In this issue of NYSAFLT News, you’ll find important information about the upcoming annual conference, get to know Cristina Santiago-Campbell and check in with past president Bill Anderson. You’ll also find regional news along with suggestions for transitioning to the new standards, and more!

If you don’t see all of these important futures, there’s a possibility that the newsletter is being truncated by your email server. Be sure to scroll all the way to the bottom and to click on “View entire message” so that you don’t miss a thing!

Click here to check your membership status.

The President’s Corner

“Progress, not perfection.”
Caeleb Dressel
Olympic Gold Medalist 2021
(From motivational quotes)

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you had some personal time to recharge your batteries and refresh your mind these past two months. As I was watching the Olympics this summer, Caeleb Dressel’s comment after winning a gold medal resonated with me. With everything that has been going on in the world, we have to be mindful of the critical role we play as educators. There is always progress to make in our teaching practice.

In addition to the love of language and culture which we share with our students, we should also nurture their social emotional skill set and strive to create a classroom where their diversities and individual talents are celebrated. Every academic year offers us a chance to make progress and improve our practice.

I am certain that you are as eager as I am to get back into the classroom with students to make the magic happen in person. It is exciting to think that teachers are now able to incorporate the revised NYS world language standards into their planning! Check out the NYSED website for details and be sure to register for the NYSAFLT annual conference to get up to speed.

Summer notes from team NYSAFLT:
Alexis Thornton, NYSAFLT board member for Westchester/Fairfield, participated in ACTFL’s Leadership Initiative for Language Learning (Cohort 4). Alexis collaborated with other language leaders to explore personal strengths and apply them through their work as educators.

NYSAFLT hosted its first ever ACTFL DPI Familiarization Workshop. Participants were able to work independently and had two live sessions with an ACTFL teacher trainer to discuss and debrief. It was a great opportunity to delve into the proficiency levels for language learners and to re-evaluate how they are communicated in the WLC classroom.

NYSAFLT hosted another successful virtual summer institute. Get in Tune with the New State Standards! Thumbs to first vice president Marissa Coulehan for assembling a first-rate program with state and nationally acclaimed presenters, inspiring participants in their preparation for a new academic year.

I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone in person in Syracuse at our annual conference. Please be sure to register for the NYS world language standards, equity and diversity debrief. It was a great opportunity to delve into the proficiency levels for language learners and to re-evaluate how they are communicated in the WLC classroom.

NYSAFLT held its second virtual Summer Institute, Get in Tune with the New State Standards, via Zoom from July 26 – August 5. The conference was a resounding success!

Workshops included topics on the new NYS world language standards, equity and social justice, technology integration, and FLES, Name That Tune, Finish the Lyrics, NYSQA Bingo and Musical Bingo rounded out the social/hours.

What did participants LOVE about NYSAFLT’S21?

“I love the collaboration & how this truly feels like my group of teacher friends! :3”

“I enjoyed the variety of presenters and topics. Many different perspectives were well represented”

“Loved that we were able to have presenters from out of state in addition to our NY superstars”

“Making change seems possible and not so overwhelming”

Want to catch up on sessions you missed? Recordings will be available for registered conference attendees until September 20, 2021.

Thank you to our fabulous and inspiring presenters: Rebecca Aubrey, Flor Serman, Candie Black, Diana Clark Perez, Marissa Coulehan, Dr. Helena Curtis, Glenda De Hoyos, Samantha Doxer, Dr. Victoria Gilbert, Leslie Grinn, Bill Heller, Erin Johnsen, Dr. Angelita
Different backgrounds and linguistic experiences. We also had a large ENL population and unique experiences. I taught all levels of Spanish and Italian to a myriad of students from Brooklyn College. I spent 15 years at James Madison High School and learned from many language learners as well as heritage and native students. After graduating, I was lucky to be hired at the school where I did my student teaching and I continued my linguistic journey as I earned my M.A. in Spanish Language and Literature from Joseph's College. When I began my student teaching practicum, I was fascinated with how languages are taught and learned and decided to major in Spanish and minor in Italian and Secondary Education at St. John's University. In college, I knew that I wanted to continue studying languages but was not sure what to do with them. I decided to major in Spanish and minor in Italian and Secondary Education at St. John's University. When I began my student teaching practicum, I was fascinated with how many multilingual students we have in NYC and the range of languages offered for traditional language learners as well as heritage and native students. After graduating, I was lucky to be hired at the school where I did my student teaching and I continued my linguistic journey as I earned my MA in Spanish Language and Literature from Brooklyn College. I spent 15 years at James Madison High School and learned from many unique experiences. I taught all levels of Spanish and Italian to a myriad of students from different backgrounds and linguistic experiences. We also had a large ENL population and I.

