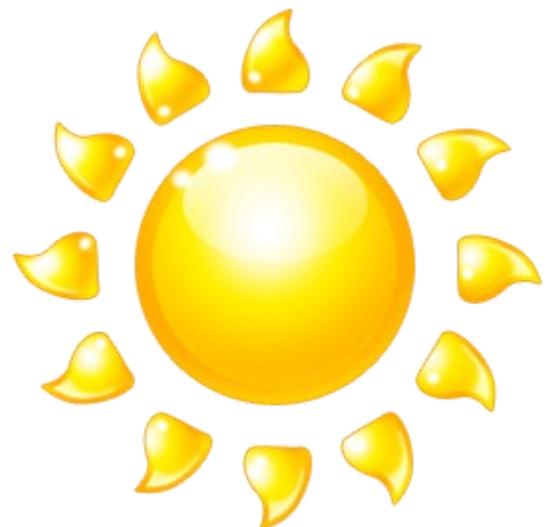
This spring has been a busy one for world language teachers across Nebraska with many exciting events such as the German Students' Convention, the Omaha Metro-Area Convention, and the 6th Annual Colloquium on Language Teaching among many others. The Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages was also held this spring, and its Delegate Assembly provided NILA with fresh new ideas for advocacy and membership.

For example, you will note this year a change in our membership structure. This fall, every language teacher in the State of Nebraska will be officially a member of NILA, *no dues required*. Thus, you will receive NILA news and benefits, such as participation in our mentoring program, for free. We are happy to make this change to welcome all language teachers in the state to our organization.

We are also busy preparing for our annual fall conference, which promises to be a great event. We are pleased to be hosting Peggy Boyles as our keynote presenter for our conference themed, "Unmasking Culture through Language." The conference will be held October 12th and 13th on the UNO campus, so make plans to attend now, and look for registration information to be posted soon on NILA's website.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Sincerely,
Melanie Bloom
NILA President





ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012

The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines are a description of what individuals can do with language in terms of speaking, writing, listening, and reading in real-world situations in a spontaneous and non-rehearsed context. For each skill, these guidelines identify five major levels of proficiency: Distinguished, Superior, Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice. The major levels Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice are subdivided into High, Mid, and Low sublevels. The levels of the ACTFL Guidelines describe the continuum of proficiency from that of the highly articulate, well-educated language user to a level of little or no functional ability.

These Guidelines present the levels of proficiency as ranges, and describe what an individual can and cannot do with language at each level, regardless of where, when, or how the language was acquired. Together these levels form a hierarchy in which each level subsumes all lower levels. The Guidelines are not based on any particular theory, pedagogical method, or educational curriculum. They neither describe how an individual learns a language nor prescribe how an individual should learn a language, and they should not be used for such purposes. They are an instrument for the evaluation of functional language ability.

The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines were first published in 1986 as an adaptation for the academic community of the U.S. Government's Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) Skill Level Descriptions. This third edition marks the third edition of the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines includes the first revisions of Listening and Reading since their original publication in 1986, and a second revision of the ACTFL Speaking and Writing Guidelines, which were revised to reflect real-world assessment needs in 1999 and 2001 respectively. New for the 2012 edition are the addition of the major level of Distinguished to the Speaking and Writing Guidelines, the division of the Advanced level into the three sublevels of High, Mid, and Low for the Listening and Reading Guidelines and the addition of general level description at the Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice levels for all skills.

Another new feature of the 2012 Guidelines is their publication online, supported with glossed terminology and annotated, multimedia samples of performance at each level for Speaking and Writing, and examples of oral and written texts and tasks associated with each level for Reading and Listening.

Continued on page 4

NATF

Many thanks to Jonathan Berger and Dr. and Mrs. Tape for their help with the content for and creation of this video. It will be used to market French Conventions in the future. Quels beaux souvenirs! (see the link below).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hs8ghLLRFw4>

For those of you who mentioned that you were not able to access the Omaha.com article from just over a



month again, I am including an alternative link.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20120502/NEWS2005/711109943/-1>

Finally, if you were able to attend the French Convention and have feedback that will improve on future programming -- the next French Convention is already in the works for 2014 - please take a moment to complete the attached evaluation, unless you have already done so.

Merci mille fois!

