



We hope to see you in October in beautiful Saratoga Springs at our 98th [Annual Conference](#) at which Marty Abbott, Executive Director of ACTFL, will be the keynote speaker. It is not to be missed!

The NYSED Office of Bilingual Education & World Languages published their July 2015 [newsletter](#) that spotlighted world languages. In the newsletter, I penned an article about literacy, world languages and the Common Core Learning Standards. The OBE & WL wants to hear from you! Consider submitting an article about the good things that are happening within your school building, district or region. We must all do our part in promoting what we do for our learners.

If I may, I'm going to get on my soapbox and remind you how important outreach to the parent community is for our programs. Parents support what we do each and every day for their children. NYSAFLT has established a [Parent Advocate Award](#) in memory of my late father, Luigi Fratto. The first recipient will be presented with this award for their advocacy efforts on behalf of our programs at our Annual Conference in October.

On behalf of NYSAFLT, I wish you a great start to the school year. Teach, inspire, retain, and set free our learners to enjoy the many wonderful challenges that exist in our global community!

Francesco L. Fratto

Exciting Membership News!!

The NYSAFLT Board of Directors has voted to **REDUCE** our regular membership rate of \$55 to \$45! Why?

- Printing costs are lower – almost everything we do is online.
- Staffing costs are lower – we've streamlined our paid positions.
- Meeting costs are lower – half of our meetings are now online.
- Through technology we can do more with less, and more efficiently.
- We want NYSAFLT membership to be within everyone's reach!



If you have an automatic payment set up on PayPal, you'll want to re-set it to the lower payment amount. If you continue to pay at the higher rate, we'll consider it a donation.



NYS AFLT Summer Institute



Michelle Shenton-Mong

The 2015 *NYS AFLT Summer Institute, World Languages: Transforming Lives, Preparing Global Citizens*, co-sponsored by NYSED, unfolded at SUNY Oneonta from **August 4–7**. Over forty participants attended workshops that embraced a wide range of topics from cultural intelligence, to active learning, to gaming, to best practices in FLES, and so much more. Ricardo Constantino, World Language Associate at NYSED, spoke to participants at one of our luncheons and even attended several of our workshops.

NYS AFLT's Summer Institute offers the unique opportunity of exploring topics thoroughly, practicing new activities, and having the time to connect, learn, and have fun with world language colleagues from around the state. This year, we even had participants from Connecticut and Massachusetts! A big *merci, gracias, danke, grazie, etc.* to our participants and especially our phenomenal presenters: **Tracy Brady**, Joshua Cabral, **Marie Campanaro**, **Laurie Clarcq**, **Marissa Coulehan**, **Jenny Delfini**, **Mary Holmes**, **Rose DiGennaro**, **Erin Johnson**, and **Toni Johnson**.

A special thank you to the SUNY Oneonta staff, **Leslie Kudlack**, volunteer registration specialist, and **Jenny Delfini**, volunteer videographer. Click [here](#) to view a sample of **Jenny Delfini**'s work on YouTube and see the learning and fun that took place at the **Institute**.

If you are disappointed that you missed this great event, often referred to as “summer camp for world language teachers,” consider attending next year’s **Summer Institute** in **August 2016**.



NYS AFLT 2015 Summer Institute attendees



NYS AFLT 98th Annual Conference



Marie Campanaro

What do **Bill Heller, Nancy Ketz, Joanne O’Toole, Beth Slocum, Harriet Barnett, Janice Kincaid, Brigitte Kahn, Laurie Clarcq, and Mary Holmes** have in common? They are all offering 3 hour workshop sessions at this year’s Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs on **October 30 and 31!** The amazing line-up doesn’t end here. There are workshop strands in technology, assessment, issues in the profession, culture, and more. There are workshop strands featuring FLES, advocacy, and Chinese instruction. You will find old friends and new faces as we continually seek new avenues to explore within world language education. Our theme is *21st Century LOTE Education: Providing the*

Keys to College and Career Readiness. Our keynote speaker is Marty Abbott, Executive Director of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), who has recently been appointed to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences’ Commission on Language Learning.

