



## ESPAÑOL

### Spring 2008 FLAND Newsletter

**TOP 10 REASONS TO LEARN SPANISH:** From "Learn Spanish" [www.learnspanish.com](http://www.learnspanish.com).

1. Learning Spanish is necessary to keep pace with popular culture.

Learning Spanish will enable you to keep pace with Hispanic influence on culture which is strong and getting stronger. For example, do you remember that Taco Bell commercial with the little dog? Did you know that his motto, "Yo quiero Taco Bell" is actually a play on words? In Spanish, "yo quiero" means both "I want" and "I love." So, that cute little dog was actually pulling your leg as he said both: "I want Taco Bell" and "I love Taco Bell."

2. Learning Spanish is actually a medical device!

Research indicates that knowing and using two languages reduces your chances of developing dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. The scientists who studied this were motivated by earlier studies which showed that bilingualism enhances mental abilities in both children and older adults. Other studies show that studying languages can improve your memory and slow age-related decline in mental acuity. And studying another language makes you smarter! Your critical thinking skills will be improved as you learn to view things through a different lens. Learning a second language stimulates creativity!

3. For many, learning Spanish is rapidly becoming a business necessity.

Spanish is becoming more and more important with regards to business. Learning Spanish will enable you to better communicate with Spanish speaking employees or co-workers. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to offer your product or service to the 350 million people whose mother tongue is Spanish? In North America, Hispanic consumers are the fastest-growing market segment. As for job opportunities, it certainly wouldn't hurt to have Spanish on your résumé. In the United States, knowing Spanish can be particularly helpful if you work in healthcare or education. Increasingly, the building trades are employing more and more Spanish speaking workers. One thing is certain. If you are bilingual, you will be more marketable and have more career choices than your monolingual counterpart. Globalization, with its accompanying free trade agreements is shrinking the business world, and those who know more than one language will definitely have the edge.

4. Spanish, Spanish everywhere.

With well over 35 million Spanish speakers in the United States, and with over 40% of the population growth being among the Hispanic people, the stage is set for an enormous increase in Spanish usage in the United States. This has sparked a lot of interest among US citizens, a group not particularly known for their multilingualism. This interest will only increase as the Hispanic population of the US approaches 50 million by the year 2015. But it's not only in the US where Spanish is popular. In Europe, Spanish is the second most popular second language, after English. With some 400 million speakers, Spanish is the fourth most commonly spoken language in the world. Only Mandarin, English and Hindi have more speakers. If you count only *native* speakers, Spanish outranks English. Spanish is an official language on four continents and is the mother tongue in 21 countries. The sheer number of Spanish speakers and their rate of growth makes learning Spanish a smart choice.

5. Learning Spanish will (truly) expand your universe.

According to Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, "the limits of my language are the limits of my universe." There is no doubt that learning Spanish will expand your own personal universe. As the Hispanic population continues to grow at a disproportionate rate, it becomes more and more likely that you might marry into a Spanish speaking family, have Spanish speaking neighbors or encounter Spanish speaking people in your daily rounds. No longer are the Spanish speakers in the US confined to the border states and big cities. Today, nearly all areas have some sort of Hispanic population. Wouldn't it be nice to say hello and chat with your fellow paisanos (countrymen)?

6. Knowing Spanish will completely transform your travel experience.

While it is certainly possible to travel to a Spanish speaking country without knowing any Spanish, your trip will in no way compare with the incredible adventure that awaits the traveler who speaks Spanish. If you only speak English, you will be forced to confine yourself to popular tourist resorts where nearly everyone speaks some English. But if you want to explore the area and get to know the local people, you need to know Spanish. Even simple things, such as reading signs and menus, asking directions or telling a cab driver where you want to go requires some knowledge of the language. Hispanic people are amazingly generous, and if you speak Spanish you will find yourself being welcomed in a way that would never happen if you spoke only English. Simply put, when you travel to a Spanish speaking country, knowing the language will allow you to move from the role of observer to that of an active participant.

7. Knowing how to speak Spanish will enable you to help others.

If you are the type of person who likes to help others, learning to speak Spanish will put you in a position where you can help both Spanish speakers who don't speak English and English speakers who don't speak Spanish. Now that's what we like to call a "win-win" situation. Unfortunately, the standard of living in many Spanish speaking countries is rather low by normal Western standards. Sometimes, it is appallingly low. Without stereotyping Latin America as a poverty stricken region (in many cases that simply is not true) there are nonetheless a lot of people in serious need. Learning Spanish will prepare you for taking the next step, --- actually going there and making a difference!

