

## United Airlines Offers Special Discount Fares

United Airlines has been designated as the 'Official Airline of CLTA 2004', and is offering special meeting fares for conference attendees who use the special Meeting Desk to book their reservations. Book early and take advantage of the promotional fares that give you the greatest savings! Earn a 5% discount off the lowest applicable fare, including First Class, or 10% off the mid-week coach fare. **By purchasing your ticket at least 30 days in advance of your scheduled travel, you will receive an additional 5% discount.** Simply call (or have your travel agent call) **1-800-521-4041**, and refer to Meeting ID number **522AC**. Mileage Plus members receive full credit for all miles flown to the meeting. These discounts are good for flights to/from the airports at Monterey, San Jose, and San Francisco between April 12 and April 21, so attendees can arrive three days before the conference and stay up to three days after in order to enjoy the Monterey Peninsula.

## Ground Transportation and Directions to Monterey Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center

*By Richard Anderson*

CLTA 2004 attendees flying into Monterey can usually find a taxi at the airport or call Carmel Taxi at (831) 624-3885. For those flying into San Jose or San Francisco, the Monterey-Salinas Airbus [831-883-2871] runs a shuttle between the Doubletree Hotel/Conference Center and both the San Jose Airport and the San Francisco Airport. The shuttle runs every 90 minutes beginning at 7:45 A.M. for airport pick-up and 7:45 P.M. for airport drop off. Cost is about \$30.00 each way. Monterey-Salinas Airbus also can arrange for their Mini Coach to meet groups of up to 23 people arriving together. The cost for the Mini Coach is \$340.00 each way. If affiliates can arrange for their members to travel together by air, the Mini Coach would be reasonable. Rental cars can be reserved at the airports in Monterey, San Jose, and San Francisco. Groups of 2-5 people arriving in San Jose or San Francisco together would be wise to rent a car and drive to and from Monterey.

### Directions from the Monterey Airport :

Exit west (right) onto Highway 68. Merge with Highway 1 South. Exit on Fremont towards Monterey. Continue on Fremont (which changes its name to Munras Avenue) to Alvarado Street. Alvarado will end at the Monterey Conference Center.

### From San Jose Airport:

Take Highway 101 South to Prunedale (about 40 miles). In Prunedale, exit west onto Highway 156 (Monterey Peninsula Exit). Highway 156 merges with Highway 1 South just past Castroville. Continue on Highway 1 South to the Del Monte exit (Exit 402B). Stay on Del Monte until you see the Doubletree Hotel on your right in downtown Monterey.

### From Salinas approaching on Highway 101 from the south:

Exit Highway 101 at Sanborn Road. Turn west (left) under Highway 101. Continue on Sanborn Road (which changes its name to Blanco Road) until you get to Highway 68 (Main Street). Turn left (west) onto Highway 68 and follow signs to Monterey (about 17 miles). Exit Highway 68 at Fremont Avenue. Continue to Alvarado Street, which will dead end at the Conference Center.

### From the San Francisco area:

If you take Highway 101 South, follow the directions above for the San Jose Airport. If you take Highway 280 South, continue to Highway 85 junction, and take the Gilroy exit. Continue to Highway 880 South (the same as Highway 17 South) and go towards Santa Cruz. In Santa Cruz, merge onto Highway 1 and continue south to Monterey. In Monterey, exit at Del Monte (Exit 402B) and continue until you come to the Doubletree Hotel/ Monterey Conference Center.

### Conference Parking:

The Doubletree Hotel has indoor parking. However, there are city parking garages a block from the conference center. There is also plenty of outdoor parking by Fisherman's Wharf, which is 100 yards from the Conference Center. When you check in at the Doubletree Hotel or at the Conference Center, ask directions to the other parking garages and lots.

# CLTA News

*CLTA News* is the newsletter of the California Language Teachers Association, published four times yearly: fall, winter, spring and summer. CLTA membership includes a subscription to the *CLTA News*.

**Membership** in CLTA is \$35 year with affiliate membership, \$40 without, and \$30/year for students or retirees. For information or change of address, contact Marge Sotomayor, P.O. Box 123, Ferndale, CA 95536.