Cris Fishback



NATSP

The NATSP immersion is in the works for this Fall's Conference. If you volunteered to help last Fall or would like to be of assistance, please feel free to contact the President, Mandy Freitag at afreitag@westside66.org. If you would like to attend this immersion, held the Friday afternoon before the NILA Saturday conference being held at UNO, registration will be placed on the website in the next few weeks at the Nebraska Department of Education of World Languages website at <http://www.education.ne.gov/FORLGL/>, as well as sent via the listserve. Stay tuned!

Also while you are at the website, please feel free to nominate a worthy colleague for "Spanish Teacher of the Year." Do remember that the individual must be a member of the AATSP by paying dues to the National organization's website at <http://www.aatsp.org/>. Help us honor a deserving and special person.

Here's a thought I gleaned from MORETPRS listserve. Looking for a real audience for student writing? Want to involve students in real life issues? A teacher from Chicago had her students study short novels and discuss

poverty in Guatemala and Peru (setting of the novels). Then they wrote their own short novels in the style of the simple ones they had read. Some of the students published their work at epubbud.com. They are selling them for \$1 with the proceeds to be donated to an organization that supports women in Guatemala, (mayaworks.org). It is a wonderful idea! To see their work, go to <http://www.epubbud.com/books.php?u=tpatton>

Pat McGill

NATG

Web 2.0 German Workshop will be held Wednesday/Thursday JULY 25-26, from 9-3 at Omaha Creighton Prep. Registration email is due to Pat Branson (bransonp@hotmail.com) by July 13. The cost is \$10 for AATG members and \$20 for non-members. E-mail Pat for further questions.

This is an extension of the UNL Web 2.0 Technology Workshop led by Dr. Ali Moeller (spring semester 2011). We will look at several different applications; you can choose which you would like to use to develop something you can start the school year with (ex: Glogster, Prezi, Google docs, Wiki, podcast, Rhinospike...). You will receive handouts and we will share activities we create. You do not have to be a pro to attend! A Tuesday evening activity possible and a Wednesday evening activity will be organized.

State German Convention was held on April 28 at Westside Middle School with almost 300 students in attendance. The theme was "Schokolade und Schlößer". Various seminars were held to fit the theme. A list of winners can be found on the NATG website (<https://sites.google.com/site/aatgnebraska/>).

Congratulations to Sybille Bartels and Olaf Bohlke. They received a Group Study Grant from the German Academic Exchange Service for their class "The New Berlin". The grant of almost \$10000 supported the 13 students and two instructors as they traveled through Germany for a month.

Art Beckman was awarded the "Excellence in Teaching" Award given by the College of Arts and Sciences (Part-time instructors category) at UNO. It is given to two people in the College every year. He was nominated by the Chair of the Foreign Language Department, Dr. Melanie Bloom.

Awards of Excellence Program 2013 Teacher of the Year

Deadline: August 10, 2012

You Could Be Nebraska's Teacher of the Year for 2013!

Application forms for the 2013 Nebraska Teacher of the Year are available through your superintendent or principal or by calling the Coordinator listed below. Applications must be completed and postmarked by midnight, August 10, 2012. A selection panel will review the applications, and the four or five teachers receiving the highest scores will be advanced. Finalists

will be interviewed during October, and the Teacher of the Year will be selected from those finalists. An awards luncheon will be held in November.

Begun in 1972, the Nebraska Teacher of the Year program recognizes outstanding Nebraska certified teachers who teach in a pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 classroom setting, and who plan to continue in an active teacher status in a state-approved or accredited school. Three letters of support must accompany the application. Questions on the application seek information on educational background and personal development, community involvement, philosophy of teaching and learning, and the teaching profession from the viewpoint of the applicant.

Candidates must be:

- exceptionally dedicated
- knowledgeable/skilled
- respected/admired by parents, students, and peers
- active in the community in which they teach
- poised, articulate, and energetic
- able to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities

The Nebraska State Education Association, Nebraska Council of School Administrators,

Nebraska Association of School Boards, and corporate partners BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska and Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) will present a monetary award to the Nebraska Teacher of the Year. Each of the remaining finalists will be given a monetary award from sponsoring corporate friends and education associations.

Continued on next page.

