



NYS AFLT NEWS

New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers

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The President's Corner



Joanne O'Toole

In 1988, I began my career as a foreign language teacher and as a member of NYS AFLT. It wasn't a coincidence that I began both the same year. Rather, it was the result of an invitation made by members of the department I had just joined. For them, being a first-rate foreign language teacher meant being an active member of NYS AFLT. Until I received their invitation, I was unaware that NYS AFLT existed. Until I attended NYS AFLT events with them, I was unaware of what NYS AFLT had to offer me professionally and personally.

As this new school year begins, I ask you to consider

the power of an invitation, your invitation, to your new colleagues. Make them aware that NYS AFLT exists. Invite them to join you at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Help them learn what NYS AFLT has to offer them professionally and personally.

There are many ways that NYS AFLT can particularly support new teachers. Because they are newly-hired, however, it takes time for their names to arrive on NYS AFLT's mailing list. So your role in educating these new colleagues about the benefits of NYS AFLT membership is *critical*. Here is what you can tell them:

NYS AFLT Has Resources!
Show your new colleagues the NYS AFLT website, this newsletter, and the Language Journal. Tell them about the updates you receive regularly via the Listserv and about the hidden treasures in the Members Only section of the website. But, most of all, tell them about the amazing network of people that make up NYS AFLT and that can support them in becoming first-rate foreign language teachers.

NYS AFLT Offers Professional Development!
Teachers certified in New York State since February 2004 have to accumulate 175 hours of professional development every five years to maintain their professional certification. Tell your new colleagues that teachers who attend the NYS AFLT Annual Meeting, Colloquium, Summer Institute, and Regional Meetings can gather over 60 hours of content-specific professional development in a single year!

NYS AFLT Offers Professional Opportunities!
As teachers, we all seek opportunities to continue growing, especially in our knowledge of language and culture. Tell your new colleagues about the many travel grants NYS AFLT offers annually. How might studying in Costa Rica, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Québec, or Russia support their learning? Closer to home, NYS AFLT offers scholarships to the Summer Institute and the Annual Meeting, where they can learn from experienced foreign language professionals. And to enhance their in-school endeavors, NYS AFLT offers Teacher Incentive and Cultural Grants.

While you're extending invitations to your new colleagues, don't forget to extend them to your experienced colleagues...even if they've declined in the past. They may know about NYS AFLT, but not about all that it currently has to offer.

They may feel that it's someone else's organization. You can make them feel welcomed, and I will be happy to do so as well. Send me an email (jotoole@nysaflt.org) telling me whom to invite, and I'll extend an invitation too!

And don't forget to invite your administrators to become members of NYS AFLT. Our resources aren't exclusively for teachers. Administrators are always trying to understand issues faced by the content area teachers with whom they work. Through NYS AFLT membership, they can become fully informed and be kept up-to-date. As informed professionals, they can join us in advocating for what we so deeply value...foreign language education.

Send an e-mail to NYS AFLT Headquarters today and request your supply of our glossy membership brochures or, go to www.nysaflt.org, and click on "Membership," where you can download and print membership brochures and forms. Hand them to your new colleagues, your experienced colleagues, and your administrators. Extend an invitation to join you in being a first-rate foreign language educator.

Making the Most of Your Annual Meeting Experience

Hopefully, by now, you have registered for the Annual Meeting, which will be held at

the Clarion Riverside Hotel in Rochester on October 12 – 14, and all that remains to be done is pack. If not, don't worry! You can still go to the NYS AFLT website and get registration information, which is also available in your Summer Journal. Once you're registered, here are some helpful hints for making the most of your conference experience.

- Recognize that many volunteers have given freely of their time and talents to make this conference a reality. If you encounter any problems or concerns please be kind in your exchanges with members of hospitality, registration, etc.
- Remember that presenters are volunteers, also. They give their time to prepare, present, make their handouts, etc. Be a polite attendee. Listen attentively during the session. Do not take a handout unless you intend to stay for the session. If there are extra handouts, they will be available at the Hospitality Booth.
- Acknowledge and thank our vendors. Without them we might not have lanyards, bags, coffee breaks, and receptions. Our vendors are important to making this weekend happen.
- Take time to visit their booths and realize that we have Exhibitor Showcase workshop sessions so that they can familiarize you with their products. Since our exhibitors are only in attendance on Saturday, understand that

most Exhibitor Showcases must be scheduled for sessions A, B and C.

