



NYS AFLT

www.nysaflt.org

News

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



Welcome Back to School! I hope that everyone enjoyed his/her well-deserved time off during our beautiful summer. I also hope that you are entering the new school year refreshed and rejuvenated. Those of you who attended the *Summer Institute* in Oneonta, NY certainly have a wealth of excellent resources to add excitement and new dimensions to your classes. A big NYS AFLT thank you to **Candie Black** for all of her hard work and dedication in preparing this year’s *Summer Institute*. Check out the pictures on our [website](#).

For those not able to attend the Summer Institute, I encourage you to refresh and renew throughout the school year by virtually attending NYS AFLT Webinars: <http://www.nysaflt.org/webinars>. We have an extraordinary line-up of talent this school year. Approach your administrators to add NYS AFLT webinars as part of your staff development. Add a webinar to a department meeting. Keep in mind that you can also pick an archived webinar to best address your current needs: <https://www.nysaflt.org/webinars/archives.shtml>. NYS AFLT is here to provide for our members. Please take advantage of these excellent opportunities.

Finally, I could not be more excited about this year’s *Annual Conference* in my own hometown, Buffalo! **Francesco Fratto** and our headquarters staff have been working diligently to make this year’s *Annual Conference* the best yet! I am looking forward to seeing many of my local colleagues, as well as friends from across the state, on **Friday and Saturday, October 11-12**.

As you go through this school year, remember that NYS AFLT is here for you and supports the work that you do. I wish everyone a successful and rewarding 2013-14 year.

Debbie



NYS AFLT Summer Institute 2013



Candace Black

The 2013 NYS AFLT *Summer Institute* took place at SUNY Oneonta from **August 6-9**. Over 50 participants attended workshops ranging from iPad training to Common Core to Storytelling for a total of 30 hours of professional development credit. A special thanks to all of our wonderful presenters who so generously shared their time and talents with our NYS AFLT members. If you have never attended the *Institute*, please consider joining us next year for the one and only “summer camp for LOTE teachers” experience! There’s even a scholarship available on the NYS AFLT website. For more information, contact Candace Black (cblack@nysaflt.org).



Presenter Marie Campanaro discusses differentiation techniques with teachers from around the state.

NYS AFLT 96th Annual Conference 2013 co-sponsored by WNYFLEC



Francesco Fratto

[Registration](#) is now open for the 2013 Annual Conference!!

“*LOTE on the Cutting Edge: Meeting the Challenges of Increased Accountability*” is the theme for the 96th Annual NYS AFLT Conference to be held at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center and Hyatt Regency in Buffalo, New York. The 96th Annual Conference celebrates our achievements as a community of foreign language professionals and challenges us to push further so that we may continue to excite, educate, and prepare our learners for the global community. **Dr. Lori Langer de Ramirez**, textbook author, curator of miscositas.com, and FLES advocate, will give the keynote speech.

NYS AFLT needs your support – support us by attending the conference with a colleague. Our preliminary program is now available online. Join us **October 11-12** in beautiful [downtown Buffalo](#) to celebrate and share with our colleagues from across the state what makes our LOTE programs and classrooms cutting edge!



You can [register](#) online now to take advantage of the pre-registration rates (register by September 25). You can also print a copy of the paper registration. Three-hour ticketed workshops are available to select from when you register. The Conference program is a little different this year, so please read the registration information carefully. Please also note that meals are no longer included in the [hotel](#) room rate. Lunch on Friday and Saturday is included in your conference registration. Tickets for the Annual Awards banquet followed by dancing DJed by **Ken Hughes** can be purchased separately.

Please check out the [Annual Conference page](#) for more information about the program as well as some of the great things to do in Western New York. See you in October!

People Who Inspire

Are you looking for a way to honor your cooperating teacher, a college professor, or someone who has inspired you as a teacher? If so, check out the new page that NYSAFLT has developed to recognize those people who have inspired our members!



**Welcome to
NYSAFLT Presents: People Who Inspire**

NYSAFLT would like to provide you the opportunity to publicly honor an individual in your life who has had a profound impact on your professional career.

