

LITERACY NEWS

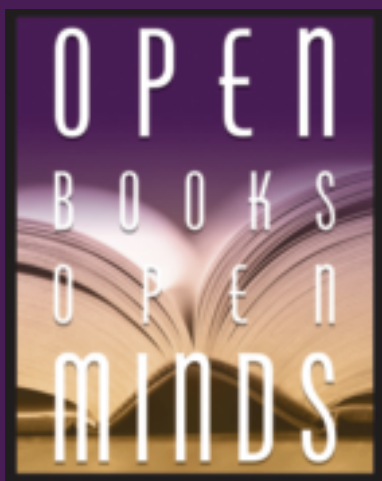


FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION, INC.

FLORIDA'S NEWSLETTER FOR LITERACY TUTORS,
TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPPORTERS

Number 119

WINTER 2008

REGISTER NOW!

2008

Florida Literacy
Conference
May 7-9, 2008
Walt Disney World

See page 4 for more information

Human Trafficking and ESOL: What Teachers and Students Need to Know

Human trafficking, or modern-day slavery, is an all-too-common and tragic fact of life in today's world. An estimated 600,000 to 800,000 victims of trafficking are bought, sold, tricked, kidnapped and trafficked across international borders each year. The United Nations estimates are even higher, finding that as many as four million people are victimized each year by traffickers. Within the US, between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked annually. Human trafficking is an extremely profitable big business, and with estimated annual revenue of over \$9.5 billion, it soon may surpass the revenues from the trafficking and sale of guns and drugs for organized crime.

Human trafficking is also a very serious problem in our state: Florida is often considered one of the top three in the

United States in terms of the prevalence of this horrific phenomenon. For many reasons, those who attend and teach English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes are in a unique position to help trafficked persons and inform their communities about how to end human trafficking.

Recognizing this reality, the Florida Department of Education responded by awarding The Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights (the Center) a State Leadership Grant. Now in its second year of work, the Center has developed a curriculum module for English Literacy and Civics Education for Limited-English Proficient (LEP) students that incorporates ways to assist victims of human trafficking and has begun to

(Continued on Page 9)

Increasing Intensity of Instruction in Volunteer-Based Literacy Programs, a Recipe for Success

The use of individualized and small group instruction by volunteer-based literacy programs helps to make such groups especially successful at recruiting and serving students at the lowest literacy levels. The challenge is that these students are often more difficult to teach and tend to make slower progress than higher level adult education students. This can lead to adult learners becoming frustrated and leaving their programs before they have realized their goals.

Research indicates that the average student needs approximately 100 hours

of instruction to increase at least one grade level. With the majority of volunteers providing core instruction to students only 2-3 hours per week, volunteer-based programs are exploring new ways to increase the amount of instruction offered.

With a grant from the UPS Foundation, ProLiteracy America recently conducted a three-year project to identify how three pilot programs could involve volunteers in new ways to increase the intensity of learning and improve learning outcomes for students.

(Continued on Page 11)

Inside This Issue

Literacy in Florida	2
Upcoming Literacy Events	7
Funding Opportunities	10
Literacy in the U.S.	11

Florida's Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center

Literacy in Florida

Looking for an Easy Way to Raise Money?

Make the Internet Work for You!

The integration of online technology provides an innovative way for individuals to support worthy causes. According to the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, ten percent of Americans who give to charity make online contributions and those gifts are usually the same as those made via cash or check. There are several different internet options to raise money and awareness, and many organizations across Florida have used these options with success.

- **Network for Good** collects online donations. Network for Good lists over 1 million charities. Users can set up recurring donations and pay via credit card, online check and Paypal. Processing costs vary according the service you sign up for and basic service fees start at 4.75% for credit card donations and \$10 for online check donations. These fees are deducted from the donation amount and the rest is forwarded to your organization. One handy tool is that you can track online giving via the website with your login and password. Organizations can also provide a direct link to Network for Good via a link that you can add to your website. For more information, visit <http://www.networkforgood.org>.