Registration is now open. Visit the conference [webpage](#) for registration and lodging details. Review the workshop descriptions for the 3 hour pre and post conference offerings. Contact [Marie Campanaro](#) for more information about the 98th Annual Conference, co-sponsored by COLT.

Thanks to a very generous grant from **The NYS Statewide Language Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBE-RN) at NYU** NYSAFLT is pleased to announce **10 scholarships** for new teachers and **10 partial scholarships** for experienced “mentor” teachers to attend the 2015 NYSAFLT Annual Conference October 30-31, in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Click [here](#) for more information about the Annual Conference mentor scholarships.

NYS AFLT Colloquium

Changes are coming to the *NYS AFLT Colloquium*!! In 2016, the NYSAFLT Spring Colloquium will be merged with the NYSAFLT Rochester Regional Conference. In future years, NYSAFLT will collaborate with other regions and member organizations around the state. Such collaboration will enable NYSAFLT to work more closely with regional organizations, increase participation in the combined event, and streamline conference expenses. Watch for details on the NYSAFLT website.



Regional News

Capital-East

COLT held its *January Beat the Winter Blues Webinar* where we viewed Linda Egnatz's presentation on *Kindling the Keys to Communicating* and listened to ACTFL 2012 Teacher of the Year **Yo Azama's** dynamic keynote address from the 2014 NYSAFLT Annual Conference in Rochester, NY. At the webinar we raffled off 3 gift certificates to attend **COLT's** Regional Conference on **March 21** that was co-sponsored by NYSAFLT. **Jenny Barranco**, **Michele Bombard**, and **Colleen Sheehan** were the lucky winners of these gift certificates.

Our March theme was 21st Century Techniques: Engaging LOTE Students and Educators. We were honored to have our keynote address given by **Charles Giglio**, the 2015 New York State Teacher of the Year. **Diana Zuckerman** gave an update on NYSAFLT Advocacy and our presentations were: *Grammar in the Can-Do Classroom* (**Bill Heller**), *Teaching Today: Where's the Fire* (**Charles Giglio**), *Using the Smartboard* (**Laura Fronhofer**), *Brain Based Strategies for Engagement in the World Language Classroom* (**Lynne Ogren** and **Tiffany Phelps**), *The Lost Art of Conversation: Scaffolding Interpersonal Speaking* (**Bill Heller**), *Advocacy All the Time* (**Diana Zuckerman**), *Tips and Tricks for the 1:1 World Language Classroom* (**Mike Mitchell**), and *Strategies to Get Students Up and Learning* (**Janis Labroo**). At this conference, we raffled off 4 certificates for registration for the 2015 NYSAFLT Annual Conference that will be held in Saratoga this October. **Lindsay Higgins**, **Helen Idosu**, **Melissa London**, and **Stacy Yarwood** were very glad to win these certificates.

On **May 20** we held our Year-End **COLT** Banquet and elected officers for the coming year. **Cindy L.Yetto** joins **Anna Collie**, **Melinda Barnes**, and **Sarah Matarazzo** on the **COLT** Board as the new Secretary.

We look forward to our first meeting of the 2015-2016 school year at Cornell's Restaurant in Schenectady, NY on **Thursday, September 24** at 5 p.m. This meeting will provide us with two hours of professional development as it is set up as an exchange of ideas – each attendee is asked to bring 30 copies of a good idea that has worked in his/her world language classroom.

Since we have the NYSAFLT Annual Conference in our backyard in October, **COLT** is combining forces with our northern friends and we will have one spring conference for the entire Capital-East District in March. Look for details soon!

