



Since 1917

NYSAFLT

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News

A quarterly publication of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Inc.
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The President's Corner

"A TIME FOR REFLECTION"

Happy June NYSAFLT members! The June issue of the newsletter is only one sign that the school year is coming to a close. The mad rush to finish teaching the year's curriculum, the review classes to give extra preparation for the final assessments, and the administration of speaking tests during every spare moment are part of each language teacher's May and June. This June may be the end of the first year of teaching for

some and the end of a career for others. For the rest of us, it is the end of another year along the way.

In any case, it is a time for reflection on the past year. Reflection is key to personal and professional development. It is a process for examining and evaluating what has been done, including ideas for any needed adjustments and/or improvements. As a teacher, the end of the year provides a perfect opportunity to look back and reflect on the year, what went well and what could be done differently. Thoughts that go through your mind might be: "Oh, I really wanted to try this, but never got around to it;" "That ___ activity went really well. I think I will do more of that type next year;" "I have to find other ways to reach some of the disengaged students;" "I need to learn more about _____," etc. As you reflect on the past school year, I sincerely hope that you see more positives and growth than disappointment and lack. I also hope that NYSAFLT was part of your professional life and development this year.

As a teacher, I have already begun my personal reflection on my school year. There are many things that I feel good about, but there are also areas where I feel the need to develop and grow. I will never be the teacher that I want to be, but I will continue the journey to get there!

As President of NYSAFLT, even though my term is only half over, I have looked back at changes and events that have occurred this school year in our organization. Of course, the Annual Meeting in October brought many of us together to learn, share and network with others from across the state. The spring Colloquium in Albany provided multiple opportunities to learn about and discuss culture and how language teachers can effectively incorporate it into classes. Two very exciting initiatives, an online newsletter and webinars to prepare our students for the NYS Regents exam, were successfully implemented this year. Throughout the year, the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and the NYSAFLT staff have been working diligently to provide its members with maximum benefits while being fiscally responsible.

So, as you reflect on the past school year and look forward to the next, I encourage you to include NYSAFLT in your plans. Now is the time to request support to attend the Summer Institute in Oneonta. Attendees often refer to it as “summer camp for language teachers!” It always provides a multitude of opportunities to expand your repertoire of strategies and activities, as well as connect with other teachers over a period of four days. It is also not too early to register for the Annual Conference in October, held this year for the first time in Buffalo. Don’t be overwhelmed by distance if you live in the eastern part of the state; flights can often be more economical than driving! Also, please stay on the alert for professional development opportunities offered via webinars. The goal is to offer these as another benefit of NYSAFLT membership in the coming school year.

Teaching is a dynamic, exciting profession. And, in my humble opinion, teaching a language other than English is the best. WE are the best! So, as you close out this school year, reflect on the positive impact you have had on the lives of your students and know that you are appreciated.

Have a great June and enjoy a restful, fun and rejuvenating summer. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming NYSAFLT events.

--Sue Barnes



The 2009 NYSAFLT Summer Institute will take place at SUNY College at Oneonta from **August 4 through August 7**. This year’s theme, *Building the Basics, Raising the Standards*, will focus on articulation and how to maximize learning as students navigate from one checkpoint to the next.

Today’s students come to LOTE classes with a variety of second language experiences. We have students with years of FLES, students in the second year of a traditional middle school program, high school students earning college credit and needing Checkpoint C challenges, and students with heritage language skills. Yet, despite the diversity of our students and their needs, we all have a similar goal: to challenge our students to achieve higher levels of second language proficiency.

The Summer Institute 2009 will focus on “what’s next” after the first year of a LOTE class. Workshops will offer instructional strategies in the four skills -- reading, writing, listening and speaking -- in order to develop our students’ linguistic ability beyond the first year. The variety of workshop topics ranges from reading, writing, AP exams, TPRS, maximizing target language use, theatre games to build proficiency, technology help, using YouTube, working with heritage speakers and, as a special treat, learning to dance! Presenters will help our teachers develop lessons plans and offer classroom-tested activities that facilitate language development in Checkpoint A and into Checkpoints B and C

Come enjoy a breath of fresh air in professional development! Join other LOTE educators from across the state at beautiful SUNY Oneonta for collegial learning, sharing and fun. There is even an immersion reception. This relaxed atmosphere is certain to provide a pleasant summer learning experience for all attendees!