**Deadlines:** All copy and advertising for 2003-2004 issues must reach the *CLTA News* editor at P.O. Box 2135, Aptos, CA 95001 by the following dates: November 23, 2003 (January issue); February 1, 2004 (March issue); May 2, 2004 (June issue). Material received late cannot be included.

**Advertising:** Camera-ready, paid advertising is accepted in accordance with editorial policy. For information contact Janice Treadgold, Advertising Manager, *CLTA News*, 6335 Laguna Mirage Lane, Elk Grove, CA 95758, (916) 691-9725.

**Editorial Policy:** The *CLTA News* publishes information and articles of interest to the language profession. Materials which appear to be mainly for commercial purposes will be returned advising of the option of placing a paid advertisement in the newsletter. An editorial committee will advise the editor when questions arise regarding the appropriateness of a submission.

**To our readers:** All articles are the opinions of the authors. CLTA's policy is to allow free expression and invite comments and / or clarification.

**Board meetings:** The CLTA Board will meet two times during the academic year. The 2003-2004 schedule is: September 14 and January 31.

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Dear CLTA family.

I am so looking forward to seeing you at our family reunion (CLTA conference) in Monterey in April. This will be my last family party as matriarch. I must turn over the leadership responsibilities to Tanya Zaccone at that time. I will continue to be around as past president and will serve as the awards chair. What a wonderful opportunity for me to recognize your efforts as teachers with awards, travel grants, and scholarships! I love to spotlight the talents of my family members.



Once again, I wish to encourage you all to reach out to your fellow teachers. Please be reminded that there are foreign language teachers in California who do not know that CLTA even exists. It is the responsibility of each and every CLTA member to invite colleagues to attend local affiliate activities, participate in CLTA functions, and to visit our web site [www.clta.net](http://www.clta.net). Promise me that you will be that thoughtful person.

I was asked recently why I have been such an active participant in CLTA. Before responding, I examined my history with CLTA. I would not be the teacher that I am without having attended years of conferences, workshops, and summer seminars. I would not have the friends statewide whom I treasure. I would not have been honored for my teaching. CLTA has not been an extra duty, but many extra opportunities. It has been a chance to grow professionally. I love CLTA for what it offers, what it stands for and for all the members.

Stay involved in your local affiliates and become more active in the mother organization.

Much love to all of you,

Judith

## Greetings from the Conference Registrar!

The annual conference will soon be here! Remember—it is earlier this year! Have you sent in your conference registration yet? *The deadline is March 15, 2004!* After that, it will cost you an additional \$50 late fee to pre-register. If you wait to register at the conference, you will be charged \$100 in addition to the regular registration prices. Do I want you to pre-register? You bet! That saves both of us a lot of time at the conference. Don't wait too long to register. I need to receive *pre-registrations by April 7, 2004*, in order to process them BEFORE I ship all materials to Monterey.

If you have sent in your registration and *have not received confirmation* of your registration (receipt, lavender letter, and yellow "At a Glance") by the time you arrive at the conference, *be prepared to stand in the "Solutions" line!* This usually happens to those who have sent everything to their district office. If this is you, *come with copies of your registration form and a purchase order number (with address of district) or check/money for payment.* Anything received after April 12 may stay in my mailbox until my return from Monterey.

For those who have pre-registered and have received confirmation, your registration package may be picked up at the "Pre-Registration" conference desk. The desk will be open Thursday, April 15 from 7:30-10:00 A.M. for those participating in the two-day workshop. The registration desk will open again Thursday evening from 7:00-10:00 P.M. to help ease the usual Friday morning rush. We will open Friday, April 16, at 7:00 A.M. Please check your package for the correct nametag(s) and meal tickets (if ordered). There will be a different nametag for each workshop and also one for Saturday/Sunday.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at my e-mail address: [suemckee@cox.net](mailto:suemckee@cox.net). I look forward to seeing you in Monterey!

