



# NYS AFLT NEWS

New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers

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[www.nysaflt.org](http://www.nysaflt.org)

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## The President's Corner

During the first few months of 2007, your NYS AFLT officers, directors, chairpersons, colleagues, and especially your webmaster have been very busy. They have been busy planning exciting events for 2007 and introducing several new initiatives . . . all with you and your professional needs in mind!

*So what are the exciting events we have planned for you?*

\*First up is April's NYS AFLT Colloquium: *The Pathway to the Future of LOTE: Bridging K - Post Secondary Education*, a powerful opportunity for you to articulate with colleagues from every level of instruction about building connections. Will your voice be among those heard at the Colloquium?

\**Literacies in LOTE: They're FUNDamental!* is the timely theme of the NYS AFLT Summer Institute. For four days, participants will explore a wide variety of literacy practices they can carry out in their classrooms. Will you be among the NYS AFLT colleagues who engage in the



**Joanne O'Toole**

important topic of literacy at the Summer Institute?

\*Our culminating event is the NYS AFLT Annual Meeting. With the theme of *Languages Connecting Students to the World*, the Annual Meeting will tout over 90 workshops for language teaching professionals at every level of instruction as well as our internationally-known keynote speaker, Carol Bellamy. Will you be at this professionally exhilarating event? Would you like to submit a workshop proposal? You can do so on our website ([nysaflt.org](http://nysaflt.org)). Keep your eyes open for registration and scholarship opportunities for NYS AFLT events. They will arrive in the mail and will be available on the NYS AFLT website. Please say, "Hello" when I see you at these events!

*And what are some of the exciting NYSAFLT initiatives?*

*\*The Voices of NYSAFLT*—a yearlong feature on the NYSAFLT website—highlights the diverse perspectives of our organization's members. Every two weeks, new voices are added to the website so we can all be educated about the situations, issues, and needs faced by colleagues of different levels, languages, and professional responsibilities. Have you listened to your colleagues' voices yet? Would you like to lend your voice to this feature? Check out how to do so on the website!

*\*NYSAFLT Leaders of Tomorrow*—a program NYSAFLT is grateful to have funded in full by McDougal Littel—is designed to identify future leaders in our profession, develop their leadership skills, and help to alleviate the critical shortage of leaders in the foreign language field. Over the last few months, numerous NYSAFLT members have been nominated for this program, and the selection process is soon to take place. Keep your eyes and ears open! You'll hear more about and from our future leaders.

*\*To date, NYSAFLT members from over 200 school districts in New York State have responded to the K-12 Foreign Language Program Survey. The data collected from this survey will inform NYSAFLT about statewide trends in K-12 foreign language education programs and will guide advocacy efforts. Be on the lookout for a report of the*

findings once data collection and analysis have been completed.

We are happy to be able to bring you these many NYSAFLT events and initiatives, and our hope is that they will connect you to colleagues in powerful ways and will support you well in your professional endeavors. While you are waiting for some of these events and initiatives to arrive and unfold, be sure to stay professionally connected and supported by clicking on [www.nysaflt.org](http://www.nysaflt.org)!

## Colloquium 2007

If you have not yet done so, mark your calendar for the exciting upcoming Colloquium that will be held in Buffalo, **April 27-28**. The theme could not be more timely and more informative for the present and, more importantly, for the future state of LOTE:

*The Pathway to the Future of LOTE: Bridging K - Post Secondary Education*

We have endeavored to bring together some of our prominent colleagues representing the various levels of LOTE education. Their mission will be to present a multi-faceted approach intended to maintain a natural, articulated transition that will see our students motivated and ready to advance to the next level of their LOTE studies.

Bridging the different levels, while helping maintain student interest in our subject matter, has challenged and continues to test even the most experienced amongst our colleagues.

Come to Buffalo and find out what is taking place in some of our classrooms across the state. The discussions and analysis are sure to energize you. The program will begin Friday evening, **April 27**, with a Pre-Conference workshop presented by our former president, Beth Bossong. Saturday morning, another former president of NYSAFLT, Joseph A. Tursi, Ph.D. will deliver the Keynote speech. This will be followed by our panelists Cindy Kennedy, Josephine Maietta, and Lois Mignone. After the breakout groups and summation sessions, we will have a Post-Conference workshop designed to synthesize the theme with lots of ideas that can be infused in your lesson plans the very next day.

Come to Buffalo—it's not too far for our regional colleagues, nor for our downstaters who can hop on a flight and be there in about one hour. And the end of April promises wonderful weather for a side trip to view the nearby Niagara Falls!