- **Amazon** has a program called Amazon Associates. The Literacy Council of Manatee County (LCMC) is now an Amazon Associate. For every person who makes a purchase from Amazon through the link from the Amazon icon on the Literacy Council's website, the Literacy Council receives a percent of the purchase as a donation. Each month, Amazon sends LCMC a check, averaging about six percent of

each sale. This could present a good opportunity for literacy programs that have volunteers who shop online. For more information, visit <http://affiliateprogram.amazon.com/gp/associates/join>.

- **eBay** is also a portal for soliciting donations. eBay has a program called "Giving Works." This is a way to locate new supporters as well as a way to motivate existing supporters. Individuals can support local charities by putting an item up for sale and donating a portion, or all, of the money to a charity. To become a part of the list where sellers can choose to donate a portion of the sales, you have to register through MissionFish. For more information, visit <http://pages.ebay.com/givingworks>.

- **Justgive.org** is a non-profit whose mission is to connect people with charities based on what cause they would like to support. The goal is to increase overall charitable giving. Justgive.org allows organizations without a website the opportunity to collect donations. They also offer

patrons the opportunity to track their donations all year. This helps during tax preparation time. www.justgive.org is powered by Guidestar.

While the Internet can provide another avenue to generate funds, old fashion mailing campaigns, car washes, carnivals, and galas are still a great way to get to know your supporters and network with others in an effort to raise awareness for literacy. Striking a balance between technology, and tried and true fundraising can lead to an increased funding base without a lot of added effort.

Submit Your News!

Has your organization received funding or planned a major public event? Do you know something that would benefit other adult and family literacy practitioners?

FLC invites you to submit short articles and other news items related to funding, events, staff, hot topics, research and more. Contact Yari Payne at payney@floridaliteracy.org.

Literacy in Florida

Train the Tutor Trainer Course

Does your program need tutor trainers?

This three-session course, aligned with ProLiteracy America trainer certification standards, will focus on competencies needed to be a good tutor trainer, providing curriculum and resources to offer a tutor training workshop.

Course content will include:

- A) Tutor training competencies
- B) Tutor training content knowledge in both adult basic literacy and ESOL
- C) Curriculum modules
- D) Presentations by participants reviewed by instructor and peers
- E) Discussion of ProLiteracy Trainer Certification system

The format will include classroom and small group work, practice presentations and distance learning instruction.

This course will benefit the following participants:

- New Trainers
- Trainers working on updating their tutor training workshops
- Trainers seeking ProLiteracy Trainer Certification
- Trainers interested in improving their skills, but not pursuing certification
- Program Managers

Course Dates and Locations

(participants must commit to attend all 3 sessions)

- **May 6, 2008** 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Regal Sun Resort in the Walt Disney World Resort.
Pre-conference event at the Florida Literacy Conference.
- **May 13, 2008** 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. via conference call.
- **May 30, 2008** 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. & May 31, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in Orlando.

Application Deadline: Thursday, March 20, 2008. Space is limited, so apply today. Additional information and applications are available at www.floridaliteracy.org. Travel assistance is available.

Sponsored by Florida's Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center, a program of the Florida Literacy Coalition. This initiative is made possible through the generous support of the Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education.

NEW FLC Staff

Sarah Feuer has joined FLC as our new Americorps VISTA member. Sarah was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Turkmenistan for two years, where she worked



at a local clinic and school teaching proper health and hygiene. She taught art at Durrance elementary school for the last two years. With her background in art, she is working on marketing for the Florida Literacy Coalition and the 2008 Florida Literacy Conference. Sarah grew up in Miami but moved to Orlando three years ago, after her Peace Corps service. She enjoys working with non profits and is excited to be with FLC.



We are also pleased to welcome intern Jaclyn MacLeod who is currently a student at the University of Central Florida's Rosen College of

Hospitality Management. Jaclyn has a strong passion for coordinating events and is majoring in event management. She is an active sister of her sorority, Pi Beta Phi, and is presently the vice president of event planning. She enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and being a UCF Knight!

Literacy in Florida

2 4 T H A N N U A L

Florida Literacy Conference

MAY 7-9, 2008 AT THE REGAL SUN RESORT ORLANDO, FL

Join hundreds of adult and family literacy practitioners, volunteers and adult learners this May to network, develop new skills and share promising practices during the 2008 Florida Literacy Conference. This premier literacy event offers a wide range of sessions presented by local, state and national educators.

