

California Community College Foreign Language Council **News**

September 15, 2009

Fall Conferences Now Set: Oct. 9 at Cypress and Oct. 23 in San Francisco

Registration is still open for our fall conferences, set for Friday, Oct. 9 at Cypress College in Orange County and Friday, Oct. 23 at City College in San Francisco. There is still time to register with the enclosed forms. Fees are reduced considering all our common budget woes. Why not spend a day in professional development and learn what is working at your sister institutions?

At Cypress, we'll have information from publishers on their plans to rent books plus sessions which include interesting powerpoints, discussion of "global competence," and sessions by language to permit you to touch base with colleagues in your language area. Planning to travel to Cypress from away? The Woodfin Suites in Cypress have nice rooms at reasonable rates.

San Francisco will also provide publisher news on innovative programs and a discussion of "global competence" plus a session with the educational advisor from the Spanish Consulate and discussions by language. Lunch will be in the City College faculty restaurant, and the meeting will be held in the electronic classroom.

Open Season on Foreign Languages?

Reading the national press, one might think it was open season on foreign languages. In an article in the *New York Times*, a college president with an MBA suggested that colleges consider cutting "some foreign languages" as well as arts programs when in financial trouble. Last Sunday the same paper reported that schools in well-to-do area outside Manhattan had eliminated language classes and replaced those classes with... copies of Rosetta Stone. In their "Week in Review" section, the *Times* ran a large article pointing out the decline of Russian speakers in the area of the former Soviet Union and its satellites. Of course, it did not mention that Russian is the key entry point for Slavic languages.

Certainly we have been on the chopping block before, but in these times of ever shrinking budgets, it behooves us to be ready with reasons to protect our programs. Certainly global trade and interconnection have never been greater. Unfortunately in California, students arrive at our campuses with minimal or no second language skills in all too many cases. With language offerings in high schools diminishing, we are the only option for students to add to their language ability in an affordable way.

Perhaps you have a new success to tout? Please send in your article to us to share with others around the state. Now is the time!

Our next issue will appear in November. Please send your articles to Tom Blair, 424 Dorado Ter., San Francisco 94112-1753. Membership is \$10 for part-time and \$15 for full-time. CLTA membership is \$50.