

Prepare to Attend the 41st Annual IFLTA Conference 2009

by Silvana Falconi
IFLTA Vice President

The 2009 IFLTA Conference, “Global Vision: Preparing World Citizens,” will take place November 5-7 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Indianapolis-Airport. The overview below will let everyone know what we have planned.

We hope to have the full conference program on the website <http://www.iflta.org/conference/> by early October, so check there later for times and full details.

Registration

To register, complete and mail the registration form printed in this newsletter or download it from the website <http://www.iflta.org/conference/>. Please mail it with your payment to the Meeting Connection and remember that IFLTA cannot accept purchase orders.

To reserve a hotel room, use the hotel registration form in this newsletter or on the website <http://www.iflta.org/conference/> and fax or mail it directly to the hotel or call the hotel to make a reservation. A block of rooms is being held for us until October 15, so reserve early. Rates will remain low after October 15 but there is no guarantee that rooms will still be available.

Attendance Grants for New Teachers

Grants are available to cover registration and/or hotel expenses at the annual IFLTA Conference for pre-service teachers, teachers in the first five years of service and/or experienced teachers who are attending the conference for the first time. Preference is given in each case to first-time attendees. For more information and an application form go to <http://www.iflta.org/grants&scholarships/>

Special Events

General Session

Keynote Speaker



Peggy Boyles

"Giving Assessments a Global Punch!"

Friday, November 6, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Atrium

During her foreign language career of over thirty five years, Peggy Boyles has taught elementary, secondary, and university students and has served as K-12 District Curriculum Supervisor in World Languages. Peggy is currently the President of Peggy Boyles and Associates, a consulting service providing assistance to schools, universities, and other organizations of foreign language education in the areas of curriculum, assessment, professional development, and program evaluation. She has published several articles on the topic of assessment and curriculum design. Peggy also served as a Senior Editor of the ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners and is the 2004 recipient of the ACTFL Florence Steiner Award for Leadership in Foreign Language Education. Peggy is a graduate of DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana.

Whether living in Cloverdale or Indianapolis, students today challenge us to show them the relevance of learning a foreign language. They want to see how the classroom experience can cross over to their real world. Performance-based assessment can be the bridge that encourages transfer from what students are learning in the classroom to a more global, personalized context. With just little bit of imagination, teachers can design assessment tasks that energize and motivate their students.

A Taste-Trip around the World

Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. in Heathrow AB

As conference participants arrive, we will meet and greet each other over a glass of wine. Come and taste a variety of international wines and meet new colleagues in a relaxed environment.

University Night

Friday, November 6, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in Gallery

This event provides a chance to see what Indiana colleges and universities can offer your students. Stop the brain drain and encourage your students to stay in Indiana! Hors d'oeuvres will be served and raffle prizes awarded, compliments of the universities.

Exhibit Hall

Throughout the conference

New textbooks, updated teaching materials, the latest videos and DVDs, some realia, fundraising opportunities, gifts, souvenirs and more can be found here. Do not forget the raffle opportunities and great conversations! Exhibitors will treat us to coffee during the day and wine on Friday afternoon.

Workshops

Pre-Service World Language Teachers Workshop

Thursday, November 5, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Amphitheater

This informative workshop will be hosted by David Rosenbaum, Crown Point High School, Janet Holzer, Eastwood Middle School and Claudia Nole, Park Tudor School. This workshop will help connect pre-service world language teachers to the profession and to each other, and will offer tips on how to have a successful student teaching and first-year experience. Topics covered in the workshop include establishing oneself as a professional using games to engage students in the learning process and tips for managing paperwork, grading and assessment. This is a don't-miss workshop for anyone about to take the first steps into world language teaching. Simply check the "Pre-Service WL Teachers Workshop" option on the conference registration form, found at <http://www.iflta.org/conference/>. Hors d'oeuvres will be served during the workshop. Pre-registration is required.

Part I: Beginning World Language Teachers Workshop

Thursday, November 5, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in O'Hare AB

This workshop will be hosted by the IFLTA board of directors. Simply check the "Beginning WL Teachers Workshop" option on the conference registration form, found at <http://www.iflta.org/conference/>. Hors d'oeuvres will be served during the workshop. Pre-registration is required.

