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2012-2013

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The New York State Association for Bilingual Education Newsletter

NYSABE Bilingual Times

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Spring/Summer 2013 Issue

A Message from the President, Awilda E. Ramos Zagarrigo, Ph.D.



It is with immense honor and pleasure that on behalf of NYSABE I present the Spring-Summer 2013 edition of the Bilingual Times Newsletter. This edition describes our ongoing work, summarizes our accomplishments during the 2012-2013 term, and acknowledges some of the many stakeholders to whom we wish to express our deepest gratitude.

I would like to begin by sharing some personal expressions of gratitude before presenting highlights from the year. First, I would like to thank my husband Salvatore; I could not have held this position without his love and support. Secondly, I would like to thank my sons, Vincent, and Giuliano for allowing me to participate in countless teleconference/video calls, meetings, and travel without much complaint. I must also thank my employers in the SUNY Buffalo State Exceptional Education Department who supported and encouraged me in this position and who serve as advocates for teacher education programs that foster teaching about cultural diver-

sities and English language learners throughout all coursework. Lastly, during my presidential year, my family experienced many health issues and I sincerely want to thank every individual who reached out to both my family and me. NYSABE members are truly an extension of my family and I could not have fulfilled my presidency without their unending support.

This year has been filled with much work, collaboration, and accomplishments for our organization. We couldn't have done it without the tireless assistance of many individuals and groups who worked to ensure that the association's goals and objectives were accomplished. NYSABE has participated in crucial meetings, committees and initiatives coordinated by the NYS Education Department (NYSED) and school districts. We continued partnerships with organizations such as NABE, NYS TESOL, RBE-RNs, and the National CCSS Steering Committee so that, united as one powerful voice, we could advocate for our children and families. As your 37th President, I am very passionate about the work that has been completed, but am more enthusiastic about continuing the work that is yet to be done.

In working collaboratively, we have ensured that NYSABE's mission and objectives have been fulfilled in a variety of ways, for example: In the area of **advocacy**, we disseminated *NYSABE's Advocacy Agenda for the Education of ELLs/Bilingual Learners* to ensure that members, state policymakers, and the public would have a clear understanding of urgent issues affecting the education of ELLs/bilingual learners. We thank Professor Carmen Dinos for having been a source of inspiration and guidance throughout the development of NYSABE's Advocacy Agenda, which has served as a framework for our advocacy work. Furthermore, we thank our colleagues and the NYS elected officials, including members of the NYS Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force for their determination, diligence, and dedication to bilingual education and to our students.

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*A Message
from the
President,
(Cont.)*

NYSABE members also presented *NYSABE's Testimony* at the hearings held by the Governor's Education Reform Commission and our response to the NYSED on the *Bilingual Common Core Survey*. In addition, with the assistance of Carmen Pérez Hogan and Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo, we successfully participated in the 26th Annual *Somos El Futuro* Conference in Albany. During the education panel, entitled *Bilingual Education Revisited: Where are we and where do we need to go?*, our Executive Director, Nancy Villarreal de Adler, Past President, María Angélica Meyer, and I addressed issues and recommendations for strengthening programs and services for ELLs.

Moreover, we are providing ongoing support to the development of the *Professional Standards for Bilingual Educators*, conducted by Drs. Aida Nevárez La Torre and Patricia Velasco. We are also active in the NYSED Seal of Biliteracy Committee through the efforts of Drs. Claire Sylvan and Marguerite Lukes. Drs. Sylvan and Lukes developed NYSABE's recommended statewide criteria for the *State Seal of Biliteracy*.

Additionally, NYSABE leaders were invited to a breakfast in Albany on May 22nd to meet with the Legislation's Education Committee to discuss current issues and make recommendations regarding ELL education. We thank Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan for her invitation and support, Honorable Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo for her tireless efforts, and

Carmen Pérez Hogan for her wonderful assistance in ensuring our participation.

NYSABE, in collaboration with NYS TESOL, wrote a letter to Dr. Meryl H. Tisch, Chancellor of NYS Board of Regents, and Dr. John B. King, Commissioner of Education, to convey our members' concerns related to the decision to cease the funding for the Intensive Teacher Institute (ITI) as of June 30, 2013. Please visit www.nysabe.org to view the letter.

As your president, I was also excited to serve as keynote speaker at the *First Latino Parent Conference* in Rochester in April, where strategies to ensure parental involvement were discussed. The event was very successful and parents were glad to have been given resources and strategies they could use. During this event, the First Vice President, Yazmin Torres and I were able to present Senator Joseph Robach with an appreciation award for his wonderful, active support of the *NYS Seal of Biliteracy*.

In the areas of **networking and membership**, NYSABE has continued to strengthen linkages with other professional organizations, i.e. NABE, NYS TESOL, NYSAFLT and NYSCEA. Fortunately, we were able to have almost all of our executive board members attend this year's NABE conference, *Bilingual Education: Magic Happens!* We came back invigorated and excited about all of the information we received. As part of our ongoing networking efforts, we maintain communication with our members via E-blasts, the Bilingual

Times Newsletter, and the website. NYSABE also initiated the electronic membership application to ensure that the organization moves towards better meeting the needs of our growing membership through the use of technology.

In the area of **professional development**, NYSABE provided support to delegates in the development and implementation of regional, language group, and parent activities. Several opportunities for professional development, focusing on current research, policies, and optimum pedagogical practices, were organized and implemented by NYSABE Delegates at each NYS region. Some of our leaders participated in the Region II Fall Institute at NYU where speakers such as Nancy Cloud and Pedro Noguera presented much needed information on English language learners and their educational needs. NYSABE also held its 36th Annual Conference entitled, *"Bilingual Education: Promoting Educational Excellence and Equity for ALL Students"* where we celebrated the Seal of Biliteracy and also honored the victims of Hurricane Sandy and Sandy Hook Elementary with a moving tribute.

