



NYS AFLT 95th Annual Conference 2012

October 5-6, 2012

Saratoga Springs, New York

"Many Cultures, One World: A Celebration of Diversity"



William Anderson,
Conference Chair

**MANY CULTURES
ONE WORLD**
A Celebration of Diversity



Keynote speaker **Bill Heller**, a former Spanish teacher at the Perry School District and now methods instructor at SUNY Geneseo, is one of the most sought after presenters in the country.

The “*NYS AFLT 95th Annual Conference*” was held in beautiful Saratoga Springs, N.Y., on **Friday, October 5** and **Saturday, October 6**. With the theme, “*Many Cultures, One World: A Celebration of Diversity*”, the conference offered over 60 regular sessions and preconference workshops covering an array of topics such as Common Core Standards and Assessments, Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR), 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. This year’s “Best of Show” was awarded to **Ken Hughes**, for his workshop “*Movie Making 101*”. We congratulate Ken and wish him well as he represents NYS AFLT at the “*NECTFL Conference*” in March.

The keynote speaker was **Bill Heller**, a former Spanish teacher at the Perry School District and current methods instructor at SUNY Geneseo. His emotional and rousing speech related to the current state of foreign language education in New York State brought tears to many eyes. The video can be viewed by [clicking here](#). The attendees were also fortunate to welcome **Kin Chee**, NYSED Associate for Foreign Languages in the Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies.

Participants circulated throughout the City Center Exhibit Hall to meet and chat with publishers and vendors. Some made purchases while others made connections with colleagues. **Patrick Kinne** of Bishop Grimes Junior High School was the lucky winner of an iPad 2. Thank you to **Proficiency Press** for donating this wonderful prize!

This year’s conference saw attendees from every part of the state, from eastern Long Island to Buffalo. Even more impressive was the number of NYS AFLT past presidents who attended this year: **Susan Barnes, Lou Baskinger, Brenda Benzin, David Graham, Al Martino, Joanne O’Toole, Patricia Ryan, Bob Sherburne, Shirley Sherburne Zimmer, Nancy Wallace, Linda Zusman**, and Immediate Past President **Nancy Ketz**. NYS AFLT is fortunate to have the continued support of these



individuals who paved the way for others.

This conference would not have been possible without the support of some very dedicated NYS AFLT members: A/V Chairperson, **Michael Mitchell**; Hospitality Chairpersons **Swaz Piron** and **Beth Slocum**; Registration Chairperson **Leslie Kudlack**; COLT President **Maureen Geagan**; Social Media and Technology Director, **Ken Hughes**; Administrative Assistant, **AnnMarie Rudin**; Assistant Director, **Barbara Patterson**; and most importantly, Executive Director, **John Carlino**.

If you would like to submit a proposal for 2013, please [click here](#). We are looking forward to seeing you in Buffalo!

Regional News

Mid-Hudson Region

The Association of Language Teachers of Orange, Ulster, Dutchess and Surrounding Counties, ALOUD, provides over fifteen hours of professional development workshops throughout the school year.

On **October 16** Best of NYS AFLT Annual Conference 2012 **Jennifer Hunt** and **Lauren O'Malley** shared many activities they learned from the conference and **Kristin Raucci** presented “*Engaging High Risk Students - Making Connections.*”



Photos: (left) Jennifer Hunt; (center) Kristin Raucci; (right) Rebecca Horwitz, Felicita Baldi, AFS hosted student from Italy, Julian Stark, AFS hosted student from Germany, and Harriet Lindeman, AFS India Returnee

On **November 6** the AFS E-Z Pass Area Team and **ALOUD** offered the workshop, “*It’s Your World: Weaving Intercultural Education into Your Curriculum.*” The focus was integrating intercultural education into the LOTE curriculum. The event was organized by Jessica Greenstein, AFS E-Z Pass Community Developer, and by Rebecca Horwitz, an AFS E-Z Pass Volunteer who is a French and ESL teacher. Attendees were provided with intercultural lesson plans. Information and examples were offered on how intercultural education can support the Common Core curriculum and NY State Learning Standards. The workshop concluded with a lively panel discussion by an AFS returnee who spent last year in India and two AFS hosted students from Germany and Italy, who spoke about why they had chosen to be exchange students and about the positive impact it has had on their lives. Please feel free to contact [Jessica Greenstein](#) for more information.



