

Biographies submitted by candidates for the FLAVA 2011 elections

Attached below are the biographies as submitted by the candidates for the FLAVA 2011 elections.

President Elect: Annette Rosado Waggoner, **Secretary:** Amanda Corson, **Treasurer:** Jackie Yau,
Conference Coordinator: Bianca M. Cabrera, Tina Shu Kao, Isidoro (Isi) Kessel

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Annette Rosado Waggoner

I was born and raised in Puerto Rico where I met my husband George and where our two daughters Patricia and Nicole were born. But, before falling in love with George, I fell in love with Spain, where I was a college student in 1986 at Fundación José Ortega y Gasset in Toledo. My point of view about life, friendship, cultures was broaden by this unforgettable and enriching experience.

My first classroom teaching experience was as a Sunday school teacher at a local church where I worked for three years during high-school.

In 1997, I started teaching at the elementary level, in a private school in Miramar, Florida. I particularly enjoyed working with children of diverse cultural backgrounds. Careful preparation of lessons allowed me to break down sometimes complicated concepts to simple examples that my young students could grasp.

We moved to Memphis, TN in 2004 and there I had the privilege to complete a master's degree in Romance Languages from the University of Memphis, Go Tigers!

During this last four years, I taught Spanish to high school students at Massaponax High School in Fredericksburg, VA all from level 1 to AP. Managing the difference of abilities among my students proved a difficult, but satisfying, challenge. I tailored activities to maintain the interest of high-level students without intimidating less skilled learners. At MHS, I sponsor various student-led organizations like, "Spanish Honor Society", "Teaming in Education and Learning", a program that integrates families moving from foreign countries to our school, and "Sparkling Steps" a project that collects prom dresses and offers them to girls in our community.

It has been an honor to represent my Spanish and Portuguese colleagues from the AATSP-VA at FLAVA since 2008, preparing for conference and creating activities with your students and you in mind. (Come and join us at this year's activities, they are so much fun!)

I am committed to serve our WL teachers in this great organization continuing with the vision, creativity and excitement that is always generated at FLAVA. Professionals representing all levels and languages come together to help you in any way possible, reach your goals and celebrate your accomplishments. It is my passion to link us with our future WL teachers and help them in their journey to teach and inspire others, because let's be honest, one day we will like to retire, lol!

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Biography:

My name is **Amanda Corson**, and I am interested in running for the position of Secretary for FLAVA. I started studying Spanish in 7th grade and fell in love with the language. In 9th grade, I had a once in a lifetime opportunity to be accepted into the Spanish Immersion Center at J.R. Tucker High School in Richmond, VA. Half of my classes each year were conducted in Spanish. I graduated in 2002 with Honors and continued my education at Roanoke College. I graduated with my B.A. in Spanish in May 2006, and I have been teaching Spanish at Mills E. Godwin High School in Richmond ever since. I have just been accepted to the Master's Program in Spanish Linguistics at Middlebury College and will be starting this summer!

Professional Information:

I was the Pledgemaster for the Honorary Musical Fraternity that I was in at Roanoke College, Fall 2005

I was the Vice President of H.O.L.A. (Hispanic Organization for Leadership & Achievement), 2005-2006

I was the co-sponsor of the Spanish Club for my first 3 years of teaching and the sole sponsor last year, 2006-2010

I have been a member of FLAVA for 2 years, and I just joined SCOLT this year

All of these leadership positions have taught me to work well with others, be well-organized, create great ideas to further promote the language, and have given me the initiative to get things done.

Vision for FLAVA:

I would like to see FLAVA be more than just a once a year conference at the Koger Center. I think having workshops and classes all over the state throughout the year would broaden our membership base and would encourage more people to join, while providing our membership with frequent contact with our organization and exposure to the latest ideas and methodologies. I also think that it would be awesome to have more in-depth workshops at FLAVA dealing with technology that show you how to use the program and student-created projects using that program for the first hour. During the second hour, teachers could break into teams and work on creating something using that technology that they can take back to their schools that day. Often, we are exposed to so many great things while at FLAVA, but due to our busy schedules, we often don't have time to practice and master all the new tools we're exposed to in 2 days!

Take care!

Amanda N. Corson

Spanish Teacher, Levels 1 & 2

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Jackie Yau

I graduated from the University of Louisiana in Monroe, Louisiana in 1988 with a Bachelor's degree in English Education with a minor in Speech. I also have an undeclared major in Spanish.