NYSABE continues to fulfill its commitment to the **dissemination of information** on current educational research and best pedagogical practices by presenting the Journal of Multilingual Educational Research (JMER). The JMER is now available online on the website to members; in alignment with our goal of going paperless and going green. I thank Dr. Aida Nevárez-La Torre, Editor of NYSABE's JMER for her

excellent work and dedication to the dissemination of high caliber research. Similarly, NYSABE's newsletter was disseminated electronically among our members. Very special thanks to Dr. Tamara Alsace, Newsletter Editor, and Nancy Villarreal de Adler, Project Director. NYSABE has continued to support the maintenance and updating of NYSABE's website to ensure that it is user friendly and productive for our members. I express my gratitude to Maria-Angelica Meyer, Past President, and Melodie Valenciano, treasurer for their diligent work in disseminating articles and announcements via NYSABE's listserv and website.

Ongoing **leadership** training for executive board and delegate assembly has continued, including topics such as NYSABE's mission, goals and objectives and the development of the strategic action plan. We have also provided support to current and future leaders by creating opportunities to engage in leadership roles, i.e. conference committees, regional events, and representation of NYSABE at events. Furthermore, we continue to recruit members who desire to take on leadership roles within our organization and the community at large. In this regard, I am proud to announce that next year NYSABE will have new language delegates: Chinese, Turkish, and African languages.

In the area of **administration and financial stability**, we have obtained assistance in updating the website and established a relationship with a new accountant who can better meet our needs. Finally in this area, we are beginning the process of revising our Standards of Operating Procedure Manual and bylaws. These will be brought to the membership

for approval at the next conference.

A major undertaking during my presidency was the 2013 NYSABE annual conference which was convened on March 14-17, 2013. On behalf of the NYSABE leadership and the conference chairpersons, Heriberto Galarza and Wilda Ramos, I express my most sincere gratitude to all committee chairpersons, parents, educators, community members, sponsors, speakers and volunteers who participated in the conference. Their active involvement was vital in creating a collegial forum where all participants were able to share their experiences, vision, and expertise related to the education of ELLs

As we celebrate our accomplishments, we must recognize that a lot of work still lies ahead. I am confident that our membership will continue to strive to ensure **educational excellence and equity for ALL students** in the state of New York. As bilingual educators, we must continue our advocacy for all bilingual learners.

There are several individuals I must recognize with gratitude, all of whom are NYSABE past presidents: Nancy Villarreal de Adler, Executive Director, Heriberto Galarza, and Wilda Ramos, Conference Co-chairpersons, María Angélica Meyer, Educational Policy Chairperson, María de los Ángeles Barreto, Sponsorship Chairperson, and Election Chairperson, and Eudes Budhai, NABE President. I would not have been able to accomplish the goals of this year's strategic plan and present the 36th annual conference without their unwavering support, hard work, expertise, and mentorship. I feel blessed for having had the benefit of their friendship, expertise, and guidance.

In closing, I congratulate our executive

board, delegate assembly, and executive director for their tireless efforts and commitment to bilingual education and our association's mission. A personal thank you goes out to executive board members Maria Angélica Meyer, Yazmín Torres, Dr. Zoila Tazi, Dr. Tatyana Kleyn, and Melodie Valenciano for their commitment and dedication to our mission. I congratulate our First Vice President, Yazmín Torres and look forward to her presidency and to enjoying the 2014 NYSABE annual conference: "Educating Our Next Generation of Biliterate Citizens" on March 6-8th, 2014 at the LaGuardia Airport Marriot Hotel in New York City.

Very special thanks to Dr. Pedro Noguera, Director, and the staff at the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education, New York University. They continue to ensure that NYSABE's office is housed at the Center and provide valuable support.

To all NYSABE members, thank you for your leadership, dedication, support and courageous actions on behalf of our bilingual learners. I hope that as NYSABE's president, I have made you proud and have served you to the best of my ability. I trust that through all we have accomplished we have sustained this year's theme, **Bilingual Education: Promoting Educational Excellence and Equity for ALL Students** as this is what our association is all about. May you all enjoy a well deserved, joyful, healthy, and peaceful summer with your families.

Warm regards,

Awilda E. Ramos Zagarrigo

Awilda E. Ramos Zagarrigo. Ph.D.

From the Desk of the Executive Director Nancy Villarreal de Adler



One of the vital shifts evolving in Bilingual Education is the undertaking of the initial steps toward

the implementation of the NYS Seal of Biliteracy Law. Thanks to this law our students' literacy skills in two or more languages will be rewarded. In the midst of this celebration and in preparation for the full implementation of the law, we would like to reminisce about the lives of two bilingual education pioneers whose work laid the foundation for excellence in bilingualism and biliteracy.

This past spring and summer, we reflected upon and celebrated the lives and work of Dr. Aurea Rodríguez and Dr. Luis Cartagena who have recently passed away. These two remarkable educational leaders shared one common trait, PASSION. They were both passionate about biliteracy, passionate for excellence and creativity, and passionate for continuous growth as human beings and educators. Both were prolific writers and visionaries who were always seeking renewal and transformation. Aurea, as director of Curriculum and Instruction at the Division of Bilingual Education, NYC Board of Education; and Luis, as a school principal at PS 25, Bronx, NY, saw bilingual education as a

source of limitless cultural, linguistic, and spiritual wealth that would enrich the personal and academic lives of all children. They both developed curriculum and instructional programs that embedded the arts, culture, and literacy, as well as content. These programs have served as instructional models for many successful educators.

As we celebrate past accomplishments and acknowledge vital educational shifts, NYSABE also looks to the future with optimism by honoring the significant work of our current bilingual education leaders. We trust that their sense of positive transformation and unfailing commitment to educational excellence for bilingual learners will help us all in solidifying the foundation for future success. In this regard, we close this message by congratulating Ms. Angélica Infante, our newly appointed Associate Commissioner of Bilingual Education at the NYS Education Department. We believe that Angélica will carry the torch with dignity, wisdom, and the same passion for bilingual education demonstrated by her predecessors. As we wish her success in her new position, we reaffirm our commitment to support the dynamic shifts that need to take place for the benefit of all bilingual learners, their parents and educators.