Awards of excellence and ACFTL Continued

The Nebraska State Board of Education will provide a \$1,000 grant to the Awards of Excellence winners and the Teacher of the Year to be used for a project of the teacher's choice in his/her school. Additionally, the Nebraska State Education Association, Nebraska Association of School Boards, Nebraska Council of School Administrators, SMART Technologies, BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), the Nebraska Parent Teacher Association, Dillard's Department Store, Lincoln, and Nebraska Department of Education will present gifts, mementoes, and awards to the persons recognized.

The Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program has received financial support from The Sherwood Foundation, Union Bank & Trust Company, The Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Inc., and ConAgra Foods Foundation.

If you have need for additional information, please call (402) 471-5059 or email lora.sypal@nebraska.gov, Nebraska Teacher of the Year Coordinator

ACTFL Continued

The direct application of the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines is for the evaluation of functional language ability. The Guidelines are intended to be used for global assessment in academic and workplace settings. However, the Guidelines do have instructional implications. The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines underlie the development of the ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners (1998) and are used in conjunction with the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning (1996, 1998, 2006) to describe how well students meet content standards. For the past 25 years, the ACTFL Guidelines have had an increasingly profound impact on foreign language teaching and learning in the United States.

To download the complete text of the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012 document in a PDF format, please head to the following website: <http://actflproficiencyguidelines2012.org/>. Examples of **ACTFL Proficiency Samples are Now Available** and can also be located at the same website.



JNCL



The Board of Directors of the Joint National Committee for Language National Council on Language and International Studies has appointed Dr. William P. Rivers to succeed Dr. J. David Edwards as Executive Director. Dr. Edwards is retiring from his position after 31 years of service to JNCL-NCLIS.

Dr. Rivers brings 20 years of experience in culture and language for economic development and national security, with expertise in research, assessment, program evaluation, and policy development and advocacy. He will contribute to chair ASTM Technical Committee F43, Language Services and Products and the US Technical Advisory Group to ISO Technical Committee 232, Training in the Informal Sector. The executive committees of F43 and JNCL-NCLIS concurred that his continuing role as chair of these vital standards initiatives would be beneficial to the language enterprise in the US.

In announcing the appointment, JNCL- NCLIS President Dr. Dan E. Davidson expressed heartfelt thanks to Dave Edwards for his well-documented achievements on behalf of the foreign language field at the helm of JNCL-NCLIS. Davidson noted that "the Board and membership of JNCL-NCLIS have engaged in a rigorous planning process over the past two years to define the ways the organization can best serve the needs of the field at a time when the role of world languages has never been more important to U.S. national security and overall competitiveness. The Search Committee and Board are delighted that Dr. Bill Rivers has accepted the JNCL appointment and believe he is unusually qualified to lead the organization at this time." President Elect Dr. Ray Clifford added, "While we will miss working with Dr. Edwards, we are pleased that Dr. Rivers has agreed to apply his extensive experience and professional expertise on behalf of JNCL-NCLIS."

Before joining JNCL-NCLIS, he served as Chief Scientist at Integrated Training Solutions, Inc., a small business in Arlington, Virginia, where he focused on strategic planning, management, and advanced technologies for language and culture programs in the public sector. While at ITS, he served in a contractor role as the Chief Linguist of the National Language Service Corps. Prior to working at ITS, he was a founding member of the Center for Advanced Study of Language (CASL) at the University of Maryland, and was a staff member of the National Foreign Language Center from 1994 to 2003.

Continued on page 8

During his career, Dr. Rivers has also taught Russian at the University of Maryland, worked as a freelance interpreter and translator, and conducted field work in Kazakhstan, where he regularly returns to teach at several universities. He received his PhD in Russian from Bryn Mawr College and his MA, BA, and BS from the University of Maryland. He speaks Russian and French.

The mission and activities of the Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL) and the National Council for Languages and International Studies (NCLIS) are founded on the shared belief of its member organizations that all Americans should have the opportunity to learn and use English and at least one other language, emphasizing the vital role played in the national well being by our K-12 and higher education foreign language programs. JNCL and NCLIS represent over 60 national and regional organizations encompassing virtually all areas of the field of language education, including the major and the less-commonly taught languages, English and English as a second language, the classics, linguistics, student exchange study programs, research, technology, interpreting, and translation.