Sessions are designed to energize you with new ideas and hands-on strategies that you can put to work for your program and students.

For registration information and a complete list of concurrent sessions and descriptions, please visit www.floridaliteracy.org.

FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- Admission to general sessions
- Your choice of sessions within 11 tracks
- Opening reception
- Continental breakfast on Thursday
- Closing luncheon Friday and daily refreshments
- Social and networking events
- Admission to literacy product exhibition
- Conference tote bag, program and resource materials

CONFERENCE TRACKS:

- Adult Learners
- Corrections Literacy
- ESOL
- Family Literacy
- Learning Disabilities
- Library Literacy
- Program Management
- Reading
- Technology
- Volunteers in Literacy
- Workforce Education

ADULT LEARNER DAY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Adult education, literacy and ESOL students are encouraged to attend the Conference as our guests for a full day of activities. This year's offerings were coordinated by a committee of adult learners. Session topics will address areas such as learner leadership, involvement and skills development.

For registration information go to www.floridaliteracy.org.

DON'T MISS THE FLORIDA LITERACY AWARDS AND BANQUET THURSDAY, MAY 8

This promises to be an enjoyable and inspiring evening as we recognize the outstanding achievements of an adult learner, volunteer, literacy practitioner, program, business and media partner.

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Are you having a difficult time finding resources to attend the Florida Literacy Conference? A limited number of registration and travel scholarships are available to practitioners and volunteers working in adult and family literacy programs. Visit www.floridaliteracy.org for application information.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Monday, April 14 is the last day to reserve a room for overnight accommodations at the group rate of \$99 plus tax for a standard double, \$109 plus tax for lake/pool view double or \$129 plus tax for a tower city view. To reserve a room, call Regal Sun Resort at Walt Disney World at 1-800-624-4109. Ample free parking is available onsite.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



DAVID HARVEY

David Harvey is President and CEO of ProLiteracy Worldwide, leading the world's largest organization of adult basic education and literacy programs. He is responsible for the organization's advocacy efforts on behalf of adult learners at the national and international levels, oversees the operations of New Readers Press, ProLiteracy's publishing division, and leads the domestic and international programs that provide training and resources to the programs that offer adults instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics.



ALFONSO AGUILAR

Alfonso Aguilar serves as Chief of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' Office of Citizenship, within the Department of Homeland Security.

Literacy in Florida

Pre-Conference Events, Tuesday, May 6

HELPING ABE LEARNERS DEVELOP WRITING SKILLS

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Gail Rice, Author: Focus on Phonics

This workshop will allow participants the opportunity to discuss common barriers to writing for ABE learners and how to overcome them. The workshop will explore several strategies and techniques to encourage learners to write more, to expand their writing skills to assess their writing, and to give feedback on others' writing.

BEST PLUS ORAL PROFICIENCY TEST ADMINISTRATOR TRAINING

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Facilitators: Michelle Ueland & Allene Grognet, Center for Applied Linguistics

This six-contact-hour workshop will instruct participants to use the rubric and score computer-adaptive and print-based BEST Plus, which is an individually administered, face-to-face interview designed to assess adult English Language learners' communicative proficiency by simultaneously measuring listening comprehension and oral communication.

NATIONAL REPORTING SYSTEM WORKSHOP (NRS)

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Mario Zuniga, Florida Department of Education

This workshop will give you insight into how this data can be used to improve your program. This is a way for the federal government to evaluate the effectiveness of adult education programs on a yearly basis. Enrollment and completion data is evaluated in program areas and other data elements collect demographic and pertinent elements needed for program improvement.

TRAIN THE TUTOR TRAINER COURSE

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. • \$25.00 (lunch included)

Facilitators: Ellen Lauricella & Roberta Reiss

For full description, see page 3 of this newsletter.

FUNDRAISING SYMPOSIUM

May 6, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Facilitators: Joyce Whidden & Greg Smith

Sponsored by the Region III Adult Literacy Center

Fundraising is central to an organization's ability to do its work, engage people in its mission, and educate their community about the importance of their goals and activities.

