We certainly hope to be in person in Syracuse next year to celebrate their honor via breakout rooms. Award winners and their guests were able to visit with ceremony attendees and board members to facilitate discussion and work through use of the Zoom breakout rooms and always dynamic chats. Co-hosts helped presenters to "see" each other online and to work together.

While we naturally missed the experience of sharing and learning in person, it was reassuring to "see" each other online and to work together. Co-hosts helped presenters deliver their talks, and discuss and demonstrate their products.

This year's Conference was originally scheduled for October 22–23 in Syracuse NY - and then came COVID-19! I am proud to say that with the help of John Carlin, the NYSAFLT Executive Committee, the NYSAFLT Annual Conference Planning Committee, and our numerous presenters and exhibitors, we successfully pivoted to a virtual format.

Our theme was Looking to the Future: Recruitment, Leadership and Advocacy for World Languages. This was taken directly from our five year Strategic Plan. I am so proud of our presenters, our exhibitors for being leaders and giving us so much of their time and expertise.

As teachers returned to school in either hybrid, online, or in person learning this fall, the conference was a great "go-to" of ideas, strategies and resources for this exceptional academic year. Here is what over 100 conference attendees were treated to:

- Four pre-conference workshops on Saturday, October 17 featuring Candace Black of OBEWL-NYSNESE, Dr. Joanne O'Toole and Bill Heller, reviewing the new world language standards being presented to the Board of Regents this fall. "Breaking Reading" with Mary Holton and "Sustaining a Culturally Responsive Classroom" with Diana Clark Perez and Ingrid Hall.
- 20 live-streamed sessions were presented throughout the week.
- 24 pre-recorded sessions were released throughout the week for participants to watch at a time convenient to them.
- There was also a virtual exhibit hall with NYSAFLT exhibitors who were available to discuss and demonstrate their products.
- Our awards ceremony and reception were on Friday, October 23, honoring 10 outstanding leaders in our field.
- The Annual Business Meeting and Keynote with Rebecca Aubrey, ACTFL 2019 Teacher of the Year, were on Saturday, October 24.

While we naturally missed the experience of sharing and learning in person, it was reassuring and reaffirming to "see" each other online and to work together. Co-hosts helped presenters deliver their talks, and discuss and demonstrate their products.

We certainly hope to be in person in Syracuse next October 22–23 with Chair Jenny Delwit. Kudos to ALL for an informative, engaging and much needed week of professional development!
Congratulations to our 2020 Annual Conference award winners!
(pictured above from left to right)

Dorothy S. Ludwig Memorial Award for Service to the Profession: Marie Campanaro
Senator Paul Simon Friend of Foreign Language Award: Tanya Rosado-Barring
Sister Rose Aquin-Cammaro Distinguished Administrator Award: Dr. LaQuita Outlaw
Remuna Cadmus Award for Leadership in Foreign Language Supervision: Alba Gallegos
Ruth E. Waley Distinguished Teacher Award: Dr. Victoria Gilbert
Anthony J. Pappalardo Award: Ling Zhai
Outstanding Journalist/Media Presenter Award: Thom Hallock
Robert J. Ludwig Distinguished Leadership Award: Rebecca Aubrey
NYSAFLT President’s Award: Dr. Jennifer Edly
Ferdinand DiBartolo Distinguished NYS Leadership Award: Leslie Kudacki

In this issue, Maureen Gregoire shares her NYSAFLT story!

NYSAFLT became a part of my life in 2002 when I began working as a French teacher in the Mohonasen District in Rotterdam. I teach mainly at the middle school level but teach high school levels 1, 2, and 3 at various times and am currently the Instructional Leader for World Languages.

I was one of those kids who played school on the first day of summer vacation, although teaching is my second career. I have loved French since I began learning it in seventh grade. The Quiltblock was to large presence in Vermont at that time. I considered myself very lucky because my French teacher was also the junior choir director at my church – we sang in French all the time.

