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NYSAFLT

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News

quarterly publication of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Inc.
Volume 45, No. 2 JoAnn Duffy Thomasson, Editor June 2018

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The President’s Corner



Michelle Shenton

cham·pi·on: support the cause of; defend

Whoever said that teachers have summers off has never known a world language (WL) teacher. We are involved throughout the summer attending conferences and workshops, viewing webinars, reading books and current research, and/or traveling to places that speak our target language.

Though the school year is coming to a close and we are furiously working to get those speaking tests in, finalizing our grades, and packing up our rooms, our work is not done. Therefore, I’m resurrecting “champion” from my theme of the 5 C’s for world language (WL) teachers as it relates to assessments.

We need to continue to champion the cause of reinstating our WL exams: for consistency in standards and expectations and to get back on the proverbial map in academia. Unfortunately, the word “test” has a negative connotation these days; however, we all know the perception that what is tested is what is important. It is also what gets the attention of our students, communities, and schools.

I *liked* our NYS Proficiency and Regents exams. They were fair and I was always proud of my students for acing those tests. Analyzing them helped me and my department reflect on how to improve our teaching and our students’ learning based on their performance: Do we need to do more speaking? more reading? more listening? Do we need to spend more or less time on a particular topic? It was our students and us “against” the test, we were a team with a common goal.



Our Public Advocacy Committee Co-chairs **Barb Patterson** and **Diana Zuckerman**, as well as the committee members, worked hard to reach out to NYSED and NYS legislators to reinstate those exams. With the help of Jackie Paredes (NYSUT) they provided a template letter, talking points, contact information, and more. Our plea to reinstate the exams was also put on the NYSUT MAC (Member Action Center) app for anyone to send our message to legislators. We were not successful; however, going forward, we are going to start earlier, stronger, and include businesses, who need the skill sets we instill in our students. We will need your help. Numbers talk.

Now, what about the the 4+1 Pathways and the NYSED's newly-approved exams? NYSAFLT has asked NYSED's OBE & WL to issue more guidance around this issue. In the meantime, please reach out to your guidance department to better understand the NYS graduation requirements. The more educated you are, the better advocate you can be for WLS.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our new retirees, true champions, for blazing the way and holding the torch over their many years of service. You are appreciated and we hope you stay involved in NYSAFLT.

Michelle Shenton

NYSAFLT Summer Institute



Leslie Kudlack

As I write this it might be cold and rainy outside, but we have an amazing experience planned for **Summer Institute**. We will return once again to the Oneonta campus, but this year just down the hill from our usual digs, as Morris Hall is undergoing renovations. An inspiring line-up of presenters and workshops awaits. **Joshua Cabral** is back, as is **Nathan Lutz**. We will work on IPAs (not beer) with **Jennifer Eddy** and technology with **Erin Johnson** in addition to other relevant topics. [Register](#) now and we'll see you in Oneonta!

Summer Institute 2018

*Engaging the World,
Changing the World
with Languages*

*It's summer camp
for language teachers!*

August 7-10, 2018
Oneonta, NY

Register today at
www.nysaflt.org and
apply for a scholarship!



NYSAFLT Annual Conference 2018



High Falls District, Rochester, NY. Photo Credit: Mike Papke

Mark your calendars! Invite friends and colleagues! Share the love of teaching and learning in New York's Flour City. NYSAFLT is **Inspiring Proficiency for Life** in the heart of beautiful Rochester. Our keynote speaker, Noah Geisel, the 2013 ACTFL Teacher of the Year, will guide us as we explore #howlanguagematters in our lives and in the lives of our students. Come and share your passion for lifelong language learning.

The **Annual Conference** planning committee has been hard at work creating a well-balanced schedule of sessions both in English and in target languages for all levels of instruction. The conference program provides up to 11 ½ hours of content-specific professional development from leading professionals in our field. Start the school year off right with inspiring sessions on advocacy, comprehensible input, assessment, intercultural competence, integration of technology and much, much more.

Visit the Annual Conference website to [register](#) today. For further information, contact conference chair [Beth Slocum](#).



In select editions of the Newsletter, you will meet one of our past presidents to find out what he/she is doing now and to hear about the experience as NYS AFLT President.

Where are they Now?

In this edition we hear from **Gladys Lipton**, NYS AFLT President 1973-74

It all started when I went to my first NYS AFLT convention. My first visit to NYS AFLT was difficult for me as I seemed to be the only New York City teacher (except for Remunda Cadoux) who was present. However, many of the members present made me feel quite at home, asking me my name, school, level of instruction, etc. After this warm welcome, how could I resist???



