

LETC EXTRA!

DECEMBER 2003

LETC CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

NEW SCHOLARSHIP HONORS CARDINAL

On November 8, 2003, Language, ETC held its 10th Anniversary Gala at the Carnegie Institution on P St. in Washington. More than 150 supporters came to celebrate and raise money by participating in silent and live auctions for items ranging from wine gift baskets and original artwork to sporting event tickets and weekend getaways.

LETC Board members and event Co-Chairs Ellen Bennett and Fran Butler began the night's festivities by honoring His Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, the Archbishop of Washington. Noting the Cardinal's support for the school and his long-time dedication to, and leadership in, immigrant and humanitarian causes, they presented him with a plaque which will display the names of six recipients of LETC scholarships awarded in his name. The Cardinal made his remarks in English and Spanish, commending the work of LETC and noting that teaching is giving love and compassion to the larger community.

In addition to the Cardinal, LETC Board members, volunteers, and long-time supporters, honored guests at the Gala included the Ambassador of El Salvador, Rene Antonio León Rodríguez and the new Director of the Mayors' Office of Latino Affairs, Gustavo F. Velasquez. Elizabeth Manresa of WJLA Channel 7 news emceed the live auction.

Guests enjoyed lively mariachi music by Mariachi Los



Gala Co-Chairs Ellen Bennett and Fran Butler congratulate Cardinal McCarrick on the new scholarship established in his honor.

Amigos and delicious hors d'oeuvres from Paris Catering, Ruths Chris Steak House, El Tamerindo, Cactus Cantina, and City Lights of China.

All tolled, the Gala raised almost \$40,000 for LETC and was deemed a huge success!

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Long-Time Supporters Join Board

Ellen Bennett first joined LETC as a volunteer teacher. In addition to teaching Monday evenings, she co-chaired our 10 Year Anniversary Gala in November. Her contribution to the Board has already made a huge impact. **Denise Graveline**, Director of Communications for the American Chemical Society and named "Washington Public Relations Woman of the Year" in 2002 by Washington Women in Public Relations, also served on the Gala committee. We especially look forward to benefiting from

Denise's extensive experience in public relations. **Anh Nguyen**, also a volunteer teacher at LETC, brings proven leadership in strategic planning. Anh is a Community Liaison for the Equitable Development Initiative at DC Agenda. She played an important role during our strategic planning session this past summer and we look forward to her guidance as we put the plan in place.

Language ETC is lucky to have such promising new members as additions to an already dedicated and hardworking board.

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From the Executive Director

CELEBRATING THE PAST, PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

What a momentous time this year has been for Language, ETC! Our 10th Anniversary Gala on November 8th celebrated the school's accomplishments as well as the contributions of our volunteers, students, and community supporters. In just ten years, Language, ETC has become a vital part of the community, and the number of people we serve proves it. Student enrollment has consistently increased in the past decade and now more than 2,000 students enroll each year. We have also been fortunate to attract more and more volunteers, with 140

dedicated people supporting Language, ETC's programs this term. I feel extremely lucky to be a part of this thriving organization.

I am also excited to note that this summer's strategic planning session with Board members and staff was a huge success. After months of gathering data and talking to stakeholders, our daylong retreat resulted in a 3-year plan, part of which calls for additional staffing, including a volunteer coordinator and two language lab coordinators. We began this fall term with three new enthusiastic staff members

who bring an extensive array of experience in second language learning and instruction as well as multicultural education. (See page 3 for full article)

Finally, three long-time supporters of LETC have joined our Board of Directors. They offer expertise in teaching, public relations, and strategic planning.

We began this year looking back over the past ten years and being inspired by all the hard work and dedication that have made LETC a cherished institution in our community. Now, with the implementation of a strategic plan, the addition



*Mercedes Lemp,
Executive Director*

of new staff members, and the expansion of our Board leadership, we are preparing for an even better future.

From the Program Director (formerly ESL Coordinator)

INNOVATIVE TRAINING GETS HIGH MARKS FROM TEACHERS



*Annette Langdon
Program Director*

First, I would like to welcome Amanda Gonzales, our new Volunteer Coordinator, to the LETC team. With Amanda now on board, I am able to turn the focus of my job in the direction of curriculum and training.

Amanda and I are able to collaborate on just about everything dealing with the ESL classes and volunteers, so we hope to keep improving things as we go. Amanda has brought great direction to the weekend program, serving as the weekend program manager on top of her volunteer coordinator duties.