My undergraduate degree is in Fashion Design and Merchandising. I took advantage of the Junior Year Abroad program at Marist College and spent the year studying design and French in Paris. I worked for a number of years in New York City’s garment center while continuing to study French simply because I enjoyed it. I realized that I wanted to become a French teacher and earned my MA in French and Secondary Education at Hunter College. I was awarded the René Taupin Prize by the French Department and spent three months in France furthering my language skills and teaching methods.

The first NYSAFLT Annual Conference I attended was in 2002 — the last time it was held in the Catskills. I learned a lot from the workshops and collegial atmosphere of the conference. Several years later I joined the NYSAFLT and COLT (Capital Organization of Language Teachers) Regional Meeting Planning Committee. Colleen Sheehan and Jill Dugan, NYSAFLT Capital District directors at the time, and Mike Mitchell were my first language leadership mentors. They welcomed me and started me on the road to greater involvement in both organizations. I have served on various NYSAFLT committees including Travel Scholarships, Fulvi Awards, the Virtual Video Contest, and most recently, the Nominations Committee. I am a past vice president and president of COLT. I followed Colleen and Jill and then Mike as a regional director for Capital-East and served two terms as NYSAFLT secretary treasurer. I have presented workshops at the Annual Conference and the Summer Institute. NYSAFLT has also contributed to my professional development through scholarships. I received the 2011 Québec-UQAM scholarship and a NYSAFLT Summer Institute scholarship for first-time attendees.

In my leisure time I enjoy traveling, hiking and backpacking, and quilting. I have visited over forty U.S. national parks including the famous in American Samoa. I have had opportunities to use my language skills in Alaska to persuade a French family to pack up their picnic and leave the area since there was a bear coming down the lakefront and to inform a French family in a California national park that the nearest showers were three miles away. I have twice participated in international volunteer projects in France and loved spending time in remote areas and working with people from many countries as well as the locals. Working outside is a nice change of pace after spending ten months in a classroom. The first project in 2006, was a two-week environmental project in a village near Verdun. The work was to restore a roadbed to its original course after many years were straightened in the 1970s to accommodate large-scale farm machinery and agri-business. I had the pleasure of working with François, the only logger left in the region who still worked with draft horses instead of a tractor. His horses were named Fred and Scooby Doo. In 2018, I spent two weeks volunteering on a reforestation project at a mountain lodge in the Maritime Alpes near the Mercantour National Park and the Italian border. The work was to re-plant the soils of two buildings at the site of a medieval silver mine. I became known as “La Reine de la Bétonnière” (the Queen of the Cement Mixer) by the end of the first week and still dream about the proper ratios of lime, sand, and water needed to mix the mortar we used. Since becoming past NYSAFLT secretary treasurer, I have finished a number of quilts that were in the works for a while and have made several from start to finish.

I cannot overstate the importance of NYSAFLT in my professional life and in developing leadership and advocacy skills. The quality of the professional development, the willingness of so many to volunteer their time and many talents, and the relationships built with members all over the state are invaluable. The number of NYSAFLT members, current and past directors and officers on the World Language Standards Regional Review Committees comes as no surprise – it’s what we do. I look forward to staying involved in NYSAFLT!

In this issue:

- Colleen Sheehan
- Mike Mitchell
- Jill Dugan
- Robert J. Ludwig
- Leslie Kudacki

NYSAFLT Capital District directors at the time, and

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In this issue, we check in with past NYSAFLT webmaster Ken Hughes. In the spring of 1998, as a senior at St. Lawrence University, I took a seminar on learning a new language. I was hooked on NYSAFLT!

As a hobby HTML coder and amateur web designer, I thought I might be able to lend my expertise to NYSAFLT with a newly designed and more "modern" website. An email to then-president Marie Guillet introducing myself and making my pitch for the opportunity to design the NYSAFLT website circulated amongst the executive committee and board of directors. A reply sometime later informed me of my acceptance as the NYSAFLT webmaster and my skills were put to work.