This session will include: 1) A discussion of successful fund development strategies used by several community-based literacy organizations, 2) A panel of foundation representatives who will provide their perspectives on grantor/grantee relationship building, 3) Break out sessions on an Introduction to Grant Writing for beginner and Integrated Strategies and Trends in Development and Philanthropy for Intermediate and Advanced.

Special Thanks TO OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS

PLATINUM

- Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education
- BlueCross BlueShield of Florida
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation

GOLD

- Florida TechNet
- English Discoveries/Techno-Ware, Inc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER GO TO WWW.FLORIDALITERACY.ORG

Literacy in Florida



Bill Quinlan
Columnist

Lake Wales' Columnist Gets the Word Out on Literacy

Have you ever considered asking your local paper to include a regular column on literacy? In Polk County, *The Lake Wales News* and Columnist Bill Quinlan have prioritized literacy as a regular

feature in this 76-year-old weekly community newspaper.

Mr. Quinlan has written over 100 articles ranging from profiles of local literacy students and tutors to Florida's FCAT exam. The bulk of his stories center around the events and happenings of the Lake Wales Family Literacy Coalition and Academy.

Mr. Quinlan's relationship with the Coalition began three years ago when he was trained as a tutor by the WinterHaven/Auburndale Literacy Council and READ Polk. He was then invited by Deming Cowles (the attorney for and project director of Lake Wales Charter Schools) to join the Family Literacy Coalition.

Mr. Quinlan strongly believes that illiteracy and other issues within our education system are among the most fundamental problems that need to be addressed in society. A deficiency in education and literacy affects everything: politics, health, financial issues and more. He has been encouraged by the positive publicity that has come from his monthly columns, which have helped local programs recruit volunteers and students as well as raise general awareness of the issue.

"Bill Quinlan has been enormously helpful," said Coles. "He writes beautifully, he's dedicated to the program and his column is widely read."

Mr. Quinlan came to the position with extensive experience in writing feature stories for newspapers. His work has appeared in newspapers in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Florida. While he did not previously have a relationship with *The Lake Wales News*, he met a reporter from the newspaper at his first meeting with the Coalition. Together they proposed a column to the editor. With Mr. Quinlan's knowledge and skills, he was selected to write the articles.

Newspaper columnists have the flexibility to combine hard news with a more personal perspective on an issue, similar to that of an editorial. While some columnists specialize in areas such as politics or sports, *The Lake Wales News* and Mr. Quinlan believe that education and literacy are important enough to warrant consistent focus.

Mr. Quinlan has a few tips for programs interested in working with their local paper.

- 1** Identify elected officials and business leaders to champion your cause. You have a winning team when you combine political influence with a seasoned writer who represents your paper.
- 2** Get the word out about your program. Advertise through public speaking, newsletters, and press releases.
- 3** Trumpet your literacy program's achievements. Success builds on success, so be sure to herald your progress.
- 4** Educate your newspaper editor on the needs of your program and the individuals your program has helped.
- 5** File press releases frequently. In those releases, include community issues and real people, especially leaders from your community, in the content of your copy.

On a related note, Mr. Quinlan suggests that organizations get to know neighboring non-profits and coordinate programs and services with them. Doing this will, "weave all of this into a cohesive system of care and will only increase your effectiveness in the community you serve."



Literacy in Florida

Upcoming Literacy Events

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

When: February 21, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(sign-in begins @ 8:30 a.m.)

Where: Corrections Academy
2301 Meeting Place
Orlando, FL 32814

Instructional Strategies for Working with Adults with Learning Disabilities – LD Training Part II: What Correctional Educators Need to Know about Teaching & Learning Strategies.

For more information, contact Christalee Burkett at 407.484.4923 or via email at aimcsb@aol.com.

STRATEGIES FOR TUTORING ESL LEARNERS

When: February 23, 2008
9 a.m. - noon

Where: Palm Beach Community College

For more information, call the Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition at 1-800-273-1030.

FISCAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

When: February 28, 2008
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: Radisson Hotel
8701 Astronaut Blvd.
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

A four-hour DOE required workshop on fiscal program management for administrators of adult education.

