

Language ETC (Language, Education, and Technology Center) offers affordable, high-quality English language instruction and related educational programs to foreign-born adults in the DC area. Language ETC helps immigrants gain the education they need to build a better future for themselves, their families, and our entire community.

Board of Directors

Susanne K. Bennet
 Ellen Bennett
 Amy Berger
 Jennifer F. Browning
 Frances F. Butler
 Francis P. Dicello, Esq., Chair
 Renee L. Feather
 Christopher Gerlach
 Sylvia Miller
 David H. Phillips
 Jose Rodriguez
 Fabian Rosado
 Karen Yudelson Sandler
 Natalie Wexler
 Carolyn A. Morrissey, PhD,
 Executive Director

Emeritus Board

Pilar Laugel, Founding Director
 Karren DeSeve
 Mark French
 Robert Kanchuger, Esq.
 Alexia Kelley
 Kathleen Hendrix
 Edward R. M. Kane
 Gerald Langan, Esq.
 Phil Rizik

Inside

Gala photos	2
From the board chair	3
Book Group	4
Vincent Carroll	5
Calendar	5
LETC Donors	5

Language ETC Celebrates 15th Anniversary

On April 4, Language ETC (LETC) celebrated its 15th Anniversary with a Gala evening of fun, food and music, as well as a silent and live auction at the Katzen Arts Center at American University. The event was a fundraising success, raising over \$70,000 for Language ETC.

More than 200 friends of Language ETC attended the festivities. Guests enjoyed delicious food generously provided by Ridgewells and a mariachi band, while bidding on over 200 items in the silent auction. Auction items ranged from jewelry to theater tickets, personal training to gourmet dinners, and even getaway weekends.

The live auction featured guest auctioneer NBC 4 chief meteorologist Bob Ryan whose enthusiasm made the event exciting and competitive! Event Chairs Ellen Bennett and Fran Butler gave introductory remarks. Ellen greeted guests by quoting Franklin Delano Roosevelt's salutation to a DAR convention, "Good evening, Fellow Immigrants." She talked about the importance of learning English as a step toward achieving a better life for themselves and their families.



Fran Butler and Ellen Bennett, Co-Chairs

In 15 years, Language ETC has grown from a small, church-sponsored ESL class to an independent non-profit organization offering English language instruction to over 1,600 students each year, with the help of over 200 volunteers per term. The money raised at the celebration enables LETC to continue to offer high quality education. The small tuition students pay does not cover the cost of the program and many scholarships are offered to those who are unable to pay.

LETC is very grateful for the enthusiastic support of the volunteers, donors, students and community members who made the 15th Anniversary Gala so successful and great fun. LETC invites you to visit the school at any time to observe classes and to hear stories of the students in our programs. You will be inspired.

Thank you to Bob Ryan, NBC 4 Chief Meteorologist, and Ridgewells Caterers for their generous support of this event.

Celebrating 15 Years



Bob Bennett, Bob Ryan, and Dan Resneck



Pat and Earl Silbert, Mary Ellen Hibey, John Aldock, & Ellen Bennett



Frank Dicello, Board Chair and Ed Kane, Emeritus Director



From the Board Chair . . .

It's hard to believe that summer is over and a new school year has started. The past year has been a busy and exciting one at Language ETC and I'd like to share a few highlights...

New Executive Director: We were thrilled to have Dr. Carolyn Morrissey join LETC as our new Executive Director in late October 2007. Carolyn brings a wealth of management experience with her. Prior to joining Language ETC, she served for over 10 years as Executive Director of the Washington School of Psychiatry. Her PhD in Latin American Studies and her fluency in Spanish are particularly helpful in working with our large contingent of students from Latin America. Since joining Language ETC, Carolyn has worked closely with the Board of Directors and on many board committees devoted to all aspects of our operations. She truly 'hit the ground running' and has already instituted many reforms and improvements in the school.



Carolyn Morrissey

New Program Director: We were also happy to welcome Supalak Martliam as our new Program Director in September 2007. She has a Masters Degree in Applied Linguistics and has taught ESL and has trained teachers for the Peace Corps. In addition to her work on the content of our academic programs, Supalak has implemented an improved and expanded training program for new volunteer teachers. As a native Thai speaker, Supalak understands the challenges facing adult immigrants learning English.

Program Audit: The Board hired a recognized expert in ESL programs, Donna Moss, to perform an extensive review of the academic program at Language ETC. Moss observed classes, analyzed teacher training, interviewed students and teachers and examined procedures and record keeping. The analysis showed that the unique model we have of operating almost entirely with volunteer teachers does, in fact, produce very positive results. Her report also recommended areas in need of improvement and opportunities for potential growth. Many of those recommendations have already been implemented and others will be addressed in the coming months.