Editor's Note...



Tamara O. Alsace, Ph.D.

Dear Reader:

Summer is the perfect time for us, as educators, to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments of the past school year. As we anticipate the arrival of the new academic year, we hope to build on our successes and not repeat our mistakes.

Looking back on 2012-13, we recognize that while it was a challenging year for all of us in the field, it was also a very rewarding year. Much was accomplished—in great measure due to the efforts of our NYSABE members and officers. Many of these successes are presented in this issue of the Bilingual Times Newsletter.

As the new year begins, we must remember our successes but not allow this to make us complacent. Now is the time to redouble our efforts to ensure that our emergent bilingual learners are recognized for the assets they bring and accommodated for the challenges they face as they are engaged in a rigorous, world-class education.

Parent Leadership Institute

By Nelly Y. García,
Parent-at-Large



Nelly Y. García,
NYSABE Parent-at-Large

An important component of the NYSABE annual conference is the Parent Leadership Institute, designed to help parents understand and participate in the educational system in New York State. This year Nirupam Dev Nath, First Secretary of the Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington DC, was the keynote speaker. As a parent and member of a multilingual community himself, he spoke about the importance of preserving people's native languages and the role of education in promoting bilingualism. His presentation is featured in this issue of the Bilingual Times.



Nirupam Dev Nath, First Secretary of the Embassy of Bangladesh with Mr. Abdul Assad and Nancy Villarreal de Adler

As in the past, the Parent Leadership Institute offered a variety of workshops conducted by outstanding educators with experience in working with parents. These workshops were presented in a variety of languages, such as: English, Bengali, Hindi, Spanish, Chinese and Haitian-Creole. The workshops include the following:

"Empowering Parents to Advocate for their Child's Education"

The workshop objective was to empower parents to participate actively in the education of their children by learning to become an integral part of their schools.

"How Parents Can Help Students Achieve Every Day"

Parents were given information on city and state initiatives toward providing

excellence and equity for all students.

"The first inheritance: The parent's role in maximizing the benefits of using the first language in the home"

This workshop was intended to give parents the desire to provide their children with the best foundation of learning at a time when they are learning all about themselves and their families. It explores how a family's language, culture and traditions give children the very best preparation they need for school.

After the workshops the parents gathered at the luncheon where they had opportunities to share their views on the workshops they attended. During the luncheon, Ms. Cecilia Chávez, recipient of the 2012 Parent of the Year award was honored. The parents also listened to the NYSABE president's remarks, enjoyed the raffles and gifts, and delighted in the student performances.

I thank NYSABE's Executive Board and delegate Assembly as well as the conference committee chairpersons and NYSABE members for their support and assistance. I feel energized and truly excited to continue with this important mission of working with parents. My goal for next year's conference is to have increased parent participation.



Cecilia Chávez, Parent of the Year, with NYSABE President Awilda Ramos-Zagarrigo

Keynote Address on Bilingualism and Education in a Global Society

Presented at the Parent Leadership Institute

By Nirupam Dev Nath, First Secretary, Embassy of Bangladesh

Ladies and Gentlemen, and distinguished guests:

I am pleased to be here with you today and be part of the 36th New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE) Annual Conference. On behalf of his Excellency the Ambassador of Bangladesh to the USA, Mr. Akarmul Qader, I would like to start off by thanking President Awilda Ramos Zagarrigo for extending an invitation to the Embassy of Bangladesh. I would also like to thank educators, researchers, parents, and members of the community who are present with us today. It is with great pleasure that I come and speak before you. It is truly an honor to share my perspectives and experiences on the importance of native language and the education of bilingualism.

The New York State Association for Bilingual Education is a profound organization that is covering undervalued aspects of our society, education, and bilingualism. Our world today is contested and our environments are interlinked in more ways than we know. With the ever evolving and intensification of the social process of globalization, we are integrating and interconnecting more than ever, thus bringing us closer to one another under one global community. The evolvement of the internet has played a major role in easing the expansion and stretching of Globalization, compressing distances and allowing us to communicate with one another freely. With this being said, language is an important aspect of our global civil society; it is the way in which we communicate and contribute to one

another. As our world becomes more diversified it is vital to learn different forms of communication and entrench ourselves in each other's cultures and most importantly language.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a Bangladesh national, I have an emotional attachment with the cause for bilingualism. There is a very distinct reason as to why it is such. I reckon, the spirit of today's conference is the same what we experienced sixty one years ago in 1952 during some unique moments of our history. Allow me to elaborate on that.

You are aware that the whole world now celebrates the 21st of February as the International Mother Language Day. On this day in 1952, history was made in Bangladesh. The people of Bangladesh were then living in what was called "East Pakistan", there, they were given no self-determination to choose a government of their own nor were they given the right to speak their own mother language; a language that was not only used as a tool of communication but more importantly as a way of living. Our language was subjugated, disregarded and overshadowed by colonial interests; it was given no attention or consideration.

We protested. Our legitimate protest was met with bullets. But at the end, we achieved what was rightfully ours, our right to speak our own language. The language movement put a deep imprint in our mindset. It made us aware of our distinct identity and inspired us to demand what was rightfully ours. In a way, the seed of independence of Bangladesh was sown in that historic struggle for Bangla, our mother tongue. Bangla has always been at the heart of our struggles, it was the push factor for voicing our rights. Bangla defined our distinct cultural identity against the forces of linguistic subjugation and communalism.

