

PENNSYLVANIA STATE
MODERN LANGUAGE
ASSOCIATION

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Christina Huhn

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PSMLA Fall/Winter Newsletter 2015

WWW.PSMLA.ORG



FALL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS!

*Philadelphia, PA
October 15-17, 2015*



Mina and John handle registration.



*Paul Sandrock's engaging
lunchtime presentation*



*Sister Mary Helen and Nancy
present to an interested audience.*



*Participants engage in a lively
discussion in the vendor area.*



Rich Madel - MC extraordinaire



*John DeMado doing what he
does best*

PSMLA Awardees Honored

Frank Mulhern Leadership Award:

Thomasina White, University of Pennsylvania

Merit Award:

Joanne Silver, Beach Lloyd Publishing

Educator of the Year:

Gabriel Blanco, Council Rock HS (Presented by his daughter)

Best of PA Session: This is a well-received conference session that is then invited to present at the upcoming NECTFL conference.

*Achieving proficiency through the three modes of communication
David Brightbill & Sarah Aguilar-Francis, William Penn Charter
School*



PSMLA GLOBAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM



The **PSMLA Global Scholars Program** is an interdisciplinary program that honors students for developing global competency and is being piloted during the 2015-2016 school year by high schools across the state.

Currently six schools are involved in the program, with more expressing interest on a regular basis. It is not too late for your school to register so that you, too, can give your students the opportunity to set a defined goal toward academic, personal, and professional success in the global community!

Without creating new courses, students and faculty focus on the global aspects of the existing curricula in the school, and, subsequently, honor students for their success in committing to and completing global studies.

Components of the program for schools include:

- ♦ **Existing courses** (Four years of the same world language and four additional credits toward graduation for which a primary component is global in nature)
- ♦ **Active participation in extra-curricular activities with a global focus**
- ♦ **Service hours with a global focus**
- ♦ **Review of literature/media with a global focus**

Learn more about the PSMLA Global Scholars Program and how your school can register at: <http://www.psmla.net/global-scholars>.



In June of 2015, Pennsylvania welcomed a new Secretary of Education. Pedro Rivera brings a long history as an advocate for foreign languages in his home area of Lancaster, PA, where his family continues to reside and his children attend the program he formerly directed.

Mr. Rivera brings experience as a bilingual and Spanish teacher, as a principal, and as a superintendent in the state of PA. This experience will serve him well as he participates in discussions of student engagement, budget cuts and underserved students.

Secretary Rivera interacted with PSMLA President Jan Stewart via phone this summer indicating that he wants to be in touch with as many practitioners as possible. Secretary Rivera said that he was in the process of reviewing the fact that there is no longer a world language advisor at the Pennsylvania Department of Education and hoped to remedy that situation. Jan discussed the PSMLA Global Scholars Program with him and expressed that PSMLA would be happy to serve as a resource to PDE regarding matters concerning world language education.

For more about Pedro Rivera, check out his webpage <http://www.education.pa.gov/pages/Secretary-Biography.aspx#.VI0VJL9Gz2M>, or his twitter feed at <https://twitter.com/pedroarivera2>



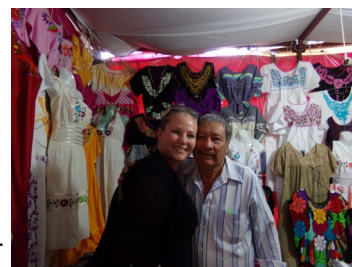
As a language teacher, I travel when I can to maintain contact with the language. During the summer of 2015, I spent time in Cuernavaca, Mexico, working with the [Cemanahuac](#) language school. When I returned to the house after a week-end away, I was introduced to two new students in the house. In response to the usual pleasantries, one of the students mentioned she was from Western Pennsylvania. As it turns out, she was our 2015 Cemanahuac Scholarship recipient!

Janine Bost teaches Spanish at Jeanette McKee K-8 school in Jeanette, PA. Never having had the opportunity to travel abroad due to financial constraints, Janine was very excited to travel to Mexico to study and experience the Mexican culture.

The Cemanahuac program is set up in two parts – grammar and language instruction in the morning and a teacher seminar in the afternoon. Classes



end around 1:30 or 2:30, leaving time for interactions with the family and the city and excursions. Upon arrival, Janine felt intimidated by the other students in her class but quickly adapted and excelled in the program and was eager to explore Mexico and put her Spanish skills into practice.



On one afternoon, we spent the afternoon in *El Mercado* where one particular vendor was thrilled not just with our purchases but with our conversations. Janine and I spent quite a bit of time talking with him.

As for her Cemanahuac experience, Janine is hoping for further travel, and with one ACTFL presentation already under her belt is looking forward to presenting about her experience at next year's fall conference in Erie, PA!

Written by Christina Huhn, Newsletter Editor

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Southwestern PA

APPLES (*Appalachian Language Educators Society* - <http://applescollaborative.weebly.com>) and **PSMLA** (psmla.org) co-sponsored a fall professional development workshop on the use of the Target Language in the classroom. The event was held on the Indiana University of Pennsylvania campus on **September 26, 2015**. The event was well-received by all in attendance.
Watch for more APPLES events in this region.



Save the Date!

Conference 2016 – Erie

The conference will be held at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center in Erie on Thursday, October 13 through Saturday, October 15, 2016.

NECTFL 2016

Developing Intercultural Competence through World Languages
February 11-13, 2016

<http://www.nectfl.org/conference>



For more information or to join PSMLA:

- go to www.psm्ला.org
- look for PSMLA on Facebook
- or contact

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The mission of the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association is to enhance foreign language education throughout the state



by promoting the study of foreign languages,



by providing educators opportunities for professional growth and networking,



by recognizing excellence in the field, and



by collaborating with local, state and national organizations.