8. There are reasons to learn language for language's sake.

While Johann Wolfgang von Goethe may have been exaggerating when he said, "he who knows no foreign language, knows nothing of his own," it cannot be denied that by studying Spanish you will without doubt gain a better understanding of English. Spanish is what we call a "Romance" language, meaning that it is based on Latin, the language of the ancient Roman Empire. Many English words are also of Latin origin, and so when you learn vocabulary in Spanish you will simultaneously be expanding your English vocabulary. You will also find that

your understanding of the deep meaning of these Latin based English words is greatly enhanced. Also, as you study the grammar of Spanish, you will notice how it is similar to English, as well as how it is different. This will raise your awareness of the grammar of your native language. Because Spanish is very nearly phonetically perfect, you can look at almost any word and immediately know exactly how to pronounce it. This characteristic makes Spanish one of the easiest languages to learn. And, when it comes to learning a third language, such as French or Italian, already knowing Spanish will be a huge advantage because these languages, too, are Romance Languages.

9. Learning Spanish will allow you to better appreciate Hispanic cultural contributions.

For many people, developing a deeper understanding of Hispanic culture is becoming more and more important. There is no more certain way to gain this insight than to learn to speak Spanish. Reading Latin American or Spanish newspapers and magazines will open a window into the Hispanic mind. Knowing the language will prepare you to better appreciate some of the great Hispanic modern and classic cultural contributions. From Miguel Cervantes to Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Hispanic literary contributions are monumental. From the royal portraits of Goya to the surreal depictions of Picasso, Spanish influence on the fine arts has been substantial. And let's not ignore gastronomy! Learning Spanish can be the perfect excuse for enjoying the cuisine of Spanish speaking peoples. Burritos, tamales, paella, papusas, arroz con frijoles, ceviche, --- the list goes on and on, and is a delicious indicator of the vast diversity of Hispanic culture. Is it any wonder then that more and more people want to partake of these cultural delights?

10. Learning Spanish is fun!

Learning Spanish opens up lots of opportunities to have more fun. Who doesn't enjoy reading a good book or watching a good movie? Music? You bet! Food? The best! The satisfaction of accomplishment? It's there waiting for you to grab it! For all of the reasons mentioned above, and a whole lot that haven't been mentioned, learning Spanish can be one of the most enjoyable things you will ever do. Whether your motivations are practical, intellectual or sentimental, learning Spanish is something that will benefit you for the rest of your life!

*Submitted by Susan Devine, Bismarck High School*

### **Summer Language Institute for Spanish Teachers**

Announcing [Southern Oregon University's Summer Language Institute](#) for Spanish teachers who might be interested in studying in [Guanajuato, Mexico](#).

- a) Earn your Master's degree over three summers,
- b) Obtain additional college credit to maintain your state certification, or
- c) Update your current skills.

Our program is unique in that it offers an immersion experience and is designed to meet the distinct needs of middle school, high school, and community college Spanish teachers. The Summer Language Institute combines pedagogy courses on second language acquisition with language and culture courses to allow our students to improve both their language proficiency and cultural understanding while becoming better teachers.

Students can attend both or one of our three-week sessions:

1. June 22 - July 11
2. July 13 - August 1

Application deadline is **February 15, 2008**. Download an application and find more information online at: [www.sou.edu/summerlanguageinstitute](http://www.sou.edu/summerlanguageinstitute).

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Anne Connor, Ph.D.  
SLI Director and Associate Professor of Spanish  
Southern Oregon University  
(541) 552-6743 email: [connora@sou.edu](mailto:connora@sou.edu)

### **Next Season on Survivor**

Have you heard about the next planned "Survivor" show? Three businessmen and three businesswomen will be dropped in an elementary school classroom for 1 school year. Each business person will be provided with a copy of his/her school district's curriculum, and a class of 28 – 32 students.

Each class will have a minimum of five learning-disabled children, three with A.D.D., one gifted child, and two who speak limited English. Three students will be labeled with severe behavior problems. Each business person must complete lesson plans at least 3 days in advance, with annotations for curriculum objectives and modify, organize, or create their materials accordingly. They will be required to teach students, handle misconduct, implement technology, document attendance, write referrals, correct homework, make bulletin boards, compute grades, complete report cards, document benchmarks, communicate with parents, and arrange parent conferences. They must also stand in their doorway between class changes to monitor the hallways.

In addition, they will complete fire drills, tornado drills, and [Code Red] drills for shooting attacks each month.