The UNESCO General Conference

took a decision in 1999 as recognition to our epic struggle to observe 21st February as International Mother Language Day globally. This day represents our sacrifice for establishing the right to our mother tongue and through that the achievement of independence of Bangladesh in 1971. At the global level, this day represents the right of all people to their mother languages, so that linguistic diversity could build a peaceful and inclusive world. Through celebration of the great day, we want to promote linguistic diversity and highlight the importance of protecting languages including those facing extinction.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My reasoning for sharing the history of our language movement with you is to provide you with a perspective as to how language can mean more to people than just a way of communication. That language defines who we are as people, defines our dignity, our pride, and our destination and to also showcase how this struggle would form as an inspiration to all communities, de jure and de facto states, nations, communities of indigenous people, stateless communities, and any group of individuals that are fighting to voice their right to speak one's own mother language. It is also to show that such struggles can be conquered and that beliefs and hope can determine one's destiny.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Education also determines one's destiny and one's place in society. From the time we are children to adults, education is a normative standard of our lives. It evolves us as people, it moves us, and grounds us to our values, norms, and morals. The truest form of Education is that which takes place in the home. This is where we first practice our humanistic feature of a social being, this is where we learn to communicate, it is the place that commences our development. Parents play an important role. They are the first educators who contribute to our children's development. It is our responsibility

ity then to instill knowledge in our children's lives; it is our responsibility to guide them to the idea of learning their mother languages. The household has to be emphasized in the context of international and public agendas. It is important that we recognize the importance parents play and assure that children of all ages are living in stable households and are being provided with the knowledge they deserve.

It is also important that we as educators, teachers, and policy makers take initiatives in embedding our children into the education of their native language along with the primary language of instruction. We see more languages lost every year, cultures disappearing, identities vanishing. This is the downside to the globalization process that is dominated by Western ideals, and that adopted English as the universal linguistic form of communication. This is not to demote the language that we all share today, but it is just to point out the disconsolate reality of the prominence of other languages. Our world today has many languages that are not used in formal education, these languages are unwritten and deemed unsuitable for education. Therefore, it is our duty to stress the vitality of these languages and recognize their prominence.

How do we, as members of society accomplish this goal? How do we ensure our children- our future is receiving the true valued education they deserve?

One way could be to offer the opportunity to learn native language in schools. By creating social awareness on the importance of learning mother tongues, we can build effective pressure on political leaders both at domestic and international levels to fund such programs at schools. Such programs would result in the development of enormous benefits that children would enjoy, benefits such as social ones and having the ability to cultivate in various environments despite language and cultural differences. These programs also would allow children to

establish a better understanding of the world as a whole and becoming part of a global community rather than confining them in the comfort of their social environment. Teaching children their mother tongue language is about distinguishing their identity among the social community in which they belong in. UNESCO gathered a committee of experts in 1953 to discuss the value of mother tongue education. It was concluded that teaching a child his or her mother tongue is the best medium for teaching. As an international community, it is imperative that we emphasize these means of education in our agenda among goals such as community development and expansion of literacy worldwide. It is also important to focus on the education sector and pay profound respects to our teachers. They are the ones who determine the prospects of our future.

President Obama in his State of the Union last February said "Every dollar we invest in high-quality early education can save more than seven dollars later on - by boosting graduation rates, reducing teen pregnancy, even reducing violent crime." Indeed, investing in education benefits our society and sets itself as the quintessential example to follow worldwide, consequently advancing our global civil society and enhancing standards of living for all.

Another way could be to engage the international organizations and NGOs to raise their voice for making mother tongue as the medium of education for children. It is also important to mobilize funds in implementing programs that help structuring educational systems in the developing world putting emphasis on mother language. We saw the huge influence NGOs played in the developing world. I will revert to Bangladesh to refer to the BRAC, an organization that played a fundamental role in shaping the education system of Bangladesh. What started as a small-scale relief and rehabilitation project turned into the largest NGO in the world with a globally

acclaimed secular education system in the world? BRAC is today providing schooling for 700,000 students. It expanded its services to presently 10 countries in Asia and Africa. BRAC's approach of looking at education as a means to eradicate poverty and social injustice could be an effective model in spreading education in the developing world.

Before I conclude, it would be remiss of me not to thank all of those individuals who have worked hard to make this conference possible, and also to thank every single one of you for your time and dedication to an important aspect of our society that is Education and bilingualism. I aspire we all continue to work together as global citizens to emphasize the importance of education in our world and advocate it in our agendas. I also hope we can work as parents and teachers to instill knowledge in our children by showing them a bigger picture than what they see, by connecting them to other cultures, by teaching them their mother languages so they may know their true identity, and by ensuring that children all over the world are living in stable environment that can provide them with the education and knowledge they need. Such matters can be easily attained if we pressure our leaders to prioritize their goals and invest in the education sector, as well as recognize the role that NGOs play in the betterment of our society. I am confident that through the contestation of our space, and intensification of our social processes that one day we can all work towards defined goals that benefit not only the societies in which we live in, but benefit our world- our global civil society as a whole.

Thank You!

Nirupam Dev Nath
First Secretary
Embassy of Bangladesh
3510 International Drive, NW
Washington DC 20008, USA
Phone: (202) 244-3658

NYSABE Legislative Luncheon

By Dr. Claire Sylvan,
Delegate-at-Large



Nancy Villarreal de Adler with Maria Barreto

The NYSABE Legislative Luncheon celebrated the historic passage of the NYS Seal of Biliteracy. Hundreds of attendees warmly welcomed Maria de los Angeles Barreto, NYSABE Past President 2010-2011, who convened the NYSABE's Legislative Luncheon on Friday, March 15th. Their enthusiasm was matched by that of NYSABE President Awilda E. Ramos Zagarrigo whose opening remarks highlighted the efforts of NYSABE's supporters and set the stage for the luncheon. Before moving to honor those supporters and community advocates, NYSABE's Executive Director, Nancy Villarreal de Adler, gave a lively summary of NYSABE's Advocacy Agenda, highlighting key items that included the revision of the Part 154 regulations; the NYS Seal of Biliteracy; bilingual educational opportunities for early childhood emergent bilinguals; the NYS Dream Act; appropriate assessment of general and special education bilingual learners; the inclusion of students from Caribbean countries where English is the language of instruction in bilingual/ESL services; the NYSABE Parent Leadership and Advocacy Committee; and the need for appropriate, targeted funding to support technical assistance and professional development for schools and districts to support the education of ELLs/bilingual learners.