Central

LECNy held a regional conference on August 24 entitled *Uncork the New School Year* at Greenwood Winery. What a fun way to start the year with some great professional development! If you missed that opportunity, there is an upcoming conference at Binghamton University on **October 3-4**. **Erin Kearney** of University of Buffalo and **Tracy Brady** of East



Syracuse Minoa HS will surely offer some great ideas about *Navigating the 5 "C's": Charting a Course for the 21st Century*. Click [here](#) for more information about this conference.

Mid-Hudson/Westchester

This summer has been very busy for **PWRFL** members! Several members journeyed around the world traveling and studying. **Alexis Thornton** was in Spain and studied with Travel & Education in Salamanca. **Sally Barnes** traveled to France with her family and re-visited the many wonders of the “City of Light.” Where did you go this summer?

NYS AFLT’s *Summer Institute* in Oneonta was held **August 4-7** and several **PWRFL** members were in attendance. This “summer camp for world language teachers” hosted educators including **Jenny Delfini**, **Marissa Coulehan**, and **Renee Borio-Roman**.



Jenny Delfini, Leslie Kudlack, and Renee Borio-Roman attend “summer camp for world language teachers.”

There are many plans for the next academic year for **PWRFL** members. Once again we will be changing venue for every meeting so please watch your **PWRFL** newsletter for individual information. Upcoming events include workshops on: *Technology Part 2* in October; *Dance Your Way to Program Security* with **Jenny Delfini** in November); *Arabic and Mandarin – Critical Modern Languages* in December; and the **PWRFL Regional Conference** co-sponsored by NYS AFLT to be held on **April 9**.

In 2015-2016 **PWRFL** will again publicize middle and high school contests for students. This year we will introduce a new contest for elementary/FLES students. Check your **PWRFL** newsletter for more information or visit our [website](#). Keep a lookout for **PWRFL**’s upcoming events! Enjoy the rest of the summer and we wish you a productive fall 2015!

NYC-Long Island

LILT (Long Island Language Teachers, Inc.) has announced that it will resume operations after a year-long hiatus. LILT had been on hiatus for the 2014-2015 school year as they did not have members to serve on its executive board. Elections for new officers were held this spring and results were posted on the LILT [website](#). Past LILT President **Ana Aguiar-Mady** will again serve as LILT president. In her nominee bio, Ana states, “Together we can build a solid foundation on which LILT will service professionals and language educators for yet another 35 years. In addition, it is important to foster professional relationships with other language organizations across the state and nationally in order to strengthen and develop advocacy for world language learning.”



On **Tuesday, June 16**, the NYC-LI FLES Collegial Circle gathered at Besito in Roslyn, New York for its end of school year celebration. Enjoying tapas and toasting to summer at this authentic Mexican restaurant was a wonderful way to end the year. The NYC-LI FLES Collegial Circle was established this past September by NYSAFLT NYC-LI regional director **Tara Tassani** as a way to stay connected with other FLES teachers in the region. The group meets once a month to share ideas and offer one another support. With 22 members and counting, the NYC-LI FLES Collegial Circle is off to a great start! Members host meetings at their own schools and select topics that they want to discuss, ranging from content-based FLES lessons to assessment. At one meeting, members had the opportunity to Skype with NYSAFLT President-Elect **Candace Black**, who presented on the NYS Seal of Biliteracy and the Elementary Pathway Awards. Another highlight of their first year together was piloting a FLES Virtual Video Contest for students. NYC-LI FLES Collegial Circle members piloted the contest to highlight the great work that was being done in their classrooms. Volunteer judges awarded medals and certificates in categories such as Poetry Recitation and Authentic Speaking. Through this contest pilot parents, students, and teachers all celebrated world languages and organically advocated for FLES together. For more information about the NYC-LI FLES Collegial Circle, contact **Tara Tassani** and/or join their [edmodo](#) group.



NYC-LI FLES Collegial Circle at Besito in Roslyn (left to right) **Marissa Coulehan, April Cornachio, Tara Tassani**, Amanda Kelly, **Johanna Bowers, Dahlia Rosen, Sandra Rivadeneyra**.

