



Welcome, New Teachers

The Office of World Languages is pleased to welcome the following new teachers to Pinellas. **Carissa Bracero**, with undergraduate degrees in French and Spanish, has taught ESOL and Spanish. She received her BA from Binghamton University and a masters degree in linguistics from Syracuse University, both in New York, and also studied in Salamanca. Carissa came to PCS from Saddlebrook Preparatory to teach Spanish at Tarpon Springs MS. **Elizabeth Brazier** comes to Pinellas after recent teaching experience in Portland, Maine. She is a graduate of Emory University. She also studied in Salamanca and Barcelona, Spain. She has been a competitive swimmer and swim coach. Elizabeth is now teaching Spanish at Dunedin HS. **Katty Condezo**, who joined the staff of Carwise MS this year, is a 2005 graduate of USF's college of education. A native of Peru, Katty interned with Leni Fernandez at PHUHS in the spring. Also from USF is **Jennifer Gil**, a graduate of Gibbs HS. Jennifer is a performer and instructor of Salsa. She interned at Hopkins MS in the spring and is now teaching Spanish at Lakewood HS. **John Kontrick**, who formerly taught at Hopkins MS, returns to us after a two-year teaching assignment in Mexico to teach Spanish at Osceola HS. **Laura Leocata** is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and has also studied in Madrid. She has taught both high school and FLES in Wisconsin. Laura, who also speaks Italian, has joined the staff of Gibbs H.S. as a Spanish teacher. **Jessica Leopold**, a 2004 graduate of Northern Michigan University, was a Spanish major and history minor studying secondary education. She is teaching Spanish at Palm Harbor MS. **Bryan Gonzalez** is an experienced high school teacher who has taught in Virginia and Duvall County, Florida. He is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University in Georgia and has also studied in Valencia, Spain and Senegal, West Africa. Bryan has joined the staff of Lakewood HS where he is teaching Spanish. **Steven Wolfe** received his B.S in Spanish and secondary education from Millersville University in Pennsylvania. He also studied in Salamanca, Spain. A former substitute teacher in Pinellas, Steven is pleased to now be teaching fulltime at Northeast High School. The ESOL office is also pleased to welcome a group of new teachers with varied backgrounds and experiences to enrich

the lives of our students. They are **Dubravka Agatic**, Dixie Hollins HS; **Sandra Bernard**, Skycrest Elementary; **Jessica Clements** and **Carol Fontaine**, Rio Vista Elementary; **Diana Nikollari**, Gibbs HS; **Melissa Stringfellow**, Belleair Elementary; **Eric Tomb**, teaching French and ESOL at Clearwater HS; and **Janice Vance**, at Blanton Elementary.

The WLTA President Speaks by Esther Gonzalez-Wright Welcome back friends!

As I begin my first year as president of the World Language Teachers Association it is with great pleasure that I write our first column in the *Polyglot*. Our goals for this year is to continue articulating with our PEAK-trained and ESOL teachers to continue making them feel a part of our organization, to improve communication with the membership in order to promote more involvement to increase the number of teachers piloting and writing assessments, and to assist our members in attending state and national conferences.

On our Board this year we have **Regina Bringas** in the vice-presidency from Meadowlawn MS, **Maria D'Oleo** is our secretary from Pinellas Park MS, **Patrick Wayman** is the treasurer from Seminole HS, **Renee Belvis** is our ESOL representative from Kennedy MS, and **Diana Cano** from Tarpon Springs HS will continue as our social chairperson. We are looking forward to an absolute great year. Please feel free to contact any of your board members with any ideas or concerns you may have. Don't forget to mark your calendars for our mid-year celebration on **January 21, 2006**, and our end of the year banquet on **April 21, 2006**.

Please be sure to join our association – fees are \$10 for teachers and \$5 for bilingual assistants. Membership fees are used to support our scholarship programs: senior achievement scholarship, summer immersion scholarship; and social activities hosted by the association. Send your dues now to **Patrick Wayman** at Seminole High School – Pony route 2.

I hope you all benefited from our District Day Training sessions and understand our commitment and dedication to the World Languages department.

Countryside High School Spanish Honor Society submitted by Monica Diba

At Countryside High School, Mrs. Diba is proud of her Chapter Sammy Sosa Spanish Honor Society students who won THIRD PLACE for outstanding work in the AATSP Best Long Term Activity of the Year, helping the Mexican migrant workers in Balm-Wimauma with monthly clothing donations. Congratulations to chapter members on this national recognition.

East Lake High School Spanish Honor Society submitted by Sally Zepeda

The Octavio Paz Chapter of Spanish National Honor Society at East Lake High donated a pair of llamas from Heifer International to be given to a needy family in the highlands of Peru in memory of Pamela Urdal Silva. In the Andes inbreeding among the llamas was causing the herds to decrease in size each year. There was also a problem of overgrazing. Heifer International gave training sessions to the Aymara people, teaching them to restore the environment by planting native fodder grasses and improving the llama breeding practices. The llama wool is used to make clothing, blankets, carpets and rope. Besides filling the needs of the family, any excess products can be sold or used to barter to improve the quality of their lives. The Aymara do not waste any part of the llama. They collect the dung and dry it for fuel or use it for fertilizer. A low income family living at barely subsistence level can be greatly impacted by the gift of a pair of llamas. This often translates into healthier and better educated children. Chapter members held a carwash at the Chick-fil-A in Oldsmar to raise money for the llamas. A pair of llamas costs \$300. One member, "Chela" Bowan, talked the manager into letting her wear the cow outfit to flag people down for the event. We chose to donate the pair of llamas in memory of Pamela Urdal Silva, a founding teacher here at East Lake and also the founder of our Spanish National Honor Society. She passed away in August of 2004 after a courageous ten year battle against cancer. Profe Silva loved to travel, and one of her last extensive trips was to the Andes. It was the trip of a lifetime for her! Her doctor temporarily suspended her chemo so that she could go. Profe would love that we had a hand in helping to make an Andean family self sufficient in her name.

East Lake High School French Honor Society submitted by Jeannine Pursley

The French National Honor Society of East Lake High School has been collecting backpacks filled with school supplies for students from Hurricane Katrina who have recently entered Pinellas County schools. Three students new to East Lake have already been given their backpacks with paper, pencils, pens, rulers, binders, erasers, compasses, hand sanitizers and tee-shirts. Some had water and snacks included too. One even had a stuffed baby eagle, our school mascot. The teenagers thought it was cool to include. If any teachers know of a child in need please email Jeannine Pursley on PLACES. Thank you.

Also, to celebrate the International Day of Peace (September 21), the members of FNHS joined the Multi-cultural Club and the Art Club in making pinwheels for the Pinwheels for Peace activity to serve as reminder of our commitment to peace. One side of the pinwheel has words about war/peace/tolerance and living in harmony. The other side is a visual representation of our feelings. The pinwheels were on display on school grounds on September 21, which coincided with our Open House. For those interested for next year, the sites are:

<http://pinwheelsforpeace.com> or
www.internationaldayofpeace.org.

Upcoming Events

September 28

CRISS Training Begins

Administration Building, Room D-134,135

October 4

***Content Training and
New Teacher Support***

Administration Building, Room B-202

October 6

Assessment Study Group/PEAK Support
PPHS, Room. K-2

October 12-15

FFLA Conference
St. Augustine