



NYS AFLT NEWS

New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers

June 2007

www.nysaflt.org

Vol. 34, No. 2

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Joanne O'Toole

For most NYS AFLT members, this time of year corresponds to the end of a school year. For the great majority of educators, the summer is a time to relax and put teaching and learning behind. But for foreign language educators, summer often represents an opportunity to grow professionally through travel, reading, courses, research, and much more. In support of its members, NYS AFLT offers a variety of ways to engage professionally during the summer months. I invite you to take advantage of these opportunities.

Attend the Summer Institute:

Foreign language educators from around the

state will gather at SUNY Oneonta from July 31 through August 3. Through a variety of workshops, participants will explore the very timely topic of literacies in LOTE. You can reserve your spot at this worthwhile institute now by registering on-line at www.nysaflt.org.

Join a Special Interest Group:

As you will read about in this newsletter, NYS AFLT has initiated four special interest group forums on its website around the topics of FLES, French Advocacy, Heritage Language Learning, and Study Abroad. If any of these topics is one that is near and dear to your heart or one you would like to learn more about, join in the conversation!

A link to the forums can be found on the NYS AFLT home page, www.nysaflt.org.

Apply for a Teacher Incentive or Gertrude Rossin Cultural Grant:

NYS AFLT offers grants to support and enhance its members' language programs. Envision a way that an award of up to \$500 might help you carry out a cultural project with your students or enhance your curriculum this

coming year. Then, apply for the Teacher Incentive Grant or the Gertrude Rossin Cultural Grant. Applications can be found in the Members Only section of the website, www.nysaflft.org. Hurry! The deadline is July 1.

Let Your Voice Be Heard:

For the last several months, NYSAFLT members at different levels of instruction lent their voices to the website's *Voices of NYSAFLT* feature. We have learned much from "listening" to them. The feature will soon shift from learning about issues at different levels of instruction to issues involved in the teaching of different languages. If you are interested in being a Voice of NYSAFLT for a particular language, I invite you to contact me at jotoole@nysaflft.org.

Vote:

Earlier this year, members of NYSAFLT from around the state used our new on-line system to nominate their colleagues for roles as officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee members for NYSAFLT in 2008. The slate of nominees was recently approved by the Board of Directors and will be arriving on a ballot in your mailbox later this summer. I encourage you to cast your vote and return the ballot by the indicated deadline. Every vote counts!

Plan Ahead:

While the Annual Meeting is in October, it's never too soon to begin

planning to attend. Registration and workshop information should have arrived in your mailbox and is available online at www.nysaflft.org. Make this exciting event one you can look forward to throughout the summer!

Summer Institute at SUNY Oneonta

Have you checked out the workshops offered at this year's Summer Institute? Visit www.nysaflft.org and look them over. Join us for a week of learning, sharing, and networking at SUNY Oneonta. Don't miss out on all the fun! Save the dates – **Tuesday, July 31st to Friday, August 3rd**. Questions?? Contact Sue Barnes at sbarnes@nysaflft.org.

Annual Meeting in Rochester

Although most of our thoughts at this time of year are on resting, relaxing, and enjoying summer, it's not too early to think ahead to our fall plans. We hope that you will include an informative, educational, and collegial weekend in your October schedule. Our 90th NYSAFLT Annual Meeting will take place on October 12-14 at the Clarion Riverside Hotel in Rochester.

The Annual Meeting's Theme this year is "Languages: Connecting Students to the World." We are

pleased that **Carol Bellamy**, current President and CEO of World Learning, and former Executive Director of the United States Peace Corps, has agreed to deliver the keynote address. The planning committee has worked very hard to make sure that there are a wide array of workshops that will appeal to teachers of all languages and levels. We are also happy that the Classical Association of the Empire State (CAES) will be joining us in this venture.

This year, we will also be offering Post-Conference workshops on Sunday afternoon for those who may not be able to attend a Pre-Conference workshop on Friday. A list of Pre-Conference, Post-Conference, and a tentative list of regular workshops are posted on the NYSAFLT website.

Please be sure to check the NYSAFLT website at www.nysaflft.org for registration information. We look forward to seeing you in Rochester.

Colloquium 2007

The 2007 Colloquium, *The Pathway to the Future of LOTE: Bridging K - Post Secondary Education*, was held on April 27 and 28, 2007 in Buffalo. Conference Chairperson **Paul Sabatino** did an outstanding job of addressing the goals of the program through a well-chosen

slate of speakers and workshops.

The program started Friday evening with a Pre-Colloquium workshop given by **Elizabeth M. Bossong**. She shared activities, assessments, and rubrics aimed toward Checkpoint C, but certainly applicable to other levels.