NYSAFLT's 92nd Annual Conference

October 9 – 11, 2009

The 92nd Annual Conference of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers will be held at the Buffalo Hyatt Regency and Buffalo-Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo, New York. This year's theme is: ***Language Teachers: Seeing the Needs, Making a Difference.*** **Terry Caccavale**, Holliston Public Schools, Immediate Past President of the National Network for Early Language Learning (NNELL), will be the keynote speaker.

More than 100 workshops are scheduled, focusing on topics such as the NYS Standards and Assessments, FLES programs and strategies, Total Physical Response Storytelling (TPRS), Advanced Placement examinations, using music, film, and art in the classroom, classroom management strategies, new teacher training and methodology, differentiated learning strategies, and technology. Some workshops will be offered in French, Spanish, German, Italian, and Chinese. There will also be a variety of swap shops, cultural updates, panel discussions, and publisher showcases.

Pre-conference Workshops:

Communication + Culture + Content = Checkpoint C
Bill Heller

Communicative Activities for Checkpoints B and C
Vickie Mike, Ed.D.

Everyone's an ALL-STAR!
Laurie Clarcq and Karen Moretti

The French Connection: Niagara Historical Tour
Deborah Carlson

LOTE- Beyond the Conventional Classroom!
Laura Barrett and Michael LaPaglia

Más Música Para Maestros
Kenneth Hughes and Karen Martín Sánchez

Regents: Administering, Rating & Tips for Success
Al Martino

Using Quia
Maria Holland and Lisa Morgan

Post-conference Workshops

Film, Literature and Art in the French Classroom
Eileen Angelini, Ph.D.

The French Connection: Niagara Historical Tour
Deborah Carlson

Latin America Live
Rosemary Fry

Rating the NYS Proficiency Exam
Mary Holmes

Tackling Technology
Jennifer Edelman Shaeffer

For more information, check the website at:

<http://www.nysaflt.org>.

Registration will be open soon!



2009 NYSAFLT Colloquium

On April 24 and 25, over fifty LOTE teachers met at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel in Albany to discuss the second LOTE standard: Culture. This year's theme, *Our Second Standard: Integrating and Assessing Culture in the LOTE Curriculum*, provided the framework for the weekend.

On Friday afternoon, participants attending the pre-conference workshop examined the idea of *'The Big C' and 'the little c' – Teaching Culture Creatively*. **Anita Ekstam** and **Sybil Saposnick**, teachers from Connetquot Central School, shared many ideas for various activities and projects to integrate culture into daily lessons.

After dinner, keynote speaker **Bill Heller** shared his personal two year journey into the study of culture. He talked about his starting point: a conference held in Georgia where the 3 P's -- perspectives, practices and products -- were discussed. Bill also offered the three questions that he would address in his speech: What should the content of the culture curriculum be? What should the teaching of culture look like? How can we assess student learning of culture? In order to get the full benefit of Bill's thoughts, please go to the NYSAFLT website and you can see and/or hear his keynote speech in its entirety.

On Saturday morning, three panelists, **Anita Ekstam**, **Bill Heller**, and **Joanne O'Toole**, offered thought-provoking ideas for our participants to consider as they discussed the content, integration, and assessment of culture in our LOTE curriculum. Attendees then broke out into three discussion groups to consider one of these aspects. After an hour of collegial discourse, the individual groups came back to report to the whole group. For more information on the comments and ideas of the groups, watch for an upcoming edition of the *Language Association Journal*. **Patricia Martínez de la Vega Mansilla** will be compiling the different groups' responses to the theme in an article for the *Journal*.

The Colloquium concluded Saturday afternoon with two Post-conferences. **David Graham** and **Louise Pilon Graham** brought culture to life in their presentation *Samuel de Champlain: The Father of New France*. In period costumes, David and Louise became Samuel de Champlain and his wife H el ene Boull e and took us back to 1634. In the second half of the workshop, participants got to enjoy video, musical and text extracts from the Quadricentennial celebrated in Qu ebec in 2008.

The second conference, entitled *Tune into Culture with YouTube*, was presented by **Deb Carlson** and **Toni Johnson**. Deb and Toni treated participants to a variety of ways to use the popular website YouTube to integrate culture into their lessons. The presenters showed clips of movies, music videos, traditional celebrations, film footage, etc., that could be used to engage students in the world of languages.

A special thanks to all presenters, panelists, volunteers and participants who contributed to a wonderful weekend of rich collegial exchange and helped to make the Colloquium a success.