### How to earn credit for attending the conference

The Distance & On-Line Learning Office (DLEE) of CSU Monterey Bay will have a table at the CLTA Annual Conference for people who wish to register for continuing education units.

The fee will be \$45/CEU.  
One CEU = 10 contact hours.  
Partial credits are also available, e.g. 5 hrs. =  
0.5 CEU @ \$22.50

## Improving Communications with CLTA

*Norman Léonard*

During the January CLTA Board meeting, Duarte Silva led the group through an exercise of self-examination in order to determine our organization's strengths and weaknesses on a matrix designed by ASCD. The criteria help define a group as "emerging," "effective" or "exemplary." In our brief discussion we determined that we are predominantly effective, but in some areas we are still emerging, and in few exemplary. We determined that to become exemplary, we need a clear vision of our goals and ideal conceptualization of our role in the promoting of world language education in the state and nation. Once we articulate well our vision, an action plan to achieve our goals will be more attainable.

The Board of CLTA believes, in order to articulate this vision, we need the sage advice of our members on a more consistent basis. In an effort to have more efficient communication with you, the members, we have created a discussion group to which you may subscribe and contribute your ideas, questions and suggestions. Your contributions should help us be more responsive to your concerns and more quickly respond to critical situations.

In order to participate in this effort, you must join a Yahoo discussion group. It is easy to subscribe. It takes just a few steps:

1. Choose Yahoo as your browser.
2. Create a Yahoo address.
3. Click on **Groups**.
4. Click on Click here to register.
5. Create your Yahoo ID.
6. Search for **California-CLTA**.
7. Click on the group.
8. Click on **Join this Group**.

You should be able to join the group immediately. If not, I, as moderator, will accept current members of CLTA who apply. You will receive a confirmation of acceptance as soon as I have verified your status as member. This will allow you to receive mail from the group and post messages to the group discussion board.

If you have any difficulty, contact me at: [voltaire18@cox.net](mailto:voltaire18@cox.net).

Every month, I will record your messages and will email them to the Board to address your comments and concerns promptly.

# Affiliate News

## The Central Coast Association of Language Professionals (CCALP) is Alive and Well!



After some quiet years, we are reenergizing and held our fall meeting with a dynamite presentation by Rich Sayers on connecting our teaching to standards and the goals of “No Child Left Behind.” It was an excellent presentation, and because we were a small crowd we all participated enthusiastically. Everyone left with a group of can-do activities that definitely will improve literacy and tie in well with Mathematics Standards. Rich is always an interesting presenter; this time he presented on the timeliest of topics. Thank you Rich. A spring meeting will be held in February or March, time and location to be announced.

**FLAGS** is having another terrific year. Our Fall Workshop in November, *Once Upon a Time: European Fairy Tales for Literacy and Communication*, was a huge success. Seventeen eager teachers met and were completely charmed by Bella Vista HS French teacher Nicole Naditz. By the end of the morning, we left energized with a large packet of activities to use and some concrete, hands-on ideas for using this wonderfully authentic cultural resource for improving student literacy. Thanks, Nicole!

In January we had an equally successful Tech Day which focused on applications for the Internet. A group of speakers including Jerry and Ursula Weaver from the Galt area and Professor Kevin Elstob from CSUS shared some of their lessons and tips for using the Internet effectively in different types of classroom settings. Our principal speaker was the French Embassy Grant recipient for 2003, Jeanne Duran of Union Mine HS, who shared some of the wonderful things she learned while in France regarding the creation of successful Internet lessons. As always, we started the morning with an Advocacy Update from Advocacy Chair, Nicole Naditz, and concluded with some valuable information on how to go about creating an interdisciplinary MA in an institution where such a degree is not part of the normal degree offerings. Thanks to all who shared their ideas with us. We capped the day with a lovely lunch at a local Greek restaurant.

Next on our agenda is the annual Outstanding Teacher Awards Banquet on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Julia Leeds, Professor Kathy Moore, and Nicole Naditz will be recognized for their many talents and contributions to the profession. If you would like to join us, please contact Robin Ubl at [rublbae@psyber.net](mailto:rublbae@psyber.net).