Retirement Certificates available: Contact NYSAFLT Headquarters by May 15th.  
[hq@nysaflt.org](mailto:hq@nysaflt.org)

## **NYS AFLT 90th Annual Meeting**

Plans for NYS AFLT's 90th Annual Meeting at the Clarion Riverside Hotel in Rochester from **October 12 - 14, 2007** are well underway. This year's conference theme is "*Languages: Connecting Students to the World.*" Our keynote speaker is Carol Bellamy. Ms. Bellamy is currently President and CEO of World Learning, President of the School for International Training, Former Executive Director of UNICEF, and Former Director of the United States Peace Corps. Workshop proposals are being accepted on-line until April 1st. For further information, check out the NYS AFLT website at [www.nysafl.org](http://www.nysafl.org).

## **Public Advocacy Update**

NYS AFLT has been promoting a bill in the New York State Senate and Assembly which consists of two parts: 1) funding for 5 elementary schools in low-income districts to start FLES programs and 2) funding for scholarships for 100 college students choosing a career in LOTE education. The present status of the bill appears quite positive. With the help of our NYSUT Legislative Representative, we have met again with the bill sponsors Senator Joseph Robach and Assemblyman Paul Tonko, and

with Governor Spitzer's Budget Committee to discuss inclusion of our bill in the 2007 State Legislative Budget. We should be finding out the results of these efforts in the spring. Check the Advocacy link on the NYS AFLT website for further updates.

## **Visit our website!**

Have you ever wished that you could just click a few buttons and renew your membership? How about easily research LOTE jobs or summer scholarships abroad? Well, your wish has come true: at [www.nysafl.org](http://www.nysafl.org), you can now find all this and more. Webmaster Kenneth Hughes has included a link to his own tech blog, where you can find tips on integrating technology in the classroom, video-conferencing matches, and even the latest music videos from Spain!

Upon visiting this web address, you are first welcomed by NYS AFLT President Joanne O'Toole on the home page. There are also links to contact your local officers, find regional news, and look up important conference dates. On-line shoppers can even purchase merchandise with the NYS AFLT logo! Members can also find out which exhibitors will be at various conferences.

The home page has some fun and informative features, as well. There are

periodic polls to discover members' views on a variety of topics. A recent feature highlights the "Voices of NYS AFLT": visit soon and listen your colleagues from around the state!

Speaking of members, there is a "Members Only" section of the NYS AFLT website. No, it's not a flashback to '80s fashion! Rather, it is a password protected section for members to visit and learn more about awards, scholarships, and job placement. Membership renewal is facilitated on this part of the website as well as retrieval of archived NYS AFLT articles.

The NYS AFLT website is a great way to stay informed on a variety of topics germane to our profession. A user-friendly format makes it an easy and pleasant experience to remain updated. Visit us soon at [www.nysafl.org](http://www.nysafl.org)!

## **Regional News**

### ***Capital District Update***

COLT held its first meeting of 2007 at Farnsworth Middle School on February 9. The attendees reconnected with area language teachers, heard about the latest from NYS AFLT and snacked on delicious Italian pastries. Thanks to all who braved the snow and cold on this Friday afternoon.

COLT announces that the Capital District Regional Conference will be held on **March 24th**, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at NYSUT Headquarters in Latham. There will be a range of workshops, vendors and a continental breakfast. Joanne O'Toole, President of NYSAFLT and Nancy Ketz from Public Advocacy will be in attendance to answer questions and the keynote speaker will be Josie Prozik. Watch your mailbox for a registration form soon!

### *New York City*

NYSAFLT-NYCAFLT / UFT co-chairs Gary Milgrom and Ronnie Maibaum welcomed New York City LOTE educators to the NYSAFLT-NYCAFLT/UFT Annual Professional Conference on October 28, 2006. NYSAFLT 1st Vice President Paul Sabatino brought a message of support from President Lou Baskinger and then spoke eloquently of the importance of foreign languages. The keynote speaker, NYC Director Rosa Riccio-Pietanza, addressed the conference theme, "World Languages: Speak Up, Speak Out", and enthusiastically summoned the audience to be active proponents in promoting foreign language study in both their schools and communities. Three hundred thirty-nine teachers and student teachers were given the opportunity to attend 26 workshops and to view the latest materials from publishers' exhibits. The

committee will be celebrating its Tenth Anniversary Conference in 2007. They look forward to providing more professional development opportunities to New York City foreign language educators.

## **2007 NYSAFLT Poster Contest Winners**

The winning entries have been selected for the 2007 NYSAFLT Poster Contest. The creations were selected for their creativity and originality in reflecting this year's theme: "Discover the Power of Language!" The winning entries were created by:

Elementary Division- Gabrielle Lebow from Harbor Country Day School (Teacher: Jo Ann Chiet); Middle School Division- Gene Kum from Harbor Country Day School (Teacher: Jo Ann Chiet); High School Division- Neena Mahajan from the Bronx High School of Science (Teacher: Georgia Thanasoulis); and the Grand Prize winner was Katherine Locke from Forestville MS/HS (Teacher: Laurie Becker).

Congratulations to all participating students for sharing their talents and to their teachers for promoting enthusiasm towards language study.