In order to create the best website possible, I requested attendance at as many meetings as possible to learn about the initiatives of the organization and figure out what exactly NYSAFLT wanted to share with the world. Early work with Bob Ludwig and then with his successor, John Garbarino, developed deep camaraderie and trust so we went to work developing and integrating new technologies and ideas for 13 years prior. I have never forgotten about my NYSA-colleagues and how they helped me become a better person and educator. Learning so many different methods and approaches that indelibly left its mark, I embraced the process and culture as my biggest take away as a NYSAFLT member. Deep and lasting bonds with so many wicked-smart and insanely wonderful NYSAFLT colleagues remain with me to this very day, even though that chapter of my life is behind me.

In 2020 with COVID and closed schools, I don't know how any of you have been able to do what you do. I'm so glad NYSAFLT was so well prepared to shift to a virtual world. It's been done so with ease and intelligence for 13 years prior. Who would have known that those early days of websites would inspire NYSAFLT for such success today? I understand you have held a virtual Summer Institute and a virtual Annual Conference this year – simply amazing. My kudos to those who organized and executed them to support world language educators who needed it most!

Since my departure from NYSAFLT in 2015, I took a few years off from any web design. In 2017, I ran for and was elected a supervisor for the town where I live, Essex, NY. In 2018, I was elected to serve as the Town Supervisor which also affords me the opportunity to serve as a member of the Essex County Board of Supervisors. I work at Town Hall on a daily basis handling many matters of public service responsibilities, including hosting virtual Town Board meetings with GoToMeeting (which I learned how to use from NYSAFLT) each month. I supplement my time serving the public with my nearly decade old small business of traveling to people’s homes and fixing their computers as an Apple-certified consultant. I’ve even restarted designing websites for local businesses.

Don’t forget to apply for the Fulvi Scholarships and take advantage of those conference workshops that are open to everyone. Don’t fear the unknown, take a chance and present a workshop on something you’re passionate about. I was elected to serve as the Town Supervisor which also affords me the opportunity to serve as a member of the Essex County Board of Supervisors. I work at Town Hall on a daily basis handling many matters of public service responsibilities, including hosting virtual Town Board meetings with GoToMeeting (which I learned how to use from NYSAFLT) each month. I supplement my time serving the public with my nearly decade old small business of traveling to people’s homes and fixing their computers as an Apple-certified consultant. I’ve even restarted designing websites for local businesses.

Member Spotlight

NYC Long Island

On Saturday, November 7, more than 60 world language teachers from New York City attended the New York City Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYCAFLT) Fall 2020 Annual Conference via Zoom. The highlight of the conference were the sessions led by Candace Black, World Language Associate, OBEWL-NYSED and Jill Schimmel, Senior Director at the Division of Multilingual Learners in NYSED.

Black’s “Preparing to Implement the Revised NYS World Language Standards” and Schimmel’s “Standards Implementation Update” were followed by a highly interactive Q&A session. Feedback from attendees suggests that the conference was well received.

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opportunities to network and meet fellow language teachers. Many NYSAFLT members presented sessions, including: William Anderson, Tina D’Alessio, Valerie Grou, Wendy Mercado, Elvisa Mora, Alexia Porcelli, Jennifer Schweader and Cheryl Sosa. Sessions included a wide variety of topics from mindfulness, social justice, engaging all learners both in person and virtually; surviving the first year of teaching; and working with student teachers to implement the new language standards. Attendees were encouraged to share their own experiences and concerns via chat throughout the conference, making it as interactive as possible.

Each member of the board shared activities or ideas that “worked” during distance learning, or a quick takeaway. In addition, Michele Roberts, Martha Horchow and Carrie Bartholomew contributed ideas. All in all, it was a great way for everyone to connect and get ready to start the school year.