Attendees were fortunate to hear from keynote speaker **Joseph A. Tursi, Ph.D.** An accomplished educator and leader in the field, he addressed attendees on Saturday. This was followed by a discussion on articulation with panelists **Josephine A. Maietta, Cindy Kennedy,** and **Dr. Lois P. Mignone,** lending their expertise on various levels of LOTE learning. After, attendees actively participated in break-out discussion groups.

The Post-Colloquium Workshop was last, but not least, on the program with an exciting demonstration of classroom activities given by **Josephine Maietta.** Her enthusiasm was contagious and the participants left with a plethora of ideas for the LOTE classroom.

Congratulations to Paul Sabatino and to all who helped to plan and carry out this great opportunity for professional development. There will be more information to come in a future edition of the *NYS AFLT Language Association Journal*.

NYS AFLT Introduces Special Interest Support

A recent addition to the NYS AFLT website has been designed to provide support and information to specific groups within the membership. This refers to the Special Interest Group forums, a source of information for members with specific needs.

There are currently four groups taking advantage of this valuable resource: **French Advocacy, FLES, Heritage Language Learners,** and **Study Abroad.**

NYS AFLT is grateful to Past President **David Graham** for his initiative on this. David's concern regarding French programs in New York State is a good example of a cause for which people can share ideas and learn by means of a forum.

Each group was started by a member dedicated to an issue within LOTE education. **Diana Scalera,** who works in New York City's Region 5, pioneered a Heritage Language Learner group on this forum. Ms. Scalera notes, "There is not enough attention paid to heritage learners in New York State, even though they make up 28% of this state's student population." She recognizes the need for more resources and hopes through this Special Interest Group to address the challenges of the dedicated

teachers of this group of learners.

Patience Peebles moderates the Study Abroad Special Interest Group. She sees the group as a place for teachers to ask questions and share information. There are many travel options available, so teachers need a safe place to ask questions without being pressured.

The Special Interest Group for FLES is moderated by Nathan Lutz. This group can be a great support, especially to those without nearby FLES colleagues. Mr. Lutz also sees this as a place where administrators can gather ideas for implementing a successful FLES program.

To find out more about these groups, please visit groups.nysaflt.org.

Leaders of Tomorrow Start Today

NYS AFLT has taken a big step in accepting responsibility toward the development of future leaders in our profession: It has initiated the "Leaders of Tomorrow" project, thanks to funding by **McDougal Littell.** This project, designed and coordinated by **Executive Director John Carlino** in response to NYS AFLT's goals and Strategic Plan for 2004-2008, is off to a great start with the selection of a group of fine candidates for future

leadership: **Marissa Coulehan** of Harrison CSD, **Nathan Lutz** of the Manlius Pebble Hill School in DeWitt, **Patience Peebles** from South Jefferson Central School, **Peggy Sharkey** of the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex Board of Cooperative Educational Services, and **Robin Thompson** from University Neighborhood High School in Manhattan.

The candidates attended and took an active part in the Colloquium. They will attend the three major NYSAFLT conferences in 2007, participate in leadership training activities, and develop a leadership project of their own to implement at the regional or state level.

The candidates come to the program with different levels of experience, but they share a goal of personal and professional development. Patience Peebles, a second-year teacher, brings a great enthusiasm for maintaining LOTE as a core subject and bringing teachers together. She would like to organize a collaboration of LOTE teachers in her area. She also moderates one of the NYSAFLT special interest groups: Study Abroad.

Nathan Lutz has been teaching for over 10 years. He is on the executive board of FLACNY and enjoys meeting and working with other LOTE teachers. He plans to present at the Annual Meeting on the use

of SmartBoards in the FLES classroom.

Robin Thompson was encouraged by her former principal and mentor, **Rosa Riccio Pietanza**. In addition to her position at the University Neighborhood HS, she also teaches at New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture. She is currently organizing a "Foreign Language Think-Tank" for New York City teachers at NYU. "This forum has allowed teachers of foreign language to come together to discuss topics related to education and foreign language learning," wrote Ms. Thompson.

Peggy Sharkey has been teaching for over 20 years in the United States, Spain, and Japan! The timing of this project was perfect for her, as she is working on a FLAP (Foreign Language Assistance Program) project that supports the goals of NYSAFLT. She "would like to collaborate with NYSAFLT and other BOCES in order to strengthen the LOTE infrastructure in New York State."

Marissa Coulehan is in her second year of full-time teaching. She has been happy to meet so many active NYSAFLT members through this program. She has volunteered to serve as the Westchester Regional Representative to the Public Advocacy Committee for NYSAFLT and to possibly create a WAFLE website as part of her project.

NYSAFLT's Leaders of Tomorrow program is not only developing great leaders, but it is contributing to the development of projects that will potentially benefit all teachers and learners across the state. The aforementioned projects reflect the creativity, passion, and hard work needed from our future leaders.