Regional News

Capital Region

The Capital Regional Conference, co-sponsored by NYSAFLT and COLT, was held on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at Farnsworth Middle School, Guilderland. The theme was *Language Education: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*. This star-studded event was kicked off with our keynote speaker **Dr. Vickie Mike**, 2009 NYS Teacher of the Year. Workshops were held by DJ Webmaster **Ken Hughes** and former SED Associate/current NYSAFLT Second Vice President **Mary Holmes**. There were workshops on TPRS, differentiated instruction, Checkpoints A & B, FLES, Chinese and technology. Regional Directors **Jill Dugan** and **Mike Mitchell** were pleased with one of the highest attendance rates ever: 96 people. To see the photos, please visit: <http://capitallanguageteachers.org/conferenceevents>.

Syracuse Region

This year's annual FLACNY May Celebration was an exciting event for students, teachers and upcoming retirees! The celebration, at Drumlin's Country Club, began at 5 p.m. with hors d'œuvres and a drum recital. **David Etse Nyadedzor**, Master Drummer from Ghana, gave an introduction to African drumming and the use of drums in African cultures. Following the drumming session, FLACNY celebrated the accomplishments of local student scholarship winners: **Kelly Riley** from Westhill High School and **Katharyn Woodworth** from G. Ray Bodley High School won FLACNY Student Scholarships. They had been nominated by their teachers, **Elizabeth O'Hara** (Westhill) and **Staci Ferris-Letsos** (G. Ray Bodley). NYSAFLT also presented their Student Scholarship winners: **Madison Porter** from Edmeston Central School won the NYSAFLT Love of Language Award. She had been nominated by her teacher, **Sirkka Horvath**. **Kelly Riley** from Westhill also won the NYSAFLT Philip A. Fulvi Award. She had been nominated by her teacher, **Elizabeth O'Hara**. The evening ended on a high note when current and retired teachers came together to honor three retiring foreign language teachers: **Cynthia Hering** (Cortland CSD), **Claudia Resnick** (Liverpool CSD), and **Georgette Schmidt** (Jamesville-DeWitt SD).

The Foreign Language Association of Central New York voted to remove the word "foreign" from its title. Effective June 1, 2009, FLACNY will be known as **Language Educators of Central New York**, or **LECNY**. This change follows many conversational threads from the organization's members, as well as input from non-members, in order for the organization's name to better reflect who we are as outlined in our existing mission. Rather than limiting our organization to one that serves only the teachers of "foreign" languages, we are showing our truly inclusive nature to reflect that we support the teaching of all world languages. Our new website will be www.lecny.net.



Long Island Region

On Saturday, March 21st, the judging for the LILT Student Foreign Language Competition took place at Bay Shore Middle School. Thanks go out to the many volunteer judges without whom none of this would have been possible.

The LILT Spring Membership Meeting was held on Thursday, May 14 at HR Singleston's in Bethpage, N.Y. Retirees were honored, as well as honorees for awards and scholarships.

AATI-LI sponsored an Italian Dance Workshop on Friday, April 24 at Commack HS Dance Studio. The dances presented were the quadriglia, tarantella and the mazurka. The organization's Annual Dante Award and Scholarship Luncheon was held on Saturday, May 16 at the Pompei Restaurant in West Hempstead.

The AATSP-LI Annual End-of-the-Year Reception will be held on Wednesday, June 3 at Jericho High School in Jericho, NY. The Judy Abrams Scholarship winner will be announced, along with Premio de Oro winners of the National Spanish Exam and winners of the Victor Baptiste Essay contest.

The AATF-LI hosted a French class night at the Nassau Coliseum with the NY Islanders hockey team on April 2. Guest speakers included **Bruno Gervais**.

New York City Region

On April 4, 2009, over 70 LOTE teachers joined NYCAFLT for our 2nd Annual Spring Development Workshops which took place at the United Federation of Teachers Headquarters at 52 Broadway. The half day of workshops offered topics such as *Bringing Drama into the LOTE Classroom*, *QTEL Strategies in the LOTE Classroom* and *Maximizing the Advantages of Heritage Language Peer Models into Your Checkpoint A Classroom*. It also provided a venue for LOTE educators to interact with colleagues from all over the NYC metropolitan area. We feel a great sense of satisfaction for helping NYC LOTE teachers meet their professional development needs and are looking forward to our 12th Annual Professional Development Conference on **Saturday, November 7, 2009**.