In April, after the conference we will sponsor a Share-athon, and May will once again bring our Student Recognition

Breakfast (May 1<sup>st</sup>) and the CSUS WORLD LANGUAGE DAY, a fabulous, all-day, FREE TO THE PUBLIC event celebrating cultural and linguistic diversity in the community (Saturday, May 8, 2004, 9:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., CSU Sacramento; for information please contact Carol Eberhart at [transwiz@aol.com](mailto:transwiz@aol.com), or Professor Kathy Moore at [kcmoore@csus.edu](mailto:kcmoore@csus.edu)).

Last November 8, faithful **FLANC** members gathered for the yearly conference at the Loan Mountain Campus at the University of San Francisco. Over 285 members were present with some forty-five presenters and affiliates participating, along with numerous vendors stationed in the display hall.

Our banner flew at the entrance after several years of hibernation. As the wind blew many attendees through the front doors, they were greeted with fresh coffee and donuts plus a new addition—the silent auction exhibit to help raise funds for the benefit of FLANC’s many commitments. At the stroke of ten in the main hall the guest speaker, Mr. Duarte Silva, Executive Director of the California Language Project, along with FLANC’s President, Ms. Francine Shirvani, introduced Ms. Lorraine D’Ambruso, Executive Director of California Language Teachers Association. For approximately forty minutes the guest speaker informed the members present of the great political changes crossing the spectrum in the California legislature to benefit modern language teachers and instruction. The dean of USF’s School of Humanities, Mr. Rader, apprised members of the value in being versatile and appreciative of the trends in modern poetry, whether an obscure Austrian poet or a Chilean novice of very contemporary standing. He gratefully welcomed our presence and was delighted with hosting the conference through our board member Ms. Noriko Nagata.

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## **CLTA Retirees Show Their Willingness To Help Recruit Future FL Professionals**

*By Lorraine D'Ambruoso*

Fearing the possible loss of the Summer Seminar Student Strand in the current economic climate, especially now that the FLAP grant funding is gone, former Executive Director Hal Wingard wrote a letter to retired CLTA members explaining the situation. He cited the history of the strand and its success in recruiting foreign language students into the teaching profession. He also cited the large number of retirements that have occurred over the past few years and the large number looming in the next few years. He then invited these retirees to consider contributing to a special fund to keep the Student Strand alive at UC Santa Barbara this coming summer.

First of all, I would like to thank Hal for all the work he put into this effort. It was not without results! CLTA has already received contributions, some small and others not, and each day, more checks arrive. I would like to thank each one of the retirees who have contributed, regardless of the amount. I would also like to thank them for their personal notes telling me what they are doing in their "golden years." I have learned that most of them are, as usual, working at something, mostly in the volunteer arena. It has been so wonderful to hear that these former colleagues are well and still contributing to their communities.

Should you wish to contribute to this fund for the Student Strand, please send your check to Treasurer Sue McKee (2430 Avenita Alpera, Tustin, 92782). Your response will be most gratefully appreciated by everyone involved in keeping this wonderful program alive!

### **Continued from page 4**

Camaraderie, chatting, exchanging many ideas and simply attending so many presenters helped make this conference well worthwhile. There was so much to hear and appraise for future reference in teaching that I overheard many leave with admiration and impressions of great accomplishments. In walking the halls and overhearing members as they scurried about their business of the day, I was duly impressed with the numbers attending and in particular those sharing their business at AFT's or regular foreign language teachers. There were many in attendance that were able to come away with plenty of resources and a wealth of ideas that would make the coming months more enjoyable and rewarding for their students and themselves.

We will have our next conference again in November 2004 in Berkeley but remember that our annual workshops will be held at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont next February 7. Please join us and come spend a most rewarding day exploring more choices and alternatives in foreign lan-

## Standards and NCLB Sessions at the CLTA Conference

All of these sessions, although many are not marked in the program, pertain to NCLB and/or standards in FL education.