Working toward our goal of improved teacher training, over the summer we obtained a great new resource in a set of teacher training videos developed specifically for ESL teachers of adults. They debuted at Language, ETC in

the September training sessions and will make future appearances beginning in January. The videos include actual classroom video footage highlighting specific teaching techniques and activities such as focused listening, narrative reading, role play, and much more. So far they have been a hit with volunteers as they combine background theory with practical knowledge, enhancing the classroom experience.

With the addition of two new language lab coordinators, Suzanne

Stackhouse and Ryan Hamm, our future training sessions will also include hands-on language lab instruction. Suzanne comes to us with a background in ESL teaching and Ryan with a background in foreign languages. Both have a great interest in our students as well as the teaching profession. Our lab is a great resource and we want to make it as user-friendly as possible.

2004 is just around the corner and we are looking forward to a new year of providing services to our students and volunteers.

Anniversary Gala Pictures



Board Chair Jerry Langan with new Board members Anh Nguyen and Denise Graveline.

Ed DeSeve and volunteers Eva Lucero and Elissa Leibowitz.



Coordinator Comments



Amanda Gonzales
Volunteer Coordinator

I am very happy to join the staff at Language, ETC this fall as volunteer coordinator. I feel really lucky to work with others who dedicate their time and energy to the commitment of volunteering in their community. The Fall term flew by working with Annette in program development, attending volunteer fairs, organizing the

tutoring program, and getting to know the volunteers in the evenings and weekends.

We had two volunteer happy hours, at Buffalo Billiards and Ozio's, where volunteers were able to get to know one another from the different nights and class levels. Thanks to those volunteers who came out on those Fridays. We will have more events in the upcoming term, in addition to the ongoing trainings that will be announced for the winter term. I am excited to start the next term with a lot of volunteers returning to teach and with the new volunteers that will be joining us. Thank you to all the volunteers for the hard work and time you give to your students!

New Staff Starts Strong

Language, ETC's new **Volunteer Coordinator**, Amanda Gonzales, jumped into the position with great enthusiasm. She recently returned from living and working in Ecuador as a university professor with the volunteer program World Teach. She has also taught English as a Second Language at the Massachusetts Alliance for Portuguese speakers. She has already attended a volunteer fair at the Inter-American Development Bank and walked with

person to ensure we are meeting their needs.

Ryan Hamm and Suzanne Stackhouse are our two new **Language Lab Coordinators**. Ryan majored in Spanish in college and was an aid at the school's foreign language lab. Suzanne was an ESOL teacher with the Montgomery County Public Schools and holds a Masters in Education specializing in ESL. In addition to her great job a n d educational experience, S u z a n n e a c t u a l l y volunteered at LETC in



several volunteers in the Annual Literacy Walk this past October. She has organized our volunteer resources and has updated the volunteer database. Volunteers now have a key point person solely dedicated to working with them. Our volunteers are one of our most valuable resources so we're extremely happy to be able to have in place such a capable

1996! They have both made a huge impact with their enthusiasm and experience. With the additional computers given to us from the State Education Agency we now have a completely updated Language Lab that accommodates an entire class. Ryan and Suzanne are working with Annette to make sure we use the Lab to its fullest potential.

Thanks to Our Supporters!

Language, ETC is grateful to the following organizations for their continued support: The State Education Agency, The Cafritz Foundation, The Meyer Foundation, The Inter-American Development Bank, the Corina Higginson Trust, The Jovid Foundation, Holy

Trinity Church, The Hattie M. Strong Foundation, The Advisory Board, and the United Way Foundation. In addition we would like to give thanks to the hundreds of individuals who have made such a great impact with their support this past year.



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United Way #8936

WHAT IS LANGUAGE, ETC?

Founded in 1993 by Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church, Language, ETC strives to meet the growing demand for English and literacy courses in the Washington, DC metropolitan area by offering low-cost instruction in ESL, citizenship, literacy, computer training, and G.E.D. preparation. The Center also provides job placement assistance on Sundays. A computer-assisted Language Lab, open seven days a week, allows students to practice English at times that suit their busy work schedules.

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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

A small contribution goes a long way at Language, ETC. \$80 covers the tuition of one student for a full three month term, including books. While our fees are low, there are many students that find it difficult to allocate money to improving their education when faced with more immediate needs such as food and housing. Language, ETC admits all students, regardless of their ability to pay. To allow us to maintain this policy we would greatly appreciate a donation to our scholarship fund.

_____ Please allocate \$80 to the scholarship fund.

_____ Please allocate \$160 to cover 2 scholarships.

_____ Please allocate the enclosed amount of _____ toward the scholarship fund.

From: Name _____
 Address _____
 (cont'd) _____

Please mail to: Language, ETC Scholarship Fund
 2200 California St., NW
 Washington, DC 20008