- Look at the program carefully to select the workshops that will best meet your needs. There are many to choose from, and some may be more appropriate for you than others. Also, understand that scheduling these workshops is a complicated process and we do our best to balance out the workshops, but we do have certain limitations.
- If you are planning on getting in-service credit for workshops, be sure to have your in-service credit sheet signed by the presenter for each session and present this signature sheet at the Hospitality Booth before leaving. You will then receive your certificate to take back to your school district.
- Welcome the CAES members who will be joining us for this weekend. They will be wearing traditional garb for the Saturday banquet and have invited us to join them in this.
- Support our student scholarships by buying a raffle ticket for the baskets that will have been prepared by each NYSAFLT region and CAES. Tickets are two for one dollar or 12 for five dollars and will be available at the Hospitality Booth. The drawing will begin on Saturday at 3:45 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall, and you will need to be present to win.
- Consider presenting a

workshop next year. Think of your strengths and what you can share with your fellow educators.

- Enjoy this special time of sharing with your colleagues. Refresh your spirit by being among others who share your passion for language, travel, and culture. On Monday, you will be able to return to your classroom and your students with renewed dedication.
- Help us to prepare for next year's Annual Meeting by completing your evaluation with constructive criticism. Don't be afraid to tell us what you liked or didn't like. We are always striving to improve!

Summer Institute



Collegiality abounds at the Summer Institute!



(Photos courtesy of Bill Ryall)

Bidi-bidi bom bom, bidi bom bom... as the Selena lyrics were sung by presenter extraordinaire **Laurie Clarcq**,

smiles lit up across the room. LOTE teachers experienced first hand activities to brighten the days and light up the minds of students. And so went this year's NYSAFLT Summer Institute, held from Tuesday, July 31st to Friday, August 3rd on the beautiful campus of SUNY Oneonta. It was a wonderful four days of learning and collegiality in a bucolic setting. NYSAFLT thanks Chairperson **Sue Barnes** and Co-Chairpersons **Laurie Clarcq** and **Toni Johnson** for their hard work in organizing this successful event.

The program started on Tuesday with lunch and a welcome address by NYSAFLT President **Joanne O'Toole**. After, participants attended dynamic, interactive workshops each day, interspersed with meals and social events - even an immersion reception on movie night!

There was a variety of workshops to reach the interests and needs of attendees. **Sue Hochmuth** presented a collection of original and adapted songs, games and activities for the LOTE classroom. **Sue Barnes** had attendees participate in "Let's Connect," based on an activity from **Toni Johnson**, a memorable way to get students communicating in the target language. **John Carlino**, **Ken Hughes** and **Mary McBride** presented workshops incorporating technology in different ways to enhance instruction. **Laurie Clarcq**

demonstrated the use of various media as well as games in the classroom and participants in **Joanne O'Toole's** workshop actually circulated to different (and fun!) stations, trying out innovative ways to integrate grammar. **Rosemary Fry** and **Toni Johnson** prepared an outstanding presentation on the teaching of art and culture in the target language.

The entire NYSAFLT Executive Board was present and welcomed **Mary Holmes** who traveled from NYSED to speak with attendees. There were also three Summer Institute Scholarship winners present: **Sarah Lawlor** and **Elizabeth Stacey** (pre-service winners) and **George Salamon** (active teacher). **Bill Ryall** of SUNY Oneonta captured the event in photos, found with this article and at www.nysaflt.org. NYSAFLT is deeply grateful to **Bill Ryall** for his sharing of time and talents.

The Summer Institute was attended this year by fifty-four members, ranging from pre-service teachers to retirees. The feeling of collegiality was outstanding. Many participants were previous attendees, and many more left with plans to return next year. The campus and housing were quite comfortable. Many participants gathered to socialize and network during free time, and there was also time allotted to process activities and share. Friday before departing, participants shared feedback

and enjoyed a slideshow of events. Participants truly collaborated throughout the sessions, leaving with much more than just in-service credits (earned in the summer, when the pressure is low!). There was a general feeling of enthusiasm to try out the new activities in the classroom.

Plans are already in the works for the 2008 Summer Institute, tentatively set for August 5th-8th at SUNY Oneonta. Event Chairperson **Sue Hochmuth** will be organizing another slate of wonderful activities. Plan to be there!

Leaders of Tomorrow

NYSAFLT continues in its commitment to the future of LOTE education and leadership through its "Leaders of Tomorrow" project, funded by **McDougal-Littell**. The participants, selected this spring, are: **Marissa Coulehan, Nathan Lutz, Patience Peebles, Peggy Sharkey,** and **Robin Thompson.**

The Leaders of Tomorrow participants attended leadership-training sessions at the Summer Institute and learned first hand about issues in foreign language leadership from leaders in the field. In particular, **Dr. Virginia Levine** of SUNY Cortland and former NYSAFLT President, **Dr. John Webb** of Princeton University, generously shared their time and expertise with these future leaders.