### Workshops:

Leading Out in Literacy  
Teaching Culture through Classic Poetry  
Dos Cuentos de la Lista de AP Literatura  
Fostering Communication through Strategy Based Learning  
Alternative Medicine for Your Language Class  
Diversifying the French I-IV Curriculum  
Los Cuentos de AP Spanish Literature Part 1  
Escribir y leer bien en espa ol

### Interest Sessions:

Integrating the California Continuum into Your Lessons  
Reach Them All! Teach Them All!  
The Implications of the NCLB Legislation for Foreign Language Education  
Fairy tales and European Puppet Theatre  
GramActiva: Teaching Grammar the Active Way  
New Horizons for Heritage Speakers and Upper Level Spanish Students  
Start with a "1." End up with a "5."  
The New Foreign Language Framework and K-8 Instructional Materials  
Fran ais pour hispanophones: Benefits for All!  
Using Culture to Teach English Writing Skills  
Make Assessment Interesting: Redesigning Curriculum with Integrated Performance Assessments  
New CTC Program Standards for Credentialing Foreign Language Teachers  
The Matrix: Not the Movie! Making the Five Cs Real  
Culture Has a Place in Every Classroom  
The Teacher as a Catalyst in the Understanding of Cervantes  
Beyond Manzanar: Teaching the Japanese-American Experience-Updates and New Perspectives  
The Time Has Come: Content Standards for FL Education in CA  
New Visions in Foreign Language Education  
Toward an Understanding of Standard versus Substandard Spanish  
Update from Europe: Current Issues and Trends in European Language Teaching and Learning  
Who Are the Arab-Americans and American-Muslims?  
National Board Certification Overview  
Cloze Journals Using Charts and Graphs  
Best Practices in Foreign Language Education  
New Adopted Instructional Materials for Foreign Language Education  
Capturing the Spirit, Engaging Their Minds

## **CLTA 2004 in Monterey: ‘Make it a family affair!’**

*by Richard Anderson and Patricia McDowell, Local Conference Co-chairs for 2004*

The site of April’s conference is Old Town Monterey, located on the Monterey Peninsula. By all accounts, this area is one of the most beautiful land and coastal environments in the world. As a result, The Monterey Peninsula’s scenic cities and unincorporated rural areas have economies that are primarily tourist-driven. The area was first colonized by the Spanish in 1770 with the arrival of Junipero Serra, head of the California missions. Subsequently, Monterey County has developed a rich cultural heritage that is exhibited in the many annual events commemorating historic and artistic traditions unique to the Peninsula and to Monterey County.

There are few places in California, or anywhere else, where a visitor will find such a diverse range of activities to pursue. Whether enjoying the world-class restaurants or quaint cafes, our 2004 conference attendees and their families will find no shortage of things to see and do; sightseeing tours; a trip to the world famous Monterey Bay Aquarium; a round of golf; short trips to wineries or Big Sur; a tour of the Spanish-era adobes; being pampered at a spa; a concert or a festival; hikes along the seashore or one of the beautiful parks; kayaking and whale-watching cruises; shopping in upscale stores and boutiques; a visit to any of over 100 art galleries; and a host of countless other attractions.

Because there is so much to do within walking distance of the Conference Center, we hope this conference will become a family mini-vacation. It would take a dull child, indeed, to be bored by a visit to Monterey. Young tots are charmed by Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Splash Zone and its super-sized sea creatures. School-age kids ponder arrowheads and Spanish doubloons in the Pacific House, the centerpiece

of Monterey State Historic Park. Older kids appreciate open-air activities like the paddle-boats of Lake El Estero and skateboard park. And everyone loves building a sandcastle and pedaling a bicycle built for four—known here as a four seater surrey—along the Recreation Trail to Lovers Point.

Our conference site is conveniently located steps away from the historic Cannery Row district, the setting for two Steinbeck novels, and where you can still see Doc Rickett’s original marine lab. The ‘Row’ is also a lively mix of shops, restaurants, and historic buildings. Likewise, Fisherman’s Wharf, once a whaling and sardine packing center, now is dedicated to whale-watching cruises and delicious clam chowder and freshly-caught seafood specialties.

