



## Meet Norman Léonard, our New President-Elect

By Araceli Espinosa, MCLASC

Norman Léonard has been active in the foreign language profession for over 35 years, teaching French, Russian and English as a Second Language, and serving in various capacities from High School Language Teacher to Community College Instructor to Director of Outreach for the Language Acquisition Resource Center at San Diego State University. Although the majority of his career has been spent in San Diego, CA, Norman also taught in Missouri and Pennsylvania.



In addition to being trilingual and teaching three world languages, Norman has worked on curriculum planning at San Diego High School and its feeder schools, served as Foreign Language Department Chair, authored grant proposals for school programs, equipment and summer school courses, participated on various advisory committees and instructional councils, and written curriculum units for French, Russian and Spanish. Along with teaching, Norman has helped students discover the world through language experiences at home and abroad. He has coordinated study programs in Canada, France, Mexico and Russia, sponsored the French, Russian and Spanish Clubs, and sponsored the Debate Team at San Diego High School.

Norman is glad to share his time and experience with colleagues, especially those new to the profession. He has mentored new teachers, trained student teachers and served as a professional growth advisor. Because Norman cares deeply about the quality of Teacher Preparation Programs for Language Teachers,

he has also served as a University Program Evaluator for the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

His current leadership positions include site co-director of the California Foreign Language Project in the San Diego area, and CLTA Local Conference Chair. Norman is also a member of the Southern California Jamboree Planning Committee, representing his affiliate, FLCSD. As a “teacher of teachers,” Norman has been a workshop presenter of the Classroom Oral Competency Interview, Classroom Writing Assessment, foreign and whole language issues, computer assisted writing, on-line placement testing, and heritage language instructional materials development.

As the Director of Outreach for the Language Acquisition Resource Center at San Diego State University, Norman has established and consulted with community-based languages schools of Arabic, Chinese, Filipino, Kurdish, Mixtec, Persian, Punjabi, Spanish, Turkish, and Vietnamese. In addition, he helped direct the STARTalk program for children in Persian and Turkish languages at San Diego State University. Because of his expertise, agencies and universities in South Korea and Iraq have invited Norman to work in their countries. Currently, Norman is linking Iraqi universities with American professors to develop joint projects and share resources.

Two of Norman’s goals as President-Elect of CLTA are (1) to continue to advocate for language learning to begin in elementary school and continue through life so that we can be competent globally, and (2) to improve teacher preparation programs in California.

One of the things that motivates Norman to spend so much time for the betterment of foreign languages, is that *“the erosion of linguistic and cultural diversity in our schools and of teacher preparation programs in the CSU system are a challenge to all of us to be the voices for*

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*the next generation facing a public education system fraught with inefficiencies and multi-tiered bureaucracy, where test scores are valued above cultural literacy and the value placed on hard work has languished.”* When asked if he foresees a time when multimedia experiences (the Internet, software, videos, etc.) can replace the teacher in the classroom, Norman stated, *“Technological advances, particularly multimedia, will continue to enhance teaching and learning, but the human interface will always be necessary. Socialization of children cannot take place in a laboratory or home environment without human interactions.”*

CLTA is proud to welcome Norman Léonard as our new President-Elect.

## Greetings from Québec!

By Evelyne Berman

I was indeed very lucky to be awarded a Memorial scholarship along with a Lang Abroad grant last year. Thanks to these awards, I was ready to go and discover the two major francophone cities in North America. This was my first trip to Québec and I was determined to make the most of it. I left sunny Los Angeles and eighty degree temperatures and landed on a chilly May evening at the Aéroport International Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau de Montréal. The next morning, my exploration of Montréal started and, with it, my discovery of the many differences and similarities that connected me, a native French speaker from France, to my long lost Québécois cousins.

I certainly expected to visit many churches in Montréal; the city is, after all, nicknamed “La ville aux cent clochers”. What I did not expect was to feel the kind of silent awe and admiration that I felt upon entering Notre Dame de Montréal. Much younger than Notre Dame de Paris or La Sainte Chapelle, Notre Dame opened its doors in 1829 and beckons the visitor into its nave decorated with soaring blue ceilings illuminated by thousands of 24 carat gold stars. The effect is breathtaking and even the non-religious may believe they have reached the heavens. Blue, the color of sky as well as that of the Virgin Mary, bathes the cathedral while its 7,000 pipe Casavant organ can fill the church with resounding music. Behind the main altar, the modern “Chapelle Notre Dame du Sacré Coeur” holds one of the largest bronze sculptures in the world. Made up of 32 different bronze panels, the retable is drawn as a tree and presents the viewer with the various stages of human life, from birth to death. Every year, the chapel welcomes dozens of brides including celebrities such as Céline Dion who got married there. Of far more modest beauty was the Chapelle Notre Dame de Bon Secours where sailors and voyagers alike come to pray for safe passage and are guided by the statue of the Virgin Mary towering over the church and the Montreal harbor when they return home.

From the Terrace Dufferin, Québec, as the only forti-

fied city in North America, offered me a majestic view of the Saint Laurent River as well as a more European feel. The old city, with its cobblestone streets and its ramparts, reminded me of some of the old fortified cities in the South of France. The Place Royale, with its architecture resembling that of Normandy and a bust of Louis XIV at the center, underlined our common roots. Close to the Place Royale, the Fresque des Québécois, a 4,666 square-foot trompe-l’oeil, recounted 400 hundred years of Québécois history. The next day, I reinforced this lesson in history by going to the “Musée de la Civilisation”. There, I spent an afternoon in a fantastic, multi-media and very interactive exhibition called “People of Québec, Now and then” which dealt with the history of the Québécois, Québécois identity and the problems and questions Québec faces today. Such a lesson gave me an excellent basis from which to discuss Québec with colleagues and be able to ask well-informed questions of the good-hearted Québécois who were kind enough to agree to be interviewed and recorded for my benefit and that of my students.