We look forward to summer institute 2023! weaving the World Language Standards Together with incoming 1st vice president and summer institute conference chair Sara Prin.

Annual Conference

It is hard to believe that the annual conference is almost upon us! Registration is open and we cannot wait for the presenters to share, for awardees to be honored, and for you to meet once again with your colleagues across New York State to collaborate as we delve deeper into the changes to our new State Standards for World Languages.

Recognizing the continued impact of Covid on how we go about our lives and business, NYSAFLT wants to protect the health and safety of our attendees, staff, presenters, and awardees to the greatest extent possible.

We will abide by any guidelines set forth by the Onondaga county Department of Health, which currently require masks in all indoor public settings. We will also require proof of vaccination to attend the on-site conference. If you will not be fully vaccinated by October 22, you may register for the virtual component of the conference.

The virtual components of the conference will be held Monday and Tuesday, October 18 and 19. Attendees will be able to attend up to four live interactive sessions. You will also have access to any of the other streamed workshops as recordings afterward, as a set of pre-recorded only sessions, which will be available until November 30.

Planning on coming to Syracuse? Of course we have the traditional conference offerings, including live interactive one conference workshops on Friday morning, but you will also have access to the virtual offerings as well. See registration info on the webpage for more specific information, including CTLE hours.

We are looking forward to having Leslie Grahn join us as keynote. Candace Black will also give a state-of-the-standards address on Saturday, providing vital information about the timeline and professional development opportunities she and the NYSED-CMER Executive Team have put together. All three — Bill Heller, Lori Langer de Ramirez, and Dr. Joanne O'Toole — have additional sessions at the conference.

There are so many wonderful offerings that cover a full spectrum of topics we see in our classrooms and school communities across the state — from proficiency to diversity to social-emotional learning and beyond. I encourage you to review our program and register today for the option that best suits you. We would love to include all of you, our NYSAFLT family, in our 2021 conference!

ROOTED, STRONG AND GROWING

with new standards in NYSS

In this issue of NYSAFLT News, Cristina Santiago-Campbell shares her NYSAFLT story.

Member Spotlight

Ingrid Paredes

For as long as I can remember, bilingualism has been a part of my life. I grew up in a Spanish-speaking household in Brooklyn, NY and learned English simultaneously with my father’s family and in school. My mother is a native of El Salvador and my father was a “Nuyorican,” or a son of Puerto Rican parents.

Traveling at an early age with my family introduced me to world cultures and languages and inspired me to pursue them. In high school, I was able to take both Spanish and Italian which further piqued my interest in languages.

In college, I knew that I wanted to continue studying languages but was not sure what to do with them. I decided to major in Spanish and minor in Italian and Secondary Education at St. John’s College. When I began my student teaching practicum, I was fascinated with how many multilingual students we have in NYC and the range of languages offered for traditional language learners as well as heritage and native students.

After graduating, I was lucky to be hired at the school where I did my student teaching and I continued my linguistic journey as I earned my MA in Spanish Language and Literature from Brooklyn College. I spent 15 years at James Madison High School and learned from many unique experiences. I taught all levels of Spanish and Italian to a myriad of students from different backgrounds and linguistic experiences. We also had a large ENL population and I.
assisted with parent outreach and registration. It was here that I realized that we had a larger pool of heritage students than we originally thought. We had many Asian-Latinos that were multilingual. For example, I met a student with Georgian parents that was born and raised in Spain; he spoke Spanish, Russian and Georgian fluently. With the assistance of my supervisor, we began a successful special track for these students in language studies: Spanish, AP Spanish Language, and AP Spanish Literature. Many of these students also went on to study additional foreign languages that we offered (Chinese, Russian) or a French program. We also provided many advanced students that learned Spanish as a second language who were also able to benefit from this program and track.