The Monterey area also boasts a number of scenic byways. By car or by bicycle, at your own speed, these routes are among the nation’s most beautiful: grand cliffs or crashing surf, delicate sand dunes or rolling farmland. Some examples are the 17-Mile Drive, located entirely in the gated community of Pebble Beach; Highway 1, which runs along the sand-duned beaches of Marina to the rocky cliffs of Big Sur; the River Road and Carmel Valley Wine Routes which wind through the Salinas and Carmel valleys and which include stops at more than a dozen wineries offering tastings; The Monterey Recreation Trail consists of eighteen miles of paved trail from Castroville to Pacific Grove and is used by bicyclists, skateboarders, joggers, and walkers.

We know that all who come to CLTA in Monterey in 2004 will have a most stimulating, enjoyable, and memorable time. “You ‘otter’ be there!”

## Venezuela —¡Qué Chévere!

¡Un sueño hecho realidad! This past summer, I was granted the opportunity to travel to exotic Venezuela on a CLTA Memorial and LangAbrod Scholarship. What an absolutely amazing three-week adventure! Venezuela is known for its friendly people and variety of geographical wonders. I have dreamt of visiting this beautiful country ever since my cousin, Cora, lived in Caracas for many years as a United Nations representative. Through her stories, I came to understand that Venezuela would be one of the many places I would be fortunate to visit in my lifetime.

In August of 2003, I set off on my adventure. I decided to enroll in private Spanish courses specifically tailored to teachers from other countries at the Centro Venezolano de Español (CEVES) in the heart of Caracas. Through this language institute, I was matched with Auristela and José, a caraqueño couple who welcomed me with “abrazos cariñosos”. They have been hosting students for a number of years. The “arepas” prepared for me everyday were delicious; I also enjoyed the fresh fruit shakes she would make for me every morning. Along with Martina, a Haitian student also living with us, we headed to school everyday, dodging the crowds of people on the streets and taking the amazingly clean and efficient subway train. The hustle and bustle in the streets were a stark contrast to the orderliness of the air-conditioned metro below.

The private classes I had with Lorena at the Centro helped me perfect my Spanish even more. “¡Chévere!”—Great/cool!—was the word I had to use in almost every sentence! The school provided salsa classes as well as afternoon excursions throughout the city. Simon Bolivar, Father of Venezuela, is honored in every corner of the city—it is said that in every plaza in every town throughout the country, there stands a statue dedicated to him. Everywhere I explored there were “buhoneros” (street vendors) selling a range of products from shoes to mangos to typing services. Caracas is a cosmopolitan city with hundreds of skyscrapers dwarfing the over 3 million people that populate this “ciudad”.

Through my private classes, I learned many things about the history, economy and government of the country. During my stay, there were many protest rallies against the current President Chavez. The people were ready and willing to mount a Recall of his presidency. I was hesitant at first to go to Venezuela because of the international news I saw concerning the situation. As a cautious yet realistic traveler, I knew that news stories in general focused on sporadic violence that seem as if the whole country is in an uproar. In comparison to Venezuela, Los Angeles is a war zone—the murder capital of the United States last year—and my backyard! I’m glad I decided to go.

During my stay in Venezuela, I had the opportunities to visit two of the wonders of this country. The first took me to Mérida, a city in the Andes Mountains, where the longest cable car in the world took me above the clouds at 16,000 feet. In less than an hour, I was in a cold, snowy yet beautiful rim of the world. And of all places in South America! In Mérida, I also tried for the first time, parachute gliding. In a tandem parachute sail, my instructor and I ran off a cliff, only to be lifted by the high but steady winds that permeate the mountains. For 45 minutes, I was sailing above the clouds and whisking scarily above the trees. Mérida is a friendly, colonial town that offers many outdoor experiences.