Ginny Levine focused on teacher preparation and certification issues. All teachers benefit from being aware of changes in certification requirements because it affects our programs and how new teachers perform. When pressures arise, teachers can better collaborate when well-informed. Accordingly, "We're All in This Together: Ensuring the Future of the LOTE Profession" was the theme of her session.

Also important is for teachers to be knowledgeable of standards. **Ginny Levine** referred to state standards, national standards, and the ACTFL Standards for LOTE teacher preparation. According to **Ginny Levine**, "Articulation and collaboration are all-important. They lead to mutual support in all aspects of LOTE and strengthen us as a profession."

John Webb focused on collaboration in his discussion with the group. He outlined the importance of schools taking responsibility in new teacher preparation, stating, "Schools have to have a more realistic expectation of entry level teachers." He spoke to the Leaders of Tomorrow of the need to reconfigure the teacher preparation process in this country and of the power of professional organizations to effect such reconfigurations. A three-year induction process would be a potentially successful way for new teachers to build a repertoire of skills.

A common theme in both leadership-training sessions was the importance of involvement in a variety of professional organizations. Collaboration is key to making the voices of LOTE educators heard in the future of education.

FLAP Grants Awarded

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings recently announced the recipients of FLAP (Foreign Language Assistance Program) Grants. A total of \$8,748,081 was given to schools nationally, including four in New York State, to address critical and non-critical language needs.

The following districts in New York State were awarded amounts ranging from \$46,435 to over \$200,000: the City School District of Albany; John Philip Sousa Middle School in the Bronx; the Mount Vernon City School District; and the NYC Department of Education, Region 10, District 3.

According to a press release on the website of the U.S. Department of Education, "Less than one percent of American high school students study Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Japanese, Korean, Russian or Urdu" (www.ed.gov). The grants address President Bush's National Security Language Initiative by supporting critical foreign language programs in grades K-12.

Funding of future FLAP Grants is not confirmed until the end of the fiscal year. NYSAFLT thanks Rebecca Richey, FLAP Program Manager at the U.S. Department of Education for providing information and statistics on the grants.

NYSED Corner

by Mary Holmes

Welcome back. I have just returned from visiting the NYSAFLT Summer Institute in Oneonta. I was impressed with the dedicated and enthusiastic teachers represented there. Special thanks go to the NYSAFLT Executive Committee for producing this worthwhile and informative professional development opportunity and for inviting me to visit.

I wanted to take a few minutes to describe my position at NYSED. It's interesting because it includes multiple responsibilities: everything from ensuring graduation compliance, professional development, researching best practices to assembling and presenting new programs to the Board of Regents. I am looking forward to speaking to a number of districts this fall. Some of the topics I have been asked to research include: Literature at Checkpoint A, Communicative Classrooms, and new initiatives in New York State. I am also responsible for helping school districts develop foreign language programs. There are

many inquiries from schools: everything from implementing FLES programs to adding critical languages. These inquiries show the energy surrounding foreign language instruction and the recognition of the need for our students to develop multiple language proficiencies in the 21st century.

Mary Holmes can be contacted at:

Mary Holmes

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Office of Bilingual Education
and Foreign Language Studies
Room 367 EBA*

Albany NY 12234

The New York State Education Department is seeking an additional LOTE Associate to join Mary Holmes in Albany. For more information about this position, go to: <http://www.oms.nysed.gov/hr/flyers/Article7Flyers/BEFL2.htm>.

Regional News

Long Island

The second half of the 2006-2007 academic school was filled with a number of events sponsored by LILT and other LOTE professional organizations. Our winter workshop series afforded language teachers the opportunity to attend workshops throughout Long Island on a variety of topics that enhanced and enriched their instruction.

Additionally, Long Island language students were able to participate in the Poster Contest sponsored by LILT together with the local chapters of AATSP, AATF, AATG, and the Suffolk Classical Society. The theme of this year's conference was "Languages Link Us Together." The judging took place on Thursday, March 22nd at the Old Bethpage Restoration facility where the judges selected winners from 332 posters submitted by 130 teachers representing 64 schools! Three of the winning posters will grace the covers of the LILT/NYSAFLT Regional Conference's program this November.

Long Island students also participated in the Student Language Competition, held on March 24, 2007. Areas of competition included original poetry, original essay, language production video, multi-media computer presentation, poetry recitation, international dance, and international vocal music.