If you know of a colleague that you feel deserves to be added to this wall because of his/her contributions to the profession, please click on the link below to learn how you can do this .

We do invite you to click on the headshot thumbnails below and learn about those who are currently featured on the Wall.

Thank you for considering your submission and for supporting NYSAFLT in the process.

This concept was brought to us by current NYSAFLT President **Deb Carlson** and Past President **Mary Holmes** after they attended the NECTFL conference in 2012. NECTFL was kind enough to let us borrow their idea (<http://www.nectfl.org/awards-2012-nectfl-wall-recognition>). NYSAFLT Director of Social Media and Technology **Ken Hughes** created the NYSAFLT version and we are happy to announce that all members now have the opportunity to pay homage to a mentor or colleague. Please visit our [page](#) for more details.



Regional News

Capital-East

The Capital Organization of Language Teachers, COLT, held its Spring Banquet on **Wednesday, May 22** at Mallozzi's Restaurant in Rotterdam. Among the highlights: **Lizette Liebold** and Nina Sher, retiring from the Bethlehem Central School District, were honored for their contributions to many aspects of LOTE education and advocacy. **Jill Dugan**, Guilderland CSD, accepted the 2013 NYSAFLT Fulvi Love of Language Award on behalf of her student Jacob Brislin. **Colleen Sheehan**, COLT Past President, Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District, was recognized as the winner of NYSAFLT and COLT Teacher Incentive Grants for 2013. COLT officers for 2013-2014 are: **Maureen Geagan**, Mohonasen CSD, President; **Anna Collie**, Amsterdam City School District, Vice President; **Jill Dugan**, Guilderland CSD, Secretary; and **Sarah Matarazzo**, Cobleskill-Richmondville CSD, Treasurer.



Lizette Liebold and Nina Sher at the COLT dinner.



Michael Mitchell and Leslie Kudlack at the COLT dinner.

Congratulations to these Capital-East members, recipients of the following awards:

Quebec Cultural Scholarship winner - **Janis Labroo**

Spain Cultural Scholarship winner- **Mary Vogt**

Website of the Year Award for NYS - co-winner **Janis Labroo**

Website of the Year Award for the Capital-East region - **Samantha Decker**

Winner of a Charles Zimmerman Memorial Award for 2013 **Susan Knight**

For more information about COLT [click here](#)



Central

There are two conferences happening around the Central region, both of which are strongly recommended for anyone teaching or wanting to teach another language. These conferences offer highly informative workshops related to the constant evolution of the language teaching profession. You do not want to miss these. They will be worth it!

[The Second Language Educators Conference](#) takes place **September 28** and is FREE! The conference will be held on the SUNY Cortland campus and is for everyone teaching or wanting to teach a foreign language. This is a great conference for future teachers! It focuses on oral proficiency and culture.

The 1st Annual [Binghamton University Conference on Foreign Language Teaching](#) will also be held **September 28**. This is the first conference of its kind taking place at Binghamton University. The theme is *“Building theory and practice: Building effective classroom methodology.”* The conference focuses on methodology for foreign language teachers. We encourage you to check it out.

SAVE THE DATE! A NYS AFLT regional conference will be held at Immaculate Heart High School in Watertown will be held on **Saturday, November 9** at Immaculate Heart High School. The theme is *“Language for Communication: Teaching, Technology, Teamwork.”* Come and join your colleagues for this day of professional development.

AATF of CNY

The local chapter of the AATF continues with its outreach to area teachers, both members and non-members alike. Activities are open to all and French teachers outside of the area are welcome to participate as well.

Continuing to bring students and community together, our organization sponsored another successful film night showing *Bienvenue Chez les Ch'tis* in April. Attendance by students and adults topped 50 participants and drew from several school districts.

During the summer, **Jennifer Reed**, chapter Vice President, attended the National AATF convention in Rhode Island. She participated in the Young Leaders Training Program. In addition, **Ann Elyse Foltz** attended the AATF Québec Summer Program.

