

*A collection of information and links to  
websites concerning  
Early Language Learning*

*February, 2008*

### **Tea for Tous**

NNELL marked its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a *Tea for Tous* celebration honoring Past Presidents and founders of NNELL. The Past Presidents in attendance were: Carol Ann Pesola Dahlberg, Audrey Heining-Boynton, Mari Haas, Eileen Lorenz, Mary Lynn Redmond, Susan Walker, Christy Brown, Myriam Met, Kathleen Riordan, Martie Semmer, Lori Langer de Ramirez, and Janis Jensen. Also honored were Past Executive Secretaries Nancy Rhodes and Mary Lynn Redmond, and Past Journal Editors Marcia Rosenbusch, Teresa Kennedy, and Mari Haas. Of the founding members, many were present at the tea: Nancy Rhodes, Kathleen Riordan, Mari Haas, Helena Anderson Curtain, Carol Ann Pesola Dahlberg, Myriam Met, Christy Brown, Marcia Rosenbusch, and Susan Walker.

NNELL President Terry Caccavale encouraged those in attendance to become “nachwuchs”, or those who shall carry on the work. Carol Ann Dahlberg, NNELL’s first President, introduced NNELL state and regional reps to this term when she led the NNELL summer institute in 2006. The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary *Tea for Tous* became our NNELL *Nachwuchs Celebration* as Terry invited all those in attendance to become future leaders of NNELL and to carry on the work accomplished by NNELL in its

first twenty years of service to the foreign language profession. Carol Ann addressed the audience in a poignant manner and congratulated NNELL on its continuing success.

Special mention was also made of ACTFL Teacher of the Year Janet Glass, from Dwight-Englewood School in New Jersey. Janet served the NNELL Board for many years as Northeast Regional Representative and NNELL Treasurer.

A history of NNELL was presented in a Madeline Hunter lesson plan format. This document, entitled, “NNELL’s Lesson Plan for Success: The Twenty-Year Cycle” is available on the NNELL website at [www.nnell.org](http://www.nnell.org)

### **Swapshop Breakfast**

NNELL President Terry Caccavale introduced and recognized the NNELL Board for its work on the conference. A special note of thanks went to Jean Modig, National Networking Coordinator, whose job involves planning all NNELL sessions at ACTFL. Jean has worked tirelessly for the NNELL Board in her networking role.

Dr. Jack Bierwirth of Herricks Public Schools on Long Island received the NNELL Award for Outstanding Support of Early Language Learning. Dr. Bierwirth was unable to attend the conference and NNELL Past President Lori Langer de Ramirez, who is the ESL and World Language Department Chairperson for Herricks Public Schools, was able to accept the award on his behalf.

Cherice Montgomery, presenter at NNELL's Summer Institute 2007, was the guest speaker at this year's NNELL Swapshop Breakfast. The focus of her presentation was mentoring, leadership, and change through the thoughtful application of new technologies to teaching. During her breakfast presentation, Cherice shared some of the latest instructional technologies and inspired those present to use the technologies to facilitate language teaching and learning.

### **An Imaginary Journey to Guatemala Using the Thematic Approach**

NNELL sponsored this session presented by Stephanie Anderson and Mary Lynn Redmond. This session provided a culturally authentic thematic unit based on the daily life of Leonel, an eight year old boy who lives in Guatemala. Presenters shared the curriculum design that links language, culture and content for performance-based outcomes. Participants experienced a variety of authentic activities and resources. Thanks to Stephanie and Mary Lynn for their dedication to early language learning and to NNELL!

### **Annual Business Meeting and State Representative Networking Meeting**

During the course of the ACTFL Conference, NNELL held meetings both for its regional and state representatives. As a result of these meetings, we found out that many exciting things are happening around the nation in early language learning:

In February, **Texas** will start a chapter of TX-NELL.

In **Tennessee**, there has been a FLES luncheon for the past 3 years. This year, it will be held in Nashville.

In **New Mexico** there are no FLES teachers and no FLES programs in the public schools in the state.

Janet Glass of **NJ** was named "Teacher of the Year" at ACTFL.

The State World Language advisor is trying to recruit more active NNELL members in **Pennsylvania**.

In **Minnesota**, EMC provided money for a booth at the state conference. FLES, immersion, and dual immersion teachers are promoting oral and writing skills in a foreign language throughout the state.

**Illinois'** state budget was delayed; all FLAP grants were held and have lost approximately \$300,000. Most programs were targeted to end in December of 2007.

In **Connecticut** two regional early language workshops will be given in the spring of 2008. NNELL President Terry Caccavale will present both workshops, entitled, "Empowering Students through Reading in World Languages". These workshops will be funded by the Connecticut State Department. There will be no charge to participants for attending these workshops; however, all attendees will be encouraged to join NNELL if they are not already a member. The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Rhyme celebration will take place in March of 2008.

In **California** a FLES conference was held in 2007, but only four people were in attendance.

A NELL session was presented at the **Maryland** Foreign Language Association Conference.

There will be a NELL session in **Arkansas** at the annual foreign language conference.

**West Virginia** will soon need a new NELL rep because the current rep will be moving out of state. West Virginia is working on programs within the state, especially to integrate arts into foreign language programs.

A NELL session was presented at the **Kentucky** state foreign language conference in 2007.

In **Virginia**, the NELL state rep and the state foreign language supervisor presented a workshop at the state conference with standing room only. ELL and assessments for elementary programs were discussed.

**Massachusetts** will have its first Rhyme Celebration in the spring of 2007.

### **NELL Membership Increase**

Membership has increased in Wisconsin, Florida, and Arkansas since last year. Kudos to Michel Halot - Arkansas rep, Audray Weber - Wisconsin rep, and Maria Wyatt - Florida rep for their hard work in recruiting new members! Membership has also increased in the state of **Indiana**, where the IN-NELL organization has required all members of the statewide group to first become

members of NELL. Thanks to Pamela Valdes, outgoing IN-NELL President, for promoting NELL in Indiana.

### **1000 NELL members**

To celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, NELL wants to reach a total of 1000 members. You can do your part with this goal by renewing your membership and encouraging your colleagues and administrators to join this organization. Remember, with your membership you receive 2 issues of *Learning Languages*, 3 issues of E-NELL notes and access to the Members Only portion of the NELL website. Click here to join [NELL](#).

### **Stephen D. Krashen website**

Dr. Stephen Krashen is an expert in the field of linguistics, specializing in theories of language acquisition and development. Much of his recent research has involved the study of non-English and bilingual language acquisition. There many valuable resources on his website for early language educators. In the "Books On-line" section you can access an electronic version of his book, [Second Language Acquisition and Second Language Learning](#). There are also electronic versions of articles on bilingual education and language acquisition. In addition to the electronic resources, you can choose to subscribe to his mailing list.

Click here to find out more about [Stephen Krashen's website](#).

### **Manuscript Subscriptions**

NNELL is currently seeking manuscripts for both refereed and scholarly articles for the spring 2008 issue of its journal, *Learning Languages*. Spring submissions must focus on best practice in second language instruction. Submit all manuscripts to Priscilla Russel, Co-Editor of *Learning Languages*, at: [priscilla\\_russel@monet.prs.k12.nj.us](mailto:priscilla_russel@monet.prs.k12.nj.us)

### **Rhyme Celebration**

Connecticut, Rhode Island, and now Massachusetts hold yearly Rhyme Celebrations. The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers has a page dedicated to the event. Included on the page are guidelines, a registration form, and information about the button design contest.

Click here for more information about [COLT's Rhyme Celebration](#).

Christi Moraga is the CT COLT Rhyme Celebration chairperson. To contact her with questions about setting up your own Rhyme Celebration, email her at: [trigal@comcast.net](mailto:trigal@comcast.net)

### **The French Language Initiative**

This website is a joint effort between the Embassy of France and the American Association of Teachers of French. It includes materials to promote French, the latest news stories related to French, information about the benefits of studying the French language and French-speaking cultures.

Click here for more information about [The French Language Initiative](#).

\*\*Thanks to Jean Modig, National Networking Coordinator, for submitting the French Language Initiative website to the newsletter.

### **UN International Year of Languages**

The United Nations has proclaimed 2008 as the International Year of Languages to promote unity in diversity and global understanding. Click here to read the [proclamation](#).

### **IN-NELL Conference a Success**

Congratulations to the Indiana Network for Early Language Learning (IN-NELL) for its most successful conference held on Saturday, January 26, 2008 at Park Tudor School in Indianapolis, Indiana. Dr. Scott Hamilton, school psychologist at Park Tudor, presented a two-hour workshop on the Brain and Second Language Acquisition. His presentation was enthusiastically received by all in attendance. NNELL President Terry Caccavale was honored as the recipient of the IN-NELL 2007 Ambassador of Early Language Learning Award. Congratulations to Pamela Valdes, outgoing President of IN-NELL, and to Molly Murphy, President-Elect of IN-NELL, and to all of the members of the IN-NELL Board!

Send any information, comments, or questions for *Newsworthy* to Tammy Dann at the following address: [trdann@juno.com](mailto:trdann@juno.com)