For more information, contact Christalee Burkett at 407.484.4923 or via email at aimcsb@aol.com.

MONEY SMART

When: March 5, 2008
12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
(sign-in begins @ 12:00 p.m.)

Where: Community High School
1050 E. 10th St.
Stuart, FL 34994

An interactive software program, put out by the government FCIC office, about financial literacy. Examples of topics covered include an introduction to bank services, introduction to credit, how to use a checking account, how to read credit history.

For more information, contact Christalee Burkett at 407.484.4923 or via email at aimcsb@aol.com.

SERVICE LEARNING

When: March 5, 2008
1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(sign-in begins @ 1:30 p.m.)

Where: Community High School
1050 E. 10th St.
Stuart, FL 34994

A workshop about an approved high school course in which students experience academic learning & community services.

For more information, contact Christalee Burkett at 407.484.4923 or via email at aimcsb@aol.com.

TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP

When: March 15, 2008
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Where: Bethany Lutheran Church
Fort Myers, FL

For more information, call 239-242-4374.

ESOL LIVE!

When: March 29, 2008
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where: Seminole Community College

Snapshot presentations of proven strategies in the ESOL classroom with handouts for immediate use by instructors.

For more information, contact Christalee Burkett at 407.484.4923 or via email at aimcsb@aol.com.

New Education Commissioner

Dr. Eric J. Smith began his tenure as the new Florida Commissioner of Education in December. The State Board of Education (SBE) voted unanimously to select him to serve as Florida's chief educational officer.

Dr. Smith began his career in Florida more than 30 years ago as a classroom teacher. His commitment to affecting positive change in the field of education led him to several administrative positions in Florida school districts and eventually to 16 years of serving as a district superintendent in Virginia, North Carolina, and Maryland. His goals have remained constant throughout his career: to increase academic achievement of all students and to reduce the disparity in achievement among student subgroups.

Literacy in Florida



State Adult Learner Essay Book Call for Submissions

The Florida Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center is proud to announce the launch of its Fourth Annual Adult

Learner Writing Campaign. Adult learners from throughout Florida are invited to submit original short stories, poems, or autobiographical narratives to be included in a published book that will be debuted at the 2008 Florida Literacy Conference this May in Orlando. The goal of this book is to allow adult learners the opportunity to build confidence while also improving their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Organizational representatives can use this book as a way to promote how their programs are having a positive influence within their communities.

Please visit

www.floridaliteracy.org/essaybookhome.htm for a link to the online form.

The deadline for submissions is March 17, 2008.



This year's graduating Literacy Ambassador class. (Top row left to right) Theresa Dendy, Jean Louis, Elvite Pierre, Gloria Gaines, Iris Garcia, Larry Nix, Sandra Nino, Concepcion Alonso, Paola Fabio, Rachida Belaid, and Sallie Burden. (Bottom row left to right) Julia Krasynska, Noemy Mericle, and Manuela Zapote.

Adult Learner Gloria Gaines Gives Back as Teacher and Literacy Ambassador

Gloria Gaines is an accomplished woman. In addition to being a mother and grandmother, she enjoyed a successful career as a surgical technologist.

These accomplishments were realized despite the fact that Gloria had a reading disability that significantly limited her ability to comprehend what she read. Her difficulty in this area had been a life long secret – one which she compensated for by listening carefully, taking notes and working extra hard to remember everything she heard or saw.

One day, a nurse who Gloria had trained was promoted to be her supervisor. This was “wake up call” for Gloria and prompted her to respond to an ad that she had seen from the Literacy Volunteers of Gadsden County, offering assistance to adults who wanted to improve their basic reading and writing skills.

This turned out to be a life changing event for Gloria. She was matched with her tutor, Tori Anderson, and loved the one-on-one tutoring lessons as well as the opportunity to work at her own pace on the computer. Even though Gloria was in retirement, she decided to enroll in a nursing assistant program, and did so well that the school asked her to come back and teach the course. So far, she has taught three classes and her students have had a very good success rate passing the State Boards. “Because of my own shortcomings, I knew what (my students) were going through,” says Gloria. “I took the time and worked with them one-on-one so that they understood the materials,” she further said.