Upon returning to Caracas from this weekend trip, I then traveled two days later to my dream destination in Venezuela—Angel Falls. This was it. A plane ride from Caracas to Ciudad Bolivar, then on a small Cessna to the town of Canaima. The views from the Cessna were spectacular. The massive mesas, “tepuis,” jutting out of the ground and the jungle that surrounded them seemed like a scene from a dinosaur movie. The high winds added to the thrill as my plane ride seemed one of a roller coaster. I survived!

Upon landing in Canaima, in a small airport near the smaller Sapó Falls, I was met by the hotel manager where I would be staying for the night. The rains came and cleared the way for my two-day adventure ahead on a river speedboat to get to the base of Angel Falls. The ride was arduous but fantastic. Every corner we turned, we saw a different view of this beautiful reserve in Venezuela. We camped near the base of the falls where the guides and porters treated us to a feast of outdoor roasted chicken and singing. We slept on hammocks hung in rows. It was a cold night even for this area, as it was the rainy season in August.

Our guide awoke us at 4 A.M. to take the hour-long trek to the very base of the falls. We needed to go early to be able to see the falls in all its glory before the rains and clouds would cover the top. The hike up, however difficult, was worth it. There at one of the “miradores” was Angel Falls, we had to lie down on the rocks to be able to fully take in and see up the highest falls in the world—almost 3,000 feet high! Along with the 3 Italians, 2 Dutch and 2 Spaniard tourists I was with, we hiked even closer to the base to bathe in a smaller falls that naturally made a pool to swim in. Finally, I made it! I was there—Angel Falls, clear as the sky.

Thank you CLTA for this opportunity to study and travel through Venezuela. I share with you these experiences with the same passion and love I have for teaching Spanish. ¡Muchísimas gracias!

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## **After-School and Public School Programs**

### **Less Commonly Taught languages and Immigrant Populations of Our Region**

*A collaborative effort of communities, schools and the Language Acquisition Resource Center  
at San Diego State University  
by Norman Léonard*

The Language Acquisition Resource Center (LARC) at San Diego State University (SDSU) is dedicating personnel and other resources to the establishment of innovative programs in a number of settings. The effort began with a call from local speakers of Arabic for secular language programs for children that would teach students to be communicatively competent. Sumaiyah Vedder and Iman Hashem, recipients of CLTA Awards last year, and Norman Léonard, LARC Director of Outreach, have been critical participants in this effort. We will open two elementary schools in February that will expand to higher grades in the fall, when we open other centers. LARC provided the infrastructure, but Iman led the teachers hired in CLFP-based training and will continue to offer training to those hired and to newly identified teachers. To further support this project, Sumaiyah and Norman have been recruiting additional teachers and scheduling trainings.

Based on the success of this project, LARC is assisting Rosa Parks Elementary School in the creation of classes for children whose English scores are low and who are losing their home language quickly. Two language pilots will begin this month in Spanish and Vietnamese. Bilingual SDSU jun-

iors and seniors will teach these small classes designed to enhance literacy skills in English, preserve children’s fluency in their heritage language and helping the parents acquire English. Methodological training during the pilot is under the direction of Alma Van Nice and Norman Léonard. Ten students in each language have been identified for this pilot and each child must attend with a parent. We believe that this shared learning approach will improve the family dynamic as well as linguistic proficiency on the part of all participants.

Word of these efforts quickly spread to nearby Crawford High School. This school has significant populations of speakers of Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese. The school will divide into five programs next Fall and LARC will assist in any way we can in the design and implementation of the program. Our efforts chiefly involve teacher recruitment and training, mentoring of novice teachers who have completed methodological courses in second language acquisition, and development of instructional materials for these languages.

For more details on these programs or to offer guidance, academic or financial support or contributions, contact Norman Léonard at: [nleonard@projects.sdsu.edu](mailto:nleonard@projects.sdsu.edu).

**Student Splash Page Contest 2004!**  
**Please go to [www.clta.net](http://www.clta.net) for information!**  
**Deadline for winning entries from**  
**Affiliates is March 19!**

**Mark your calendars!**  
**The 21st annual CLTA Summer Seminar**  
**Sponsored by CFLP and CLTA**  
**will be held July 31-August 6, 2004**  
**More information to follow!**

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