The annual Fall Workshop will be held on **Saturday, October 26**, at Onondaga Free Library from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The chosen theme is Québec. According to the organizers, the workshop represents “a serendipitous journey through the province of Québec, focusing on a little folklore, a little history, a little literature and a little tourism.” Presenters include Kenneth McCluskey and **Emily Hall**. More information regarding registration, mini-presentations and menu will soon be posted on our website, www.aatfcny.org.

Newsletter submission deadline is **November 1**



Mid-Hudson/Westchester

Maggi Gabriela Ackert, Spanish teacher at C. J. Hooker Middle School, was recently awarded the NYSCATE (New York State Association for Computers and Technology in Education) Lee H. Bryant Outstanding State Teacher Award. This award is presented to an individual who has implemented or demonstrated the use of technology to improve education in his/her district in meeting the goals of the NYSCATE mission. It is truly an honor to be recognized for the use of technology to improve student learning.

Gabriela was nominated for the award by her colleague, French teacher **Fabien Rivière**. He cited her use of numerous technologies to enhance her lesson plans, including her personal teacher website, Edmodo, YouTube, iLife, Moodle, SMART Boards, and Web 2.0 applications such as podcasts, widgets, wikis, 3D books, Vokies, Glogsters and more. According to **Fabien Rivière**, “It is evident that **Señora Ackert** embodies what a 21st century teacher of extraordinary ability is, and her sheer passion and expertise in the fields of Spanish, technology and 21st century education overall certainly ought to be awarded and distinguished as outstanding.”

Gabriela will be recognized at the NYSCATE Annual Conference, to be held November 18-20 in Rochester.

In addition to her NYSCATE honor, **Gabriela** also won a NYSAFLT website of the year award for the region.



*NYSCATE award recipient **Maggi Gabriela Ackert***



NYSCATE award



NYC-Long Island

We are offering many professional activities this fall. Mark your calendars for the following events in the NYC-LI Region.

A **FLACS** Item Writing Workshop will be held **September 26** at the Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester sites. Please visit www.flacs.org for more info.

The AATSP Long Island Fall Workshop will be held **October 19th** at The Wheatley School. Visit www.aatsplongisland.org for more info.

The LILT Annual Conference is scheduled for **November 2nd** at Comsewogue High School). See www.liltfl.org for conference information.

The **NYCAFLT-UFT** Fall Annual Professional Development Conference at the UFT in Manhattan will be held on **Saturday, October 26**. Registration information will be posted to the regional website.

Western New York

Congratulations to **Erin Kearney** (the University of Buffalo). She is a member of one of eight teams chosen nationally as recipients of Phase II of **ACTFL**'s Research Priorities Project. She will be conducting research during the 2013-2014 school year on "Connecting High-Level Teaching Practices to Student Learning Outcomes." Erin has presented at the state, national and international level and is an Assistant Professor of Learning and Instruction.

WNYFLEC encourages you to attend the NYSAFLT Annual Conference which will be held in Buffalo **October 11-12**. As the Annual Conference will be co-sponsored by **WNYFLEC** it takes the place of a 2014 **WNYFLEC** regional conference. Many of our most popular **WNYFLEC** presenters will be showcasing their efforts at the Annual Conference. Come out and support them and show the state what an enthusiastic group of teachers we have in the Western New York area!

Public Advocacy

How do you advocate for LOTE in your classroom? In your community? The **Public Advocacy Committee** would love to know – and share – your best ideas!

As LOTE teachers and as members of NYSAFLT, we recognize the critical need for continual communication with our educational and political leaders to support our programs. The most effective way to further our mission is to have our students and their parents work side by side with us. When business leaders and local politicians join the effort, changes can happen.

When students study the vocabulary and structures for the Earning a Living theme, they can write what they would like to be, but also how knowing another language would benefit their profession. Geography lessons which display target language countries need to be exhibited outside the confines of your classroom. Students returning from study abroad trips who thank Board of Education members have shared the impact of that life-altering experience. Alum who



have pursued careers in other languages need to be showcased in your district. Students who write to their legislators to explain, in their own words, the need for LOTE education, learn to be active citizens.