By 2016, I was the International House Coordinator as well as Spanish teacher at our language program continued to grow. It was during this time that I also became a member of NYSAFLT. I always enjoyed reading the Language Association Journal and all the resources that NYSAFLT provides for world language educators. During one of the sessions that I attended, I first learned about the New York State Seal of Biliteracy. I knew that we had a great multilingual student community and recognized that the seal is one of the best ways to honor their heritage, culture, and multilingualism. From that time on, I became very involved as an advocate for the Seal of Biliteracy in NYC. During this time, I was also pursuing my second master's degree in Educational Leadership. With the support of my administrative colleagues, and my NYCCOE Board of Office, I was able to chair my NYSSB and help 3 cohorts of graduates attain the NYSSB in Spanish, Russian, and Chinese. Shortly after, I was tapped for a position at the NYCCOE Office of Assessment to work with the wonderful team that designed, managed, and directed the scoring of the LOTE exams in NYC. This was one of the most difficult decisions in my life, but also one of the best. My entire career had been in a school district and I knew I would miss the students. During my short time at the Office of Assessment, I was able to create a new set of skills as I worked with a wonderful team of colleagues and teachers to create scoring guides for all of the LOTE exams that NYC offered, tied teachers, administrators, and also bring my own in-service experience that I had acquired as an AP Spanish Language Exam scorer with the College Board. This was a time of great professional learning and connection with world language educators in NYC, NY State, and beyond.

In 2018, I was tapped to become the Assistant Principal of World Languages at Brooklyn Technical High School. As I truly missed working directly with students and teachers, this position was a dream come true! I consider myself blessed to work with a large department of 30 world language teachers at the largest high school in the nation. We currently offer Chinese, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. I also continue to teach! Currently, I am the NYC Regional Director for NYSAFLT. It is an honor to serve in this role and I am so thankful for all of the support that NYSAFLT provides for our profession. This is an exciting time for our profession, but as leaders, it is imperative that we continue to advocate for our colleagues and our students!

One of the most important things they taught me that first year was about an organization called NYSAFLT. We all drove to the Concord Hotel in the Catskills to commune with other world language teachers. It was my first real experience with professional development specifically tailored to language teachers. I was overwhelmed but so excited! This conference experience confirmed all that I learned at Syracuse University about second language acquisition and instruction. Elyse Sweder was my mentor at Syracuse and she inspired me to become a Spanish teacher who focused on communication and proficiency. To tell myself, “I found my people!”

“language nerd sights”

In 1998, I moved to Long Island to teach Spanish at Massapequa High School. Long Island was the place that helped foster my career as a language supervisor and leader. I was able to join the NYSAFLT while I was in that role. I remember being elected to the NYSAFLT board of directors in 2000, I was elected to the 2-year presidential track and served as the 2012-2014 NYSAFLT president. It was an honor to serve in this role and I am so thankful for all of the support that NYSAFLT provides for our profession. This is an exciting time for professional learning and connection with world language educators in NYC, NY State, and beyond.

In 2004, I volunteered to assist with registration at the annual conference. That was the year that I met John Carlino and Fred Hughes. They were the “three amigos.” They taught me what it meant to be the “face of NYSAFLT.” It was important at every event to show kindness and helpfulness to everyone; to show from that somebody cares. Kim and I used to say that this was our job as registrar and A/V chair. You would see my face annually at the registration booth helping teachers with registration packets and suggesting organizational tactics for navigating the workshop schedule and exhibit hall for new attendees. I loved helping others embrace the “face of NYSAFLT.”