Professor Carmen Dinos rose to add a few words of welcome and was followed by NYS State Assemblywoman

Carmen Arroyo, her former student. Assemblywoman Arroyo noted that she always "feels welcome and loved at NYSABE" and called on NYSABE members to continue their advocacy "so that authorities and government do right for our students" She ended her impassioned speech by stating "¡Vamos a seguir luchando! (we will continue to struggle).



Above: Professor Carmen Dinos
Below: President Ramos-Zagarrigo with Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo



This year several people instrumental in the passage of the New York State Seal of Biliteracy were honored including Carmen Arroyo, the sponsor of the Assembly bill, and Sheldon Silver, speaker of the NYS Assembly whose award was accepted by Tom Hogan, as well as Catherine Nolan, chairperson of the NYS Assembly committee, and Senator Joseph E. Robach, who sponsored the bill in the NYS Senate and whose award was presented by Yazmin Torres. Eudes Budhai, President of NABE, also thanked our supporters and introduced Carmen Pérez Hogan, Chairperson of the Legislative Luncheon, who was presented a framed poster and honored for her leadership in advocating for the Seal as special assistant to Assemblywoman Arroyo. Ms Perez-Hogan also read a proclamation by Carmen Arroyo,

honoring NYSABE for its advocacy work.

The luncheon concluded with the awarding of this year's Dr. Antonia Pantoja Advocacy Award to Vanessa Ramos, Esq., Senior Director, Policy Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc. Vanessa was recognized for her critical role in establishing, fostering, and maintaining the *Latino Coalition for Early Care and Education*. Her intensive work in advancing the education of bilingual learners, especially those in the early childhood years, has been widely recognized by educational leaders, parents, and members of her community.



Angelica Infante



Denise Gonez-Santos, Carmen Perez-Hogan,
and Tom Hogan



Vanessa Ramos, Antonia Pantoja Advocacy
Award Recipient

Samuel Ortiz Emphasizes a Focus on Child Development and Biliteracy

By Dr. Tatyana Kleyn,
Region II/New York City Delegate



Dr. Tatyana Kleyn introduces
Dr. Samuel Ortiz

Dr. Samuel Ortiz, Professor of Psychology from St. John's University, gave the closing keynote address at the 2013 NYSABE Conference. His talk, *Cultural Pioneering: An insider's view of when bilingualism and education collide*, highlighted the intersectionality of psychology, education, and development across languages. Ortiz defined "cultural pioneering" as going where no one in your family has gone before. It was a process he went through growing up and is a reality for many immigrants and their children, who are faced with learning a new culture and language. As the first in their families to experience schooling in the U.S, these children often find themselves acting as cultural and linguistic brokers for them.

Ortiz spoke about the demands placed on emergent bilingual students who face a double challenge of learning academic content and the language of instruction simultaneously. This undertaking, coupled with our national fascination for raising standards and altering natural development patterns for children, has created an unreasonable and inequitable context for students and their teachers.

Dr. Ortiz addressed the issue of teaching literacy only through English,

which happens in too many schools. He pointed out that while emergent bilinguals may become strong decoders, their vocabulary and comprehension often lag behind. The audience was reminded that in order to increase literacy in English seminal meta-analyses in the field (outlined in Goldenberg, 2008) point to the need to develop home language literacy. This focus will allow our students to build a foundational understanding of literacy and become biliterate.

To tie the issues together, Ortiz concluded with the following guidelines for the delivery of effective services and instruction for emergent bilingual students:

- ◆ Match instruction to language development
- ◆ Collaborate in a transdisciplinary manner
- ◆ Maintain ESL services as long as possible, in general *and* special education settings
- ◆ Teach and develop thinking skills and strategies for learning
- ◆ Connect subject matter and content with teaching of English
- ◆ Affirm and respect the value of knowing both languages

References:

Goldenberg, C. (2008). Teaching English Language Learners: What the research does — and does not—say. *American Educator*, 32 (2), 8-23, 42-44.



Dr. Samuel Ortiz with Mona lise Jean-Ferrari and Dr. Luis Reyes



2013 Conference Co-Chairs
Heriberto Galarza and



Dr. Ortiz and young fans



Dr. Ortiz with Dr. Zoila Tazi



Dr. Ortiz with Nancy Villarreal de Adler
and Heriberto Galarza



Mildred Reyes,
Bilingual Support Personnel Awardee

Student Awards Luncheon

Saturday, March 16, 2013

By: María-Angélica Meyer

Past President, 2011-12

NYSABE's mission is to foster the awareness and appreciation of bilingualism and biculturalism as an integral part of cultural pluralism in our society and to foster the recognition by the total community of the importance of bilingualism. There is no better way to exemplify this than through the presentation and awarding of student essays and artwork at the student awards luncheon of the annual conference. The essay awards and Dr. Nivia Zavala Art Awards are given to deserving third through twelfth grade students who represent all areas of New York State.

During this special event, which took place on Saturday, March 16th, 2013, NYSABE honored the exemplary writing and creativity of emergent bilingual students!! Ms. Denise Goñez-Santos, chairperson for the luncheon committee, had the pleasure of convening the luncheon. Each award recipient received a gold medal, certificate of achievement and a monetary award.

Each minute of the luncheon was a celebration of pride, joy, and academic and creative excellence. It showcased our students' talents in addition to the amazing work that their educators do on a daily basis to support their achievements. Proud family members were there to support their children and bear witness as they were honored. The students' artwork was displayed through the banquet hall for all to admire.

Achievement of this magnitude is not accomplished alone! NYSABE would like to thank the families, the principals, the teachers and all others who have a hand in ensuring that our children are reaching and exceeding their potential.

Congratulations to ALL!!

