

SCOLT Nominates Two 2013ACTFL Award Winners

Linda Zins-Adams Receives Technology Award

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) will present Zins-Adams with the award on November 22 at their annual convention in Orlando, FL. The chairs of the awards committee, Barbara Lindsey and Frank Kruger-Robbins, congratulated Zins-Adams on her accomplishment saying, "This honor attests to your outstanding expertise in this area and your colleagues' recognition of your commitment to the language profession."

"Linda's expertise in effectively integrating technology into the curriculum made her a natural fit for Moeller," said Principal Blane Collison, "and we feel honored to have her a part of our community. Of course, we are very proud of her recent accomplishment."

"Technology can be used to facilitate learning in a way that allows students to self-explore, self-assess, and present material in a more professional-looking and interactive way," she explains. "Giving students the opportunity to become producers of the content is essential in today's world. In classrooms across the nation, students should be learning how to use technology as a tool to collaborate, create, innovate, and problem-solve. This new kind of literacy equips them with 21st-century skills they need to be global citizens. Now, that I am teaching in an 1:1 environment, I see that my students are more engaged and are learning new responsibilities in order to be "equipped" to complete a wider variety of tasks. Technology enables my students and me to easily incorporate authentic content and allows me to have an "in-it-together" feel in my classroom."

Zins-Adams has been teaching since 1991 and has earned numerous honors and awards during her career, including being named "Teacher of the Year" by both the Southern Conference of Language Teaching and the Kentucky World Language Association. In addition, she received Kentucky's Duden Award twice, which is the state's recognition of the German Teacher of the Year. Zins-Adams graduated cum laude from the University of Cincinnati with a B.A. in German Studies and earned a master's from Xavier University.

Rick LaFleur Receives Teacher Education Award

SCOLT is delighted to announce that, once again, the Papalia Award for Excellence in Teacher Education has been won by one of our own: Dr. Richard A. LaFleur – AKA Doctor Illa Flora – who retired recently as Franklin Professor of Classics at the University of Georgia, where he had served in multiple capacities since 1972.

In her support letter, Gail C. Polk, a PhD candidate at UGA wrote, "No single human being in the world has done more for the promotion of the teaching of Latin." Another former student, Patrick Yaggy, now teaching Latin at North Gwinnett HS, wrote "Rick LaFleur has worked tirelessly to create, nurture, and promote the future Latin teachers in the US."

Judging by the pages and pages of news articles about Rick and his work, none of this is hyperbole. His vita runs to twelve densely packed pages and the range of activities is simply astounding! For most of us, it would take several lifetimes to achieve so much – to serve on huge numbers of all kinds of committees not only at UGA, but statewide and nationally; to write articles and books; to present at dozens of venues; to act in an advisory capacity to scores of colleges, universities, and schools. He has spoken on NPR and been a consultant with the NEH.

If there was some task that would promote the cause, and build up the teaching of Latin, Rick was there to take it on. Stacy Knight, now teaching in Fairfax County, VA, speaks for hundreds of UGA graduates. "Dr. LaFleur has brought Latin to the 21st century quite literally for me and, therefore, for my students." Unlike many classics departments, UGA's has grown and flourished in recent years—and Dr. LaFleur was a pivotal for that growth. In addition he had a central role in the vibrant MA in Classics, which has pioneered ways to make enable candidates in Georgia and beyond to earn a top notch graduate degree through Summer Institutes.

There is no knowing how many thousands of teachers and students have been impacted by LaFleur's energy and professional commitment. He is indeed a worthy recipient of this premier national award.