Language ETC Gala: Language ETC celebrated 15 years of service to the immigrant community with a reception and auction for over 200 guests at the Katzen Center at American University in April. The guest auctioneer was NBC TV meteorologist, Bob Ryan. The event was chaired by board

members, Ellen Bennett and Fran Butler, who were ably assisted by Committee chairs, Amy Berger, Jennifer Browning, David Philips, Carol Messito, Mary Janice Dicello and Susie Bennet, along with a host of volunteers and friends. The event was a fundraising success, and the hard work that preceded it was further evidence of the dedication and enthusiasm of so many for the mission of Language ETC.

Facilities and Equipment: We are very fortunate to be able to operate Language ETC at Our Lady Queen of the Americas parish. This year the parish has painted our classrooms and labs, improved our volunteer office and provided us with additional office space. The InterAmerican Development Bank generously donated 40 computers to replace some outdated equipment in our computer labs.

Board Activities: Language ETC is fortunate to have a committed and congenial Board of Directors, the majority of whom have been, or presently are, teachers in our program. The board meets as a group monthly, and all board members serve on at least one active committee. These include the Finance, Programs, Development, Communications & Outreach, Nominations and Administration committees. A major project this year was a review and update of our Strategic Plan, which was completed with the assistance of Board member Fabián Rosado. During the past year, two long serving directors retired from the board. Gerald Langan, a founding board member, served as board chair for 10 years and taught once a week during most terms. Ed Kane, another long term Board member, was one of the first volunteer teachers in the program. The contributions of both were invaluable. This year we welcomed to the board Amy Berger, Jennifer Browning, Christopher Gerlach, and David Phillips. Natalie Wexler, Karen Sandler and Sylvia Miller joined our expanded board at our September meeting.

Each week during our regular school year (September-June) approximately 700 adult immigrants from over 50 different countries attend classes to improve their English language and/or computer skills at Language ETC. These students interact with one or more of the approximately 200 teachers and tutors who volunteer on a weekly basis at the school. As is frequently noted, the benefits of that interaction flow in both directions. Making this all possible are the contributions of our donor foundations and agencies, our individual donors, Our Lady, Queen of the Americas Church, our small staff and our many volunteers.

Thank you for all that you do.

Frank Dicello

LETC Spring Book Group

by Lillian Hangar

(In addition to regular language classes, LETC students are invited to participate in various other free activities, such as Book and Conversation Clubs, to enhance their language skills.)

Last spring, after several years of teaching at LETC, I decided to revive the LETC book club. It was a great experience. The group met once a week for an hour on Tuesday evenings. At our first meeting, several students told me that in their countries they had read many of the classic authors including Dickens, Twain and Dostoevsky. We discussed how reading can strengthen comprehension skills, as well as become a treasured hobby. I assigned the classic novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, as the reading for our book club.

At our meetings, students each read paragraphs aloud from the assigned book. Many students commented that reading aloud helped them gain

confidence in speaking English at work, and at home with their families. As a group we discussed the themes and concepts of the novel and its characters. Many students commented that the book opened their eyes to what life was like in the US during the 1930s and 40s, and that many of the problems faced by the characters in the novel were similar to those they faced in their own countries. The students shared fascinating insights, many of which I had not ever considered.

Since the book club ended, I have received a lot of positive feedback from my students. One student from Guatemala emailed me to recommend some of her favorite novels; another student from India asked me for reading recommendations. This summer I missed my Tuesdays with the book group; I'm looking forward to seeing some of the same students again this fall.



Conversation Class
field trips

LETC Schedule

Fall 2008 Term: September 14-December
Winter 2009 Term: January 12 - April 5

English (ESL) class schedules:

Monday-Thursday, 7-9 pm Tuesday & Thursday 10 am-1 pm
Saturday & Sunday, 2-5 pm Sunday mornings 9-11:30 am

Office hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9 am-9 pm Friday-Sunday, 9 am-5 pm

Call 202-387-2222 for information about Spanish Literacy, Basic Computer Skills and other classes.



Vincent Carl Carroll

We are sad to share the news of the loss of a member of the LETC family, the son of long-timer dedicated volunteer Carolyn Carroll, and her husband, Gerard.

Vincent Carl Carroll, a Washington native, died in Baltimore, MD, on Sunday, October 28, 2007. Vincent was 20 years old. Vincent graduated from Blessed Sacrament School in 2001. He attended Good Counsel High School and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 2005. At the time of his death, he was attending the University of West Virginia in Morgantown. Vincent was also a substitute teacher at Language, ETC, where he enjoyed spending time with the students and helping them improve their English skills.

15th Anniversary Gala Donors

Benefactor (\$5,000+)

Susanne Bennet
Lynne and Joe Horning, Jr.