The LILT Spring Meeting was held on May 15th. 43 members attended this annual event. Two Long Island teachers, **Maria José Lloréns** (Earl Vandermuellen H.S.) and **JoAnn Esrick** (Elmont Memorial H.S.), received the LILT Teacher Incentive Awards for their innovative projects. **Melanie Spergel**, a language student from Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School, received the Lucille DiPietro Lambert Award for Excellence in Second Language Studies on

Long Island. Her nominating teacher, **Deborah Hershkowitz**, praised Melanie for her dedication and commitment to her studies.

LILT is gearing up for another successful year, beginning with the General Membership meeting on September 25th at the Manor East in Massapequa. This meeting allows teachers the opportunity to share ideas and news from the local language teaching community.

The LILT/NYSAFLT Regional Conference will be held on Saturday, November 3rd at Accomsett Middle School in Smithtown, Long Island. There will be four sessions during which attendees can attend workshops and visit the many vendors who regularly exhibit at our conference. The "Early Bird" registration deadline is October 5th, and the theme of this year's conference is "Languages: The Core of the Global Community." The latest information about any LILT events is always available at www.liltfl.org!

Buffalo

On Saturday, March 3, 2007, WNYFLEC and NYSAFLT co-sponsored the Annual Buffalo Regional Conference at West Seneca West Middle School in West Seneca, NY. About 175 LOTE teachers were in attendance for many diverse workshops—from teaching vocabulary to dancing the merengue.

Thursday, June 7th was the date for the Annual Student Awards Ceremony that took place at Amherst High School. Students from all over Western New York were nominated by their teachers to receive awards for excellence in LOTE achievement.

Laurie Becker's Spanish student, **Katherine Locke**, an 8th grader from Forestville Central Schools, designed the winning NYSAFLT poster for Foreign Language Week 2007.

NYSACards

Are there people that you would like to recognize or honor? 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 NYSAFLT scholarship fund.

Cards may be obtained at www.nysaflt.org. Click on "Donate." You may also mail a check (made payable to NYSAFLT) and your request to:

NYSAFLT Headquarters
2400 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

2008 NYSAFLT Poster Contest

The theme for the January 2008 poster contest is ***“Languages: Connecting Students to the World.”*** This is an excellent way to review in your classes why your students need to learn languages other than English. Share your ideas with other teachers in your district and get your students started early on the project. There will be three divisions: elementary, middle and high school. The winner in each division will receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. The Grand Prize Poster will be awarded a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond and will be distributed statewide as the poster representing National Foreign Language Week. The Grand Prize winning poster will also be framed and presented at a regional NYSAFLT event. Posters must be postmarked by **November 21st, 2007** to be eligible. **All** entries become the property of NYSAFLT upon submission and cannot be returned. The winners will be announced on the NYSAFLT website in the NYSAFLT Winter Newsletter.

Poster Contest Rules

- Size: 17” X 22” (K-5 entries may be 8-1/2” X 11” but not exceed 17” X 22”)
- Margins: 1” on all sides
- Orientation: Landscape or portrait acceptable
- Theme: ***“Languages: Connecting Students to the World”*** must be prominently displayed
- Color: black and white only
- Images: no copyrighted images are permissible
- Membership: submitting teacher must be a current member of NYSAFLT. Before submitting, please verify your membership status by sending an e-mail to hq@nysaft.org
- Number: limit of 5 entries per language taught within your district
- Mail entries in a mailing tube to:

Kathy Fagan * Schalmont High School * 1 Sabre Drive * Schenectady, NY 12306

Student Name (print): _____

Teacher: _____ Language / Level: _____ Grade : _____

Administrator Name: _____

School _____

School Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please photocopy this form (2 per poster), complete the information and attach one securely to the back of each poster. For our records, include a duplicate of each completed form in the same envelope as the poster.

Mark Your Calendars



September

- 10-11 Board of Regents Meeting
- 25 LILT General Membership Meeting

October

- 11-12 NYSAFLT Meetings: Executive Committee and Board - Rochester
- 12-14 NYSAFLT/CAES Annual Meeting
- 15 Deadline: Fall Journal
- 22-23 Board of Regents Meeting
- 26 Northern-West Regional Meeting
- 27 Southern Tier Regional Meeting
- 27 New York City Regional Meeting

November

- 01 Deadline: December *Newsletter*
- 03 Long Island Regional Meeting
- 03 Mid-Hudson Regional Meeting
- 03-04 NYSAFLT Meetings: Executive Committee/Annual Meeting Planning - Buffalo
- 15-18 ACTFL/AATG Conference, San Antonio, TX

December

- 01 Deadline: NECTFL Mead Scholar Application
- 13-14 Board of Regents Meeting

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