Gloria is one of 18 adult learners who recently completed the Adult Literacy Resource Center's Literacy Ambassador Program, which helps students develop public speaking skills. In addition to teaching, Gloria looks forward to sharing her story with others who may learn from her experiences.



Greg Smith presents Gloria Gaines with a certificate at the Literacy Ambassador Program in November 2007.

Literacy in Florida

Human Trafficking and ESOL: What Teachers and Students Need to Know (Continued from Cover)

train ESOL teachers statewide on how to incorporate human trafficking awareness into their classroom instruction.

This unique project, and the curricula the Center has developed, gives teachers different options on how they can adapt their lesson plans to best fit the needs of their students. As part of the curriculum module, the Center provides teachers with the necessary tools and guidelines on human trafficking. These guidelines incorporate information about what human trafficking is, how to identify human trafficking victims and who to contact when they have identified a potential victim. The curriculum module helps educators to most effectively determine how to incorporate information on human trafficking in the classroom. Lesson plans include vocabulary and grammar instruction and tools such as case scenarios, role plays and word/and picture matching exercises that make it easy for teachers to teach about human trafficking. Clearly helpful to this curriculum has been the direct input from ESOL teachers whom the Center interviewed at the outset of the project. Since it began training on the curriculum, the Center has found teachers to be extremely enthusiastic and eager to learn about human trafficking so they may incorporate this topic into their class work.

All the materials that were developed in year one of the project can be downloaded from <http://www.cahr.fsu.edu/esol.html>. During phase two of the project, the Center is conducting trainings on human trafficking and how to incorporate human trafficking in ESOL classes. In addition, the Center continues to develop more web-based resources for teachers and to incorporate information from this project into the Center's many other anti-trafficking efforts. (For more information on the Center's work, go to <http://www.cahr.fsu.edu>.)

The goals of this project are already being realized throughout Florida as teachers and students begin to receive potentially life-saving information as they participate in ESOL classes. Through this curriculum, students and teachers learn what human trafficking is, how to avoid falling into trafficker's control, how the law protects victims of human trafficking and how both teachers and students can work within their communities to end modern-day slavery. Perhaps more than many other groups, this information is reaching people and communities that many times are kept in the

Why Human Trafficking is Important to ESOL Teachers and Students

- Due to limited English proficiency, students may be vulnerable;
- Many students feel that their ESOL class is a safe environment and they may disclose information to the teacher;
- Students can help themselves and others to know what human trafficking is, how to get help safely, and what their legal rights are;
- Teachers and their students can learn how to help others who may be trafficked or be vulnerable;
- Teachers can learn to safely and effectively respond if they suspect that a student is a victim or if a trafficker is posing as a student; and
- Students can learn how to guard against recruitment into slavery.

dark and who are very likely to themselves be impacted by human trafficking or know others who are victimized by this horrific crime.

If you suspect human trafficking, you can call the US Department of Health and Human Services 24-hour hotline and receive information about resources in your area: 1-888-373-7888. (www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking) You can also report a human trafficking case to the Department of Justice Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force Complaint Line at 1-888-428-7581 (voice and TTY).

Robin Hassler Thompson is the Program Director at the Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights Human Trafficking Project. She has served as the Executive Director of the Florida Governor's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence, and now consults with a wide range of clients including universities, state and national public policy and human rights advocacy groups, and international law firms.

Vania Llovera serves as the Assistant Director at the Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights. She co-directs the Florida Department of Education project to develop a curriculum module for English Literacy and Civics Education for ESOL students and human trafficking. Ms. Llovera is a native of El Salvador and was once an ESOL student in the Leon County School system.

FLC Receives Grant to Develop ESOL Health Literacy Curriculum

There is growing recognition among health care providers and adult educators around the country that limited English language and literacy skills can have a significant impact on one's health.

According to the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy's (NAAL) report on the health literacy of America's adults, 14% of adults have below basic health literacy skills. Low health literacy is especially prevalent among adults who did not complete high school and Hispanic adults, who have lower health literacy than any other ethnic/racial group.