I continued to support NYSAFLT through many volunteer opportunities. In 2006, I was elected to run for the board of directors. The leadership bug was real and it was calling out to me. From Long Island director, I segued to the 4-year presidential track and served as the 2014 NYSAFLT president. It was an awesome and amazing experience! The post-presidential influence left me wanting to continue leading and supporting language educators. I was elected to the NECTFL board of directors in 2015 and served on the ACTFL board of directors. From 2016-2018. In 2015, I was hired as the Director of World Language Education at Hofstra University. This provided me the opportunity to teach future language teachers the importance of teaching “the language” as opposed to teaching “about the language.” With the current teacher shortage dilemma, it is imperative that we encourage and train students for all of the support that NYSAFLT provides for our profession. This is an exciting time for professional learning and connection with world language educators in NYC, NY State, and beyond.

I am forever grateful to NYSAFLT for instilling in me a sense of purpose: a purpose to collaborate, a purpose to advocate, a purpose to pay-it-forward, a purpose to LEAD. Without NYSAFLT, I would not have the close sense of camaraderie that I feel with so many colleagues. Without NYSAFLT, I would not have made the seamless transition to world language supervision. Without NYSAFLT, I might not have had the opportunity to participate on the national level. NYSAFLT will forever be in my heart and soul as a language educator.

P.S. There are absolutely no plans for retirement on the horizon because I love what I do on a daily basis!
Let us know how you make out!

We have some wonderful accomplishments to recognize here in Central New York! Evan Krukin, a senior AP French student at Fayetteville-Manlius High School, has been selected as the winner of the 2021 AATF of CNY Scholarship for Excellence in the Study of French. Evan has been the president of Le Cercle francophone, the high school French Club, for three years and, in 2020, he was elected treasurer of the Fayetteville-Manlius Chapter of la Société Honoraire de Francophonie. This year, Evan will pursue his studies at Clarkson University and he plans to study abroad. Félicitations Evan!

We are also pleased to announce that Tyler Yankee of Mexico High School in Mexico, NY has received the 2020–2021 Outstanding Senior in French Award and is the first student at Mexico High School to earn the New York State Seal of Biliteracy. The subject of Tyler's SSB project was L'Académie Française and its role in modern society and he had the privilege to interview four Francophone speakers from France, Germany, Switzerland and Quebec. Tyler, who also graduated as salutatorian of his class, will attend Clarkson University in the fall where he plans to major in Technical Sciences in hopes of becoming a software developer or data scientist. Félicitations Tyler!

Despite another year of difficult circumstances, Central New York French students performed remarkably well in Grand Concours. Two students earned gold medals, 12 earned silver medals, 11 earned bronze medals and many earned honorable mention certificates. A special congratulations to the platinum medal winner, with a perfect score on the level 4E exam! Bravo et félicitations à tous!

Throughout the school year, AATF of CNY hosts many fun events, including French Night at the Syracuse Crunch, our spring movie night, as well as some very interesting conferences and workshops. We hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities to get together with fellow Francophiles during this school year. Stay up to date with our events by visiting our website, www.aatfcny.org, and by liking us on Facebook.

We would like to announce our upcoming (virtual) meetings for the fall. On Tuesday, September 21 at 4pm we will host “Using Goformative.com to Make Your Classes Go, Go, Go!” with president Alexis Thornton. On Tuesday, October 12 at 4pm we will welcome back Dr. Stacy Bernstein for an encore of her presentation “Create An Adventure Story.” All members will be sent the link to log-on prior to each meeting.

We are pleased to announce that we have been reauthorized to continue offering CTLE credits for all meetings! Please consider joining us for another exciting year and do not hesitate to reach out with ideas for future presentations. We look forward to “seeing” everyone this fall!

NYC - Long Island

Long Island Language Teachers (LILT) is now accepting proposals for submissions for the 2021 LILT Annual Conference, which will be held virtually November 12-13. This year’s theme will be Language Break Barriers. If you have an idea to share with other Language Teachers, please submit a proposal. LILT will also be holding their general membership meeting on Thursday, September 30 at La Famiglia Restaurant in Patchogue, NY. Visit www.liltfl.org for more information.