WNY Teacher Spotlight

Anna Cartwright is a high school French teacher in Orchard Park CSD. As a past participant of NYSAFL’s Leaders of Tomorrow Program, Anna has been concentrating on what she calls “everybody advocacy.” She explains that it is easy to hold advocacy into our daily routines. Due to budget cuts and student enrollment, Anna was laid off from OESD in 2011. She worked in a different district for a short period of time before returning to Orchard Park. She gained perspective as she was able to compare the climate of the 2 districts and how they relate to world languages. Anna says that what it boils down to is that “multilingualism is a skill that must be valued by society.” She adds that oftentimes there is a lack of value put on it by the community or kids just don’t have the desire to communicate in a new language.

Anna has developed a three-pronged approach which includes: promoting the program, growing the program, and celebrating the program. The communication must be open among students, parents, teachers, and administration. She has also developed lessons at all levels that highlight the value of multilingualism and promote global mindedness.

We would like to congratulate Anna on her work in advocacy and look forward to learning more about how to advocate for our programs. If you want to learn more, you can contact Anna via email at acartwright@opschools.org.

Welcome to our new Board Member

Congratulations to Melanie Thomas, a Spanish teacher at Spencerport Central Schools, for her election to the position of Regional Co-Director of Western NY for 2021–2023. A popular presenter, active committee chair, and friendly colleague, we look forward to the connections Melanie can make with our colleagues in Western NY.

AATF of WNY

The only AATF-WNY item that has not been postponed due to the pandemic is our Festival of NYSAFLT’s Leaders of Tomorrow program, Anna has been concentrating on what she calls “everybody advocacy.” She explains that it is easy to hold advocacy into our daily routines. Due to budget cuts and student enrollment, Anna was laid off from OESD in 2011. She worked in a different district for a short period of time before returning to Orchard Park. She gained perspective as she was able to compare the climate of the 2 districts and how they relate to world languages. Anna says that what it boils down to is that “multilingualism is a skill that must be valued by society.” She adds that oftentimes there is a lack of value put on it by the community or kids just don’t have the desire to communicate in a new language.

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When mailing a card or letter, please email Marie Campanaro (mcampanaro@aol.com) with your name and the name of your Regent. When sending an email, please cc Marie at the same address. We wish to ensure that all Regents are receiving communication from us.

**PUBLIC ADVOCACY – NEW FOCUS**

The shift in our original timeline and postcard campaign has led us to examine new directions for our world language advocacy.

You can view our Annual Conference presentation which details our Board of Regents campaign for world languages, the ACTFL Strategic Plan and NYSAFLT Advocacy, as well as a NYSUT update by clicking here.

**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 twice per year with the next deadline being February 1. You can find full details and submit your work through the NYSAFLT publications page and share all the best with your colleagues.

**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

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**Mark Your Calendar**

**December**

- Executive Committee (Buffalo), December 5
- Webinar: Michelle Weipa, 7 p.m., December 8
- Annual Conference Planning Committee, December 10
- Board of Regents Meeting, December 14–15
- Deadline: Expense Vouchers to Headquarters, December 15
- Deadline: Final Standing Committee Reports to President, December 15
- Membership Year Ends, December 31

**January**

- Membership Year Begins, January 1
- Nominations Committee Kick-off Meeting, January 5
- Executive Committee and Financial Management Committee (online), January 9
- Board of Regents Meeting, January 11–12
- Webinar: Bill Iffler, 4 p.m., January 14
- Regents Examination Period, January 28–29
- Board of Directors (online), January 21
- Deadline: Ilia Mavroske Rochester Area Fund an Idea Grant, January 31

**February**

- Deadline: March Newsletter Submissions, February 1
- Deadline: Journal Issue #1 Submissions, February 1
- NCLC-NCLIS Language Advocacy Day & Delegate Assembly (Washington, DC), February 4–5
- Board of Regents Meeting, February 8–9
- Webinar: Joanne O’Toole, 4 p.m., February 25

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

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