To help address this issue, the Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education has awarded the Florida Literacy Coalition a grant for \$100,000 to develop a health literacy curriculum and corresponding student resource book which integrate health literacy into ESOL instruction. These materials will

serve to increase health literacy awareness among ESOL students and encourage them to make healthy choices in relation to nutrition, preventative health care and other health related issues.

FLC welcomes to the curriculum development team Sabrina Kurtz-Rossi and Julie McKinney who have authored several nationally distributed health literacy publications and worked with teachers and adult learners around the county to integrate health and literacy education into adult basic education. Also joining the team is Florida's own Marti Lane whose experience as a ESOL teacher, tutor trainer and curriculum developer is well known both inside and outside the Sunshine State.

The curriculum and materials, will be field tested this spring, and will be freely available this summer.

Funding Opportunities

New Program Offers Training, Technical Assistance and Mini-grants to Non-profit Organizations

Beginning in January 2008, Compassion Florida will be making available a program to assist faith-based and community-based nonprofit organizations. This initiative will offer technical assistance, group training and mini grants.

For more information, visit
http://www.volunteerfloridafoundation.org/about_faithbased.php

Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grants

The Dollar General Literacy Grants program provides funding to adult and family literacy providers in the communities served by the company.

Application deadline: March 4, 2008.

Visit www.dollargeneral.com

2008 Library Services and Technology Act Grant

Applications are now being accepted for the 2008 Library Services and Technology Act Grants. This grant program is based on the Library Services and Technology Act, and is developed from Lead...Develop...Innovate...Florida's Library Services and Technology Act Plan, 2008-2012. These grants are awarded to libraries with emphasis on expanding services for learning and access to information, providing linkages among libraries, developing public and private partnerships with community-based organizations and others and developing resources targeted to those with diverse backgrounds, limited literacy skills and learning disabilities.

For more information, visit
<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/bld/grants/Lsta/LSTA.html>

Tutor Tip

ASK ME A QUESTION:

Try this activity to help give learners practice in formulating and writing questions as well as an opportunity to get to know fellow classmates.

Materials:

You will need a piece of paper for each student, pencils and slips of paper.

Procedure:

1. Give each learner a slip of paper and have them write their name on it. Have them fold the paper once and give it to you.
2. Learners draw one name from the slips of paper. If they pick their own, they should put it back and take another.
3. Tell them to think of 3-5 questions they would like to ask that person.

4. Have them write the questions on a piece of paper, leaving space for answers.
5. They give their questions to the person they are intended for.
6. That person writes a response to each question and then gives the paper back to the person who wrote the questions. You may have learners share the information they learned with the class.
7. Learners turn their papers in to you for corrections.

Source:

http://www.themlc.org/Ask_Me_a_Question.html

Many more resources are available at the Florida Literacy Coalition's Tutor Help Center
www.floridaliteracy.org/tutor_help_center.html

Literacy in the U.S.

Increasing Intensity of Instruction in Volunteer-Based Literacy Programs, a Recipe for Success

(Continued from Cover)

Data collected by these pilot programs (located in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and California) showed positive outcomes in five areas.

1) New Roles for Volunteers: By creating new volunteer positions, the programs increased their ability to attract and involve new volunteers, existing volunteers who wanted to be involved in new ways, and former volunteers.

2) Volunteer Satisfaction: Satisfaction increased as volunteers were well supported and generally felt that their talents and skills were put to good use.

3) Increase Hours of Instruction: New and expanded ways of delivering instruction led to more time learning. Prior to the start of the project, the average amount of instruction per student ranged from 2.5 – 9 hours per month depending on the program. By the end of the project, the instructional hours increased to 9.7 to 14.9 per month.

4) Increase Learner Gains: 79% (52) students who completed 50 hours or more made meaningful learning gains (defined as an increase of 10% in test scores, half a grade level or one NRS level).

5) Improve Program Management Practices: Pilot programs reported improvements in their instructional and assessment procedures as well as in organizational planning and decision making practices.

The findings of this project closely align with the Florida Literacy Coalition's own research on the success factors of high achieving adult learners. In this case study analysis, all the adult learners benefited from intensive small-class or one-to-one instruction, averaging 16 hours per week.