Take some time to explore the [Public Advocacy](#) section of our NYSAFLT website. You will uncover scores of documents to share with your students and colleagues, letter writing templates for advocacy, and ideas to advocate for LOTE in your classrooms and communities.

How do you advocate for LOTE? Please share your ideas with mcampanaro@aol.com. We would love to post your advocacy successes for others to emulate.

Announcements

NYSAFLT Announces 2013 Scholarship and Grant Winners

Congratulations to the following members who have won a 2013 NYSAFLT award, grant or scholarship! Read about the honors they received and the professional opportunities they were afforded this summer.



Janis Labroo, a French teacher at Oneonta Senior High School, has been awarded the NYSAFLT Québec Cultural Scholarship. **Janis** teaches French language in a cultural context and felt that this scholarship would afford her the opportunity to deepen her knowledge of the history, the people and the culture of Quebec. She will study at the Collège de Jonquière in Quebec, Canada on language instruction in the context of Québec culture and society for two-three weeks during the summer. This scholarship was generously donated by the Centre linguistique du Collège de Jonquière. For complete details about the program and its offerings, please visit their [website](#).



Marie Campanaro and **Kate Stewart** were the recipients of the NYSAFLT Summer Institute Scholarships and **Clayton Callahan** was the recipient of the NYSAFLT Summer Institute Pre-Service Teacher Scholarship. **Marie**, a Spanish teacher in the Spencerport Central School District, takes each new learning opportunity as an adventure and will share everything she acquires at the SI with her department and others within the school. **Kate**, a German teacher in the Fayetteville-Manlius School District, is a true instructional leader who hopes to learn new methods to invigorate her teaching at the SI. **Clayton**, an undergraduate student majoring in Adolescence Education: French at SUNY Oneonta, enjoys sharing his love of languages with students and will utilize the knowledge gained at the SI in his first teaching job in the Sherburne-Earlville School District. These scholarships will help defray the costs of attending this year's Summer Institute "*O Say Can You C; Tackling Today's Challenges Together*" at the State University of New York College at Oneonta.



The North Tonawanda City School District has been bestowed the James E. Allen Distinguished Foreign Language Program Award for the Western New York Region and is also the state-wide winner. North Tonawanda received this honor because of the participation and contributions of their Languages Other



Than English (LOTE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers in state and national language associations and involvement of the North Tonawanda community in their program. The District is unique in that they have an Academy of International Studies which is a small learning community designed to give students with an interest in foreign languages a more global focus to their studies. This provides the foundation for them to compete in a global economy for employment. Congratulations to **Robert Lucas**, FL Department Coordinator, and all of the ESL and LOTE teachers at North Tonawanda on this prestigious award!



Kate Stewart and **Janis Labroo** are the co-recipients of the NYSAFLT Website of the Year Award for New York State. The committee was impressed with the technical expertise demonstrated by both **Janis**, who teaches French at Oneonta Senior High School, and **Kate**, who teaches German in the Fayetteville-Manlius School District. Both teachers were also commended on the usefulness of information made available to their students and parents. Visit **Kate's website** and **Janis' website** for ideas and inspiration.



NYSAFLT is proud to announce the regional winners of the Website of the Year Award. **Brandi Lasnick's website** won for the Western region. She is a Spanish teacher in the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District. From the Saratoga Springs City School District, the **website** of French teacher **Samantha Decker** was the Capital-East region winner. The **website** of **John Schepisi**, who is a Spanish teacher in the Haldane Central School District, and the **website** of **Gabriela Ackert**, who is a Spanish teacher in the Goshen Central School District, were co-winners in the Mid-Hudson Westchester region.

Congratulations again to all of the above NYSA winners! Now is the time to select which NYSAFLT award, grant or scholarship you will apply for this coming year. Go to the [awards](#) page of the NYSAFLT website, to view all award, grant and scholarship deadlines, criteria and applications. Good luck!