That first meeting that I attended left an indelible spot in my heart for the people and the organization! I joined the Early Language Learning Committee because that was my specialty. I met many new friends and colleagues from Long Island and then from around the state. I was really surprised when I was asked to run for the governing board, and I won. It was so heartwarming to see how this organization operated, and how interested the board members were in this “newbie.” As a teacher of French and Spanish, I took my classes to museums, to French and Spanish restaurants, and to other language-rich areas of New York City, as I believed that students had much to gain by seeing and hearing languages first-hand. One of my professional goals was to develop a plan for a city-wide foreign languages week developed by teachers, students, and supervisors working with me...and it was successful!

As I attended conferences and I publicized “Early Language Learning,” which in those days was starting to be very popular, I was surprised when I was asked if I would be interested in running for vice president of NYS AFLT. I was thrilled and honored, and surprised when I won. Being vice president brought me in contact with members of the board, and I had the opportunity to work with such luminaries as **Bob Ludwig, Joe Tursi, Robert Sherburne, Sharon Moore**, etc., and I began to understand how things worked. I was elected president and served 1973-74, with an outstanding board of directors. I enjoyed traveling to various parts of New York State in order to understand the needs of the various regions, as well as to meet many distinguished and



outstanding teachers. It was still the early days of NYSAFLT, so I felt that I could be a small bridge from some of the early beginnings to a glimpse of what the future might hold for all of us.

Although it was difficult to leave New York, in 1975, I moved to Maryland, because some of my grandchildren had arrived, and I was fortunate to obtain a job as Coordinator of Foreign Languages and ESOL in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. There again, I joined the Maryland Foreign Language Teachers Association, and was elected to serve as its president. I attended many foreign language conferences across the country, in order to learn about the latest methods and materials. I also was pleased to be a reviewer of the national Standards Commission.

Later, I joined the Modern Language Faculty of UMBC, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where I taught methods courses and created and coordinated outreach to the community in the form of discussion groups with teachers on different school levels, “Language Days” for high school students, “Let’s Talk” discussion sessions, a Foreign Language Career Day, the National FLES* Institute, a Foreign Language Camp for youngsters, and more. I also wrote and obtained a number of national grants to support these outreach activities. When I left the university, I became an independent consultant on all school and university levels around the country and throughout the world, in France, UK, Yugoslavia, Japan, Canada, India, Mexico, and others. When I was in India, I was invited to meet Indira Gandhi, and these two grandmothers had a great time talking about their respective grandchildren and sharing photographs.

I was invited to present at ACTFL, AATF, AATSP, NNELL, and countless other state and regional meetings. I had the good fortune to be elected to the board, then vice president, then president of AATF (1998-2000). One of the initiatives that I suggested was the creation of National French Week. I am pleased to learn that this activity remains an important current activity for French teachers. For those interested in my foreign language activities, please visit my FL [website](#). I have many wonderful memories of workshops that I have given, keynote speeches that I have presented, and fantastic friends and colleagues.

Our foreign language profession has been very kind to me, by recognizing my many efforts to promote foreign languages across the country. I have received numerous awards for leadership including: the Steiner Award from ACTFL; the Brooks Award from the Northeast Conference (and editorship of the Northeast Conference newsletter); the President’s Award from AATF, the top rank, Commandeur, in the Order of Palmes Academiques; the Distinguished Alumna from Brooklyn College; the Special Recognition Award from NNELL; the Associate Editorship for Hispania, from AATSP; the Kentucky Colonel Award from the Kentucky FL Association; the medal from the French Renaissance Society; and many other honors and recognitions.

I have had many opportunities to publish widely. Many articles (more than 200) have appeared in publications of AATF, AATSP, ACTFL, NNELL, etc. I wrote a book on methods of teaching languages to young children ([Practical Handbook to Early Language Learning](#)), now distributed by AATF; I wrote a French/English Dictionary (and also co-wrote similar dictionaries in Spanish, Italian and German); I co-edited a video, entitled “Forward with FLES*, for the AATF.



After working with a Committee of AATF, we successfully launched the annual celebration of National French Week, that continues to this day.

For all this to have happened, one might think that I have been extremely lucky. While that may be true, I must confess to having two major setbacks in my life. The first was that, although I was nominated to be president of ACTFL, I never succeeded! The second loss I had was not being elected on my first try for a seat on the board of the Northeast Conference. I did win, on a second attempt. Over the years, I have always felt a touch of gratitude for these losses as they disappointed me, but they also helped me to learn about the importance of humility, and the need to appreciate others. These were two tough lessons that I learned from sadness and disappointment.

Now, for the present. As always, I try to keep current about foreign language initiatives, and I recently was asked to update one of my articles that appeared ten years ago in “The 5-Minute Linguist,” 2nd edition. My newly revised chapter on Early Language Learning is on its way to publication this year in the 3rd edition of this work. I continue to have a part of my website devoted to answering questions from teachers, chairpersons, supervisors, parents, and others, entitled: “Ask Gladys.”

Many years were spent, caring for my husband, Robert Lipton, who was ill, and who died in 2014. Although his death hit me very hard, I was able to find something that engaged my brain and that also distracted me from my sorrow. I discovered painting, abstract painting, to be specific. For those interested in wild shapes, forms, colors and my continuing passion for the past 7 years, please visit my art [website](#). If you take a look, don’t expect to find many representational paintings; however, curators and attendees at my art shows have described my work as “eye-catching, engaging, breathtaking, and showing motion and rhythm.”

Fortunately, I have had more than 18 solo art shows in the Washington/Maryland area in libraries, churches, synagogues, and galleries. When I paint, I am completely engrossed in the process and I love to use multimedia (pastels, acrylics and markers). My style is bold, creating abstracts that have unusual color combinations and shapes. It is often difficult to provide titles for my artwork, since most of it is non-representational. I have many new friends in the art world, having met other artists and curators who have attended the openings of my new exhibitions.

Painting has brought me into a number of activities in connection with my artwork. I was invited to speak about my art on TV Chanel 7 in northern Virginia and asked to give an Art Workshop in Takoma Park Community Center. In addition [Beacon](#) newspapers published an article that I wrote, entitled “Understanding Abstract Art.” I currently have an Art Show at Brookside Gardens Gallery in Wheaton, MD. My total number of paintings to date is 495 and still painting!

The world has been changing, and I try to keep up with all the changes. I will be 95 this year, and people often ask me how I am coping. The answer is not complicated: **Wake up each day with curiosity and anticipation, participate in varied activities, have interactions with people, and follow your passion for something very close to your heart!**

Thanks so much to NYSAFLT for getting me started!



Member Spotlight



The “Member Spotlight” feature will highlight the work and accomplishments of one of NYSAFLT’s members. If you know someone who should be highlighted, please let us know!



This edition’s Member Spotlight focuses on **Nora Diaz Guevara**

Nora Diaz Guevara served as the most recent NYSAFLT NYC/LI co-director. Nora currently teaches two sections of Spanish Level One Non-native and three sections of Spanish Level Two native at Edward R. Murrow High School, Brooklyn, NY, where she has worked since 2005. She previously taught most levels of Spanish including AP Spanish Language and Culture. She has been a member of the planning committee for NYCAFLT/UFT conferences since 2008. She served as the Recording Secretary for the NYCAFLT of the United Federation of Teachers from 2009 to 2016 and has been serving as its publicity chair since 2010. She has presented and continues to volunteer at NYCAFLT and has volunteered for the NECTFL annual conferences. She believes that all students can learn and that one size does not fit all when it comes to education. A strong believer that language and culture go hand-in-hand, Nora takes her students to the New York City MOMA and local restaurants each semester. She is the coordinator for the New York State Seal of Biliteracy at her high school and serves as an advisor for the Latin Dancing club, named “Caliente,” at her school” Nora provides multiple community service opportunities for her students, whether it's serving water at the New York City Marathon or taking the students to perform and volunteer at local nursing homes. She has a wonderful husband and is the proud mother of a graduate Education major at SUNY Plattsburgh and a Chemical Engineering major at Cornell University. Nora has an Associate of Arts, Bachelor’s degrees in both Spanish and Psychology from CUNY College of Staten Island, and a Masters of Arts in Spanish from CUNY Hunter College.



Regional News

Capital-East

The Capital-East Region was a hotbed of events in professional development in the past month! A successful Spring Conference, *Cultivating Our Next Century*, was held on **Saturday, March 24** at the Saratoga Springs High School and was co-sponsored by NYSAFLT and COLT. The attendees were regaled with a keynote from **Dr. Jennifer Eddy** of Queens College at the City University of New York.

Dr. Eddy also led a workshop entitled “*Designing Articulated Performance Assessment Exemplars.*” This presentation reminded participants of the 5 World Readiness Standards as well as the 3 Modes of Communication to be taken into account when creating ‘Can-Do’ Statements specific to the task designed to assess student learning. Other heavy-hitters to present included NYSAFLT’s own **Beth Slocum**, presenting on “*Strengthening the CORE: High-Leverage Teaching Practices for Effective Language Learning*” and **Michael Mitchell** with “*Sustaining an Independent and Self-Directed Learning Community in the 1:1 World Language Classroom*”. Also included were workshops in keeping our languages and programs alive with a Latin workshop by **Charlie Giglio** and a revitalization of language program session by **Alexis Thornton**. **Charlie Giglio** received a special honor and recognition for his lifetime dedication to world languages.



Lifetime Achievement Honoree **Charlie Giglio** with **Elizabeth Slocum** at the NYSAFLT/COLT Regional Conference in March.

To the North, The Adirondack Foundation’s Adirondack Foreign Language Enhancement Fund (AFLEF), co-sponsored by NYSAFLT, held its first ever **World Language Conference** at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid on **Thursday, April 12**. Participants were eager and enthusiastic to have the opportunity to connect and engage with peers from across the Adirondack Region. There was interactive sharing from past AFLEF grant recipients, who shared the impact of the funding on students and teachers. This was followed by a breakout session of best practices and strategies and a networking lunch. The day wrapped up with an “*App Smackdown!*” It was a productive, meaningful and engaging day.



Central

The world languages conference held at Binghamton University on **April 13** was a success. After being rescheduled due to weather, we were able to rally our presenters and attendees for a day of learning and sharing with some of the best language teachers in the region and the state. The conference entitled *Contextualizing language learning: bringing down the classroom walls* included seven sessions on topics ranging from curriculum development to classroom activities. We thank all the people who volunteered their time and talents to this event. We also thank Binghamton University, and the Romance Language department for their generosity and flexibility.

LECNY's annual *May Celebration* took place on **Thursday, May 17** at the Baldwinsville Public Library. LECNY was proud to celebrate the achievements of those students receiving awards from the May Celebration Poster Contest, Marta Hevko and Anna Gonchar, both from the West Genesee CSD. Also recognized at the event were Student Scholarship winners, Sara Trop from Fayetteville Manlius CSD (nominated by **Denise Mahns**), Danielle Datter from Cicero North Syracuse CSD (nominated by **Jessica Keane**), and Michael Lucy from Liverpool CSD (nominated by **Stewart Smith**). In addition, the Friends of Foreign Language Award was presented to the Workers Center of CNY. **Diane Tyminski** from the West Genesee CSD was the recipient of the Teacher Grant Award. Thank you to all for joining us in this wonderful celebration. Congratulations to all winners!

LECNY is planning to hold its *LECNY/NYS AFLT Regional Conference* on **Saturday, September 29**. The keynote speaker will be **Michelle Walpole**. Details will be forthcoming. Please visit the [LECNY website](#) for more information.

AATF of CNY

AATF of CNY has many wonderful items to report. More students participated in the National French Contest in CNY this year than last year and we also welcomed two new districts now participating in le Grand Concours.

We had an awesome turnout for our French Film Night on **Wednesday, March 28** at the Community Library of Dewitt & Jamesville, where we showed *Comme un chef*. The crowd included students from the Jamesville-Dewitt and Fayetteville-Manlius school districts, Francofuns from Manlius, students from a French conversation course at OASIS, Westhill students, and even students and staff from as far away as Notre-Dame in Utica.

On **Saturday, April 14**, we welcomed Dr. Douja Mamelouk, Assistant Professor of Arabic and French at Le Moyne College, who presented "*French Pedagogy for iGen students*" at Marcellus Library. Dr. Mamelouk's presentation was fascinating and informative, featuring various ideas for class warm ups and blogging activities to make classical French texts relevant to a new generation and to help students speak more fluently in French. In addition, Dr. Mamelouk gave a very interesting presentation on "*Colonial Feminism and the Shaming of Tunisian Women*," which offered different perspectives for how Tunisian women are portrayed in the media.



Mid-Hudson/Westchester

Spring has been a busy season for **PWRFL** members. President **Alexis Thornton**, presented a French language workshop, “*Revitalize or Restart*,” at the the **COLT** Conference on **March 24**, and **Sally Barnes** attended the **Rochester Regional Conference** on **March 10**.

The **NYS AFLT/PWRFL Annual Conference** was held on **Saturday, April 14** at Putnam Valley High School. We welcomed NYS AFLT officers **Leslie Kudlack**, 1st Vice-President; **Sally Barnes**, 2nd Vice-President; and **Maureen Geagan**, Secretary-Treasurer. Leslie presented an update from NYS AFLT to the members. We saw many first time attendees at this conference which is very encouraging for our profession and world languages. Many members were pleased that we now have a PayPal account that facilitates paying and registering for membership and the conference. **PWRFL** would like to thank EMC School for their generous Raffle Prizes. Please contact [Ohilda Holguin](#) for any school needs or call 866-684-4615 for information about their products.

Our first speaker was **Alexis Thornton** who presented “*Getting Students Up and Moving*.” A French and Spanish teacher at Putnam Valley High School, Alexis inspired everyone with multiple ideas to break up the monotony of classes for students as we move toward the end of the school year.

The second presenter was **Dr. Judy Hochberg** who introduced us to “*Bringing Linguistics into the Foreign Language Classroom*.” Dr. Hochberg, who teaches Spanish at Fordham University and has published her first book *¿Por qué? 101 Questions about Spanish*, shared the insights of teaching from linguistics organized around five linguistic-based essential questions:

1. What features of the target language occur in many other languages?
2. What features of the target language occur in few other languages?
3. What factors affect the use of the target language?
4. What are the roots of the target language?
5. How do people learn and use the target language?

Illustrations and sample lessons that demonstrated using these essential questions in the classroom were shared with the teachers.



The third session was conducted by Cristina Conciatori who is a Technology Specialist at Albertus Magnus HS in Bardonia. This workshop, entitled “*Digital Assessment*,” focused on using web-based programs for collecting data and assessing students. Participants learned how to use: Quizlet, Socrative, Plickers, Poll Everywhere, and Kahoot. Teachers explored each program as a teacher and a student.

Our appreciation for a successful conference is extended to our officers: **Alexis Thornton**, President; **Roxanne Franquelli-Beras**, Vice-President; **Stephanie Albanese**, Treasurer; and **Viviane Lynch**, Secretary. We also offer congratulations to Alexis and Viviane who were re-elected to their positions.

Although we offered various contests for high school, middle school, and FLES students, only 3 submissions were received from high school students. The winner will be announced before the end of the school year.

*News from **ALoud***

Comprehensible Input: What’s it all about?

On **Saturday, April 28**, fifty-three world language teachers gathered at SUNY New Paltz for the NYS AFLT/ALoud Spring Conference to learn more about comprehensible input and how to implement it into their classrooms. **ALoud** President **Jenny Delfini**, Vice-president **Jessica Robb**, and their planning committee put together 6 hours of comprehensible and inspirational professional training on the topic. **ALoud** President **Jenny Delfini** opened the event by welcoming everyone and then NYS AFLT 1st Vice President **Leslie Kudlack** gave an update from NYS AFLT.

<p><i>Melanie Thomas and Jenny Delfini work the registration table</i></p>	<p><i>Mary Holmes presents on the topic of Comprehensible Input</i></p>	<p><i>Patricia Moller presented “You Can Create Embedded Readings!”</i></p>

Mary Holmes captivated the first session entitled, “*What is CI?*”, for those who were newbies to the concept of comprehensible input and to inspire all of us. We went away with the desire to make all our classes more comprehensible and more compelling. We also were made



aware that in each of our classes there is one student who just doesn't get it, one who is thinking about shoes, and one who is... who knows where!

The group was split into two smaller groups for the next four sessions making a more manageable group and allowing for on the spot practice.

NYC-Long Island

The **2018 FLACS World Language Conference** was held on **Friday, March 16** at Hofstra University. There were over 100 teachers and administrators in attendance. This year's theme was: *Strengthening the K-16 Bonds: Inspiring future educators.*

The conference started with an inspiring keynote speech by Benjamin Rifkin a professor of Russian at Hofstra University. There were many workshops that covered a variety of topics, from FLES to Checkpoint C. A few of the featured workshops included: *"I went to Europe, but my Language Class Didn't Help!"*, *"Stations in the WL Classroom,"* and *"Think Outside the Box: Student-led Engaging Activities."* This year **FLACS** decided to once again take an "unconference" approach so that educators could choose workshops that would meet their professional needs. Thank you to the following presenters: **Kari Schiano, William Anderson, Jen Nesfield, Dr. Jennifer Eddy, Jacqueline Ammirato,** and **James Browning** for sharing their fantastic ideas.

On **Saturday, April 28**, one hundred and twenty-one LOTE educators attended the **Spring Professional Development Workshops**, sponsored by the **New York City Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYCAFLT/UFT)**. This annual event, held at the UFT Headquarters in Manhattan, began with an orientation conducted by the President of the **NYCAFLT** Committee, **Irma Evangelista**. Each participant was then able to attend two workshops.

Some of the workshops offered included: *"Using Protocols in the LOTE Classroom,"* *"Engaging Students through TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling,"* *"Building Literacy in a Spanish Classroom,"* *"Achieving Highly Effective Questioning and Discussion Results in the LOTE Classroom,"* *Using Technology in the Classroom,"* and *"Student-Led Learning and Differentiation in the LOTE Classroom."* When the program ended it was evident that the workshops, presented by a cast of enthusiastic and engaging LOTE facilitators, received overall positive feedback from both new and experienced teachers. One attendee said there was an "excellent variety of activities for students of different levels and language knowledge." Another attendee expressed her gratitude to the presenters for having "the best Differentiation workshop" she had ever seen. The general sentiment, gleaned from the comments, could be summed up in the words of a participant who commented, "Excellent. Very engaging! Will definitely use this in my classroom! It was great!"

The **NYCAFLT** Committee prides itself in fulfilling its mission to meet the professional development needs of NYC foreign language educators. Following the **Spring Professional Development Workshops**, the **NYCAFLT** Planning Committee met to begin the planning for the



NYCAFLT Annual Professional Development Conference, co-sponsored by NYS AFLT, to be held this year on **Saturday, November 3**, at the UFT Headquarters in Manhattan.

Congratulations to **Valérie Greer**, French teacher at Bay Shore Middle School, and **Wendy Mercado**, Spanish teacher at Bay Shore Middle School, for winning the Best of NYS AFLT 2017 award for their session entitled “*Wake up and Wow Your World Language Class.*” **Valérie Greer** and **Wendy Mercado** represented NYS AFLT at the 2018 NECTFL conference in NYC by presenting the “Best of NY” session. They have presented at various state, regional, and national conferences over the years and are looking forward to presenting at the **2018 Summer Institute** in Oneonta, and the **2018 ACTFL Convention** in New Orleans, LA in November.

Please contact **Valérie Greer** if your school, world language students, or teachers are doing something special or exciting that you would like highlighted in the next newsletter. This can include contests, awards, special activities/projects etc.

Western New York

Buffalo-area teachers braved the after-effects of a snow day by heading out to the **WNYFLEC Regional Conference** during the first weekend in March. This year was the year of firsts, as Mount Saint Mary Academy was happy to host this event for the first time, and it was our first year with a new format. **Bill Heller** graciously agreed to be our first Keynote Speaker for the event – and it was most certainly one of the highlights of the day.

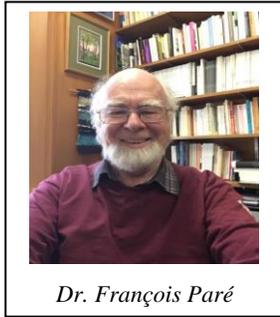
The beautiful Nazareth College campus once again hosted the **Rochester Regional Conference**. More than 120 area LOTE educators met to enjoy the various workshops offered at the 48th Annual Rochester Regional conference, *World Languages: The Uniting Force for Cultural Understanding*. Some notable presentations were given by **Bill Heller**, **Dr. Jennifer Eddy**, **Melanie Thomas**, **Jenn Mongold**, **Sara Moyer**, **Diane Tyminski**, and many, many more. Once again this year, we offered the “All for \$1 table” and it earned \$279.50 for area scholarships and awards. **Heather Kemper** was our lucky winner of an Annual Conference registration and **Mark Critelli** was awarded the Vito Marcello “Fund an Idea” award.

Don’t forget to check out our [regional page](#) on the NYS AFLT website, where you can find information about upcoming activities in the Western Region. One event to watch for is a **WNYFLEC** happy hour to kick off summer! Join us on **Wednesday, June 20** from 5-7 pm at Gordon Biersch in the Galleria Mall. You do not need to be a member of **WNYFLEC** to attend!



AATF of WNY

Our **Spring Chapter Meeting** took place at the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart on May 5. We welcomed guest speaker, Dr. François Paré, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of French Studies and former Department Chair from the University of Waterloo in Ontario. Dr. Paré's presentation, "*Le Québec et ses liens profonds avec les États-Unis*" focused on Québec and its longstanding American connections. Dr. Paré's French presentation was followed by a question and answer session with tasty amuse-gueules and light refreshments for all attendees. Webster's Bistro provided our door prizes.



Dr. François Paré

Martinique Updates



The AATF convention will take place from July 18-21 in La-Pointe-du-Bot, Martinique. The theme for this year is *Créolité et environnement aux Antilles francophones*. French Teachers are encouraged to go to the [website](#) for convention registration which includes four lunches, a reception on the final evening, one 1/2 day excursion, and two round-trip ferry tickets for travel between La-Pointe-du-Bout and Fort-de-France along with your welcome packet and access to all the sessions and exhibits. AATF offers opportunities organized by Vámonos tours and by Carib Congrès to visit the island and to learn about the culture firsthand. The pre-convention seminars are amazing and will allow members the opportunity to meet with local residents. This immersion will be a truly once-in-a-lifetime event. AATF also is [posting](#) monthly activities based on online videos about Martinique. Many attendees are planning to travel via other Caribbean islands such as Puerto Rico, Barbados, or St. Lucia to make the most of their travel plans. There is an app called Hopper that will help you locate the best airfares.



Public Advocacy



The New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) is seeking photos of students in action for its Annual Convention slideshow. Over 2,000 board members from all over the state attend this convention. Since school boards determine the policies that govern the operation of their districts, this is a great way to advocate for the importance of world languages in our schools. Share the great things your students do to learn another language by sending up to six high-resolution photos to nyssbaphots@gmail.com. The photos should be clear, show faces, and exhibit language learning activities. All ages, levels and languages are welcome. The deadline is **Wednesday, July 18**.

World Language Exams

Funding for the reinstatement of the World Language exams was not included in the 2018 NYS budget. Even though our efforts didn't produce the results that we wanted, your voices were heard based on our communication with the NYS Assembly members, Senators and Governor Cuomo's office. A huge thank you to everyone who wrote, emailed, faxed, called and/or visited their Legislators. If you received a follow up letter from your Legislators and/or have a photo from your visit with your elected officials, please [email](#) us a copy. We would like to make a collage of your efforts to display at the **Annual Conference**.

Thank you to Jackie Paredes, Senior Legislative Representative at New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), for placing the Regents reinstatement letter on NYSUT's Member Action Center (MAC) website. Any person who visited the site could enter their information and the site would fax the letter to their legislators.

We learned a lot about the NYS budget process and which parties are involved in each stage of its development. The Legislators have advised us to start our advocacy earlier, therefore, our full scale campaign for the 2019 NYS budget will begin this fall. Stay tuned as we will need your help to restore credibility to and advance the study of world languages in NYS.

Federal Level

Title IV, Part A, Student Support Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAE), were developed under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to help students receive a well-rounded education, improve school climate and culture, and promote the effective use of technology. A well-rounded education includes a wide variety of disciplines one of which is world languages. This program will receive a \$700 million increase, bringing its total funding to \$1.1 billion. Districts that receive more than \$30,000 can spend up to 80% of the money on a well-rounded education. Districts that receive less than \$30,000 have the discretion to spend up to 100% on a well-rounded education. In your district, inquire who is writing the plan, when input is solicited from administrators, and who will represent the interests of world language education.



NYSUT

Diana Zuckerman attended NYSUT's ED 13 Legislative Luncheon in February and the Committee of 100 in March. NYSUT representatives spoke with elected officials about educational issues of concern and proper funding for our public schools.



NYS AFLT Public Advocacy Co-Chair **Diana Zuckerman** met with Assembly member Kevin Cahill (center) and other NYSUT members to discuss education issues including the NYS budget.



The E.D. 13 Legislative Luncheon with (left to right) NYSUT PAC Sheryl Delano, PAC Matt Haynes, PAC Melissa Servant, Vote-Cope Patrick McCarthy, E.D. 13 Director Kathy Taylor, President Andy Pallotta, Legislative Representative Jackie Paredes, SRP Representative Kim McEvoy, and NYS AFLT Public Advocacy Co-Chair **Diana Zuckerman**. There were many legislators in attendance.

Stay up-to-date on world language issues through our NYS AFLT Advocacy Center. We have a wide range of articles and research documents, a listing of ways to contact your legislators and take action, and links to valuable resources. You can also contact your Public Advocacy Co-Chairs **Barbara Patterson** and **Diana Zuckerman**.



Betsy Roberts, Spanish teacher at Carthage CSD, Michael Schenk, Deputy Chief of Staff for Senator Patty Ritchie, **Françoise Piron**, French teacher at South Jefferson CS, **Jen Berie**, Spanish teacher at Sackets Harbor CSD.



Françoise Piron, French teacher at South Jefferson CS, and Assembly member Addie Jenne



National Network for Early Language Learning FLES News

Are you looking for a conference dedicated to early language learning? Come join the amazing educators and presenters in Summit, NJ for the **NNELL Summer Institute** from **July 13–15**. The theme is *Exploring the Multiple Pathways Toward Proficiency*. The lineup of presenters and workshops is incredible! Julie Speno from El Mundo de Pepita will be the keynote speaker. Visit the NNELL [website](#) for more information.

FLES Fest was held on **June 2** in New York City, hosted by The Dalton School's **Lori Langer de Ramirez**. The keynote speaker was **Carmen Campos**, teacher, artist, and puppeteer! New this year – a make and take opportunity to create your own puppet for your classroom!

The FLES Committee would like to recognize the group of inspired early language professionals who are part of the FLES Collegial Circle led by **Marissa Coulehan** in the Mid-Hudson/Westchester region. The group has met four times this year to discuss FLES-related issues such as curriculum, scheduling, lesson-planning, assessment, and other best practices. Special thanks to the Scarsdale Public Schools and **Shelby Marchese**, Alyssa Scala, and Sarah Whittington for hosting a site visit. Participants were able to observe three different FLES classes of various levels and debrief afterwards. What a great learning experience!

Attention all FLES teachers preK-6! Consider applying for a NYS AFLT Sally G. Hahn FLES Teacher Scholarship to attend a professional conference or FLES Teacher Incentive Grant to support school projects related to the FLES program. The deadlines are rolling so, apply anytime on the NYS AFLT website!

Announcements

Language Association Journal

Want to share ideas or research with your colleagues but prefer the written word? Then it is time to think about submitting to the ***Language Association Journal***! We welcome a range of topics, generally following the formats of teacher to teacher articles, scholarly research, and reports. The ***Language Association Journal*** is published two times per year with the next deadline being **September 1**. Submit your work through the NYS AFLT publications [webpage](#) and share all your best with your colleagues! For more information email ***Journal*** editor [Mary Caitlin Wight](#).

FULVI Awards

The Philip A. Fulvi Student Scholarship Award for Excellence in Foreign Language Study is given to a high school senior in each NYS AFLT region with a foreign language average of 90% or better. The Philip A. Fulvi Love of Language Award is given to an outstanding 8th grade student in each NYS AFLT region. Congratulations to the following FULVI Award recipients:

Region	Award	Student Name	Teacher
Capital-East	Love of Language	Carly Lahera	Jill Dugan
Capital-East	Student Scholarship	Morgan Swiers	Colin Quinn
Central NY	Student Scholarship	Sara Trop	Denise Mahns
Central NY	Student Scholarship (runner-up)	Johanna Wilson	Kate Stewart
MidHudson/Westchester	Love of Language	Matthew Miadelets	Marcia Heffler
MidHudson/Westchester	Student Scholarship	Roseanna Catania	Lisa Algarin-Aleman
MidHudson/Westchester	Student Scholarship (runner-up)	Brendan Pardo	Lisa Algarin-Aleman
NYC-LI	Love of Language	Nicholas DeIeso	JoAnn Porter
NYC-LI	Student Scholarship	Alana Campbell	Peter Giacalone
Western NY	Love of Language	Maya Gjonbalaj	Sarah Pennica
Western NY	Student Scholarship	Christina Hrusa	Anna Cartwright

Message from the Editor

In our school, we have not had the opportunity to go to Europe recently, but my colleague and I wanted to let our students experience French culture somewhere. So as the snow was flying here in WNY in mid-February, I was lucky enough to travel to Martinique with a group of students! Flying out of Montreal (a bus from Buffalo to Montreal in mid-February is NOT fun!), we arrived in Fort-de-France on a sunny Sunday afternoon. Martinique is an amazing mix of French and Caribbean culture where we were able to speak French AND learn creole, eat croissants AND shark, and sit in a café AND snorkel in beautiful blue waters! It's a destination I'd highly recommend, and about which I will be presenting a workshop at the **Annual Conference**. Here's just a sampling of what we saw...





NYSAFLT 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 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 the donations [page](#) or by sending a check (made payable to **NYSAFLT**) to:

NYSAFLT Headquarters
2400 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

~~~~~

In memory of

**Dexter, NYSA-dog  
Extraodinaire**

you will be missed.

Sincerely,  
**Michele Shenton**

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Congratulations to

**Mary Caitlin Wright**

on her recent election to the School Board of  
the Greece Central School District

Sincerely,  
**Marie Campanaro**

~~~~~



Mark Your Calendars

June

- 11–12 Board of Regents Meeting
- 15 **Deadline:** Summer Institute Scholarship Applications
- 25–28 AATSP Annual Conference (Salamanca, Spain)

July

- 16–19 AATF Annual Conference (La Pointe-du-Bout, Martinique)
- 16–17 Board of Regents Meeting

August

- 1 **Deadline:** September *Newsletter* Submissions
- 7–10 **Summer Institute** (Oneonta, NY)
- 15 **Deadline:** Annual Conference Scholarship Applications

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

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