Part II: Beginning World Language Teachers Workshop

Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. - 3:25 p.m. in Heathrow AB

This workshop is a continuation from the Thursday Beginning World Language Teachers Workshop led by David Rosenbaum, Janet Holzer, Claudia Nole and other master world language teachers. They will offer strategies on teaching various levels, discuss different teaching techniques, and share their expertise in classroom management.

INN-Nell Swapshop

Friday, November 6, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. in Symposium

The IN-NELL Swapshop is going green! Please submit your lesson or activity idea electronically to Molly Murphy at mmurphy@parktutor.org by Friday, October 30th. Everyone who submits will receive a complete CD at the swapshop. Join us for the swapshop as we share some of our favorite ideas and learn new ones from the talented colleagues in our midst!

Performance-Based Assessment Workshop. Peggy Boyles, keynote speaker.

Friday, November 6, 2009 2:00 p.m. - 3:55 p.m. in Amphitheater

"Performance-Based Assessment: Encouraging Our Students to 'Get Real' with Language"

Students often think of testing as a means for the teacher to find out what they don't know, rather than an opportunity to demonstrate what they can do with the language they are learning. Performance-based assessment gives students a venue to show off the language they have acquired and to prove how they can transfer that acquired language into authentic, real-life contexts. By integrating both formative and summative assessments into our instructional plans, students can benefit from ongoing feedback that will improve performance throughout the year. After a brief overview of realistic performance expectations for different levels of proficiency, the presenter will share several models of performance-based assessment tasks and scoring rubrics. Participants will then develop their own tasks and will collaborate in designing scoring rubrics for speaking assessments targeted for Novice and Intermediate Learners.

Language-Specific Workshops

Friday, November 6, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

French: *“In your Classroom and Beyond: Increasing Enthusiasm for French”*

The AATF immersion workshop will contain several ideas to enhance not only individual classroom teaching, but also collaboration among French teachers in the various regions of Indiana.

Todd Bowen, of Barrington High School in Barrington, Illinois and a National Board Certified teacher, will present on the themes “Music as Comprehension” and “Developing a Backwards Theme.” Teachers will receive ideas to use in the classroom on Monday!

Do you ever feel isolated or discouraged as the lone French teacher in your school? A portion of the workshop will be dedicated to enhancing regional connections among Indiana French teachers. Proven ideas for improving and maintaining solid collegial relationships as well as tapping into the collective energy and enthusiasm of French students and teachers in other nearby schools will be shared. Steve Ohlhaut of West Lafayette High School and representatives from AATF Northwest Indiana will lead this portion of the workshop.

German: *“Podcasts in the German Classroom”*

Jörg Waltje, Director of the Language Resource Center at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, will lead a hands-on demonstration of the use of podcasts in the foreign language classroom.

Spanish:

“Algunas tapas, comida pedagógica para su clase”

En todas partes del estado de Indiana, nuestras aulas se llenan de energía con actividades innovadoras y estimulantes, producto de las mentes imaginativas de nuestros miembros. En este taller, algunas colegas, muchas de las cuales presentan por primera vez, compartirán sus actividades, sugerencias y consejos. Al final de las presentaciones, los participantes podrán discutir sus ideas con maestros vecinos de su región.

“La tecnología en el aula de clase: algunas sugerencias”

En el mundo actual, la tecnología ocupa un lugar cada vez más importante inclusive en aulas desde el kinder hasta el nivel universitario. Adam Ballart presentará sugerencias sobre este tema que se pueden llevar a cabo en el aula de clase.

Japanese: *“Content-Based Instruction for Beginning- and Intermediate-level Japanese learners”*

Content-Based Instruction (CBI) is commonly used in advanced level foreign language classes but is less frequently used in lower-level FL classes. In this workshop, language teachers will be introduced to CBI materials and sample lesson plans that were developed at a collaborative K-16 Japanese Teachers Workshop entitled “Content-Based Instruction for Beginning-Level Japanese”. After learning realistic and effective ways of implementing CBI in lower-level Japanese classes, participants will create and share sample activities.

Chinese: *“Chinese Swap Shop and Indiana Chinese Contest”*

This workshop is made up of two parts. The first part is a swap shop, which will provide an opportunity for Chinese language teachers to share their teaching experience, ideas and materials with each other. Handouts and materials will be distributed. The second part of the workshop is to discuss the format and content of the Indiana Chinese contest and to come up with the new format and content for the contest.