SPANISH TEACHER JAN SANDS IS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

At the beginning of the school year, SHS Spanish teacher Janice Ferrier Sands was designated the 2015 Kathleen Magowan Simsbury Teacher of the Year. The announcement was made at Convocation on August 24th.

Central School Kindergarten teacher Georgia Austin introduced Sands, who received a standing ovation. Said Georgia, “If you google ‘dedication,’ Jan’s picture would be there.”

Sands noted how humbled she was to represent her fellow teachers. She said, “Teachers have always been my heroes.”

Now in her 36th year of teaching, Sands began her career in Simsbury at age 21. Living with her parents at the time, she commented to them, “These Simsbury teachers have such high standards… they demand excellence… excellence from themselves, excellence from each other, and excellence from their students.”

Sands has since risen to that challenge set decades ago, and she is grateful that she has the opportunity to share her love of the Spanish language.

In Sands’ speech she emphasized the importance of counting everyday blessings.

Said Sands, “Many, many mornings, I express gratitude for moments spent with my students… I genuinely love teenagers! I give thanks for a student who, after persevering, loudly exclaims. ‘AHA…I get it…’ Is there any sound as wonderful as that?”

—2014 Teacher of the Year
Georgia Austin

Spend a Semester in Spain!
A new 1/2 credit elective has been introduced for 2016-17. Sophomore and junior Spanish students can attend the International Spanish language school, Colegio Delibes, in Salamanca, Spain. Students will be accompanied by district teachers who will live and travel with them for the two-week program. This experience includes a family stay, morning classes with students from many countries, and excursions to other regional towns or places of interest. The program includes a literary and tapas tour of the city and a private cooking class with a professional chef. The group will visit Ávila, a walled city, and Segovia with the historic Álcazar, the fortress that served as a model for the Disney castle. Students will take a placement test in order to enter the appropriate level class at the school. Teacher and administrative recommendations required. To find out more, go to www.colegiodelibes.es

La plaza central de Salamanca
Chinese Students Attend “Confucius Institute Day” at CCSU

On September 25, 50 students from Simsbury’s Chinese program attended “Confucius Institute Day” at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). It was a half day program, where students started with a “show and tell” of their learning of Chinese language and culture. They then watched an exciting performance of Chinese dance, singing, Chinese instruments, as well as martial arts, performed by students from Shandong University.

On stage, our students spoke in Chinese and performed a popular Chinese dance. It was selected as the best program from the 10 Connecticut schools participating in this portion of the program. Tina Wu, Chinese professor at CCSU, praised our students for demonstrating “not only passion for learning Chinese, but also leadership.”

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Elementary School Level

In December, the sixth graders learned about the Mexican tradition of Las Posadas, and compared the celebrations in Mexico to those in the United States during this season. On the last day of school in December the two elementary school Spanish teachers, Señor Marolda and Señora Tobio, joined their classes to have a Sing-a-long to “Feliz Navidad,” “Noche de Paz,” and several other Christmas carols. What a fun way to end the year!

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Spanish teachers “on-duty” for Veterans Day

Every day is busy for our elementary Spanish teachers Señor Marolda and Señora Tobio; this year’s schedule had both faculty members teaching at all five elementary schools! This was never more true than on Veteran’s Day.

The day started out with crosswalk duty at Latimer and attendance at their assembly. Señor Marolda is a U. S. Army veteran with 38 years of service. After Latimer “duty” the teachers headed to Central School where Señor told the students, staff and guests (many veterans of all ages) about his family tradition of service in the Army and CT National Guard. The Spanish teachers then were off to Tootin’ Hills to teach the 5th graders and finally finished the day at Tariffville School, just in time for another Veteran’s Day assembly. What a great way to spend Veteran’s Day 2015!
Teacher: Chris Chan
**Latin Intro II**

Students in Magister Chan’s Latin Introduction II classes researched cities in the Roman Empire and wrote postcards as Roman tourists! Student learned that Rome was not the only major city in the Ancient Mediterranean, and that the region was interconnected.

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Teacher: Laura Tinnirella
**French Intro I and II**

French Intro II students studied a typical Parisian apartment. Here they are describing their own design of one room in that residence while others draw what they hear.

*Above: Grace Shea, Josh Picoult, Maria Lepak and Skylar Koff.*

In November, this group of students learned and performed *La Fourmi* by Robert Desnos in Mme Tinnirella’s class.


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Teacher: Marie-Line Bruhl
**French Intro I**

Madame Bruhl’s period 7-8 pose with the Guignol inspired marionettes that they used to recite their first poem *La Fourmi* by Robert Desnos.

