



Hello friends and colleagues!

Greeting from the top of the state in Southaven. As your president I am here to serve as the face of the organization and act as a liaison between our group and outside factions. Additionally, I coordinate the speaker for the conference and preside over MFLA events. I am honored to serve the organization in this important position and continue the spirit of cooperation and sharing begun by my predecessors. As an active Board member for the past five years I have devoted many hours to improving language learning in Mississippi and beyond and will continue to represent MFLA to the best of my abilities.

Although I am blessed to now serve as a Community College instructor, I began my teaching career as a humble Graduate Teaching Assistant at Mississippi State where I earned both a Bachelor's and Master's of Arts focusing on Spanish Literature and Linguistics. My professional life after MSU, began in January of 2000 with DeSoto County Schools at Olive Branch High School where in addition to teaching exceeding large classes, I served as the Freshman Cheer Sponsor. I began teaching college part time in 2005 for Northwest Mississippi Community College's DeSoto Center in Southaven and became full time faculty in 2008. As a former high school teacher I am well aware of the time constraints and demands on many of our members by administrations, students, parents, and peers and the frustration of being placed into trainings that really don't apply to our particular subject.

In collaborating with other Language instructors in 2004, I learned of the MFLA, and attended my first conference. Two days of being surrounded by other passionate language teachers, having the opportunity to listen to the plethora of ideas for learning, teaching and practicing languages, left me inspired and rejuvenated. Each year I welcome the chance to share stories and swap ideas, websites and tips for teaching and practice which are relevant to me. It is wonderful to be surrounded by a group that not only understands your desire to teach another language but faces the same challenges. I feel the MFLA has become my *familia* and improving the MFLA both within the state and outside of it. My colleagues are now my friends and we reach out to each other for ideas and support with Facebook, Twitter, e-mail and even phone calls and texts.

It is my sincere wish that each of you know that the MFLA is here for you. Our mission is to lift each other up and help each other to grow. We promote language learning, language teaching and support for each other. MFLA is nothing without you, its members and I encourage you to support each other and language teaching through advocacy, presenting, and taking an active part in your organization. Thank you for all you do for your students, each other and for Mississippi Foreign Language Association, I hope to see many of you in Starkville at the Annual Fall Conference November 6-7! The details are posted under 2015 conference on our website if you want to know more.

Sincerely,

Janet Bunch

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