Western New York

This year, the *NYSAFLT Spring Colloquium* will be merged with the *NYSAFLT Rochester Regional Conference*. The conference will be held at Nazareth College on **Saturday, March 5**. Watch for details on the NYSAFLT website! The NYSAFLT Rochester Regional Planning Committee prides itself on over 45 years of cutting edge professional development that reaches every aspect and level of world language education. The *NYSAFLT Spring Conference @ Rochester* will also include a panel discussion with experts from around the state. Our conference theme is: “*Addressing the Language Needs of a Changing World: Preparing Our Teachers and Preparing Our Students.*”



On **Saturday, March 7**, the *NYS AFLT Rochester Regional Conference* was held. Kudos to conference co-chairs **Heidi Connell** and **Erica Kortepeter-Ragan** and all committee members for a tremendously successful event. 172 participants enjoyed choosing among 24 workshops spread among 4 workshop sessions. Our 17 exhibitors ranged from large educational companies to local artisans. If you are in the Western NYS AFLT Region and would be interested in joining our planning committee for 2016, contact [Marie Campanaro](#).

		
<p><i>Planning committee members: Ida Wilder, Lucy Ferruzza, and Claudia Pippin</i></p>	<p><i>Entertainment was provided by Trio Los Arpegios</i></p>	<p><i>Executive Director John Carlino, 2nd VP Michelle Shenton-Mong, and Western Region Director Beth Slocum take a well-deserved break!</i></p>

WNYFLEC is looking forward to the start of the school year, because with the start of the year comes our *Fall Meeting: Painting with a Twist!* That's right, on **Wednesday, October 7** we will meet for a Paint Night! Members will have the opportunity to choose between a French or Spanish-themed painting to create, and then we'll take some time to discuss how we might use these paintings in our classes. The **WNYFLEC** board members are incredibly excited to share this event with our members, and potential new members! Visit **WNYFLEC's** [facebook](#) page for more information. If you're ready to register, click [here](#) to register for the Spanish painting. or [here](#) to register for the French painting.

On **Wednesday, June 3**, over 20 teachers, 90 students, and their families joined together to celebrate their dedication, hard work, and excitement when it comes to learning a foreign language at our annual Student, Teacher, And Recognition awards dinner and ceremony. A fun night was had by all, especially as teachers explained why they had nominated their students. Your students get their excitement about languages through you! Thank you for all you do to share your passion for language and culture with your students on a daily basis!

Also at our S.T.A.R. Awards, we were able to recognize in a special way Christina Birt, recipient of the NYS AFLT Fulvi Love of Language award, as well as the winners of our annual poster contest: Emily Law (Teacher: **Mary Ellen Gianturco**, Depew High School), Zoie Jones (Teacher: Debra Pidsadnick, Pioneer Middle School), and Rose Quinlan (Teacher: **Lendra Kress**, Orchard Park Middle School).

Finally, we recognized several outstanding colleagues for their contributions to our profession. Sheri Green from Hamburg Central Schools received the Maryalice Seagrave



Outstanding Foreign Language Teacher Award, Dr. Eileen Angelini from Canisius College was the recipient of our Service Award, and Dawn Riggie from Mount Saint Mary Academy received the Friend of Foreign Language Award.

<p><i>WNYFLEC 1st Vice-President Julie Aguglia presides over the S.T.A.R. ceremony</i></p>	<p><i>JoAnn Thomasson and John Carlino present the Love of Language award to Christina Birt</i></p>	<p><i>Teachers Wendy Winters, JoAnn Thomasson and Sheri Green of Hamburg CSD with their S.T.A.R. students</i></p>

National Network for Early Language Learning / FLES News

The National Network for Early Language Learning (NNELL) held its *Summer Institute* in Glastonbury, CT on **July 10-12**. Over 50 early foreign languages educators attended the event and benefitted from several networking opportunities and very timely and useful professional development workshops.