Patron (\$2,500)

Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church

Sponsors (\$1,000)

Anonymous
Ellen and Bob Bennett
Fran and Frank Butler
Karren and Ed DeSeve
Frank and Mary Janice Dicello
Betsy and Robert Feinberg
Christopher and Monica Gerlach
José and Connie Rodríguez
Jeanne W. Ruesch
Beth Wehrle and Matt Miller
Natalie Wexler and James A. Feldman

Special Donors (\$500)

Susanne K. Bennet
Deborah E. Berkowitz
Amy Berger and Glen Nager
Jennifer and Vincent Browning
Jody Curtis and Kirby Behre
The Lee and Juliet Folger Fund
Walter and Brent Goo
Pam Green
Rose Gutfeld and Peter Edwards
Margaret Hennessey
Richard and Mary-Ellen Hibey
Robert Kanchuger and Margaret Cotter

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Kaplan
Gerald Langan
Dr. and Mrs. Dertad Manguikian
Maria Teresa Meyer
The Honorable Mary V. Mochary
Senator and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, IV
Fabián and Virginia Rosado
Sheridan-Kalorama Advisory
Neighborhood Commission
Nancy and Harold Zirkin

Special Friends (\$250)

John and Judy Aldock
Anonymous
Miriam and Eliezer Benbassat
Mary Carpenter
Melissa Chen and Paul Joseph
Brian and Lucy Conboy
Peter C. Connolly
Dr. and Mrs. Milton Corn
Cunningham + Quill Architects
Chuck Dittrich
Mary and Bob Eccles
Dr. and Mrs. John Esswein
Norma and George Fabian
Renee and Peter Feather
Jane Gruenebaum and Leslie Calman
Tom Hardart
Flora and Robert Harper
Kathleen Hendrix
Jones Day
Ed and Phyllis Kane
Alexia K. Kelley
Kathleen Kenyon and Robert Stumberg
Stephanie and Gene Lawson

Lauralyn and Peter Lee
Tamera Luzzatto
Dr. Jill E. McGovern and Dr. Steven Muller
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. McLarty, III
Quentin Meyer
Nick and Sylvia Miller
Carolyn Morrissey and Carole Richardson
Patrick and Kim Nettles
Robert and Audrey Nevitt
Michael Olding, MD
David H. Phillips
The Honorable and Mrs. Stephen Porter
Anthony and Susan Quainton
Meghan and Edward Quinn
Beverly Rezneck Photography
Diana Rubin
Richard Ruth and James North
Karen and Joseph Sandler
Pat and Earl Silbert
Mike and Mary Ann Stanton
Melanne and Phil Verveer
Richard and Fran Weaver
Meredith and Peter Wellington
William Wieand and Betsy Younkins
Elizabeth and David Wilson
Delores E. Wolf

Other Recent Donors (\$250 or more)

Mary Carmen Aponte
FADICA
Mr. and Mrs. Mark H. French
Nina and Timothy Gardner
Lucy Hamachek
John and Diana Hopkins
Mr. and Mrs. David Millstone

A small contribution goes a long way at Language, ETC. Student tuition is only \$100 for a three month term, including books, but it does not cover our expenses. Language, ETC admits all students, regardless of their ability to pay. Your contribution enables us to offer classes at these low prices and provide scholarships whenever needed.

Enclosed is a donation of _____

Name _____

Address _____

In ___ honor or ___ memory of _____

Please notify: _____

Language ETC 2200 California St., NW Washington, DC 20008

*Thank you to the following
for their generous support:*

The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
Inter-American Development Bank
The Jovid Foundation
The Hattie Strong Foundation
Holy Trinity Church
The Corina Higginson Trust
Dorothy G. Bender Foundation
Office of State Supervisor of Education
Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs
Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church

Language ETC Students

Are from over 50 countries on 5 continents

Speak more than 30 languages

Are primarily Latino (87%)

Are about 47% male, 53% female

Are 18-70 years old

Are mostly employed (85%), but
are also primarily low-income

Attend classes from 1-4 times per week,
2.5 to 8 hours per week

Often come between classes to work with tutors
or use the language lab

Are dedicated, enthusiastic about learning,
and a joy to teach!

Volunteer at LETC

You can make a real difference in the lives of others through volunteering at Language ETC. We currently need volunteer teachers and tutors, as well as assistance in the language laboratory, the office, and in other programs. It's a wonderful opportunity to expand your horizons, meet new people, and learn more about other countries and cultures.

Opportunities are available seven days a week.

For more information, call Eleanor Henning
or Donna Jackson, LETC volunteer coordinators,
at 202-387-2222.

Language ETC
2200 California St. NW
Washington, DC 20008-3902
202-387-2222

Visit our website
www.languageetc.org