Francesco Fratto will present on **December 13**. Francesco will inform members about the current state of LOTE including advocacy, Common Core, SLOs, the Danielson rubric and other topics relevant to the profession at this time.

The next **ALoud** workshop will be held on **Tuesday, February 5** with a snow date of **Wednesday, February 6**.

Save the date for the **ALoud/NYS AFLT** Annual Conference on **Saturday, April 6** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are excited to have **Bill Heller** as our presenter. His presentation topics will include “*Choosing and Using Appropriate Authentic Text Type*” and “*The Elephant in the Room: Grammar and the Communicative Curriculum.*”

In addition, on **Thursday, May 16 ALoud** will host its Annual Senior Awards & Retiree Dinner at 5:30 p.m. at El Rancho Mexican Restaurant in Saugerties.

If you would like more information about **ALoud** or the full 2012-2013 **ALoud** calendar, please contact [Ana Gatta](#) or [Diana Zuckerman](#). We hope to see you at all or some of our events!

Western New York

Please mark your calendars on **Saturday, March 9**, for the 2013 NYSAFLT Rochester Regional Conference at Nazareth College. Our conference theme this year is “*Moving Forward: Preparing 21st Century Learners.*” We have an exciting program and have expanded from three to four workshop sessions based on feedback from previous years. Our planning committee meets once a month at Nazareth College. If you are interested in helping out, please [click here](#) to contact conference co-chair, **Erica Ragan**. If you have an idea or a talent that you would like to share at our conference, request a workshop proposal application from Erica. Applications are due by **December 15, 2012**. Finally, if you are a NYSAFLT member in the Rochester area, we encourage you to consider applying for the *Vito Marcello Fund an Idea Award* (\$150 for classroom activities). Members can find details and the application on the NYSAFLT website.

WNYFLEC recently held its Fall Meeting to kick off the 2012-2013 school year. NYSAFLT past president **Nancy Ketz** presented her workshop on “LOTE and the Common Core.” Participants in the workshop, held at Depew High School, came away with some great resources to help align their curricula with the new Common Core State Standards.

WNYFLEC is currently accepting workshop proposals for the 2013 Regional Conference. The conference will be held on **Saturday, March 2, 2013** at West Seneca West Middle School and this year’s theme is “*Celebrating Foreign Language Education.*” The WNYFLEC/NYSAFLT conference has traditionally been one of the largest language gatherings in New York State, drawing from as far east as Rochester and as far south as the state border. The conference will include approximately 15 workshops for foreign language teachers. In addition, the conference design allows ample opportunity for participants to browse exhibitor displays and shop for materials to enhance their students' learning and achievement. **Please consider presenting a workshop at our conference this year.** You are sure to have an eager



audience of foreign language educators spanning from elementary levels to college. Foreign language teachers are known for continuously seeking the best and most captivating materials and ideas to create the optimum learning environment for their students. Please share your experience, enthusiasm and expertise with us; you will have a highly interested audience and we are sure that it will be well worth your time to join us! If you are interested in presenting, please contact [JoAnn Thomasson](#), Regional Conference Co-Chair.

The deadline for the WNYFLEC Poster Contest is **January 11, 2013**. [Click here](#) to check the “Awards and Contests” page for more information on how your students can submit their posters with the theme of “**Many Cultures, One World.**”

Finally, I would like to take this time to say how much I have enjoyed my time as a Regional Representative on the NYS AFLT Board of Directors. My term is now coming to an end, and WNYFLEC membership chair **Mark Critelli** was recently elected as your new Regional Representative. I wish **Mark** all the best in this endeavor. It has been more rewarding than I could have imagined.