We are proud to present the 2013 award recipients:

Student Essay Contest

Grades 3 - 5	
1 st Place	Marchel St. Juste, 4 th Grade PS 189 The Bilingual Center, Brooklyn, NY
2 nd Place	Camila López, 5 th Grade PS 189 The Bilingual Center, Brooklyn, NY
3 rd Place	Junior Mercado Ponce, 5 th Grade Powells Lane Elementary School, Westbury, NY
Grades 6 - 8	
1 st Place	Jaelene Váldez, 8 th Grade PS 189 The Bilingual Center, Brooklyn, NY
2 nd Place	Emmanuel Cadet, 7 th Grade PS 189 The Bilingual Center, Brooklyn, NY
3 rd Place	Steisy Sánchez, 7 th Grade MS 349 Harbor Heights, New York, NY
Grades 9 - 12	
1 st Place	Mirna Maayah, 12 th Grade Lincoln High School, Yonkers, NY
2 nd Place	Juana López, 11 th Grade Brentwood High School, Brentwood, NY
3 rd Place	Jhoan Velásquez, 9 th Grade Lincoln High School, Yonkers, NY



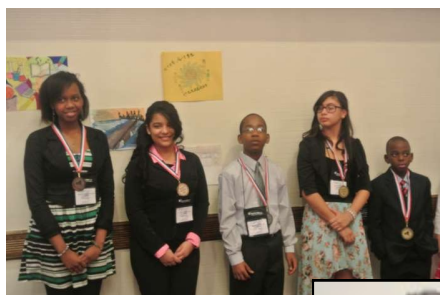
The Dr. Nivia Zavala Art Awards

Grades 3 - 5	
1 st Place "Great Minds for a Better Future"	Jeremy Ferreras, 5 th Grade PS 115 M Alexander Humboldt School, New York, NY
2 nd Place "Peace"	Davit Martirosyan, 4 th Grade PS 205 The Clarion School, Brooklyn, NY
3 rd Place "Still life drawing of an apple on a cup"	Christopher Dominguez, 5 th Grade PS 189 The Bilingual Center, Brooklyn, NY
Grades 6 - 8	
1 st Place "Autumn Scene"	Adrian Gomes, 7 th Grade Yonkers Montessori Academy, Yonkers, NY
2 nd Place "I Want to be a Doctor"	Arismel Gonzalez, 8 th Grade Robert C. Dodson School, Yonkers, NY
3 rd Place "I am Going to College"	Alexandra Franqui, 8 th Grade Robert C. Dodson, Yonkers, NY
Grades 9 - 12	
1 st Place "China and My New Home"	Chu Chu Lu, 11 th Grade Freeport High School, Freeport, NY

We give special acknowledgements to our Awards Chairperson, Ms. Denise Goñez-Santos and her committee, Rebecca Murphy and Lisa Eppolito, for making the difficult decision of identifying the winning entries from the many high quality entries that were received.



Denise Goñez-Santos, Student Award Committee Chairperson



Seal of Biliteracy Awarded to 81 Graduating Seniors at Three Internationals High Schools in New York City

By Dr. Marguerite Lukes,
Region II/NYC Delegate

June of 2013 was a ground-breaking month for the New York State Seal of Biliteracy Initiative. Eighty-one graduating seniors at three Internationals High Schools in New York City were bestowed with a first-time academic honor in June of 2013. These awards are the very first Seals of Biliteracy to be awarded in New York State. The three schools – Pan American High School at Monroe, International Community High School, and Pan American High School – celebrated the students' achievements during special awards ceremonies for graduating seniors.

Being bilingual – able to speak two or more languages – is a laudable goal that has been shown to bring with it multiple cognitive, social and economic benefits. Along with the added advantage of being bi-literate – able to read and write proficiently in two or more languages – comes the added challenge of developing academic proficiency at an advanced level. The students who were honored with the Seal of Biliteracy this year were required to demonstrate their proficiency formally, which meant passing the English Regents as well as demonstrating proficiency on Advanced Placement exams.

The New York State Seal of Biliteracy was introduced via a New York State Assembly Bill by Senators Robach and Arroyo in 2012 and signed into law by Governor Cuomo on July 31, 2012. The Bill took effect on September 1, 2012. The purpose of the seal is to increase the prospect of a student's future employment and educational success.

Of the Seal of Biliteracy, Governor Cuomo said:

"New York State should recognize the outstanding achievements of our students who have dedicated themselves to learning different languages. New York is a richly diverse state and these students are doing their part to ensure that we remain an active member of the global community."

Students from Pan American High School at Monroe were awarded the Seal of Biliteracy at a school-wide ceremony for outstanding seniors by Principal Bridgit Bye-Dyster; NYSABE Delegate-at-Large Marguerite Lukes, who was also representing the Internationals Network for Public Schools; and Internationals Network for Public Schools' Kamal Bryan. Students received their medals and certificates amidst deafening cheers from parents, family members, teachers and peers.

Claire Sylvan, Executive Director of the Internationals Network for Public Schools, characterized her organization's involvement this way:

"Internationals Network is thrilled to have taken the first step in implementing the Seal of Biliteracy. At the 2013 NYSABE conference, we received the suggestion that some of our network schools might pilot the Seal this year by Shelley Spiegel Coleman of Californians Together and Ofelia Garcia, from the City University of New York's Graduate Center. We then shared NYSABE's guiding recommendations for criteria for awarding the Seal of Biliteracy with them, and three agreed to move forward. We are thrilled that these principals and school communities chose to honor some students this year. Now, we're looking forward to New York State Education Department's rapid adop-

tion of guidelines so that in June 2014, more districts and schools will implement the Seal of Biliteracy and honor many more students. The bilingual achievements of NYS students prepares them to participate fully in our 21st century global society."