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Teacher: Lisa Martocchio
**Spanish Intro I**

Daphne Peterson, a student in Sra Martocchio’s grade 7 class presents her “perfect school schedule” in Spanish Intro I at HJMS.
**Latin Happenings**

The Latin department is in the process of registering SHS as an official chapter of the National Junior Classical League (NJCL), sponsored by the American Classical League.

According to the NJCL website: “Formed in 1936, the National Junior Classical League (NJCL) is an organization of junior and senior high school students sponsored by the American Classical League. Composed of local and state/provincial chapters across the United States, Canada, and Australia, it is the largest Classical organization in the world today with over 50,000 members. Its purpose is to encourage an interest in and an appreciation of the language, literature and culture of ancient Greece and Rome and to impart an understanding of the debt of our own culture to that of Classical antiquity.”

SHS has a vibrant Latin program, which begins at HJMS in grade 7. Having an official chapter of the NJCL at SHS is a first step toward creating a Latin Honor Society. Students who are members of their school’s NJCL chapter can be nominated by their teacher for the NJCL honors society if they meet the following requirements:

- maintain an A average in the current Latin course
- are members in good standing of the National Junior Classical League

**NJCL Philosophy**

We believe that through the National Junior Classical League:

- We will gain an active appreciation and understanding of the civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome, thereby better enabling us as individuals to interpret and appraise our world today.
- We have a sound structure, which provides a sound basis for expansion of our horizons and perspectives, intellectually, socially, and aesthetically.
- We have a viable organization, which can effectively create in others a sense of awareness, interest, and appreciation as far as the value of the Classics is concerned.

**French Exchange**

Simsbury High School and Granby Memorial School welcomed the French from Digne this past fall. This group of students became very close, and our French friends even wrote a song to say goodbye!

At right: French students make jack-o-lanterns. Bottom: The two groups of French students visit Plimoth Plantation.
Spanish Honor Society Induction

Spanish National Honor Society advisors, Sra Petras and Wellington welcomed the following students as members this fall:

Noah Burrick
Carolyn Croke
Kahlil Ellis
Sophia Firestone
Shannon Keenan
Jennifer Kornacki
Megan Laakso
Benjamin Levin
Bridget Maher
Laura Ritson
Ryan Taylor
Raven Vella
Katlyn Beets
Elizabeth McGrady
Perri Pepperman
Cameron Rosenthal
Toni Vella
Molly Brian
Sarah DePratti
Daniel Fryer
Savannah Herbek
Bianna Houston
Grant Lammey
Sarah Nelson
Jane Pyatt
Lila Rosenweig
Stephen Rutkowski
Christine Schiller
William Shaw
Emily Sullivan
Andrea Sweezy
Isabel Bielat
Maxime Braun
Maya Brody
Brian Chen
Maia Czaikowski
Maria Galle
Reze Grajevci
Madeline Kodak
Alexander Markctell
Jack Reese
Ellen Schenk
Kelsey Sullivan
Nicholas Sullivan
Dana Winslow
Katherine Ziko
Zachary Irvin
Jonathon Aiyathurai
Iris Becene
Ana Cagganello
Katrina Cirilli
Kelly Englishby
Valerie Grossack
Zachary Hodkin
Amanda Karpe
Akash Kaza
Kevin Kruszewski
Kathryn Miller
Griffin Myslow
Julia Naughton
Lia Ricciuti
Sara Riso
Daniel Schenk
Pritika Seshadri
Hagen Wunderli

Top: A copy of the invitation to the induction ceremony.

Bottom: All of the students inducted into the Spanish Honor Society gathered in the SHS Auditorium.
This fall, 54 students from Spanish 1 and Transitional Spanish classes attended a performance of Mexican Dance at the University of Hartford. Their teachers, Sra O’Rourke, Sra Petras, and Sra Sands attended along with Special Education teacher, Sra Wescott. Students were also allowed on stage to meet the performers and have pictures taken with the dancers. After the show, they shared paella at communal tables in Hartford at the well-known restaurant, Costa del Sol. It was a day to remember!
Spring World Language Trips 2015

Spain

Italy & Greece

France

See more trip photos on page 8
SHS Chinese Teacher Presents Assessment Projects at Confucius Classrooms Teachers Institute


As a teacher fellow, Ms Theodorou took part in another phase of the Asia Society initiative to create sample assessments. This follows her Chinese instructional video lesson, available for teachers on the Asia Society website. During this conference, she presented her assessment projects to more than 80 Chinese teachers from 27 states.

Latin—Cont. from page 4

• exemplify good citizenship
This has been an idea in the making, and it was this year’s AP students who were the impetus for getting this finalized for this school year. We are most excited about the prospects of belonging to NJCL and about the possibilities open to us in the future as members.