Congratulations to the FLES Scholarship award winners! Claire-Louise Meng and Alexis Forrest recently won the Sally G. Hahn FLES Teacher Scholarship Award. This is an award given to New York FLES Teachers to attend professional development opportunities of their choice.

Consider applying for this and/or other FLES awards this year. You can learn more about these awards on www.fles.org.

America's Language Caucus Needs NYS Representation!

America’s Language Caucus is a bipartisan committee of members of the U.S. Congress. Its mission is to raise awareness about the importance of world language learning and international education. The critical need for language proficient graduates was outlined in the 2017 Congressional-Commissioned Report on Language Learning: America’s Languages: Investing in Language Education for the 21st Century. The caucus is especially focused on our nation’s economic and national security and aims to ensure that adequate resources are directed towards the study of world language learning and improving access for students and educators who wish to participate in these fields.

Presently there are 27 members of the caucus, but New York State is not among them. Please write to your U.S. member of Congress and urge them to join this important group of decision makers.

Let us know how you make out!
NYSAFLT Annual Conference

The public advocacy committee meeting at this year’s annual conference will be during session A on Friday, October 22. The meeting is open to everyone. Drop in to hear about the recent progress world language education has made in New York State and become part of our next action plan. Join us to learn more about how you can help advocate for K–postsecondary world language education. Please stop at our table in the exhibitor area with your suggestions, concerns and to pick up advocacy materials.

On the National Level - WL Successes!

World Language Advancement and Readiness Grant Program

You may recall that Congress included $15 million to begin the World Language Advancement and Readiness Grant Program in 2021. The bill was introduced as a response to reports of the critical shortage of language and cultural skills in the United States and specifically targets the needs of U.S. military and intelligence sectors.

In July of 2021, the House Subcommittee in Defense Appropriations awarded an additional $15 million for 2022!

The funds will support world language programs in Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools and schools that host Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) programs. Congressman David Price (D-NC) and Dan Young (R-AK) introduced the bill.

Equitable Access to Seal of Biliteracy Programs

The House Committee on Appropriations released the draft report for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations for fiscal year 2022.

JNCL-NCLIS has worked with lawmakers on a new strategic pathway to secure funding for subsidizing student fees for Seal of Biliteracy assessment and provide more equitable access for all learners to earn the distinction. We are pleased to report that this has been included in the report. It will not be a law, but will demonstrate to states and school districts that Congress values the Seal of Biliteracy and support efforts to increase the inclusion of English Language and Heritage Language Learners in these programs. In addition, the report approved $3 million to establish a Native American Language Resource Center and stresses the need to invest in federal foreign language and cultural competency programs.

Transitional to the NYS World Language Standards

September 2023 may still be two years away but it’s not too early for you and your colleagues to start preparing for the new NYS World Language Standards! Check out this infographic with suggestions for what you can do NOW to facilitate the transition. (This infographic includes many useful links that won’t show up in the image below. Click here to find a copy of the infographic with links!)

Language Association Journal

Call for Papers

The Language Association Journal is the official peer-reviewed journal of NYSAFLT. The audience for this journal includes world language educators at all levels, teacher educators, administrators, and others who are interested in world language education. The journal is published twice a year, so it is time for you to start thinking of what you can share with your colleagues! The next submission deadline is February 1.

Click on over to the NYSAFLT publications page for more information!

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

Mark Your Calendar

Deadline: Language Association Journal submissions, September 1
Executive Committee Meeting (online), September 13
Board of Regents Meeting, September 13–14

October
Board of Regents Meeting, October 18–19
Joint Executive Committee (Syracuse, NY), October 21
Joint Board of Directors (Syracuse, NY), October 22
Annual Business Meeting (Syracuse, NY), October 22

November
Deadline: December newsletter submissions, November 1
Deadline: NECTFL Mead Scholar Award applications (to NYSAFLT), November 1
Deadline: online application for Charles Zimmerman Memorial Travel Award, November 15

Board of Regents Meeting, November 15–16
ACTFL Annual Convention and WL Expo (online), November 19–21