They must attend workshops, faculty meetings, and attend curriculum development meetings. They must also tutor students who are behind and strive to get their 2 non-English speaking children proficient enough to take the Terra Nova and PSSA tests. If they are sick or are having a bad day they must not let it show.

Each day they must incorporate reading, writing, math, science, and social studies into the program. They must maintain discipline and provide an educationally stimulating environment to motivate students at all times. If all students do not wish to cooperate, work, or learn, the teacher will be held responsible.

The business people will only have access to the public golf course on the weekends, but with their new salary, they may not be able to afford it. There will be no access to vendors who want to take them out to lunch, and lunch will be limited to thirty minutes, which is not counted as part of their work day. The business people will be permitted to use a student restroom, as long as another survival candidate can supervise their class.

If the copier is operable, they may make copies of necessary materials before, or after, school. However, they cannot surpass their monthly limit of copies. The business people must continually advance their education, at their expense, and on their own time.

The winner of this Season of Survivor will be allowed to return to their job.

Pass this to your friends who think teaching is easy, and to the ones that know it is hard.

*Submitted by Theresa Waltz, Mandan High School*

**AATSP-ND Business Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 18, 2007**  
**Minot, North Dakota**

Since President and Vice-President were absent, the meeting was conducted by Secretary-Treasurer Susan Devine.

The minutes from the Spring 2007 meeting in Fargo were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was read and approved. The balance in the checking account at this time is \$1,262.48.

Susan Devine, NSE Coordinator for North Dakota, gave an overview of the 2008 National Spanish Exam. The national fee has gone up to \$3 and the state fee will remain the same, for a total of \$5 per student. The test will again be on-line. There are practice tests on-line that are useful for students to try before taking the actual exam since there are often irregular, infrequently used verbs on the test, such as *caber*. Teachers must be members of AATSP to avoid paying the non-member fee. Dues for AATSP are \$65 and are due January 31, 2008. Membership can be renewed on-line at the AATSP website, [www.aatsp.org](http://www.aatsp.org), or an application can be downloaded and mailed. More information will be emailed to AATSP members as it becomes available.

Leanne Tracey thanked everyone for the \$800 donation to the Herb Boswau fund from last spring. The book fair, cookbook project, and silent auction funds will continue to go into the Herb Boswau Memorial Fund.

There was discussion on what activities/programs to include at the Spring 2008 Conference in Bismarck which is FLAND's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mary Kay Keller Ralston suggested that everyone bring a "Golden Oldie" activity to share. Sandy Meidinger said retired members could share classroom memories, i.e. something funny that happened in class, interesting student stories, etc. Jeanne Rodriguez said that the hands-on activities that were done at the Spring 2007 Conference in Fargo were well received. Does Faye Miller want to find a presenter for Friday's AATSP session? Since Ryan Pitcher will be attending the ACTFL convention this fall, will he be presenting on Saturday at the FLAND session? Sandy Meidinger suggested that, since AATSP-ND has some extra funds in the checking account, we fund some of the activities planned for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, such as music at the Friday evening dinner. Those bills will be looked at in the spring and then presented to AATSP-ND for payment if needed.

Sandy Meidinger reported that the essay contest theme for 2008 is "You've Got the World on a String with Foreign Languages."

The next meeting will be at the Spring 2008 Conference in Bismarck and the next NDEA Fall Conference will be in Fargo.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Devine  
Secretary Treasurer

### **National Spanish Exam News**

The procedures for the NSE 2008 have changed quite a bit from last year.

1. The cost of the exam per student is \$5 (\$3 to the National Office and \$2 to ND-AATSP).
2. Participating teachers/schools pay for the exam directly to the National Office instead of to the NSE Coordinator. The national office will reimburse the NSE Coordinator for the state's portion of the fees which will be used as prize money.
3. Since the test is online, it may be administered any time between March 1, 2008 and April 10, 2008, and may be proctored by the teacher.

Please email NSE Coordinator Susan Devine at [susan\\_devine@educ8.org](mailto:susan_devine@educ8.org) if you have any questions. **Thanks to all who are participating in 2008!**

*Submitted by Susan Devine, Bismarck High School*

This website is useful for puzzle making, such as crosswords, word searches, and hidden messages. The URL is [www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com).

*Submitted by Susan Devine, Bismarck, High School*

Hope to see everyone at the FLAND Spring Conference in Bismarck!  
Let's celebrate FLAND's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Thank you to all who submitted ideas and information to this edition of the FLAND  
Newsletter - ¡Mil gracias!

The deadline for the Fall 2008 FLAND Newsletter is September 1!