Rochester Region

On Saturday, March 14, approximately 125 participants gathered at Nazareth College for the Rochester Regional Conference. The theme was "**Wake Up Your Students...Opportunities Await!**" The keynote speaker was **Kin T. Chee**, Associate for Foreign Language Studies at the New York State Department of Education. The Friends of the Foreign Language Award was given to the Rochester Museum and Science Center.

The Rochester Regional Planning Committee, chaired by **Ida Wilder** and **Lucy Ferruzza**, would like to thank everyone who came to the conference. We are looking forward to next year! If you live in the Rochester region and would like to join the planning committee or share your ideas, please contact your regional directors, Lucy Ferruzza Lucy_Ferruzza@eastiron.monroe.edu or Karen Moretti kmoretti@wcs.k12.ny.



Mid-Hudson Region

Congratulations to Joan Trivilino of Port Jervis and Margit Kaindl-Richer of Onteora whose students have been awarded the 2009 Fulvis for the Mid-Hudson Region.

We would like to invite you to the annual dinner for ALOUD (Association of Language Teachers of Orange, Ulster, Dutchess, and Greene Counties). This year's event will be held at Momiji Japanese Fusion Cuisine in Stone Ridge, New York on Thursday, May 14 at 5:00 pm. For reservations contact Ana Gatta at sra-analia@hvc.rr.com

ALOUD has had a very successful year with several wonderful workshops. In March, Bill Ryall gave an inspiring presentation on the LOTE teacher and photography. We also just finished a SMARTboards workshop with Linda Valk where we had access to three SMARTboards and the opportunity to create and share interactive materials in French, Spanish, and German to use with our students. ALOUD offers in-service hours for five professional workshops each year and an annual conference in addition to a dinner for its members. We would like to encourage all Mid-Hudson NYSAFLT members to join ALOUD. For more information on membership contact Ana Gatta at sra-analia@hvc.rr.com

Ulster BOCES also offers professional development in-service workshops several times a year for LOTE teachers in the Hudson Valley. This year's topics have included bookmaking, grants, holiday traditions, art, practical strategies, and literacy. For more information on the World Languages Work Group contact Maureen Chiasso at mchiasso@mhrinc.org

Promote foreign languages for our students by encouraging attendance at one of the local immersion summer camps in the area. High Meadow Language Camp in Stone Ridge, New York offers one week of French and one week of Spanish for children entering grades K-6 from June 29 through July 10. The Summer Language Institute at Bard College offers two weeks of French and Spanish for children entering grades 2-6 from July 13-24. For both camps contact Diana Zuckerman at dianazuck@yahoo.com

The Language Immersion Institute at SUNY New Paltz provides a two-week residential program of Spanish, French, Arabic, Chinese, Italian and Japanese for students entering grades 7 - 10 at Frost Valley YMCA Camp from August 9 - 21. Contact Annie Gallin at gallina@newpaltz.edu

We would love to hear from you. Please keep us posted regarding any foreign language related events in the Mid-Hudson Region. Contact Geraldine Popko at gbpopko@verizon.net or Diana Zuckerman at dianazuck@yahoo.com

Westchester Region

WAFLE would like to thank everyone for a fantastic year and an exceptional regional conference. We had outstanding presentations from a variety of presenters about using technology, teaching K-6, including art and music, teaching Chinese through culture and many other wonderful contributions!

As you know, NYSAFLT has recently gone through a re-organization and regional affiliates can no longer remain in that status. Associations formerly known as 'regional affiliates' must now decide whether they would like to become independent organizations (if not so already) or if they would rather function as a region of NYSAFLT, under NYSAFLT's auspices. Our members have voted, and WAFLE will start the work to become an independent organization. Anyone interested in joining our constitution committee should contact Nancy Kress at: nkress@briarcliffschools.org. Once WAFLE goes through the process of establishing independence, it will seek organizational membership in NYSAFLT.



Position Available: NYSAFLT is seeking an editor to begin a new three-year term beginning in January!

Responsibilities include:

- Compiling information from Board meetings, various NYSAFLT committees and related organizations for four yearly publications.
- Preparing an electronic file copy of the Newsletter and forwarding it to the Editorial Review Committee. The Editor is the primary person responsible for copy-editing.
- Serving as Publicity Chairperson on the Annual Conference Planning Committee.
- Participating in the Anthony J. Papalia Award Committee deliberations.
- Attending the Colloquium, Summer Institute, Annual Conference, and Board meetings at the discretion of the President to report and take pictures.