I have taught middle school Spanish and English in Louisiana and North Carolina. I have been teaching for 15 years at Hampton High School. I taught ESL for 4 years and now I teach Spanish levels 2-5. Currently I am the Instructional Leader for the Foreign Language Department, sponsor of the Spanish Honor Society and Spanish Club and the Senior Graduating Coordinator for my school. In November 2009 I became a National Board Certified Teacher.

I have been a member of AATSP-VA for 12 years and I have served as treasurer for the past 7 years.

I have been a member of FLAVA since I moved to VA in 1996. I have served as treasurer for the past two years. This experience has allowed me to work with a very dynamic group of professionals and I am just amazed how the board works so hard to set up our annual conferences. At my first FLAVA conference I was very impressed with all the exhibits, workshops and the conference itself. I became involved with AATSP because of my interaction with FLAVA and the people I had the opportunity to meet. FLAVA has given me the opportunity to learn something new that I can use in the classroom and improve some of my teaching strategies.

Now the opportunity to share and help the association is a way for me to pay back while at the same time I get to continue to meet new people and learn new things..

My husband is an officer of the US Army. I have 12-year-old twin girls and a 8-year-old son. I love to travel, read, cook, and just enjoy life.

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Bianca M. Cabrera

I was born in Puerto Rico, where for 28 years. I went to the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico to study Civil Engineering. In college I worked for United State Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Engraving and Printing, NASA at Goddard Space Center and Clarck Construction and Siemens. In 2004 I moved to the United States to work full time as a Jr. Designer for McKinney and Company. In 2006, VHB hired me to work on White Oak and Kroger design program. During this time I went back to school to get my teaching license in English as a Second Language. At the end of the 2008 I was certified to teach Spanish and ESL. On May 2009 I was hired by the King William County Public Schools to teach foreign language to middle school students. In my first year I accomplished a lot of goals. I was in charge of the Student Council Association (SCA), assistant coach for the Varsity girls' basketball team, created three new curricula for all the classes I was teaching, and created Foreign Language week for 312 students. In my first year I was nominated for Teacher of the Year as well as this year. I enjoy teaching students and learning from them. I have a passion for helping and teaching which grows stronger every year.

Vision for FLAVA: I see FLAVA as a way of connecting to the community. Reaching teachers, aids, administrators and volunteers to find their new love for language. FLAVA should be a network of teachers connecting with each other to create innovative new ways of teaching foreign language. In the future I see FLAVA creating internships and seminars inside and outside the USA: Seminars about new innovative ways on teaching languages, and working together with Apple, Microsoft and Notebook to create programs specially for foreign languages. FLAVA should be the place that every foreign language teacher should check first if they need help with lessons, curriculum, strategies and ideas for their classes.

Experience: I am the SCA representative for my school. I am in charge of two dances, Community Service Project, school fundraisers, homecoming float, and more. I organize the dance with the students and create the theme. We put together items that will sell the best for the students during the dances. Fundraisers we have are Valentine's, T-shirts and dances. During Valentine's we sell roses, candies and plush toys. Every year we have at least one or two service projects. We have done Penny for Pet and every year we are able to raise more than \$1,500 for this cause. Last year we also did Sock for Soldier and we collected more than 1,800 pair. For the past 2 years I have been able to raise at least \$1200 to \$1500 for the SCA. This year the SCA donated 5 convertible benches and a Wii system to the school. Also, we donated \$125 to the Science department to work in their garden. The SCA has helped the Accelerated Reader program by donating prizes and awards to the highest readers in the school. I am also the secretary for a bowling league. In this position I am in charge of money, awards, and ceremony. At the end of summer we have an awards ceremony with a trophy or money prizes. For the past 3 years I have been able to satisfy all my bowlers with the food and the prizes. I am a very organized and talented person. I like making people happy and saving money. I look very hard for the most economic way of doing something but with excellent quality. I won't buy something that I wouldn't use at home for any of my jobs. I take pride and honor in my work and that means giving 120% to my friends, students and co-workers.

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Tina Shu Kao

Biography

Ms. Kao has been teaching Chinese at George Mason High School since 2006. Since then, she has created Chinese curriculum and taught Chinese language from level 1 to level 4, and now to level 5/IB Chinese this September.