FALL PSMLA Executive Council Meeting Highlights

August 29-30, 2015

Treasurer's Report (M. Bogdan)

Council examined the Treasurer's report. Mike presented the balances. There were no major discrepancies but made some suggestions for bookkeeping for the future.

Secretary's Report (P. Rzodkiewicz)

Phyllis reported that we currently have 508 individual members and 29 Institutional members. Notification has been sent that a School Group Membership has replaced the Institutional Membership. Redeeming the Pep Vouchers is working out well.

Finance Report (S. Nimmrichter)

Based on the current bylaws, the committee proposed that the immediate past president and the secretary be considered as regular committee members of the Finance Committee. A revision to the bylaws will be presented and voted upon at the luncheon at the Business Meeting at our fall conference.

Advertising Manager's Report (J. Yamamoto)

There is a great value in building relationships with vendors.

ACT 48 (B. Storey)

Teachers have been receiving Act 48 hours upon receipt of impact statements. We will need to reapply with PDE next year for re-certification.

ACTFL (T. White)

ACTFL continues to update members on new programs and new successes in the study of World Languages throughout the United States via their email newsletter.

Global Scholars (J. Stewart)

Jan went to a meeting in Chicago with representatives from 12 states and organizations. There is a follow-up meeting in October at the Global Education Conference. We need to work with other organizations to help the public realize our importance. Five schools are currently registered to pilot the Global Scholars Program that is modeled after the Wisconsin model for the 2015-2016 school year.

PEP (M. Levenson)

The letter to the superintendents will be revised and sent out in early October 2015.

Historian Report (N. Zimmerman)

Harrison Wick is now handling the archives at IUP.

JNCL (M. Levenson)

JNCL is working diligently to influence legislation at the federal level with reasonable success, given the parameters. They continue to send legislative alerts and a myriad of information that is useful to language teachers at all levels of instruction. Mina will represent JNCL in Washington in 2016.

NECTFL (D. Wang)

The NECTFL conference 2016 will be at the New York Hilton Midtown on February 11-13, 2016. There will be two slots available for Best of PA 2014 and 2015.

PaCIE (Sister Kashuba)

The theme of the 2015 PaCIE conference is Building Global Competence in International Education. The theme embodies their mission: to build and strengthen connections and collaborations among and between educational institutional, governmental bodies, businesses, and non-profit organizations throughout Pennsylvania.

Conference 2015—Philadelphia (J. Grande and N. Zimmerman)

They are all set! The 2015 Steering Committee has met almost monthly since January and has met with the local committee.

Conference 2016—Erie (P. Rzodkiewicz)

The conference will be held at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center in Erie on October 13-15, 2016. The keynote speaker will be Carol Pifer from MCRC (the Multicultural Resource Center). A letter will be sent this month to schools and language teachers in the Erie County area to let them know that the conference will be in Erie in 2016 so they can budget with their schools for next year. The committee is working on possibilities for the Pre-conference.

Conference 2017 – State College (Ex Co will be involved)

The conference will be back in State College in 2017. When it is held in State College, ExCo takes an active role.

Awards (K. Fegely for J. Grande)

We began to update the Awards on the PSMLA website. A rubric assessment has been created to use when selecting the Outstanding Senior awards. The committee will work on a specific rubric to evaluate those being considered for Teacher Awards.

Advocacy (N. Zimmerman)

Jan spoke with PA Secretary of Education, Pedro Rivera. She congratulated him on his position, explained about the Global Scholars Program, Pep Awards, etc. The committee will draft a letter, and work with Jan, to send to Pedro Rivera to address our concerns and emphasize our request for a World Language Advisor at PDE to give us a voice and equity.

Nominations/Elections (I. De Valdivia)

Isabel has prepared the Bios and List of Candidates running for ExCo. Ron has this information and will again use Election Buddy for this year's election. The election will be held the beginning of September.

Membership (I. de Valdivia)

A membership brochure is under development, and will be added to the webpage.

The committee recommends to not have an increase in membership rates for next year and to use the listserv, in addition to mailing printed letters to all members.

Professional Development (N. Zimmerman and D. Wang)

The committee is working on specific plans for the redesigned website to advertise workshops, including the workshop schedule, topic descriptions, information on presenters, a link for a workshop request, and fee information.

Publications (C. Huhn)

The Forum will stay hybrid this year. The Forum will be mailed in September. Three articles will be available on line and the other articles will appear in print copy.

The committee spent much time looking at the website and making suggestions for the new design. This work will continue.

Spring Meeting, 2016

The spring meeting will be held at the Penn State at State College on April 2, 2016.

Professional Development and Regional Projects

Southwest

The APPLS collaborative will host a professional development day on September 26 at IUP. They will team with PSMLA to offer Act 48 credits. Topic: building target language use in the classroom.

Central

There was discussion about offering a workshop in the spring, possibly in March or April. They are considering a mini-immersion day.

Southeast

The committee is busy with the conference. There will be planning for a possible workshop after the conclusion of this year's conference. Some possible topics include: Performance based activities and SLOs.

Website development with Ron via Skype

The various PSMLA committees have placed their recommended changes for the website in the Google Drive in the PSMLA folder. Ron will work on these changes with Publications Committee for both content and formatting consistency. It was suggested to Ron that they use the JNCL website (languagepolicy.org) or the ACTFL site as a guide for our new site.

New Business - Possible IPA or SOPI Workshop

Bonnie Adair-Hauck received a grant and can do an IPA or a SOPI workshop. Jan and Phyllis will work with Bonnie to see if we can work something out for a pre-conference workshop in Erie.