



Fall Features 2007

The Foreign Language Association of Georgia

Dedicated to serving the citizens & foreign language professionals of Georgia

Dear FLAG Colleagues,

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. The FLAG Board is very excited about the 2007-2008 school year and what we plan to offer to our members and their students this year.

This issue of "Fall Features" has information about many events that will be held during the year. The online versions of "Fall Features" proved to be very popular last year, so we are continuing it again on-line this year so that it is accessible to all language teachers in Georgia. Our hope is that our publications, conference, contests, and other events will attract new members to FLAG. Of course, nothing works better than personal contacts. I invite all of our members to spread the news about FLAG and to invite at least one person to join. Our goal this year is to have at least 1000 members, and if we work together, we can certainly accomplish this. Our membership is open to all foreign language teachers in Georgia. This includes K-12 teachers and university professors. FLAG has something for everyone. Our membership costs only \$25 per academic year. Dues can be paid online or sent in by mail.

We are excited this year to return to Augusta for our FLAG Conference. This year's conference will be held February 29-March 1 at the Augusta Marriott Hotel and Suites. Information about the conference can be found at www.flageorgia.org. We recommend that you make your hotel reservations early as we expect rooms to fill quickly. We invite everyone to join us as we return to Augusta.

Beginning this school year, FLAG is pleased to contribute up to \$500 toward air fare for any FLAG member who is selected as a recipient of any of the SCOLT Summer Study Abroad scholarships. Information on these scholarships can be found at www.scolt.org. The FLAG Board realizes that the rising costs of air fares make it difficult, if not impossible, to participate in summer studies abroad programs, and we hope that more of our members will be able to take advantage of these programs.

Make plans now to increase your participation in FLAG! Nominate a colleague for an award, encourage your students to participate in either the FLES and/or Middle School/High School contests, volunteer to judge at one of these contests, consider running as a member-at-large, or submit an article for the *FLAG Journal*. The FLAG Board welcomes your input and would love to see even more participation in all FLAG activities! It is only through member participation can we continue to offer the quality events like we have in the past. Thank you so much again for your support and for your commitment to the students of foreign languages in the state! Have a great 2007-2008 school year!

From the President
Greg Barfield

INVITATION

Fore FLAG: From Novice to Master



February 28--March 1, 2008 * Augusta, GA

You are cordially invited to join FLAG for its 2008 conference which will take place in Augusta. At this time, we are seeking session and workshop proposals. Exhibitors are sought, as well. Please complete the Exhibitor Application Form (**PDF**) on the FLAG website.

Additional conference information and materials will be posted in the upcoming months. In the meantime, if you have questions...concerning session and workshop proposals, [contact the FLAG first vice-president](#)...concerning registration, [contact the FLAG Administrator/Treasurer](#)

The FLAG Journal: Call for Submissions

The FLAG Journal editors are asking you to send in items for publication in the next issue. Remember that The Journal now has a section called "In-and-About the Classroom" for news items from your school or school district. Items for this section should be a maximum of 150 words. Submissions due April 1, 2008.

With your help, we can continue to make the FLAG Journal an informative and interesting publication. _

Please send all submissions to the following address:
Jim Chesnut/Elizabeth Combier, FLAG Journal

Dept. of Modern Languages
North Georgia College & State University
Dahlonega, GA 30597
Tel 706 864-1774
egcombier@ngcsu.edu
jchesnut@ngcsu.edu

The FLAG Journal

Please be on the watch-out for the special session on the FLAG Journal at the Conference. Come join your colleagues in a discussion of the Journal and how we can all work together to make it the best Journal possible.

One Perspective

Dear Dr. Barfield:

As the Division Director for the division that encompasses Languages and International Education here at the GaDOE, and an active member of FLAG, I'd like to share my perspective on the proposed changes to the High School Graduation Rule with you. Please share this with other members of the FLAG Board.

Georgia is part of the American Diploma Project Network, a group of thirty states that is working to increase the rigor of a high school diploma to ensure that all students graduate ready for college or the workforce. A key aspect of that project is setting rigorous expectations for all students through a single diploma. The High School Graduation Rule Committee was asked to work on developing proposed revisions of the Graduation rule to move Georgia to a single, rigorous diploma.

Both Susan Crooks, Specialist for Languages and International Education, and I sat on the High School Graduation Rule Committee with principals, other GaDOE staff members, and professors and Board of Regents officials. The topic of a universal requirement for Modern Languages and Latin was discussed by the committee on multiple occasions. It was the richest, most wide-ranging discussion of the topic of language learning that I have been a part of in my seven plus years at the GaDOE. Individuals from various and sundry disciplines spoke strongly in favor of language learning.

After intense discussion, the committee reached consensus that Modern Languages and Latin would benefit all students, that all students can learn languages, and that Modern Languages and Latin should be required of all students. But, looking at the facts on the ground, this committee also reached the conclusion that we do not have the capacity in the state of Georgia at the present time to expand the requirement to all students. This sobering conclusion was based on the following realities:

1. The vast majority of students in Georgia do not have a chance to learn languages prior to high school. Every other academic discipline for which there is a high school requirement is one in which students build a firm foundation in elementary and middle school.
2. The Georgia Performance Standards for Modern Languages and Latin, with a strong focus on communicative competence and realistic standards for student achievement based on the ACTFL K-12 Performance Guidelines, and the accompanying thematic units that illustrate how to teach them, are rolling out this school year. At least one full year of training is needed to reach language teachers statewide and ensure that everyone finally makes the paradigm shift from grammar-based teaching to teaching to develop proficient users of the languages.
3. The majority of teachers of Modern Languages and Latin are accustomed to teaching only "college-preparatory" students. Intensive teacher training is needed to ensure that language teachers are equipped with strategies and aware of interventions to teach a wider range of students than ever before. This point was poignantly illustrated by the experience of one of the principals on the H.S. Graduation Rule Committee. He had attempted to implement a school-wide expectation that every child would complete two years of the same language, but met with great resistance on the part of the Modern Language and Latin faculty in his school. Clearly, a statewide effort is needed to help get all language educators "on the same page" with respect to teaching all learners.

4. Many Georgia schools districts, particularly small, rural ones, still struggle to hire highly qualified teachers for Modern Languages and Latin. We do not produce nearly enough new language teachers each year through existing teacher preparation programs. If we are to have a statewide requirement that provides quality instruction to all students, we must find strategies for recruiting and retaining qualified language teachers.

Once the committee reached this conclusion, Superintendent Kathy Cox formed a Modern Languages and Latin Subcommittee of the High School Graduation Rules Committee, tasked with developing a strategic plan for building capacity to support a language requirement at the high school level. That strategic plan will encompass the GPS training set to start this fall and continue through the spring, as well as plans for encouraging a decisive expansion of middle school programs. The GaDOE would welcome FLAG leaders to sit on that sub-committee and be a part of this important work.

I recognize that not having Modern Languages and Latin "required" of all students as English, math, social studies and science are required is disappointing to FLAG members. But I must emphasize what a significant and positive step it is for Georgia to set the same rigorous requirements for all students.

At the July Superintendent's Conference Call with district superintendents from around the state, Superintendent Cox spoke about the proposed revision of the Graduation Rule and about the role of Modern Languages and Latin. She stated her support for language learning clearly and unequivocally, and indicated her desire to see more districts implementing high quality middle school programs that prepare students for high school. Superintendent Cox was also a part of the College Board's Bridge Delegation to China this summer, and has asked us to look specifically at strategies for increasing the study of Chinese in Georgia. We are convening a Chinese Planning Meeting at the GaDOE on September 10th to begin work on that initiative.

I sincerely hope that FLAG will support the move to a single diploma, even without a language requirement in the initial phase, and will support the work of the GaDOE over the next few years as we build the capacity to teach Modern Languages and Latin well in each and every district in Georgia. I hope that the members of FLAG will speak up for new, high quality middle school programs so that students enter 9th grade with at least one year of language learning already under their belts. I hope that you will help us get the word out about how important it is to have high expectations for all students, and for all students to have the opportunity to learn languages--we still have some language teachers out there who need convincing. With strong support from language educators around the state, we can move language learning in Georgia to a new level, where students routinely begin language learning in 6th grade or earlier and continue until graduation.

Best regards,

Elizabeth Webb
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Georgia Department of Education
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(404) 651-8507-fax
ewebb@doe.k12.ga.us
www.gadoe.org



Announcing

FLAG SPOKEN LANGUAGE CONTEST 2008!