The colleagues and acquaintances I met along my path also taught me a great deal of Québécois French which I found to be a very creative and dynamic dialect that was quite different from the French I grew up with. So let me share with you some of the expressions I learned in Québec. In France, one says “Il fait du vent et il pleut”; my Québécois colleague in an e-mail warned me to take warm clothes because “il vente beaucoup et il mouille fort » When I asked if we could “bavarder” (to chat), I was told by my train companion that she loved to “jaser.” Along with this idea of “bavarder”, I was thrilled to learn the expression “se tirer une buche” which evokes the idea that, in the cold of winter, putting a log on the fire gives you an opportunity to sit and talk as much as your heart desires. Finally, if in France, one can “attraper la grippe” (to catch the flu); in Québec, one can “pogner la grippe”.

Québec is indeed a country with its own language

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and its own identity. Despite the common French thread, the reality of Québec—its immensity, its landscapes, language and culture—gave me pause to think and savor both my closeness to it and my differences from it. As a native French speaker from France, I found myself drawn to Québec like you would be drawn to a long lost family member whom you don't know well but with whom you feel you have a great deal in common. Now that I am back in California, I find myself longing for my long lost relative, longing for the familiarity of Québec yet, at the same time, craving its North American qualities, and hoping, above all else, that I will soon have a chance to return.

Until then, I will leave you with my blog address, <http://funwithfrench.wordpress.com/> (voix francophones tab) on which you will find uploaded some of my Québécois colleagues' interviews. It is my personal archive and the living memory of my adventures and discoveries in Québec. In sharing these interviews with all of you, I hope that you will be able to enjoy the accent as well as the vocabulary and syntactic richness of the Québécois language and, maybe, it will give you the same unquenchable desire I get when I listen to their voices again, to go back to Québec.

CLTA certainly granted me an amazing and very enriching opportunity for which I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

## She Helps Make the Conference Possible

By Araceli Espinosa, MCLASC

As CLTA's first Advertising Manager, Nadine Elwood-Miranda has helped CLTA to reach more teachers. Her responsibilities include contacting about 300 companies twice a year and soliciting advertising space in publications such as the wrap-around *CLTA News of Language Magazine* and CLTA's conference printed program. As a result of her dedication, our organization generated \$20,000 from 2007 to 2009!

Nadine has been teaching Spanish and English Language Development at Esperanza High School in Anaheim for 30 years. She has taught all levels and is currently instructing students in Spanish 2, AP Spanish Language, and four levels of ELD. During her tenure at Esperanza HS, Nadine has also taught English to Adults and Spanish to district clerical staff. Last year, Nadine volunteered to help four seniors with the curriculum of the AP Spanish Literature course since this class was not offered at her school. She met with these four students once a week, Mondays after school for three hours and prepared them for the exam. Three out of four passed and earned college credit.

A leader at her school who enjoys getting involved beyond the classroom, Nadine has served her school in various capacities including WASC Coordinator, Career Day Coordinator, Chair of the School Site Council, Coordinator of the Single Plan for Student Achievement and Foreign Language Department Chair. She has also participated on the curriculum committee, chaired the staff development committee, and coached the women's swim team and men's water polo. Beyond Esperanza High School, Nadine has also worked on several WASC Accreditation Visiting Teams. She enjoys reviewing the educational programs of other schools and being a part of the evaluation process.

For her time, effort and energy to the students and staff of Esperanza HS, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified school district

named Nadine its Teacher of the Year in 2007, and she became one of the top ten Orange County Finalists for Teacher of the Year. Other awards Nadine has earned include a PTSA Service Award, the "Tireless Effort"- Esperanza Award, and Staff Member of the Month. In 2001 Nadine was named an outstanding teacher by a former UC Irvine student.

Recently, in an interview for KCET with Orange County Superintendent Dr. Bill Havermil, Nadine seized an opportunity to promote the benefits of knowing another language and wove into the discussion on Academic Decathlon how the two previous year's themes—Latin America and The French Revolution—tie into foreign languages.

Outside of school Nadine is active in her affiliate, the Foreign Language Association of Orange County (FLA-OC). She began as co-editor of its newsletter and soon became president. As president of FLA-OC, Nadine helps plan and carry out two workshops and annual meetings a year. In 2008, she was the local coordinator of the CLTA Conference held in Irvine. Nadine is also a member of the Southern California Jamboree Planning Committee, which includes the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and San Bernardino/Riverside. Nadine hosts the planning meetings at her home and hosts the Jamboree at her centrally-located school.

A proud mother of two, Nadine has supported her children in their athletic activities by attending and cheering at sport competitions, being a Booster Club Promoter and Booster Club President for Girls' Golf and Girls' Basketball respectively at Cypress HS, and Fundraising Chair for the Esperanza HS Aquatics Boosters. Currently she is one of 100 parents on the UCLA Parent Council.

Thank you Nadine, for connecting businesses with CLTA to advertise and bring in funds, and for your tireless efforts to serve the education community.

# CLTA News

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## A New Web Site

*by Nadine Elwood, CLTA Advertising Manager*

I came across an amazing (free) website, Kwintessential. There are so many articles about culture, countries, and languages. Just type in Kwintessential into Google™ and you can find it. There are fun little “quizzes.” There is also information about the culture in different countries and recent articles about culture and language. Here are some samplings.

1. Who pays for a meal in France? Your host.
2. At a dinner in Hong Kong, where will the guest of honor be seated? Opposite the host.
3. In Belgium, how many times should you raise your glass when toasting? Twice
4. In Bolivia, bananas should be eaten with a knife and fork. True