The 40-page booklet *Promising Practices: Increasing Intensity of Instruction in Volunteer-Based Literacy Programs* and supporting resources are available free from ProLiteracy America at www.proliteracy.org/resources.asp.

Legislative Update Federal Adult and Family Literacy Funding Cut

President Bush signed Congress's final compromise on the FY 2008 budget on Dec. 26. Congress implemented an across-the-board reduction of 1.7 percent for domestic programs. The legislation reduced adult education state grants and national programs funds by about \$12 million, compared to FY 2007 levels. Adult education state grants lost \$9.8 million, leaving \$554.1 million available for state adult education programs, while national leadership lost \$2.1 million-leaving \$6.8 million for research in FY 2008 funds. The legislation also substantially cut Even Start funding by \$22 million.

Resources

Reading Study Shows Remarkable Decline in U.S.

The National Endowment for the Arts recently released a study on reading trends in the U.S. The study shows "startling declines" in "how much and how well" Americans are reading.

Among the key findings:

- Teens and young adults read less often and for shorter amounts of time compared with other age groups and with Americans of previous years.
- Reading scores continue to worsen, especially among young males. Reading scores for 12th-grade readers fell significantly from 1992 to 2005, with the sharpest declines among lower-level readers.

To read the full study *Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence* visit www.nea.gov/research/ToRead.pdf

Free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

It's that time of year again. Free tax assistance for low/moderate income individuals is available throughout Florida. Find a site near you by calling 1-800-829-1040 or visit AARP's website at www.aarp.org/taxaide. People of all ages are eligible for assistance through AARP and other sponsoring agencies.

The Fiscal Consequences of Adult Educational Attainment

A recently released report examines earnings of adults according to their level of education achievement and the impact those earnings have on the fiscal affairs of the states and the lives of individuals. The study includes estimates of annual net fiscal contributions of adults by education attainment level for the 13 largest states, including Florida.

This report prepared for the Commission on Adult Literacy by the Center for Labor Market Studies of Northeastern University is available online at www.nationalcommissiononadulthoodliteracy.org.



FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION, INC.

934 North Magnolia Avenue, Suite 104
Orlando, FL 32803

Phone: (407) 246-7110
Fax: (407) 246-7104
Email: info@floridaliteracy.org
Florida Literacy Hotline: (800) 237-5113

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid

Permit #1514
Orlando, FL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Executive Committee

President	Joe Pankowiecki
Vice President (Providers)	Darlene Kostrub, <i>Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition</i>
Secretary	Sandy Newell, <i>State Library of Florida</i>
Treasurer	Nishad Khan, Esquire
Executive Director	Gregory Smith

The Literacy News is a publication of Florida's Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center, a program of the Florida Literacy Coalition. It is made possible through a grant from the Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education.

LITERACY NEWS, #119 CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Sarah Feuer, Florida Literacy Coalition
Pam Logsdon, Florida Literacy Coalition
Jaclyn MacLeod, Florida Literacy Coalition
Tom Pattison, Florida Literacy Coalition
Yari Payne, Florida Literacy Coalition

Greg Smith, Florida Literacy Coalition
Samantha Sparks, Florida Literacy Coalition
Robin Hassler Thompson, MA, JD, Florida State
University Center
Vania Llovera, MS, Florida State University Center

Become a Member of the Florida Literacy Coalition and Make a Difference for Literacy in Florida!

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Literacy Resource Packet
- Discount for Florida Literacy Conference Registration (\$25 value)
- Membership reception at the Florida Literacy Conference
- Professional development opportunities
- FLC's *Literacy News* print and e-newsletters
- Eligibility to submit nomination for the Florida Literacy Awards
- Membership Certificate (Organizational Members)

And much more.....

Membership rates:

- \$25 Individual
- \$50 Organizational (with budgets under \$200,000)
- \$75 Organizational (with budgets over \$200,000)

For more information, contact Samantha Sparks, Resource Specialist at sparkss@floridaliteracy.org
or visit www.floridaliteracy.org and click on Become a Member.