Saturday, April 19, 2008

from 8:00 am until 12:00 Noon

at two concurrent sites

Northview High School, Duluth Georgia

Darton College, Albany Georgia

All foreign language teachers of Georgia are invited to enter their students in the 2008 High School Spoken Language Contest, which will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at Northview High School and Darton College in Albany. Dot Kemptner and Catherine Francisse are coordinating the efforts at Northview High and Polly Stadnik at the Darton College site.

The contest provides an excellent opportunity for students to practice their language skills. At the contest, teachers from another school or system interview students and their speaking skills are rated. Based on their performance, students earn ribbons for a ranking of Superior, Excellent, or Notable, all students receive certificates of participation.

All registration information and contest rules and regulations can be found on FLAG's website. Please contact Joe Frank Uriz, FLAG 2nd Vice-President if you have any questions or interested in hosting the contest in the future!



SCOLT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FRENCH, GERMAN & SPANISH TEACHERS

SCOLT plans to once again offer study abroad scholarships for the summer of 2008. **Postmark deadline for application is NOVEMBER 15, 2007.** For complete program and application information, please see: www.scolt.org.

**The Foreign Language Association of Georgia
Announces the 2008 FLAG Conference**

to be held at

Augusta Marriott Hotel and Suites

Two Tenth Street

Augusta, Georgia 30901

February 29 – March 1, 2008

Please be sure to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.

Augusta Marriott Hotel

Standard Guestrooms:

King @\$109.00 (1-2 people)

Standard guest room with one King Bed

Augusta Marriott Suites

Standard Guestrooms:

Q/Q Suite @109.00 (1-4 people)

Two room suite with two queen beds,

Refrigerator, microwave and living room

To make hotel reservations, please contact:

Marriott Augusta Hotel and Suites

(706) 722-8900

FAX: (706) 724-0044

Please do NOT send hotel reservations with your conference registrations.

FLAG does NOT handle the hotel reservations.

FLAG MEMBERSHIP FORM

FLAG dues are due by September 1 of each year. You may pay your dues online at www.flageorgia.org or you may mail your dues to: Foreign Language Association of Georgia, Treasurer, P.O. Box 734, Griffin, GA 30224.

- [] **\$15.00 - Student/Retired Membership**
("student" means full-time, undergraduate student only; "retired" means retired and NOT teaching). Benefits: Subscription to *The FLAG Journal*, "Fall Features", FLAG Conference at member rates, participation at the FLAG Contests.
- [] **\$25.00 – Regular Membership**
Benefits: Subscription to *The FLAG Journal*, "Fall Features", FLAG Conference at member rates, participation at the FLAG Contests
- [] **\$40.00 Joint Spouses' Membership**
Benefits: Subscription to *The FLAG Journal*, "Fall Features", FLAG Conference at member rates, participation at the FLAG Contests
- [] **\$50.00 Patron Membership**
Available to individuals. Benefits: Subscription to *The FLAG Journal*, "Fall Features", FLAG Conference at member rates, participation at the FLAG Contests. Name will be Listed on the FLAG web page, in *The FLAG Journal*, and in the conference program.
- [] **\$50.00 Institutional Membership**
Available to institutions only. Subscription to *The FLAG Journal*, "Fall Features". Name will be listed on the FLAG web page, in *The FLAG Journal*, and in the conference program.
- [] Contribution for "Year of Languages" Support. Specify amount: \$_____

Did a colleague urge you to join FLAG? If so, please let us know who (name, school, email), so that we can thank him or her for supporting our membership drive. And, thank you for your support!

Please print clearly.

Name: _____

School: _____

County: _____ Level of Instruction: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone: _____ School FAX: _____

Language taught: _____

Home address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home FAX: _____

Email address: _____

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Georgia World Languages Calendar
Fall 2007 - Summer 2008
Join FLAG!

Membership Application: <http://www.flageorgia.org/apply.htm>

Events are added to this calendar on an ongoing basis.