A Friend at NYSED

LOTE teachers have a new voice in Albany with the appointment of one of our own: **Mary Holmes** is the new Associate for Foreign Language at the New York State Education Department.

Ms. Holmes previously taught LOTE for over 15 years. Her prior position was in the Marcellus School District, outside of Syracuse. She is originally from Albany.

Happy to represent our subject area, Ms. Holmes focuses her efforts on trying to "ensure that we keep our programs really strong." For example, the State Education Department is in the process of reviewing all standards, and she is pleased that there is someone there to speak for foreign languages.

New York is a large state with a lot of needs, and Ms. Holmes attends frequent meetings to keep in close contact with NYSAFLT. She spends time studying the regulations to make sure that schools are complying. We as

teachers can do our part to protect our programs by encouraging all students to take a language. "We're here to teach all of our students," states Ms. Holmes. We are a content area and need to defend ourselves as such."

Ms. Holmes is currently working with **Harriet Barnett** on a FLES document and will be making future appearances at several professional development workshops throughout the state. To find out more information about LOTE programs and regulations, please visit www.nysafl.org, click on Resources, and click on NYSED.

Regional News

Capital

Many LOTE teachers attended the Capital District Regional on March 24, 2007 at NYSUT Headquarters in Latham. The theme was "*Rekindle the spirit! Renewing our passion in the classroom.*" NYSAFLT President **Joanne O'Toole** and COLT President **Michèle Pollard**, welcomed the participants, and **Josie Prozik** gave an inspiring and motivating keynote address. The participants chose from 8 different workshops, visited with the many vendors and renewed acquaintances. The co-chairs, **Jill Dugan** from Farnsworth Middle School and

Colleen Sheehan from Cobleskill-Richmondville High School, were assisted by an outstanding planning committee. Thanks to all from the speakers, planners, vendors and presenters who helped make this an exceptional morning of professional development.

Central New York

FLACNY held its annual FLACNY/NYSAFLT Culture Fair on April 21, 2007 at Chittenango High School. The purpose of this day was to provide students with the opportunity to celebrate and share the language and culture they study via projects, such as video, dance, instrumental and vocal music, drama, multimedia presentations, posters, sculptures, written work, etc. Students and foreign language teachers represented the following counties: Cayuga, Cortland, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego.

Mid-Hudson

On April 26, Saugerties H.S. art teacher **Judith Mohns** gave a workshop for ALOUD on using photography as a teaching tool. Teachers were able to examine professional photos as well as student photos for ideas. They brainstormed projects that could be done in LOTE using this method.

This year's senior essay contest winners were both from

Saugerties H.S. The first place winner was Kelly Waters and second place went to Nicole Richardson. Both girls are students of **Ana Gatta**. The essay was entitled "What Foreign Language Means to Me and How I Plan to Use it in the Future."

After many years of devoted service, our beloved **Lynn Gore** has decided to step down as president of ALOUD. Natalye Moss will take over her duties this summer.

New York City

Three New York City schools are opening a French-English Dual-Language program in the Fall:

- PS125 (Upper West Side): French-English Program (grade K) & Gifted and Talented Program (grade K)
- PS58 (Brooklyn): French-English Program (grade K)
- CIS22 (Bronx): French-English Program (grades 5 and 6)

Admission to these programs is still open for September 2007. Some of the schools are also hiring. Please inquire directly with each school.

On June 13th, the French Embassy, in partnership with the New York City Department of Education, the FIAF (French Institute Alliance Française) and EFNY (Education Française à New York), showcased these dual-

language programs with a view to informing NYC school principals of these new initiatives.

According to **Fabrice Jaumont**, "It is our hope that more schools will open dual-language programs in the future. It is also our hope that, by doing so, school principals will consider offering French." For more information, please contact:

Fabrice Jaumont
Education Attache
French Embassy
972 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Northern East

The Northern East Regional Meeting was held on September 22, 2006 at Clinton Community College. New Regional Director **David Graham** hosted the session, which was coordinated by **Diane Parameter** of Clinton Community and outgoing Director **Jodi Larock**.

The meeting featured a presentation by **Professor Margaret Queguiner** from Plattsburgh State University, who described the training program conducted for college teachers recently at Plattsburgh State University. The workshop was organized by **Professor Jean Ouedraogo** and brought together some 20 teachers from across the North Country. Margaret outlined the procedures of the training process and the rubrics used to delineate the various levels of OPI proficiency.

The construction of new checkpoint facilities near the Canadian border crossing is a topic of great interest in our area. **Mary Lou Leavitt** of the Northern Adirondack CSD and David Graham provided information from Border Patrol agents about their language requirements. All new employees hired for the Border Patrol are mandated to develop proficiency in Spanish as part of their two-year training program along the Mexican border.