Please visit the NYSABE website and the NYSED website for the latest updates on the Seal of Biliteracy:

www.nysabe.org

<http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/07312012-multiple-language-proficiency-bill>



The Haitian Educators League for Progress, Inc. (HELP) Hosted its Annual Gala
By Monalisa Jean-Ferrari, Haitian Language Delegate

On 15 June 2013, The Haitian Educators League for Progress, Inc. (HELP) hosted its second annual end of year gala at the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton in Queens, New York. Members, supporters, and friends of HELP came from all over New York to partake in the celebration. HELP paid homage to the following five retiring educators: *Danielle Hyacinthe, Kettly Samuel, Fritz Michel, Etienne Télémaque and Robert Raymond*. Between them, the retirees totaled more than 130 years of educational service. While these colleagues are leaving their day-to-day teaching positions within the New York City Department of Education, they have all pledged to continue to invest part of their time in supporting and strengthening HELP in the years to come.

Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph, President of the Bronx Community College and guest speaker for the event, delivered an astounding message to the retirees. Dr. Joseph received a Citation from Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo and the HELP Exemplary Leadership Award as she paved the way for present and future leaders in the community. Nancy Villarreal de Adler, Executive Director of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE), received a Citation from Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages for her continued support to bilingual education and the HELP organization, where she is an affiliate member. The NYSABE delegation included past presidents Dr. Bernice Moro

and Maria De Los Angeles Barreto as well as members Jack Adler, Vivian Bueno and Alexander Bodas. Marie Lily Cerat received citations from Councilman Jumaane Williams and Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages.

Members of several organizations within the Haitian community attended. Among them, the Haitian American Law Enforcement Fraternal Organization (HALEFO), an organization comprised of law enforcement personnel of Haitian origin serving throughout the United States, Diaspora Community Service, The Haitian Leadership Coalition (HLC), Beyond Focus TV and Community to Community (C2C). Assemblywoman Solages commended the organization for a job well done and encouraged the constituents to remain steadfast in the community as challenges arise.

The HELP event also provided a venue to gather resources, both human and financial, for the organization to maintain and sustain critical projects, such as the Haiti Summer Institute. One of HELP's most valued initiatives, the Institute is entering its third year and is a top priority on the organization's agenda. HELP's presence and support to the Haitian education community in Haiti is pressing because the already fragile community was greatly destabilized as it suffered huge losses, personal and professional, in the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Collectively, HELP members believe that by engaging in the exchange of knowledge and skills with our Haiti-based counterparts, we can contribute to the re-envisioning and rebuilding of a Haitian education system that

uses the Haitian child's first language in education for more positive academic outcomes. Through the sharing of best practices, we hope that our colleagues will understand the value of utilizing the first language as a vehicle of instruction for improved critical and creative thinking abilities for Haitian students.

Furthermore, the HELP executive committee has worked hard over the past three years to design and develop lasting structures, build professional and community capacity and create bridges between here and home. HELP has been fully engaged in preserving and reviving tradition by reaching out to retired educators. We collectively endeavor to honor the past, celebrate the present, and together envision the future to ensure continuity. Pursuing the growth of the HELP membership remains a key objective, but our members and allies understand that the success of the organization exists in more than numbers. Continuity and sustainability require the recognition of the values and skills of those who preceded us. We ultimately understand that the past shapes our present and informs our future. To become a HELPer and join the Haiti Summer Institute, please write us at:

haitianeducators@gmail.com
 or call us at (347) 568 3513.

**Region I/Long Island
Summer Resource Extravaganza
and Nominations Meeting
By Linda Scalice, Region I Delegate**

On May 9, 2013, Region I held its regional meeting that included the Summer Resource Extravaganza and the nominations for regional and language delegate positions. This event, which was held at Adelphi University, served as a forum to have members from NYSTESOL and NYSABE work together and share experiences.



The Summer Resource Extravaganza provided useful information to students, teachers, and parents for fun learning activities during the summer.

Congratulations to Region I delegates, Linda Scalice and Iraida Bodré, for coordinating this successful event. Very special thanks to Eva Roca for hosting it at Adelphi University's campus.

Coming in the next Issue.....

*"Voices
from
the
Field"*



Will you make yours be heard here?

NYSABE Region II Book Panel for *Bilingual Community Education and Multilingualism*

By Bahar Otcu-Grillman



NYSABE's Region II book panel event took place on Monday, April 8, 2013 at the City College of New York. The featured book is a co-edited volume entitled *Bilingual Community Education and Multilingualism: Beyond Heritage Languages in a Global City* edited by Ofelia García, Zeena Zakharia and Bahar Otcu.

The event started with the introduction and welcoming remarks of NYSABE's Region II delegate and second vice president, Dr. Tatyana Kleyn. Then the two co-editors, Dr. Zeena Zakharia from University of Massachusetts Boston and Dr. Bahar Otcu-Grillman from Mercy College, provided an overview of the conceptual orientation of the book. They first introduced multiple forms of bilingual community education, and emphasized that their work encompassed more than two dozens community languages in New York, also known as "The Multilingual Apple." After briefly mentioning the sections of the book, the editors concluded with the major theoretical contributions: bilingual community education is conceptualized as going beyond 'heritage language education' and U.S. 'bilingual education' and new understandings of U.S. ethnolinguistic communities, ex-

tending beyond 'speech communities' to diasporic plural networks.

Following the joint presentation of the co-editors, the authors of five chapters also presented their work. The five bilingual community education efforts included the Bengali, Turkish, Arabic, Haitian, and Russian communities in New York. Dr. Ruhma Choudhury of La Guardia Community College presented Bengali community organization efforts followed by Dr. Bahar Otcu-Grillman's presentation on Turkish supplementary schools and Dr. Zeena Zakharia's Arabic day schools. Afterwards, Dr. Isabelle Barriere from Brooklyn Community College and Marie-Michelle Monereau-Merry from the CUNY Graduate Center presented their co-authored work on Haitian community-public schools. Finally, Dr. Tatyana Kleyn's presented on the Russian community-public school alliance.

Among the invited speakers were also two distinguished NYSABE language delegates who provided responses to the book chapter presentations. Mr. Abdul Azad shared his observations regarding the Bengali book chapter. Monalisa Jean-Ferrari later provided a response to the Haitian chapter presentation.