Please check the Languages and International Education home page for updates:
http://www.gadoe.org/ci_jap_languages.aspx

To add events to this calendar or make changes to a posted event,
email Susan Crooks at the Georgia Department of Education: scrooks@doe.k12.ga.us

AATSP Georgia Fall Conference 2007

Practical Strategies for Meeting Student Needs Across the Spectrum

Saturday, September 15, 2007

Wheeler High School

Marietta, GA

<http://www.aatsp-ga.org/>

First District RESA Foreign Language Consortium Meeting

Aug. 30, 31, 2007 for GPS training

Wayne Technical Center, Coastal Ga. Center, Georgia

scrooks@doe.k12.ga.us

FLAG Conference Deadline for Proposals

Sept. 15, 2007

<http://www.flageorgia.org>

Georgia Foreign Language Supervisors' Meeting (GOLS)

Sept. 17, 2007

Gwinnett Public schools

scrooks@doe.k12.ga.us

Seventeenth Annual JapanFest

September 29 and 30, 2007

11 AM to 5PM Convention Center at Gwinnett Center

<http://www.japanfest.org> or scrooks@doe.k12.ga.us

AATG-GA Fall Seminar

“EU-Referenzrahmen für Sprachunterricht” von Michael Höfig, der neue Fachberater

Sept. 29, 2007

Emory University

wardj@thewalkerschool.org

Southwest GA RESA Foreign Language Consortium Meeting

Sept. 20, 2007 GPS training

Pelham, GA

scrooks@doe.k12.ga.us

AATF-GA Fall Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 28

Place and Time TBA

wgriffin@kennesaw.edu

Georgia Junior Classical League Fall Forum

Date TBA

Place TBA

<http://www.gjcl.org>

SCOLT Scholarship Applications due Nov. 15, 2007

French, German and Spanish teachers may apply for SCOLT scholarships

<http://www.valdosta.edu/scolt/>

National Conference of State Supervisors of Foreign Language 2007

Nov. 13-15, 2007

San Antonio, Texas

www.ncssf.org

National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Language Conference 2007

Nov. 13-15, 2007

San Antonio, Texas

www.nadsfl.org

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language Annual Conference 2007

Nov. 16-18, 2007

San Antonio, Texas

www.actfl.org

FLAG TOTY, POTY, SOTY deadline for nominations

Nov. 15, 2007

www.flageorgia.org

Sprachbad Savannah- German Immersion Weekend

January 11-13, 2008

Savannah, Ga.

<http://georgia.aatg.org/aatg/aatg-sgc.html>

Southwest Georgia RESA Foreign Language Consortium

Jan. 17, 2008 GPS Training

Pelham, Ga.

scrooks@doe.k12.ga.us

First District RESA Foreign Language Consortium

Jan.30, 31 2008 GPS Training

Coastal Ga. Center, Wayne Technical Center, Ga.

scrooks@doe.k12.ga.us

State German Convention and German Student of the Year Interviews State AATG Meeting

February 3-4, 2008

State FFA/FHA Camp

Covington, Ga.

<http://georgia.aatg.org/aatg/aatg-sgc.htm>

State Foreign Language Governor's Honors Interviews

February 8-9, 2008

Clayton State College <http://www.gadoe.org/support/sss/ghp.asp>

AATF French Immersion Weekend for H.S. Students

Date TBA

Rock Eagle, Eatonton, Ga.

jdhursey@mindspring.com

Foreign Language Association of Georgia Conference

Feb. 29-March 1, 2008

Augusta, Ga.

<http://www.flageorgia.org>

Registration deadline for FLAG Spoken Language Contests

March 9, 2008

<http://www.flageorgia.org>

Southern Conference on Language Teaching Conference

April 3-5, 2008

Myrtle Beach, S.C.

<http://www.valdosta.edu/scott/>

FLAG Spoken Language Contest

April 19, 2008

Northview H.S.

Darton College Date TBA

<http://www.flageorgia.org>

AATSP Spanish Immersion Camp for Students

Date TBA

Place TBA

Judson_Bridges@gwinnett.k12.ga.us

FLES Spoken Language Contest

Date & Place TBA

<http://www.flageorgia.org>

Foreign Language Academic Advisory Council

April 13 & 14, 2008

Jekyll Island, Ga.

jchesnut@ngcsu.edu

Georgia Junior Classical League State Convention

April Date TBA

Rock Eagle, Eatonton, Ga.

<http://www.gjcl.org>