Thanks! **JoAnn Thomasson**

Central New York

This year’s regional conference on “*Strategies That Work*” was held in Watertown on November 10 and featured a full day of workshops and presentations. NYS AFLT President **Mary Holmes** provided a NYS AFLT update and presented a session on storytelling using YouTube videos. The other workshops were “*Flip It to Better Teach It*” by **Swaz Piron**, “*Daily Oral Student Assessment and Improvement through Formative Assessment*” with **Harry Tuttle**, and Janine Manley’s presentation on “*It’s Elementary: Balanced Literacy Practices for the LOTE classroom.*”

Members were encouraged to apply for NYS AFLT awards for their students and grants and scholarships for themselves, and teachers from Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and St. Lawrence Counties were invited to apply for the St. Lawrence University Spanish Teacher Fellowship. For information, [click here](#).

National Network for Early Language Learning



The National Network for Early Language Learning, NNELL, began celebrating its 25th anniversary at the ACTFL Conference in Philadelphia in November.



Photos left to right: Nadine Jacobsen-McLean, NNELL Vice President, and Paula Patrick; NNELL Past President at ACTFL **Victoria Gilbert** and Helena Curtain at ACTFL; Helena Curtain and **Nathan Lutz** at ACTFL.

The recipient for the NYS AFLT Sally G. Hahn Memorial Outstanding FLES Program Award this year was **Tara Tassani** and the Cold Spring Harbor School District. Congratulations, Tara!



Elaine Margarita, Carmen Campos, Lillian Carey and Lori Langer de Ramirez at ACTFL



Tara Tassani and Carmen Campos, from Cold Spring Harbor School District

Global Language Project's mission is to equip disadvantaged public-school students with the skills to compete in a globalized world and work force. Through GLP's comprehensive language training program, elementary school students will achieve proficiency in a language other than English. The curriculum emphasizes traditional and experiential learning and was created by leading educational professionals from Columbia University and New York University. GLP launched its new content integrated standards-based K-5 curriculum for Spanish, Arabic and Chinese at ACTFL this November. Its products include curriculum guides, teacher resource and image packages and manipulatives with which to teach the content. GLP also offers teacher training and mentoring. The profits of its products support its language programs in underserved schools and community centers. [Click here](#) to learn more about GLP.

Save the date: Come and celebrate NNELL's 25th anniversary at "*The NNELL Summer Institute.*" It will be **July 12-14, 2013** in partnership with ACTFL and Glastonbury Public Schools. There will be many workshops as well as time to network, collaborate and communicate. [Click here](#) to learn more.

We would love for NYS AFLT members to also become members of NNELL. NNELL membership runs from *September through August* so now is the perfect time to renew or to become a new member. Some reasons to become a NNELL member include:



- NNELL is the primary national organization in the US that promotes, supports, advocates for and is specifically geared towards early language education, Birth through Grade 8.
- NNELL provides professional development opportunities at NNELL's annual summer institute, NNELL's Northeast regional conference, at ACTFL, NECTFL, NYSAFLT and NYSAFLT regional conferences.
- NNELL provides members with updated early language-related news in the spring and fall issues of the publication *Learning Languages*, the electronic newsletter *E-NNELL Notes*, and the *NNELL National Networking Newsletter*. NNELL members are also invited to share news about their programs in the newsletters and to submit entries for *Learning Languages*.
- NNELL members have access to the "Members only section" of the [NNELL website](#), which has many invaluable resources available for early language educators and advocates.
- NNELL's commitment to early foreign language learning supports our children and our profession! NY NNELL members have their own Google Group. This group provides a forum for NY NNELL members to communicate, share and request information, post questions and comments, collaborate and connect with other NY NNELL members throughout NY State regarding world languages.



Photos: (top) NYSAFLT and NNELL members at ACTFL; (bottom) Kathy Olsen-Studler, Marcela Summerville, NNELL National Networking Coordinator, Robert Raymond and Ana Lomba at ACTFL



[Click here](#) for more information about NNELL or contact your state representative. Thank you!

[Diana Zuckerman](#),
NYS NNELL Representative

Public Advocacy – Make Noise!

