

Report of the April 17, 2009 Academy Meeting and the Final Year Meeting

The meeting focused on three reports concerning international activities of Jim Greenberg, Lily Griner and Cindy Martin.

1. Jim Greenberg: "Improvement of College Teaching Abroad, Especially in Ecuador"
Jim's first activity in Ecuador was to give a series of workshops on teaching with textbooks, and included as well workshops on interactive learning. Now there is a certificate program in college teaching – this in a country where almost all faculty are part-time. The certificate program is structured around teaching portfolios. Jim passed out a paper "Creating a New Professional Development Model for University Professors in Ecuador," co-authored with Robert Lavine and Edmundo Batallas.

2. Lily Griner: "Librarians and Study Abroad"
Lily gave a presentation (with a few photographs on the computer) on a study abroad program in Nicaragua, where there are virtually no lending libraries. She recounted that a Lady Jane began the first teaching library in Managua. Now 31 public schools are involving in the lending library. In January 2009, 10 students went to Managua, to work with the library. Presently books are being collected to send to the library.

3. Cindy Martin: "Language Learning, Study Abroad, and Cultural Diversity"
Cindy gave an overview of the issue of learning another language and successfully obtaining a deep understanding the culture. The State Department wants "global professionals," and is anxious to increase the capacity of foreign language staff – and talks about "superior fluency in 12 months"! Funding is big for Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Chinese and Korean. Now funding for Russian is picking up. Some of this money is coming to UMD, as well. The process of ramping up is a slow one.

FINAL MEETING OF THE YEAR:

We need a final meeting for this academic year 2008-2009.

AGENDA:

1. Officers need to be elected. I am at the end of my term as chair.
2. We need to discuss activities for academic year 2009-2010.

I have created a poll of dates-times for the AETL final school year meeting, which I think should be the week of May 11. Please click on the following website and fill in pertinent information.

<http://doodle.com/f6vugqmi4fht7psb>

Best wishes,
Denny