## **Newsletter Editor**

My name is Mary Leptak and I am happy to be your new newsletter editor. I look forward to serving NYSAFLT through this endeavor. The former editor, Sue Hochmuth, has been very helpful in creating a smooth transition-Thanks, Sue!

I would love to receive feedback from you, the Membership! Contact me with ideas for articles at: [newsletter@nysaflt.org](mailto:newsletter@nysaflt.org).

I am always looking for LOTE happenings to highlight! Your event might provide an idea for a colleague elsewhere in the state, so please share all the newsworthy things that happen in your region!

## **NECTFL Mead Leadership Fellow**

One of our own members, Fran Malkin, has been selected as a 2007 NECTFL Mead Leadership Fellow. Through the application process, she planned an outreach project which will benefit her students and the community at large.

Ms. Malkin's interest lies in Service Learning: how can teachers serve the greater community while maintaining the academic goals of their

foreign language courses and improving their students' overall proficiency? She outlined a program that she planned to implement as an ancillary seminar to her Level II Spanish course at SUNY College at Old Westbury.

At Old Westbury, there is already a program called "Civic Engagement" that links service learning to other courses. Ms. Malkin sought to serve the community and, at the same time, reach academic standards in her Spanish classes. When asked how an educator can pursue such a goal, Ms. Malkin suggested, "See where the community needs lie (the Latino community) and integrate the needs of the community with what you teach in your classroom. You're serving the community and you're serving your students' academic needs at the same time."

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages has prescribed five Standards for LOTE education, including Communities, which stipulates that "Students use the language both within and beyond the school setting." Ms. Malkin was determined to make that happen. She has designed a program that goes beyond the classroom walls. Her program has gained her recognition as a future leader and provided students with real life learning experiences.

For example, in her community, there is a "Reach Out and Read program" in

local doctors' offices. Her students are able to create stories to read to the Spanish-speaking youngsters while their parents go for medical care. She also tries to tie in units with the services provided, such as having a food drive while teaching a unit on nutritional topics in Spanish.

Applicants for the Mead Program are required to first apply through their state organization, which then selects one for submission to NECTFL. Ms. Malkin applied for the 2007 NECTFL Mead Leadership Fellows Program through NYSAFLT. In her nomination letter, President Joanne O'Toole wrote, "the applicant, Fran L. Malkin, has put forth a viable and well-thought-out proposal that is worthy of NECTFL's support. It has an inclusive design that serves several communities and goals simultaneously." As part of the program, Ms. Malkin plans to make a presentation on her program at the 2008 Northeast Conference and other conferences in the upcoming year.

## **Call for Award Nominations**

NYSAFLT is proud to present awards to outstanding educators, administrators and leaders in LOTE instruction at our Annual Meeting. Now is the time for members to submit nominations for these prestigious awards. The deadline is **May 1, 2007.**

## **NYSACards**

### **Thank You**

**In honor of  
Linda Knickerbocker  
with thanks for support and  
friendship over the years**

**Maria Ann Carpenter**

### **In Memoriam**

**In Memory of  
Walter L. Tenny**

**Terence L. Tenny**

Are there people that you would like to recognize or honor? Remember you can now 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 scholarship fund of your choice.

Cards may be obtained by going to [www.nysaftl.org](http://www.nysaftl.org), clicking on "Services" and then "Donations" or by sending a check (made payable to NYSAFLT) to:

NYSAFLT Headquarters  
2400 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

# Mark Your Calendars



## March

- 01-31** National Foreign Language Month
- 03** Buffalo Regional Mtg. NYSAFLT/ WNYFLEC
- 05-11** National Foreign Language Week
- 10** Rochester Regional Mtg.
- 15** Deadline: NYSAFLT/ AATI Italian Cultural Institute Award

- 24** Capital Regional Mtg. NYSAFLT/ COLT
- 24** Westchester Regional Mtg. NYSAFLT/WAFLE

## April

- 15** Deadline: NYSAFLT/ Academia Tica Costa Rica Award
- 15** Deadline: NYSAFLT Cemanahuac Award
- 15** Deadline: NYSAFLT Goethe Institute Award
- 15** Deadline: Regional Selection of Fulvi Student Awards
- 15** Deadline: NYSAFLT Scholarship for Study in Québec Application
- 15** Deadline: Undergraduate/ Graduate Student Scholarship Applications

- 23-24** Board of Regents Mtg.
- 27-28** Colloquium (Buffalo)

## May

- 01** Deadline: June *Newsletter*
- 01** Deadline: NYSAFLT French Cultural Services Award
- 01** Deadline: James E. Allen Application
- 01** Deadline: Nominees for NYSAFLT Annual Meeting Awards
- 15** Deadline: July Journal
- 21-22** Board of Regents Mtg.
- 22** Deadline: Nominees for ACTFL/NYSAFLT Papalia Award

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