Central States Conference

2013 Conference

March 14–16, 2013

Hilton Columbus Downtown
Columbus, OH

Conference Highlights

- Explore ways to help students succeed in a global society
- Learn about colleagues' languages
- Discuss, debate, and learn about methodologies, cultures, and communities
- Share solutions to problems
- Investigate modes of assessment
- Explore uses of technology
- Learn techniques to motivate and stretch language proficiency
- Generate excitement about language learning
- Energize language educator

NILA Poster Session Ideas

If you missed out on this year's new NILA poster session, consider bringing your ideas for the 2012 NILA Conference at UNO. This gives new and old members a simple way to get more involved in the conference in a very easy way. Simple bring in your idea/project/student examples and share, share, share. Contact Rita Blanco to participate (rblanco@lps.org).

AWARDED DEPARTMENT OF STATE FELLOWSHIP TO HOST

Washington, D.C., February 5, 2012 – JULIO BARREIRO from Minas, Uruguay has been awarded a fellowship from the U.S. Department of State to participate in the Educational Seminar: 2012 Uruguay Educator Exchange Program. MR. BARREIRO is one of 16 educators who have been selected from Uruguay to participate. John White from Westside High School in Omaha, Nebraska will host him. John White, who has also been awarded a fellowship from the U.S. Department of State, will travel to Uruguay for two weeks during the summer of 2012 for the reciprocal component of this exchange.

The Educational Seminar: 2012 Uruguay Educator Exchange Program is a short-term, mutual exchange opportunity for U.S. and Uruguay school principals and teachers. The program provides a short-term professional development opportunity for U.S. and Uruguay educators to share best practices on issues of mutual interest to their schools, students and communities.

The Uruguay educators spend two weeks in U.S. schools with their U.S. partners in February of 2012 and the U.S. educators travel to Uruguay for two weeks the following summer in their partners' schools. The program is individualized through collaboration between partners and focuses on teaching strategies/instruction, the development of joint educational projects, personnel administration, school systems and management, global issues and culture, curriculum development, student affairs, and/or educational policy.

The Educational Seminar Programs are funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, which fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries around the world through academic, cultural, and professional exchanges. with Argentina, Brazil, Greece, India, Italy, Mexico, Thailand and Uruguay. The program is implemented by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS (<http://www.americancouncils.org/es>).



Executive Council Role	Name	E-mail
President	Melanie Bloom	melaniebloom@mail.unomaha.edu
Past President	Kathy DeBoer	kcdeboer@mpsomaha.org
President Elect	Rebecca Gill Renken	rgill@esu6.org
Vice President	Sarah Percival	spercival@westside66.org
Secretary	Mel Hernandez	melhernan@lps.org
Treasurer	Julie Burenheide	jburenheide@esu8.org
Program Chair 2012 Fall Conference	Rita Blanco	rblanco@lps.org
Exhibit Chair 2012 Fall Conference	Wendy Brennan	wmbrennan@mpsomaha.org
Site Chair	Anita Saalfeld	anitasaaelfeld@unomaha.edu
Role	Name	E-mail
NDE	Vickie Scow	vickie.scow@nebraska.gov
NAATF	Jennifer Rotherham	jennifer.rotherham@ops.org
NATG	Pat Branson	bransonp@hotmail.com
NATSP	Mandy Freitag	afreitag@westside66.org
NNELL State Rep	Kathy deBoer	kcdeboer@mpsomaha.org



What is NILA?

The Nebraska International Languages Association (NILA) is your professional organization dedicated to the support and promotion of the teaching of languages and English as a second language in the state of Nebraska.

Individual membership in NILA is open to any person who is interested in or who is actively engaged in the teaching of a second language at any level of education. NILA membership is also open to administrators, school counselors, retired teachers, student teachers, interns and parents.

NILA is your support system!

- Connect with colleagues in the field of language education across the state. Get great ideas for Monday morning, best professional practices, and tricks for every day of the year!

- Network to resources, creative ideas, and collaborate with teachers just like you!

NILA offers it s members Professional Development & Recognition!

- NILA Fall Conference
- Nebraska chapters of the Associations of Teachers of French, German, and Spanish & Portuguese
- Summer institutes addressing curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- Mini-grants for New Teachers
- Recognition: STAR AWARDS, Outstanding Young Educator Award, Outstanding FL Teacher in Nebraska
- An extensive website with links to information on world languages education in Nebraska and across the nation!

NILA is your voice!

- Provides Nebraska members with representation at national conferences and in organizations such as: ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) and The Central States Conference
- Promotes the study of languages nationwide through its involvement with the Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL)