



# Appreciates Teachers of World Languages

*Special thanks to the following groups who have led and contributed so much to our successes this year:*

High School Department Chairs: Erlin Pollari, Mary Drayton, Ellen Flaspohler, Irma Sprague, Diane Becker, Anne Calderoni, Debra Farr, Jean Ziesmer, Darlene Lebo, Vera Broga, Alan Blessing, Pascale Freyer, Aimée Alfaro, Denise Pavék, Aixa Ruch, Livia Wein, Mildred Esbri

## WLTA Executive Board, 2007-2008

Sylvia Amaya, president  
Renee Belvis, vice-president  
Pam Benton, secretary  
Celia Rubí, treasurer  
Geri Craven, social chair  
Mildred Pioli, ESOL representative

Field Day Planning Committee: Sylvia Amaya, Mirian Arcila, Renee Belvis, Regina Bringas, Pam Benton, Jeanete Chávez, Geri Craven, Leni Fernández, Ann Footlick, Maria González, Esther González-Wright, Mariette Holcombe, Maria Mansour, Rosa Muñoz, Mildred Pioli, Alexandra Robalino, Celia Rubí, Linda Santiago, Sally Zepeda.

Summer Immersion Team: Linda Santiago, Esther González-Wright, Bell Guerra, Darlene Lebo, Maria González, Jeanette Chávez, Martha Estrada

Content Coaches: Diana Cano, Annette Collier, Mildred Esbri, Leni Fernández, Sandy Hammond, Gloria Muñoz, Sandra Rosado, Gisela Torres

Motivation and Learning/Assessment Leadership Team: Annette Collier, Pat D'Andrea, Brian Farley, Beth Waybrant, Ernie Whalen

Assessment Writing Team: Aimée Alfaro, Evelyn Bennett, Carissa Bracero, Regina Bringas, Diana Cano, Annette Collier, Pat D'Andrea, Martha Estrada, Brian Farley, Mary Galante, Mariette Holcombe, Sandy Hammond, Lilly Lewis, Carol Mager, Ray Mortham, Jeannine Pursley, Sandra Rosado, Robin Schuessler, Gisela Torres, Livia Wein, Ernie Whalen, Maria Wyatt, Bill Yanson

Adult Spanish Class Teaching Team: Diana Cano, Mildred Esbri, Gloria Muñoz, Leni Fernández, Lilly Lewis, Sandra Rosado, Maria Wyatt

State Conference Participants: Darlene Lebo, Linda Santiago, Pam Benton, Celia Rubi.

## FFLA Board Members:

FFLA/ACTFL Local Planning Committee: Sylvia Amaya (chair), Danny Boulrieris, Pam Benton, Alan Blessing, Diana Cano, Esther González-Wright (registrar)  
Linda Santiago (executive director), Livia Wein (Region 6 director), Maria Wyatt (NNELL representative)

National Board Certified Teachers: Sylvia Amaya, Diane Becker, \*Pam Benton, Diana Cano, Mildred Esbri, Leni Fernandez, Nilsa Gómez, Sandy Hammond, \*Darlene Lebo, Lilly Lewis, Gloria Muñoz, Sandra Rosado, Gisela Torres, Maria Wyatt (\*08)

State Conference Presenters: Sylvia Amaya, Geri Craven, Nilsa Gomez, Lilly Lewis, Sandra Rosado, Maria Wyatt.

## K-5 Immersion Team

Sylvia Amaya, Ashleigh Smith, Beverly Gibson, Jacki López, Shanon Cianfoni, Yadira Vega, Shanon López.

## 2008-2009 WLTA Board

Renée Belvis, President  
Danny Boulrieris, VP  
Pam Benton, Secretary  
Geri Craven, Treasurer  
Alexandra Robalino, Social  
Mildred Pioli, ESOL Rep

## Congratulations to the Following New Teachers, Some New to the District and Some Returning to Us who Thrived During Their First Year:

Rick Amstutz, Alexandra Basey, Enid Blanco, Sophie Champigny-Hotel, Joseph Corr, Maricela Duarte, Orietha Gnecco, María González, Bell Guerra, Rita Hensely-Damp, Angie Jenkins, Cathy Kelly, Teresa Kessie, Mary Kinsman, Vanessa Lieberz, Aida Matallana, Lourdes Molina, Lauren Murphy, Juan Pizano, Erika Reckenwald, Samantha Ring, Betty Rioux, Alexandra Robalino, Yee-chen Robson, Mercedes Suarez, Georgene Wade, and Bill Yanson.

## Special congratulations to the following retirees:

**Anne Calderoni**  
(Dunedin HS)

**Carmen González**  
(Clearwater HS)

You will be missed!

## St. Petersburg High School Students Score Well on National Spanish Exam

Congratulations to several world language students from [St. Petersburg High School](#) who attained national recognition for excellent performance on the 2008 National Spanish Examinations. Students from [Ana O'Brien and Gisela Torres' Spanish II classes](#) earned a total of 15 gold, 8 silver and 2 bronze placements along with 2 honorable mentions. "Attaining any placement or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Examinations is very prestigious," said Kevin Cessna, National Director of the Exams, "because the exams are

the largest of their kind in the United States with well over 106,000 students participating in 2008. "The National Spanish Examinations are administered each year in grades 6 through 12, and are sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Six St. Petersburg High School students scored in the 99th percentile, the highest in the nation, with seven more scoring in the 98th percentile. O'Brien and Torres hope to involve even more students in this national competition in future years.

## SHH Student Wins Scholarship

The Sancho Panza Chapter of La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica is happy to announce that Rachael Postlewait was selected to receive a senior scholarship from the National Spanish Honor Society. The \$1,000 award will be used for college expenses. Congratulations, Rachael, and thank you for two years of service as an officer of the chapter.

## Gibbs Charters New Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica Chapter

Congratulations to Laura Sosa and Jean Ziesmer and the Spanish department at Gibbs High School for their efforts to increase enrollments in upper level Spanish classes and build an Advanced Placement Program at their school for the first time. Taking steps towards that goal, Pinellas' newest chapter of the Spanish Honor Society was created this year. The

chapter name is: *Juan de Dios Peza*. The first class of inductees included the following students: Dorothea Bauer, Darius Fernández, Alexa Pucillin, Darius Rucker, and Somata Thach. Congratulations to these fine students and their teachers. A new tradition begins!

### Coachman Teacher Honored

Pat D'Andrea would like to thank

all of her Spanish students and their parents for their campaign called "Send your favorite Spanish teacher to Puerto Rico!" All of their collective contributions have made it possible for Pat to qualify for an all-expense paid summer vacation. Mrs. D'Andrea really appreciates the demonstration of love and support for her ability to "stay sane" during a challenging school year.

## Inaugural Carmine Zinn Memorial Scholarship Awarded

The first recipient of the [Carmine Zinn Memorial Senior Achievement Award](#) was recognized at his school's awards assembly May 20. Congratulations to [Mark Diba](#), Countryside High School, son of Spanish teacher, [Monica Diba](#), for all the accomplishments that led to his selection for this honor. Mark has excelled in the

study of Spanish, French and Latin. He also studied in Salamanca, Spain, one summer. He has been a regular participant in the district's International Day. Mark hopes to continue his language studies in order to become a Spanish teacher. His award included a \$1,000 check provided by the World Languages Teachers' Asso-

ciation of Pinellas County and was presented by Jan Kucerik, supervisor, and Sylvia Amaya, President of WLTA. Sylvia's fundraising efforts throughout the year made possible this important scholarship, which commemorates the years of dedication and service provided by former supervisor, Carmine Zinn. Congratulations, Mark!