If interested in this position, please send the following by July 15 to President-Elect Sue Hochmuth at shochmuth@nysaflt.org:

- An email outlining your qualifications for the job
- A current resumé
- A sample of your writing – either an article you have written or a fictitious article for the *NYSAFLT News*.

Congratulations . . . to the following members of NYSAFLT who will be retiring at the end of this school year: Regina Cabrera, Shirley Evans, Philip Hunter, Bill Ryall, Cynthia Hering, Jean LeLoup, and Georgette M. Schmidt. Your colleagues wish you good health and happiness as you embark upon a new chapter in your life!

Dues increase: At its January meeting, the Board of Directors approved a slight dues increase effective July 1. All membership levels except student levels will increase five dollars. Dues were last raised a year and a half ago. The Board felt that a small increase now rather than a large increase later would be more appropriate to meet our budgetary needs. NYSAFLT provides \$13,000 in awards annually to its members and their students. These awards are funded primarily by membership dues and conference income. Rest assured that your membership dues are being put to good use!



NYS AFLT Philip A. Fulvi Student Awards

The 2009 Fulvi Awards have been announced. Congratulations and recognition for outstanding achievement in foreign language study is extended to the following students

REGION	AWARD	STUDENT	TEACHER
Buffalo	Student Scholarship	AnnMarie Rudin	Jennifer Bell
Capital	Student Scholarship	Kelsey Batchelder	Gail Griffin
	Student Recognition	Jamila Page	Veronica Swart
	Love of Language	Victoria Wood	Lisa Hancock
Long Island	Love of Language	Stefan Hugel	Judith Hecker
Mid-Hudson	Student Scholarship	Jodi Hotalen	Joan Trivilino
	Student Recognition	Kevin VanBlarcum	Margit Kaindl-Richer
Northern	Student Scholarship	Justin Lalone	Françoise Piron
	Love of Language	Emily Schultes	Jennifer Berie
NYC	Student Scholarship	Christopher Bitetto	Amparo Caruso
	Student Recognition	George Kaluski	Yan Jiang
	Love of Language	Yasmin Nelson	Marcia Dubrow
Rochester	Student Scholarship	Catherine Dick	Amy Krebbeks
	Student Recognition	Patrick Rivera	Carol Oakleaf
	Love of Language	Kourtnee Naegler	Jennifer Colbert
Southern Tier	Love of Language	Madison Porter	Sirkka Horvath
Syracuse	Student Scholarship	Kelly Riley	Elizabeth O'Hara
Westchester	Student Scholarship	Megan Mahoney	Alexis Thornton
	Student Recognition	Samantha Jones	Anne Zucker
	Love of Language	Ankeeta Shah	Marcia Heffler



NYSA Cards

Congratulations and best wishes to

Jean LeLoup

on her retirement from SUNY College at Cortland.

Congratulations to

Merryl H. Tisch

in honor of his election as Chancellor of the Board of Regents.

Sincere condolences to

Mary Leptak

upon the loss of her beloved mother.

Sincere condolences to

Josephine Maietta

upon the loss of her husband, Mauro.

Are there people that you would like to recognize or honor? 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 teacher travel scholarship.

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

NYSAFLT Headquarters
2400 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

Newsletter

If you have an idea that you have not seen highlighted in the *NYSAFLT News*, please be sure to send your ideas to the editor, **Mary Leptak**, at newsletter@nysaflt.org.



Mark Your Calendars!

June

- 01** Deadline: *Journal* Submissions
- 04-07** NYSAFLT Meetings: Executive and Financial Planning Committees, Board of Directors (Buffalo)
- 15** Deadline: Summer Institute Scholarship Applications
- 22-23** Board of Regents Meeting

July

- 01** Deadline: Teacher Incentive/Gertrude Rossin Cultural Grants
- 27-28** Board of Regents Meeting

August

- 01** Deadline: September *Newsletter* Submissions
- 03-04** Executive and Financial Planning Committee
- 04-07** Summer Institute
- 15** Deadline: Annual Conference Scholarship Application

Officers

President	Susan T. Barnes
President-Elect	Suzanne Hochmuth
First Vice-President	Nancy Ketz
Second Vice-President	Mary Holmes
Secretary	Toni P. Johnson
Treasurer	Deborah Carlson
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Don't miss a single issue!

Visit the Members Only area of the website for archived editions.

The NYSAFLT News is published by the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Inc.
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