NYSAFLT Call for Papers

The Language Association Journal needs you! Submissions for the next issue are due **October 1**. The theme for this edition of the Journal is: *Checking in on Checkpoint A: Advocacy and Best Practices from K to 8 and everything pre-Checkpoint B.*

The Language Association Journal is the official peer-reviewed journal of NYSAFLT and is published two times per year. It has a thematic approach and welcomes a spectrum of submissions ranging from scholarly articles to teacher-to-teacher exchanges regarding language learning and acquisition, instruction, curriculum, assessment, policy, advocacy, teacher education, and other areas of professional interest to language educators. Contributions should be submitted as a Microsoft Word file attachment via e-mail to nysafltjournal@nysaflt.org.



Submission Guidelines:

- the manuscript must not be previously published or considered for publication elsewhere
- the manuscript must be written in English (examples within the manuscript may be written in other languages and must be italicized and accompanied by translations)
- the manuscript should not exceed 8,000 words
- for a blind review, omit all references that would reveal the author's identity in the manuscript
- follow the guidelines, as outlined in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition (2009) (APA style resource <http://www.apastyle.org>)
- use Times New Roman font size 12 double-spaced
- proof-read the manuscript to ensure that it is as error-free as possible
- send an electronic version of the manuscript to nysafltjournal@nysaflt.org as an e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- submit photographs, graphics and/or other artwork as separate files
- in the e-mail, provide a brief biographical information, which would appear at the end of your article and should also include:
 - your name, title, affiliation, and contact information
 - your educational background
 - what languages, ages/grades, and language proficiency levels you have taught in your teaching career
 - professional affiliations or involvement in language education

All properly submitted manuscripts receive an e-mail acknowledgement from the Editor. Submission of a manuscript does not guarantee its publication. After an initial review by the Editor, those manuscripts that meet specifications are sent to one or two members of the Editorial Board for anonymous evaluation. Each of the reviewers is asked to make one of three recommendations regarding each submission: (1) publish as is, (2) publish after revising/rewriting, or (3) do not publish. When all reviews are received, the Editor makes the final decision regarding the manuscript's publication and notifies the author about the submission's status. All manuscripts accepted for publication are subject to editing.

Journal submission deadline is ***October 1***



NYS AFLT Cards

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 NYS AFLT 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 *NYS AFLT 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 **NYS AFLT**) to:

NYS AFLT Headquarters
2400 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

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In Memoriam...

### THOMAS YOUNKER

was a French teacher in the Hilton Central School district for many years. He inspired me, and many others, with his sense of humor, love of French, and countless cultural anecdotes.

From:  
Denise Mahns

~~~~~

Message from the Editor



Being a Western New York native, I would like to encourage my friends from around the state to attend this year’s Annual Conference and check out all that Buffalo has to offer. If you haven’t been to Western New York lately, you may be surprised by some of the changes, particularly on the waterfront. In addition to some of the attractions you can find on the Annual Conference homepage, I have a couple of recommendations.

[Canalside](#) has something for everyone, whether you’re looking for the history of the Erie Canal, a puppet show or just a walk along the newly-built promenade. Last summer I was sitting with my daughter who was playing in the new sandbox underneath the Skyway. Listening to the sound of the construction going on around us, she turned and asked “Mommy, what’s that sound??” My response was that it is the sound of progress, something we as Buffalonians have been waiting to hear for a long time! We’re proud to show it off. This summer I visited the [Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site](#) for the first time. History truly comes alive as you make your way through the interactive exhibits and even sit in a replica Oval Office, becoming President for a minute. It’s definitely worth the trip. I look forward to welcoming you to my hometown and encourage you to spend a little extra time checking out some of what’s new in Western New York.



Mark Your Calendars

September

16-17 Board of Regents Meeting

October

1 **Deadline:** *Journal* Submissions

11 **NYSAFLT Meetings:** Joint Executive Committee, Joint Board of Directors

11-12 **NYSAFLT Annual Conference**, Buffalo, NY

21-22 Board of Regents Meeting

November

1 **Deadline:** December *Newsletter* submissions

2 Joint Exec. Committee, Annual Conference Planning (online), New Director Orientation (online)

18-19 Board of Regents Meeting

22-24 ACTFL Annual Convention and World Language Expo, Orlando, FL

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