Following a lively question and answer session, NYSABE members nominated language delegates for an upcoming election. Overall, the event, organized

by Dr. Tatyana Kleyn, was very timely in reinforcing the diversity of New York's multilingual populations and the role of families, communities, schools and organizations such as NYSABE in building bilingualism for all.



Also in our next issue....

"member spotlight"

*Send us
your
good news!*

New York State Association for Bilingual Education
2013 NYSABE Gala



**Leaders in Bilingual Education:
"The Pillars of a Biliterate Generation"**

Friday, October 18th, 2013
6:30 -10:30 PM
Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus
Lowenstein Building, 12th Floor Lounge
113 W. 60th Street, New York, NY 10023

Due to limited space, only the first 150 reservations (based on postmark and date received) can be accepted. Reservations should be **postmarked by October 7th, 2013**.

Please mail the form below, along with a check made out to "NYSABE" for \$95 per person, to:

NYSABE
Metropolitan Center for Urban Education
726 Broadway, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10003

You will be notified via phone or email by **October 10, 2013** whether your reservations were accepted.

Un-cashed checks will be returned to the address of the person requesting reservations.

No purchase orders will be accepted. Checks returned by the bank will be subject to an additional fee.

The admission is \$95 per person.

Reservation Form
NYSABE Gala

Number of people attending: _____ Amount of check or money order enclosed: _____
Person requesting reservation(s)

Name _____ Email _____ *

Mailing address: _____ Phone # _____ - _____ - _____ *

Name(s) of other attendees for whom you are purchasing tickets

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

** Either a phone or email address is required to confirm acceptance of your reservations.*

SAVE THE DATE

The New York State Association for Bilingual Education

Presents

The 37th Annual Conference

***“Educating Our Next Generation of
Biliterate Citizens”***



www.nysabe.net

March 6th-8th, 2014

LaGuardia Airport Marriott Hotel

102-05 Ditmars Boulevard

East Elmhurst, NY 11369

This conference will engage teachers, families, and educational leaders in considering strategies and approaches to educate a new generation of biliterate citizens. It will offer presentations, roundtable discussions, and special sessions on current topics such as:

- ***The NYS Seal of Biliteracy;***
- ***Common Core State Standards for emergent bilinguals;***
- ***Data driven instruction;***
- ***Instructional leadership for quality bilingual programs.***

See you at the conference!

NYSABE wishes to thank all of our contributors and supporters for lending their expertise to this publication.

NYSABE Bilingual Times Staff includes

Tamara Alsace,
Editor

Nancy Villarreal
de Adler,
Project Director



New York State Association for Bilingual Education

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Kindly note that this information will be used to generate your membership card and future mailings

www.nysabe.net

I was referred by: _____ ☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL
 Name: _____ Work Phone #: () _____
 Home Address: _____ Home Phone #: () _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____
 Languages Spoken: _____

NYSABE Dues: (please check one)

- ☐ \$35 Associate (full time student, parent, paraprofessional)
☐ \$45 Regular (teacher, administrator, teacher educator, researcher)
☐ \$75 Institutional
☐ \$100 Commercial

Select your local region: (check one)

- ☐ Region I-Long Island
☐ Region II-New York City
☐ Region III-Mid-Hudson
☐ Region IV-Syracuse/Capital District
☐ Region V-Rochester
☐ Region VI-Western New York

I would like to volunteer in:

- ☐ Advocacy
☐ Fundraising
☐ Special Events
☐ Membership
☐ Other

CONTRIBUTION: I would like to contribute to NYSABE's continuing efforts to strengthen Bilingual Education in New York State with my tax deductible contribution of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please duplicate and disseminate this application among your colleagues and others.

Please make check payable to **NYSABE** and mail it with this completed form to:

NYSABE
 NYU Metropolitan Center for Urban Education
 726 Broadway, 5th Floor
 New York, NY 10003

THE ORGANIZATION

NYSABE is a multilingual, multicultural professional association that promotes the academic achievement of more than 300,000 English language learners (ELLs)/bilingual students, and supports the development of biliteracy skills among all students in New York State. Founded in 1976, NYSABE unites educators, parents, community and business leaders, elected officials, researchers, and members of professional organizations, educational institutions, and the news media sharing a common goal—to ensure excellence and equity for students from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

NYSABE encourages the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of quality programs in bilingual education.

NYSABE promotes bilingual education as a process by which students achieve academic success through instruction in English and a language other than English.

NYSABE supports the belief that language pluralism and literacy in more than one language benefit the nation and all its citizens.

NYSABE collaborates with the NYS Education Department, school districts, and educational institutions by participating in their initiatives and ensuring excellence and equity in the education of ELLs/bilingual learners.

NYSABE is affiliated with the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) and the New York State Council of Educational Associations (NYSCEA).

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Join the NYSABE team! Through your membership dues and involvement, you will have the opportunity to make integral contributions towards positive educational change for ELLs/bilingual learners. Membership benefits include:

NYSABE Journal of Multilingual Education Research (JMERE): The yearly issue of this journal is a must for every library and member of the association. It publishes current research on best practices in instructional methodologies, optimum program models, and key elements in the implementation of successful bilingual education programs.

The NYSABE Newsletter, The Bilingual Times: The quarterly issues of The Bilingual Times offer updates on the regional and statewide activities of the association and its members. *The Bilingual Times* also provides information on current legislative and policy developments as well as articles on best educational approaches for ELLs/bilingual learners.

Professional Development: NYSABE offers local, regional, and statewide professional development activities that focus on optimum, research-based practices in bilingual education. These activities create a professional forum suitable to network with other professionals in your field of interest, to share experiences, and explore new ideas.

Advocacy and Leadership: NYSABE offers opportunities to develop leadership skills while participating in hands-on training, special committees, language group events, and advocacy activities on behalf of students, their parents, and educators.