In addition to teaching at GMHS, she is also a Principal in WCCACC Chinese school, and the program director for Rockville Sunday Chinese-heritage school in Maryland. As a Principal, and an academic director in this Sunday school, she also manages the entire school, and pinyin program in terms of curriculum design, and planning for pinyin program at WSCLC, Rockville MD. While teaching, she also pursues the Master of Education at George Mason University, and earned the MA degree this fall 2010.

As a Chinese language teacher, educator, and administrator, she believes as a resource/expert and facilitator for the students, as well as for the teachers and community, she needs to have professional expertise and content knowledge in order to be a useful resource, in addition, she believes in networking, and support amongst professionals are the key factors of being successful.

With that being said, education has been a passion, as it allows her to make a difference in someone's life, which is a very rewarding experience!

She believes in team work, and bring the world language programs in the USA and specially in FLAVA to bring all world language professionals, administrators, and staffs together, and share the same view which is to promote the world languages and culture, and working with other affiliated organizations for greater and in depth world language program in VA.

Tina Shu Kao For FLAVA Conference Coordinator Election

- To promote global awareness and understanding through providing World language study, cultural activities, and interdisciplinary events that meet FLAVA members' needs.
- To plan event logistics, in terms of coordinates services, such as: accommodation for participants and speakers; working with hotel/site staff and determining space needs; attending to any special needs requirements; coordinating event printing; and securing event security.
- To create the most memorable, effective, and inspiring events that expand the study of world languages in Virginia and the regional community.
- To promote education and outreach, in collaboration with other national

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Isidoro (Isi) Kessel was born in El Paso, TEXAS and raised in Mexico City and San Diego, California. He attended San Diego State University for his undergraduate and graduate degrees. He has taught all levels of Spanish at the secondary level and many Spanish courses at the post-secondary level. He has taught for Virginia Beach City Public School, Hampton City Schools, Hampton University, Tidewater Community College, Old Dominion University, and Thomas Nelson Community College where he currently serves as professor and chair of the Department of Foreign Languages. He earned National Board Certification in 2003. He has been very active in professional organizations at the local, state, and national levels. He lives in Virginia Beach and is married to Arlene Kessel who is a teacher of German. Arlene and Isi have two children. Shayna earned her PhD in English from the University of Southern California and undergraduate degrees from the University of Virginia. Aaron attended the College of William and Mary and as earned degrees in Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics. He is currently working on a Masters in Education at Old Dominion University. Three Labrador retrievers, Jake, Charlie, and Henry complete the Kessel family.

Service to FLAVA;

Isi has presented numerous sessions and workshops at FLAVA Conferences. He first served on the FLAVA Board of Directors as President of the Virginia AATSP. He served as FLAVA Conference Coordinator for more than twelve years, FLAVA President for four years, and is currently the FLAVA Immediate Past President. Isi has been a member of the FLAVA Conference Committee for eighteen years.

Vision

As FLAVA completes one hundred years as a beacon for foreign language educators in Virginia and beyond, this oldest language organization in the United States faces the challenges of the modern world; new technology that affects what and how we teach, challenges as we seek to differentiate instruction to meet the individual needs of each student, new configurations for grouping students including hybrid classes, online courses, and distance learning instruction staff development for beginning and veteran teachers, growing and waning demands for various languages, the constant need to educate the public, politicians, and school administrators and other stakeholders as to the importance of providing students with world language instruction, the ever-growing demands on teachers to provide students with every aspect of education; instruction of the subject, ethics, morality, and citizenship, and a never-ending supply of challenges and demands, the community of foreign language educators continues to look to FLAVA for guidance and leadership.

As FLAVA begins its second century, FLAVA will continue to provide educators with endless opportunities to develop and hone their teaching skills, to learn new and exciting ways to deliver instruction, to become aware of professional trends and opportunities for professional growth, to provide leadership in guidance in advocacy matters, to provide workshops, conferences, and training, to develop networking groups, and to guide, nurture, and develop beginning and veteran teachers at every levels: elementary, middle, secondary, and post secondary instruction. As our knowledge of technology continues to grow, FLAVA will continue to take the lead in developing new and exciting ways to reach our stakeholders. FLAVA is and will continue to be the one constant in our ever-changing world; the beacon for all the students and educators of world languages in the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond.