In this Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The President’s Corner</th>
<th>The President’s Corner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The President’s Corner</td>
<td>The President’s Corner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>Conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where Are They Now?</td>
<td>Where Are They Now?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Spotlight</td>
<td>Member Spotlight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional News</td>
<td>Regional News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Advocacy</td>
<td>Public Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcements</td>
<td>Announcements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message from the Editor</td>
<td>Message from the Editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar</td>
<td>Calendar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” - Mahatma Gandhi

My final message as President is somewhat bittersweet. I have spent the last ten years in service to NYSAFLT in many capacities. This past year as President has been a whirlwind: attending conferences in San Antonio, Boston and across New York State; meeting with State Education officials; collaborating with colleagues, both in NYS and at ACTFL regarding the Seal of Biliteracy; meeting new members; socializing with old friends; and, as always, advocating for language teachers and programs.

If you will indulge me for this last newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to thank several people who made my presidency easier than it might have been. Marie Campanaro did an outstanding job with this year’s Summer Institute. She is a true language warrior with a wicked sense of humor! Candie Black planned and pulled off an amazing Annual Conference in Rochester this year. She rocked our NYSAworld. This year’s Colloquium was deftly handled by our President-Elect, and my good friend, Francesco Fratto. I look forward to following his leadership next year! Michelle Shenton-Mong (Secretary-Treasurer) has been by my side throughout my presidential-track. A true friend and confidante, she was my rock. I am excited to see her grow as she starts on her own path of leadership.

Without publications like this Newsletter and our Journal, we would not be serving our membership as well as we do. JoAnn Thomasson has grown into her role as Newsletter Editor and has helped change the way we share our news. Carol Dean is ending her term as Journal
Editor and Joanne O’Toole is stepping in as our new editor. These two professionals continue to collaborate on behalf of NYSAFLT. Thank you both for your invaluable support! Barb Patterson helped NYSAFLT grow as an organization in her role as Assistant Director. She streamlined processes and procedures, she brought in new ideas and she even wrote us poems. While the AD position will go unfilled next year, I am excited that Barb will continue to devote some time to NYSAFLT. Thank you, Barb!

Part of the reason I got involved with NYSAFLT was due in large part to the NYSA-DynamicDuo: John Carlino and Ken Hughes. These two gentlemen have changed the face, voice and structure of our organization in order to continue sailing through the 21st century. The synergy that exists between them is unparalleled and is part of what makes NYSAFLT, well, NYSAFLT. John and Ken, you both continue to inspire me on a daily basis. Thank you for your hard work, diligence and dedication to this wonderful association.

Finally, I want to thank all of the members who emailed me, called me, sent me a note or simply stopped me at an event to share their thanks, thoughts, concerns or just to say “Hi.” Your continued involvement and support of NYSAFLT warms my heart and reminds me how important collaboration is. This organization is strong and energized. I hope I have left it a little better off.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a successful 2015!

Best Regards,

Bill Anderson
2014 NYSAFLT President

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Did You Read Me?

This edition of the Newsletter includes a scavenger hunt to see if our members are reading for comprehension. Find the answers to the following questions and email them to newsletter@nysaflt.org. Be sure to include “Scavenger Hunt” in the subject line.

One submission will be randomly selected from all correct answers and will receive $5 off of NYSAgear at CafePress. The deadline is December 15th. Congratulations to our September winner, Mary Leptak!!

1. What is the theme for the 2015 NYSAFLT Annual Conference?
2. Which LECNY member recently received the MORIC Regional BOCES Excellence in Technology Integration Award?
3. Who is the Regional Director-elect for the NYC-LI region?
4. What school donated the newest NYSAFLT scholarship being offered in 2015?
5. When is the deadline to enter the Student Videocast Contest?
The “2014 NYSAFLT Annual Conference” was a wonderful success thanks to a hardworking group of organizers, a talented set of presenters and, of course, our dedicated attendees who gave up their weekend to attend the conference to enhance their teaching practice. Over 300 educators attended this conference, which offered more than 60 professional development workshops.

This year ten new teachers were able to benefit from a grant from Vista Higher Learning, which covered their registration costs to attend the Annual Conference. These ten new teachers were paired with conference veterans, who met with them and shared their expertise.

Mark your calendars and save the date! The 2015 NYSAFLT Annual Conference will take place in beautiful Saratoga Springs on Friday and Saturday, October 30 and 31, 2015. Our theme is "21st Century LOTE Education: Providing the Keys to College and Career Readiness.” We are fortunate to have Marty Abbott, ACTFL Executive Director, as our keynote speaker. Please make this the year to submit a workshop application. We appreciate your willingness to share your ideas and enrich our classrooms. Visit www.nysaflt.org for details and workshop submission forms.
Where Are They Now??

NYSAFLT is excited to introduce this new column to NYSAFLT News. In each edition of the Newsletter, we will spotlight one of our past presidents to hear about their experiences as NYSAFLT President.

In 1962, I became Foreign Language Coordinator for the Deer Park School District and since I had been a charter member of the formation of the AATI Long Island Chapter in 1959, I sought a state organization that would be viable for me to join as well as for the members of the department. Through a fellow foreign language teacher in another district, I was informed that NYSAFLT was the organization for language teachers, especially those teachers at the elementary and/or secondary level. I became a member in 1964, attended two annual conferences, and was very impressed by the attention to the minutest details each time. I became involved in a committee or two and I was elected as director from the Long Island region in 1966. I was particularly struck by the professionalism of the members of the Board and especially, President Robert Ludwig, followed by Sharon Moore. The annual and regional meetings were always most informative and I was particularly attracted to the presentations that dealt with teacher training, and especially classroom methodology.

In 1965, I received my doctorate in Italian studies and the following year, I was appointed Assistant Professor at SUNY Stony Brook. In 1967, I became director of the foreign-language teacher training component of the Department of French and Italian and a requirement for all student teachers under my direction was to become members of their particular AAT as well as NYSAFLT. This requirement continued with those who replaced me after I retired from Stony Brook University. My association with NYSAFLT has always been very special to me and to my family.

During my time as President, the NYSALT administration, through the efforts of the Regents Committee under the leadership of Leo Benardo and David Weiss of New York City,
was able to obtain a commitment by the State Education Department, that an oral section was to be included in the 1974 Regents Examination. Since 1974, this has been a part of the State exam.

The Association’s efforts to stimulate the early appointment of the Chief of the Bureau of Foreign Languages were culminated with the nomination of Paul Dammer to that post. And replacing him as the Associate for German was Helene Loew of the Half Hollow Hills School District. Efforts in the area of public relations resulted in Board authorization for the preparation of tapes for radio dissemination, the development of plans for a speakers’ bureau, the casting of a special medal to be made available at cost to all members for awards to students for outstanding oral proficiency, and the preparation of a special public relations kit available to all members. A new publication, the Newsletter, was prepared for the first time in 1973, edited by Past President Sharon Moore. This Newsletter has continued through the subsequent years.

Relationships with other professional groups, in State, or out of State, gained momentum. NYSAFLT was invited to present a panel at the annual meeting of the NY State Personnel and Guidance Association. We also presented panels at the annual conference of the Science Teachers of New York State as well as the Music Teachers’ conference. I was keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association at Cape Cod.

Among the new programs initiated in 1972-73 was the Travel Committee, established under the guidance of Vera Galante of the Hicksville Public Schools. A special student scholarship fund was established to provide travel possibilities for both teachers and students.

In an attempt to assist members who were seeking employment, a Placement Bureau, under the supervision of Rosemarie Oetiker was established. More than 800 letters were sent to administrators at all levels of instruction throughout the State. Several persons were hired in various districts throughout the State as a result.

New teacher certification loomed in the near future and the Association established an Ad Hoc Committee to draw up guidelines for such eventual certification. It was hoped that such guidelines would become the model for similar documents throughout the United States.

At the annual conference in 1974, several panel presentations dealing with individualized instruction and human dynamics were introduced, all with great success.

In 1985, I officially retired from Stony Brook University only to return until 1990 as Director of the Foreign Language Teacher Training Program. I was then asked to work with incoming students at all levels for the Orientation Program. I retired from that program in 2000.

However, since I was involved with the founding of the Center for Italian Studies on campus in 1985 I have continued to be quite active with this very successful venture. I plan non-credit Italian courses for the general public to be taught at Stony Brook or in local high schools and this year, for the first time, we have instituted a class for children from the ages of 6-10. I am also very active with the Arturo Toscanini Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy in America. I have been the Chairman of the annual Scholarship program since 1972 and I have become President again of the Lodge this year, after having been President 39 years ago.
Unfortunately, after 59 wonderful years of marriage to my wife, Viola, she passed away in January, 2012. I have four delightful children, one a retired elementary school teacher, one a teacher of Italian and Spanish, one a physician’s assistant and one a legal secretary. We have been blessed with eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**Member Spotlight**

The “Member Spotlight” is a new feature in our efforts to restructure the Newsletter and keep you updated on the activities of our members. This column will highlight the work and accomplishments of one of NYSAFLT’s members.

This month's NYSAFLT Member Spotlight shines brightly on Michael Mitchell.

My dearest NYSA-Friends: I am honored to be included in the NYSAFLT Member Spotlight. I am most honored this year, as under the leadership of President Bill Anderson, NYSAFLT as a whole has seen a very successful year. It was so great to see so many of you at our last NYSAFLT Annual Conference in Rochester. Candace Black and her team of conference committee chairpeople and volunteers did a stellar job. These events are very grounding for me. They are a great way to step away from my job as Spanish teacher, coordinator of the Lab School, advisor of the Gay Straight Alliance, union rep and member of a million committees, to land in a place where we all work together to enhance our skills and highlight the value of world language study as a core subject in our schools. We have a pretty good time too!

My involvement with NYSAFLT began in 2001 when my methods instructor at Dowling College, the ever famous and talented Dr. Elaine Margarita, insisted that her methods students become members of NYSAFLT and LILT instead of purchasing materials for the course. As a result, NYSAFLT opened doors for me at that time, and continues to do so 14 years into my career. Since then, I have conducted workshops on classroom technology, classroom management, and teaching proficiency through reading and storytelling (TPRS). I began serving on committees including conference planning, Registration, A/V, and Advocacy. In 2008, I was elected to serve on NYSAFLT’s Board of Directors representing the Capital Region. During that same time, I also served as secretary and then president of COLT. I currently serve COLT as a past president/consultant and director of social media and communication. I have been published three times in the NYSAFLT Journal, a publication that allows our NYSAFLT members to share experiences, research and ideas. I have served on behalf of NYSAFLT on committees with organizations such as NYSCEA and NYSUT.
In 2011, I applied for and was the recipient of the NYSAFLT Don Quijote Cultural Scholarship. This enabled me to spend two weeks in Madrid with nearly all of my expenses paid. In addition to making some fabulous lifelong friends, it was a great way to reconnect me to the Spanish language and culture. After 10 years of teaching, I had become very good at speaking “Level 2” Spanish. My time in Madrid reminded me that there’s a whole lot of Spanish trapped in my brain; I just needed to be immersed in a place where I can use it. Returning to my classroom after this experience allowed me to provide a real world connection for my students to the Spanish-speaking world.

Why do all of this? It is so rewarding and so helpful to be a part of and contribute to this very important organization. Personally, the constant professional development has enhanced my teaching. It keeps me current and I am certainly not bored. When I moved from Long Island to Albany, one phone call to my friend, colleague and mentor, Al Martino, connected me to a job at the Bethlehem Central School District. When I began searching for school administrator jobs, the workshops and personal mentorship of NYSAFLT Director of Media and Social Technology Ken Hughes proved invaluable. When my fellow TPRS/Comprehensible Input teachers needed a venue to coach and facilitate workshops on the method, NYSAFLT made space for us at Annual Conferences. My participation in NYSAFLT has also allowed me to honor and recognize some of my most outstanding NYSA-friends such as Jill Dugan, Lizette Liebold and Colleen Sheehan. They have received some of NYSAFLT’s distinguished awards in recent years. I have also been able to highlight my students’ successes through NYSAFLT Awards.

When I’m not doing all that is listed above, my partner, Mat Petrin, and I maintain a 90 year old home in the city of Albany, which technically belongs to our two cats, Enrique and Jacques. I love to cook, wreck and rebuild things, and get away as much as possible. I’m self-teaching how to play the guitar and use yoga to forget about life for a while. I am an advocate by nature. I am an executive board member at the Pride Center of The Capital Region. I work closely with organizations such as the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Educators Network to support LGBTQ youth. I also sit on NYSUT’s LGBTQ Educators Task Force.

I encourage all of my NYSA-friends to remember that there are many ways to stay involved with NYSAFLT, many ways to contribute to NYSAFLT and many ways to benefit from NYSAFLT. In addition to the events and conferences, NYSAFLT is a network of professionals that want nothing more than for our students to leave our schools loving a foreign language and culture. I cannot count the number of times I have reached out to a fellow member for an idea, for advice or even to go and get a drink. Similar to the power of our teachers’ associations, there is power in your NYSAFLT membership. It is only when we come together that mountains can be moved. We have a mountain to move and we always need help. The State of New York constantly needs to be reminded that LOTE is a core subject, that our language programs need to be robust, diverse, and staffed with high quality teachers, that foreign languages need to be learned at an early age, and that we need to make use of authentic assessment measures that truly capture the language and culture competencies acquired by our students.
Regional News

Capital-East

Mark your calendars for a regional conference to be held Saturday, February 7 at Lake George Jr./Sr. High School. The theme of the event is: “A + B + C = 21st Century Skills to All Levels of LOTE” and will feature NYS Teacher of the Year Charles Giglio as the keynote speaker. Please contact Susan Frost for more information.

Congratulations to election winners Melinda Barnes, Director Capital-East, and Maureen Geagan, NYSAFLT Secretary-Treasurer.

Barnes and Barnes…
Westchester Regional Director Sally Barnes welcomes newly-elected Capital-East Director Melinda Barnes to the NYSAFLT BOD!

AATF of CNY

As the holidays approach, the AATF of CNY is anticipating sending out its last newsletter of 2014. This has always been the main vehicle of communication with members and has resulted in a greater awareness of French in the central New York area and greater participation of area schools.

Jennifer (Reed) Kostolecki of Whitesboro Middle School, Whitesboro, NY, and vice president of our local chapter, together with Lori Anne Heller of Fairport Central School in Rochester, NY presented at the NYSAFT Annual Conference in October. Lori Anne and Jennifer’s workshop entitled “When Technology Fails... Activities to Save the Day!” was well attended and received most favorable reviews. The presentation included many examples of tried-and-true activities designed to engage students without the hassle of technological glitches.

During the last session of the conference, AATF of CNY Academic Projects Coordinator Denise Mahns presented on the challenges of addressing ACTFL’s Communities standard. She shared many ideas for community engagement that would allow students and teachers to meet this “5th C” of our national standards. In particular, she urged participants to engage with their local professional organizations (such as AATF of CNY) in order to take advantage of films, sporting events, lectures, and other connections to local speakers of the target language.
As a perfect follow-up to this suggestion, leaders of our organization arranged a “Syracuse Crunch French Night” during National French Week. Over ten area schools, in addition to area adult French language groups, attended on November 7. The French presence was well indicated not only by the French-chanting and poster-waving attendees, but also by the newly created AATF of CNY banner that was unfurled during the festivities! After the game, players greeted and interacted with students, teachers, and adults. This was the second annual “night with the Crunch” and was so successful that it most likely will be repeated annually.

At the Language Educators of Central New York (LECNY) conference in Syracuse, Denise Mahns once again worked with colleagues, coordinating the French Immersion Workshop. She presented a kind of “show and tell” of resources, information and techniques gleaned from her “stage” at Trois Pistoles in Québec this summer. Participants had an opportunity for conversation, questions and perusal of materials.

Future group activities include another French film night in the spring and the annual spring workshop in April at the Onondaga Free Library, with a theme of music.

All details will be noted on our own website www.aatfcny.org as they become available.

Central New York

Language teachers in the Southern Tier gathered on Saturday, October 25, at a conference entitled "Valuing the World: Teachers, Students & Cultures.” The conference was held at Tioga Middle School. The keynote speaker, Marie Campanaro, inspired teachers to defend what we do by advocating for our departments and students. Participants attended two of six workshops throughout the day. Many thanks to our presenters, Candace Black, Molly Drum, Karen Martín-Sánchez, Katherine Meierjurgen, Janice Strauss and Nancy Wallace.

Several Spanish teachers gathered at a painting studio in Binghamton called Uncorked Creations to create a Día de los Muertos painting for their classrooms. Uncorked Creations takes participants step by step to produce a beautiful piece of artwork. Many thanks to Mandy Black for organizing this event. Pictured are Mandy and Celia Randesi with their awesome artwork!
News from LECNY

On November 1, the NYSAFLT - LECNY Regional “LOTE Makes the World Go Round” was held at East Syracuse - Minoa High School. In attendance were NYSAFLT President - Elect, Candace R. Black and Marie Campanaro, 1st Vice President. There were several vendors and participants were also treated to the LECNY flea market that has existed for many years. The keynote speaker, Engracia Schuster, author of “Critical Thinking in Language Learning” and Spanish language Coordinator at Onondaga Community College, asked members in attendance how they incorporate culture in their lessons. Participants broke into groups and had table discussions then shared what they do to incorporate culture.

During the conference, the LECNY Friend of Language Award was awarded to the Syracuse Crunch hockey team for collaborating a partnership with local French teachers and French-speaking Canadian hockey players.

The first session of the conference included three workshops: “Re-envisioning School-College Partnerships in Changing Time,” presented by SUNY Oswego Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Joanne O’Toole and Nicole Alberico-Farr, Spanish Teacher at C.W. Baker High School in Baldwinsville, NY; “Apps for LOTE: Slide to Learn” presented by Rosanne Perla, Italian and Spanish Teacher, East Syracuse - Minoa Central School District and NYSAFLT Regional Director; and “Flipping the LOTE Classroom” by Laura Rouse, LECNY Past President and French Teacher/Teacher Leader at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Central Schools.

The second session included a choice of a French, Spanish or Italian immersion session to choose from as well as an “unconference” which is defined as a participant-driven rather than presenter driven workshop.

The East Syracuse-Minoa Foreign Language Department coordinated projects and decorated the library with Italian, French (All Saints Day and All Souls Day) and Spanish (Day of the Dead) students’ decorations and projects for the NYSAFLT-LECNY conference.
LECNY Past President Laura Rouse, French teacher and Teacher Leader in the Vernon-Verona-Sherill district, received the MORIC Regional BOCES Excellence in Technology Integration Award. Laura has presented several workshops for NYSAFLT and LECNY. Along with the award, Laura also received an iPad. Congratulations!

Carrie Hodkinson, Middle School Principal, Laura Rouse, Vernon-Verona- Sherill Superintendent, Martha Group

Mid-Hudson/Westchester

PoWeRFuL kicked off the school year with a three hour workshop on “Creativity, Culture and the Common Core” with former NYSAFLT President Mary Holmes on October 7. Participants were offered engaging and meaningful strategies to incorporate the Common Core into LOTE lessons. We are very grateful to Mary for taking time to share her expertise and resources with our members!

The Mid-Hudson/Westchester region was well-represented at the NYSAFLT Annual Conference in Rochester. PoWeRFuL President Alexis Thornton was a mentor to two first-time NYSAFLT attendees. Participants enjoyed two days of workshops, a trade show and productive discussion with fellow educators and NYSAFLT members.

As you are renewing your NYSAFLT membership, please don’t forget to renew your PoWeRFuL membership! Feel free to invite a friend or colleague to join as well!
NYC-Long Island

On Saturday, November 1, 334 LOTE educators attended the New York City Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYCAFLT) Annual Professional Conference co-sponsored by NYSAFLT at the United Federation of Teachers Headquarters in Manhattan. Participants attended three workshop sessions of their choice during a full-day of non-stop activities. The event opened with a welcome from Nunzia Manginelli, NYCAFLT’s Vice President and Workshop Chairperson. The day began with greetings from George Altomare, the UFT Professional Committees’ Liaison and Irma Evangelista, President of NYCAFLT. NYSAFLT President William Anderson, spoke to participants about LOTE updates and NYSAFLT news. Robin Thompson, NYC-LI Regional Director, and George Roland (Regional Director-elect) were in attendance representing their regions and welcoming participants. NYCAFLT board member Vivian Selenikas welcomed the keynote speaker, NYS Assemblywoman (37Q), the Honorable Catherine Nolan, Chairwoman of the NYS Assembly Education Committee. Honorable Chairwoman Nolan elicited an enthusiastic response from the audience and shared her personal experiences as a second language learner as a public school student in Queens, NY and encouraged participates to become involved in advocacy efforts on behalf of LOTE throughout NYS.

Conference attendees enthusiastically enjoyed speaking to the representatives of professional organizations such as AATSP, AATF, AATI and Central America Service Expeditions. After lunch Gary Milgrom conducted the raffles of two NYSAFLT memberships and four ethnic restaurant gift certificates.

The workshop presenters focused on the conference theme: "LOTE: The Power to Engage, One Student at a Time." A variety of workshops given in the target language and in English were held and many interactive workshops had "take-aways" that teachers could bring back for immediate use in their classrooms. The NYS Language Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) at NYU also prepared LOTE resource guides that all conference participants received.

The NYCAFLT Committee makes a special effort to provide early support to both student teachers and new teachers of LOTE. Workshops were presented by both committee members and guest presenters. Pat Lo from the NYS Language Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) at NYU presented “Engaging the Brain in Learning a Foreign Language.” Harriet Saxon from Montclair State University presented “Engaging Students through Phonetics, Film and Food.” Lonnie Dai Zovi from Albuquerque, NM presented “Music –The Affective and Effective Tool for Lasting Language Acquisition.” Christopher Barley, Robin Thompson, George Roland, Nora Diaz Guevara, Rosa Riccio-Pietanza, Wilma Campos, Shirley Vargas, Dalia Benaisa, Esperanza Salamanca, Vivian Selenikas, Francisco Uceda, and Elisa Velasco were all presenters from the NYCAFLT Committee.

We were also delighted to have as workshop presenters two prospective committee members, Yadira Alejandro-Robles and Danis Aristy-Vercessi.
How does one judge if a conference has been successful or not? The 252 evaluation forms returned by participants in the 25 workshops gave high marks to the quality and relevance of the topics addressed. One could not help but be impressed by the admiration for the knowledge and dedication of the presenters revealed in the evaluations.

NYCAFLT's next event will be our Spring Professional Development Conference that will take place in April 2015 at the UFT Headquarters in Manhattan. A description of the conference and each workshop will be posted on both the UFT and NYSAFLT websites in early 2015. Please check the regional website for more information.


Note from your NYC-LI Director

It has truly been a pleasure to serve as your NYC-LI Regional Director from 2010-2014. I am honored to have collaborated with an outstanding group of dedicated teachers who volunteer their time and talents for NYSAFLT. Their work in schools with students, parents, and
administrators in LOTE are worthy of admiration. Thank you, NYSAFLT, for your valuable contribution to our profession and for your support throughout my time serving the NYC-LI Region. Sincerely, Robin Thompson

On October 21 the NYC-Long Island FLES Collegial Circle met at the West Side School in Syosset, New York. Founded by NYSAFLT NYC-LI regional director Tara Tassani, the NYC-LI FLES Collegial Circle was created to allow fellow FLES teachers to share their passion for World Language Education and to offer support for one another. “With many changes taking place including the newly instated pathways for graduation in New York State, high-quality FLES programs are an intricate part of the conversation. Working together, we are discussing ways to enhance our instruction, advocate for our programs and ensure that our students are receiving the best possible educational experience in our classroom,” states Tara. Topics of discussion include assessment, literacy, advocacy and best practices. Dates and locations for this FLES Collegial Circle can be found on the NYSAFLT NYC-LI regional webpage and on our twitter account @NYSAFLTNYCLI. For more information or to RSVP for one of our sessions, please contact Tara Tassani.

NYC-LI FLES Collegial Circle members engage in a QR code scavenger hunt activity using iPads and authentic videos. From bottom left to right: Johanna Medina-Bowers, Jennifer Coniglio, Marissa Coulehan, April Cornachio and Jeanette Rodriguez.

On Saturday, October 18, The Wheatley School graciously opened their doors to 125 educators for the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Long Island Chapter (AATSP-LI) Fall Workshops. This annual half-day workshop event began at 8 a.m. and ended at 12 p.m.

The morning started with a light breakfast and a warm welcome from AATSP-LI President, Julie Weilgart. Immediately following, participants went to their first session which was followed by an exciting raffle with many excellent prizes! Participants had a chance to connect and network before going to their second and final session.
There was something for everyone that day, with ten sessions to choose from at two separate time slots. The themes represented were assessment, literacy, and technology. Engaging assessment-themed workshops were “Inter-Rater Reliability on FLACS Exams” presented by Dr. Elaine Margarita-Buckley and “Successful Item Writing is Not as Easy as 1, 2, 3” given by Jennifer Nesfield. Wonderful literacy-based sessions included the acclaimed “Reading to Write in LOTE à la Common Core” with Lillian Carey and Richard Zawislak’s fabulous session entitled “Middle School LOTE: Let’s Stop Reinventing the Wheel!” Inspiring technology-driven workshops included “Ready-Made Internet Resources to Enhance Your Lessons!” presented by Marie Nuzzi and “Google and Your Classroom” by Nikole De Luca. Bravo to the entire AATSP-LI Executive Council for a fun-filled and inspiring conference day!

Western New York

On October 22, WNYFLEC members met for their Annual Fall Meeting. After dinner and catching up with colleagues from around the region, it was time to get to work! Members were offered three different archived NYSAFLT webinars from which to choose: “Mobile Learning for Improved Modern Language Communication,” “Designing Performance Assessments in the Communicative Modes,” and “Literacy Strategies for the 21st Century LOTE Teacher.” Thank you to NYSAFLT, Dr. Harry Tuttle, Dr. Jennifer Eddy, and Al Martino for providing us with such a wonderful selection of webinars to view! To follow-up the webinars, each group had a discussion about how they thought they might incorporate some of the strategies into their classroom, both long-term and short-term. The Fall Meeting wasn’t just about catching up with colleagues or discovering new strategies, there were bonus benefits to attending the meeting: many gift certificates and other prizes were raffled off at the end of the evening.

WNYFLEC and its members are looking forward to the 2015 WNYFLEC/NYSAFLT Regional Conference which will be held on Saturday, February 28 at Hamburg High School. The WNYFLEC Regional Conference has traditionally been one of the larger 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 fifteen 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. Visit the WNYFLEC website for more information about the event!

If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please contact JoAnn Thomasson for more information. Vendors can contact Kristina Strauss for table and advertising prices. You are sure to have an eager audience of foreign language educators spanning from elementary levels to college. Foreign language teachers are known for seeking the best and most captivating materials and ideas to create the optimum learning environment for their students.

Announcing the 2015 NYSAFLT Rochester Regional Conference to be held on Saturday, March 7 at Nazareth College in Rochester, NY! Our theme this year is “LOTE: The
Glue That Holds It All Together.” Please come and join us for an enriching day of professional development and collegial networking! For more information, visit www.nysaflt.org. Registration is now open with discounted rates for members and earlybird registration!

The Chautauqua County Foreign Language Teachers' Association had their Fall dinner on Thursday, November 6. The CCFLTA continues to discuss the new pathways to graduation and explore exciting opportunities for LOTE education. This spring, Patricia Martin (Sherman CSD) and Michelle Swanson (Brocton CSD) will travel with their students to Costa Rica along with students from Chautauqua Lake, Panama and Westfield.

Congratulations to the East Irondequoit School District for having won both the James E. Allen Distinguished Foreign Language Program Award for its 6-12 program and the Sally G. Hahn Memorial Award for its FLES program!

What’s happening in your neck of the woods? Please send your updates so we can get them into the NYSAFLT Newsletter at easlocum@rochester.rr.com and/or follow us on Twitter – NYSAFLT WNY - @NYSAFLTW.

NNELL

The NYSAFLT FLES Committee is updating theNYS FLES Program Database. We ask anyone who has a FLES program (any language instruction Grade 6 or below) to go to this link to submit their program information. We have also created a Facebook group called "NYS FLES to ease communication of FLES teachers throughout the state.
Public Advocacy

Thank you to Marie Campanaro for all of her hard work, wisdom and dedication to LOTE Public Advocacy (PA). Marie will be continuing to devote her time to the NYSAFLT presidential track in 2015.

NYSAFLT has been working closely with NYSED and NYSUT to ensure that we are promoting the ability for our students to speak more than one language. We were pleased to have NYSED Associate Commissioner for the Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies Angelica Infante-Green and NYSUT Legislative Representative Jackie Paredes join us at the Annual Conference. Angelica addressed the conference attendees confirming her commitment to LOTE in her NYSED role. We are working with Jackie to hold a LOTE lobby day and press conference in Albany in February. We are hoping to have many of you with us to show a strong voice for LOTE. We will notify NYSAFLT members of the exact date. Thank you to the NYSAFLT Board of Directors and officers who were able to share their input with Angelica and Jackie.

We would like to thank all of the NYSAFLT members who were able to attend the NYSAFLT Public Advocacy committee meeting at the Annual Conference in Rochester. We discussed urging NYSED to reinstate major world language exams and creating LOTE advocacy PowerPoints for specific audiences, such as parent associations. Your contributions are invaluable.

Diana Zuckerman will be meeting with the New York State United Teachers’ (NYSUT) in mid-December as the LOTE Subject Area Committee (SAC) representative. This direct connection between NYSUT and NYSAFLT will certainly help us in our advocacy efforts.

Our focus for the coming year is to continue with our grass roots efforts to educate our students’ families and communities about the critical need for early and continual foreign language instruction for national security, employment, and social justice. We hope to provide ideas and activities for teachers to promote FL education more directly and more often in their classrooms.

NYSAFLT participates in the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL’s) regular national advocacy calls with advocacy leaders from different states. Stay tuned for ACTFL’s Lead with Languages Advocacy Initiative, coming in early 2015.

Stay up-to-date on LOTE issues through our NYSAFLT Advocacy Center on the NYSAFLT website. We have a wide range of articles and research documents, ways to contact your legislators and take action as well as links to valuable resources. You can also join our NYSAFLT Public Advocacy Committee by contacting us at advocacy@nysaflt.org.
Be sure to renew your NYSAFLT membership and to urge all of your colleagues to become members. The larger our membership, the louder our voice! Thanks for all that you do for LOTE. What we do every day in and out of the classroom with our students makes a world of difference. LOTE educators are our hope for a better, more compassionate world.

Melinda Barnes, Marie Campanaro, Sally Barnes, Jackie Paredes (NYSUT Legislative Representative), Fabien Riviere, Diana Zuckerman, Barbara Patterson, Maureen Geagan, Tara Mullady Tassani, Michelle Shenton-Mong attended the Public Advocacy committee meeting at the NYSAFLT Annual Conference.

Announcements

Congratulations to the following NYSAFLT members who won a NYSAFLT Annual Conference Scholarship! These scholarships helped defray the costs of attending this year’s Annual Conference “Getting to the Common Core of It! Let NYSAFLT Rock Your World” at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

Cynthia Elliott, a French teacher at Rome Free Academy, seeks to continually improve her teaching and expand her network. She is an energetic teacher who promotes the French language and its culture throughout the school and within the community.

Patrick Kochyan, a French teacher at Coney Island Prep High School, hoped to gain best practices and start to build relationships with new and experienced educators at the NYSAFLT Annual Conference. His career goals are centered on collaboration and a commitment to professional growth in the field, and he believes that the AC is a great first step in achieving those goals.
Announcement: Scholarships Available

NYSAFLT offers many professional opportunities for teachers and professors to travel abroad, attend conferences, have ideas or projects funded, and be lauded for their website or departmental work. Below are upcoming deadlines:

**January:**
15 – **APPLY** for a Charles Zimmerman Memorial Travel Award for teacher-led student group travel so students can enhance their language acquisition and/or cultural knowledge in the target language. A stipend of $10 per student traveling with the group, not to exceed $300 will be awarded. The funds are intended to finance an extra experience during the trip.

15 – **APPLY** for a Post-secondary Student Scholarship. $500 is awarded to an outstanding undergraduate student pursuing a degree in foreign language education or to a NYSAFLT member pursuing a post-baccalaureate certification program and/or graduate degree in foreign language education.

31 – **APPLY** for a Marcello Rochester-area Fund an Idea Grant. $125 is awarded to a NYSAFLT Rochester area member to support projects and teacher efforts that are related to the improvement and/or expansion of the instructional or extra-curricular program of a class, school or school district.

**March:**
1 – **APPLY** for a Cultural Travel Scholarship. Money is awarded for travel expenses and tuition to study for two weeks in Italy, Québec, South America, Guatemala, México or Spain. Check individual scholarships if stipends, housing and meals are included.

1 – **APPLY** for a Guatemala Cultural Travel Scholarship. This is a NEW SCHOLARSHIP!! The Jabel Tinamit Spanish school, which is located in Panajachel, Guatemala has generously donated a scholarship to be offered to our members starting in 2015. This scholarship includes one-to-one Spanish language classes, hotel housing, breakfast, a cooking lesson on local Guatemalan foods and field study trips. The recipient can use this scholarship any time during the year. Click [here](#) to learn more about the school.

30 - **ENTER** the Student Videocast Contest. After a one-year hiatus, the student videocast contest is returning in 2015 but revamped. NYSAFLT reinstated this contest because learning and communicating in more than one language and technology are essential skills for life in the 21st century. One of the changes to the contest is that the deadline has been moved from October to the end of March. This allows time for you to establish rapport with your students in order to build up excitement for the contest and provides you more time to teach multiple themes and cultural topics before the contest, therefore, giving your students more options. The contest can also be used as an activity to promote NYS Foreign Language week, which is in March. The other modification to the contest is that students have the option to create their videocast in English or in a foreign language. This additional choice allows students to demonstrate, through their performance *(thematic or cultural)*, the impact that studying a language has had on their lives.
Rolling Deadline:

**APPLY** for a Hahn FLES Teacher Incentive Grant. $300 is awarded to support school projects and teacher efforts that are related to the improvement and/or expansion of a FLES instructional or extra-curricular program in a class, school or school district.

Submitting an application for a scholarship or grant enhances your curriculum vitae and the professional domain of your APPR. Winning allows you to showcase the talent within the LOTE department in your district or university (think advocacy). Most importantly, we grow as individuals in the profession that we love! Visit [http://www.nysaft.org/awards/](http://www.nysaft.org/awards/) for more information and **APPLY**!

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**A thank you from the Assistant Director**

Confucius said, “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” This is how I felt as I served as your Assistant Director these past three years. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the Committee chairs, Executive Committee members, Board of Directors, the *Journal* and *Newsletter* editors, and the office staff. The time that you volunteer to make this organization run smoothly is invaluable. I want to express my sincere appreciation to each of you and I will miss your camaraderie, insight and your joy of being a NYSAFLTer.

**Barb Patterson**

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**LOTE Virtual Book Club**

Coming in 2015, is the LOTE Virtual Book Club. This is an opportunity for LOTE teachers, from all over the state, to learn together, grow professionally and enjoy our subject area. We will rotate selecting from books written in a foreign language, in English on a cultural topic, on LOTE instruction, and on instructional practices with the follow up discussion done from a LOTE perspective. Our plan is to host a spring, summer and fall series. I invite each of you to become an “Armchair Traveler” by joining your fellow NYSAFLTers online, commenting, mingling, and sharing your reading experiences without leaving your cozy chair at home. A survey will be forthcoming so we can select the topics that most interest you.
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 www.nysaflt.org and clicking on “Donate” or by sending a check (made payable to NYSAFLT) to:

NYSAFLT Headquarters
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Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

Thank you to

TARA TASSANI
for her help in getting the NYSAFLT Pinterest account up and running!

From:
Ken Hughes

Thank you to

CARMEN CAMPOS
for her help in getting the NYSAFLT Pinterest account up and running!

From:
Ken Hughes

Thank you to

JENNY DELFINI
for her help in getting the NYSAFLT Pinterest account up and running!

From:
Ken Hughes
Message from the Editor

As another year comes to an end, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of NYSAFLT. I have enjoyed another year of editing the Newsletter and working with Exec. and the Board of Directors. Best wishes to Bill Anderson as he finishes up his term as NYSAFLT President, the outgoing regional directors, and Assistant Director Barb Patterson. I hope to continue to have the opportunity to work with you in some capacity with NYSAFLT. I wish all of our members a very happy holiday season and I look forward to all that NYSAFLT will accomplish in 2015!

Goodsearch

NYSAFLT is now a member of Goodsearch, which will donate money to NYSAFLT every time users search the web, shop online, dine at participating restaurants, and play online games. The money received will be used to fund a portion of our teacher grants and student scholarships. NYSAFLT will earn 1¢ each time a person uses their Yahoo!-powered search engine. Use Goodshop to shop at the more than 2,800 participating stores and a percentage of each purchase will go towards NYSAFLT. Download the Goodshop App and get deals while you are shopping. Click here for directions on how to sign up in order to gain access to numerous deals, more than 100,000 coupons and support NYSAFLT!

Mark Your Calendars

December

1    Deadline: NECTFL Mead Scholarship Award Application
15-16 Board of Regents Meeting
31    Membership Year Ends
January
1  Membership Year Begins
8-10 Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Financial Management Committee
12-13 Board of Regents Meeting
15 **Deadline:** France Teacher Travel Award (varies - see application)
15 **Deadline:** Post-Secondary Student Scholarship Applications
15 **Deadline:** Zimmerman Travel Award Applications
29 Webinar: “Starting with the Text,” Joanne E. O’Toole, Ph.D.
31 **Deadline:** Vito Marcelllo Rochester-area Fund an Idea Grant Applications

February
1  **Deadline:** March *Newsletter* submissions
1  **Deadline:** Annual Conference Workshop Proposals
9-10 Board of Regents Meeting
12 Webinar: “Integrating Content Areas into Language Classrooms – What We Can Learn from Immersion Programs,” Pat Lo
28 Executive Committee Meeting

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**NYSALFT Headquarters Staff**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Director</th>
<th>Assistant Director</th>
<th>Director of Social Media &amp; Technology</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Carlino</td>
<td>Barbara Patterson</td>
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