In their technology session, Professor Ouedraogo introduced a set of web sites he has developed for SUNY Plattsburgh and Clinton C.C. David Graham presented a brief presentation on English and French migration across the Canadian border that he is developing for the AATF national convention in Baton Rouge this summer. Interesting similarities were drawn between the Francophone immigration of 150 years ago and the Hispanic immigration of today.

In the last of their sessions, **Jodi Larock** described a program in Elizabethtown in which high school students are granted school credit for teaching LOTE classes in the elementary school.

The fall regional meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 2007 in the Saranac Lake area.

Rochester

On March 10, approximately 170 people attended the Rochester Regional Conference at Nazareth College. The conference theme was "Oh, the Places You Will GO...When You Know the Lingo!" **Senator Robach** received the 2007 NYSAFLT "Friends of Foreign Language" Award, and NYSAFLT Past - President **Linda Zusman** was the keynote speaker. Special thanks to conference chair, **Lucy Ferruzza**, and the entire Planning Committee for a wonderful day of language and learning.

NYSACards

In Honor of...

Nina Sher
for her dedication to the
profession

Jill M. Dugan

In Memoriam

Peter Dzuiba
Father of
Mary Champagne-Myers,
NYSAFLT President 1992

Joanne Hume-Nigro

Are there people that you would like to recognize or honor? Remember that you can send greetings, words of comfort, or any other

sentiment with a NYSAFLT card.

For a minimum of \$5.00 per card, we will send your message and the fact that a donation has been made. These will be published in the *NYSAFLT News* and will benefit the teacher travel scholarship.

Cards may be obtained by going to www.nysaflt.org, clicking on "Donations" or by sending a check (made payable to NYSAFLT) to:

NYSAFLT Headquarters
2400 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

Teacher Recognized

NYSAFLT member **Camille Makepeace** won the New York State Lottery Teacher of the Week Award in January of this year. Congratulations to her on this wonderful accomplishment!

Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to **Kaitlin Gillen**, student of **Bill Heller** from SUNY Geneseo, the winner of the Undergraduate Scholarship Award! For information on scholarships and awards, please visit the "Members Only" section at www.nysaflt.org.

Student Awards

The Fulvi Scholarship of \$150 for excellence in foreign language study was awarded to the following students:

Elizabeth Gates
Mayfield HS
Teacher, **Veronica Swart**

Melanie Spergel
Plainview-Old Bethpage
JFK HS
Teacher, **Deborah Herkowitz**

Michelle Wiley
Onteora HS
Teacher, **Margit Kaindl-Richer**

Diana Gamet
South Jefferson HS
Teacher, **Françoise Piron**

Evan Okin
HS of American Studies at
Lehman College
Teacher, **Dora L. Villani**

Lauren O'Mara
Waterloo HS
Teacher, **Ellen Hughes**

Cheryl DuMond
Walton HS
Teacher, **Marjorie Smith**

Adrienne Canino
Chittenango HS
Teacher, **Sarah Schiralli**

Allison Glasgow
North Salem HS
Teacher, **Bette Sparago**

The Student Recognition Award of \$100 for a senior with a strong love of languages was granted to:

Kayla Manzer
Mayfield HS
Teacher, **Veronica Swart**

Anna Nieffer
Saugerties HS
Teacher, **Ana Gatta**

Stacia Kim
Jamesville-Dewitt HS
Teacher, **Joan Hession**

Shawn-Marie Kennedy
Mount Vernon HS
Teacher, **Anne Zucker**

The Love of Language Award for an outstanding 8th grade student in the form of a \$50 saving bond was presented to:

Ryan Prendergast
Farnsworth MS
Teacher, **Marie Chelkowsli**

Virginia Schieck
Garden City MS
Teacher, **JoAnn Porter**

Andrew Curran
Saugerties HS
Teacher, **Lynn Gore**

Alexandra Bedore
Tupper Lake CSD
Teacher, **Debra Harris**

Elizabeth Hoeker
South Seneca MS
Teacher, **Karen Martín-Sánchez**

Aaron Carroll-Marsh
Liverpool MS
Teacher, **Susan Neault**

Evan Seti
Dobbs Ferry MS
Teacher, **Marcia Heffler**

Mark Your Calendars



June

- 01-02 NYSAFLT Meetings:
Executive Committee
& Board
- 26-27 Board of Regents Meeting

July

- 1 Deadline: Teacher
Incentive/Gertrude Rossin
Cultural Grant
- 25-27 Board of Regents Meeting
- 30-31 NYSAFLT Meetings:
Executive Committee &
Financial Management-
Oneonta
- 31 Summer Institute begins.

August

- 01 Deadline: September
Newsletter
- 01-03 Summer Institute
- 15 Deadline: Annual Meeting
Scholarship Application
- 15 Deadline: ISE Award
- 21-22 Board of Regents Meeting

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Paid Through:

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NYSAFLT News
2400 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