This is a critical time for everyone to help reinstate and even increase programs for the instruction of foreign languages and their cultures in our classrooms. Do not fall into the role of helpless victim as LOTE programs suffer under the guise of budgetary strain. The Board of Regents needs to hear how they have negatively impacted the future of our students. Commissioner King needs to be told – again – how New York State must prepare our students for an internationally competitive marketplace. Legislators need examples of how citizens with proficiency in a second language will be the most desirable of potential employees and will be able to help the non-English speaking populations within our borders. Legislators respond only when they have heard from their constituents.



Our legislators will soon be in their home offices and will remain there through January. Make an appointment to speak with them. Review the documents and speaking points on NYSAFLT's Public Advocacy web pages. Make a folder with some of the articles to leave with your Senator or Representative. Ask them to write a letter on behalf of LOTE education programs. Bring colleagues, neighbors, parents of your students, high school and college-aged students. Letters from LOTE supporters that are not teachers (family members, neighbors, students and their parents) will be most beneficial. Please share the contact information and documents with them.

[Click here](#) for links to **NYS and US legislators**, the members of the **Board of Regents**, and **speaking points** to help you write your letters or emails. The letters, emails and visits to these decision makers have helped preserve some important aspects of LOTE education within our graduation requirements. We can't stop now. If you have already written, please write again. If you visited your legislators last year, please consider visiting again with more constituents.

Please share your positive news! When you get a response from a legislator, Regent or School Board member, we need to know. When your program events or editorial submissions are featured in area publications, we need to share the information. Please [click here](#) to send your good news to **Marie Campanaro**.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Theresa Daleo-Stock**, French teacher at Arlington High School, for achieving National Board Certification in WLOE (World Languages Other Than English).

NYSACards

Are there people whom 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 print your message to indicate 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: From the Editor

With this issue, the time has come for me to pass along editorship of the Newsletter. I am happy to announce that the position will be taken on by **JoAnn Thomasson**, who has been an active NYSAFLT board member, representing the Western New York Region. I wish her the best in her new role.

Working on the Newsletter for the past three years has given me the opportunity to meet and stay connected with so many wonderful people, for which I am very grateful. It has also made me realize the value of being part of an organization that is exemplary in the field of education. It is reassuring to know that we are represented by such talented, committed, and diversely experienced professionals. Thank you to all of you and I wish everyone an amazing 2013.

~Lauren O'Malley~



Mark Your Calendars!

December

- 6 **Webinar:** Aligning LOTE to the Common Core Follow-Up; 4 PM to 5 PM
- 10-11 Board of Regents Meeting, Albany
- 15 **Deadline:** NECTFL Mead Scholar Award Applications (to NYSAFLT)
- 15 **Deadline:** Expense Vouchers to Headquarters; Final Standing Committee Reports to President
- 31 **Membership Year Ends**

January

- 1 **Membership Year Begins**
- 10 **Webinar:** Performance Assessment; 4 PM to 5 PM
- 14-15 Board of Regents Meeting, Albany
- 15 **Deadline:** 'Best of State' (Annual Conference) to NECTFL
- 15 **Deadline:** France Teacher Travel Award (varies - see application)
- 15 **Deadline:** Gertrude Rossin Cultural Grant Application
- 15 **Deadline:** Undergraduate and Graduate/Post-Baccalaureate Student Scholarship Applications
- 15 **Deadline:** Zimmerman Travel Award Application
- 15 **Deadline:** James E. Allen Award Applications
- 15 **Deadline:** Hahn Outstanding FLES Program Award
- 17-18 **NYSAFLT Meetings:** Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Financial Management Committee
- 31 **Deadline:** Vito Marcello Rochester Region 'Fund an Idea' Grant

February

- 1 **Deadline:** March *Newsletter* submissions
- 1 **Deadline:** Journal Issue #1 Submissions
- 1 **Deadline:** Workshop Proposals for Annual Conference
- 7 **Webinar:** FLES and the Common Core; 4 PM to 5 PM
- 11-12 Board of Regents Meeting, Albany

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