On Friday, the event was kicked off with sessions on *Early Language Learning Embraces the Common Core* by Christi Moraga who shared a teacher's perspective of incorporating these new standards in the language classroom. Barbara Jones from Santillana presented on *Literacy and the Common Core* and how to use literature to make those connections across content and skill areas. Attendees also enjoyed a session on *Advocacy in the Land of Aaahs* by Diane DeNoon who spoke about her own district and ways to highlight our programs each and every day with our students, parents, and colleagues. Marcela Summerville also shared techniques for *Advocating for Early Start Programs*.

Saturday morning began with an update from Jacqueline Bott Van Houten, ACTFL president, on new initiatives. She also spoke about her own district's work with the NCSSFL ACTFL Can Do statements. Kate Krotzer continued the theme of literacy and the common core with her workshop, *Common Core and FLES: Language Learning and Nonfiction Texts*. Participants collaborated hard on developing new ideas to bring to their classes in the fall - from creating can do statements, to promoting with parents, to finding books and texts to support their units.

Saturday afternoon, **Ken Hughes** brought his energy to present *Movie Making and Green Screens* which showed attendees how to make movies right in their own classrooms!



The weekend was wrapped up on Sunday with Laura Terrill and her presentation *The Power of the Image*. Through the use of images in the foreign language classroom, she explored with the group many ways to incorporate the three modes of communication and culture as students build proficiency.

NNELL is dedicated to its mission of providing leadership to advocate for and support successful early language learning and teaching and through this *Summer Institute* was able to engage and prepare language teachers for a strong start to the school year!

Public Advocacy

Advocacy has become a critical part of being a world language teacher. NYSAFLT is dedicated to keeping languages at the forefront of education. The goals of the Public Advocacy Committee include supporting world language legislation on a state and federal level, staying current on NYSED issues concerning world languages, connecting with parents and business associations, creating resources to influence specific audiences, and reaching out to decision-makers. The NYSAFLT website offers a wide range of informative articles and research documents at nysaflt.org/advocacy/.

We hope to see you at the NYSAFLT Annual Conference in October. There will be a variety of advocacy workshops to motivate all of us to continue to be the most educated voices in support of languages for all. We will hold our annual Public Advocacy Committee meeting on Saturday. All are welcome. NYSUT Legislative Representative Jackie Paredes will be addressing attendees and presenting a workshop informing us on how we can work together to advance our agenda. The more we inform ourselves, the better we can educate others and impact positive shifts for long sequences of language learning in multiple languages.

Thanks for all that you do for World Languages. We would like to hear your stories, ideas, challenges, and successes. Please email them to **Diana Zuckerman** and **Barbara Patterson** at advocacy@nysaflt.org. According to Spencer Ross, Past President of the National Institute for World Trade, “Our nation cannot achieve its full intellectual and economic potential without radical improvement in our linguistic skills and our multicultural knowledge.” World Language educators give our students access to a world of possibilities.

Announcements

Congratulations to the following NYSAFLT members who have won a NYSAFLT award, grant or scholarship for 2015! There are more awards, grants and scholarships to be given out this year. Will you be the next NYSAFLT winner? Check the awards page of the NYSAFLT website for more information on the many grants and scholarships NYSAFLT has to offer.

The \$200 NYSAFLT Summer Institute Teacher Scholarship was awarded to **Tracy Brady** of East Syracuse-Minoa CSD.



The New Paltz School District has been bestowed the James E. Allen Distinguished Foreign Language Program Award for the Mid-Hudson/Westchester Region and is also the state-wide winner.

Each year NYSAFLT invites its members and their students to participate in the NYSAFLT student videocast contest. The purpose of the contest is to promote language learning in a fun and unique way while demonstrating the belief that communicating in more than one language is an essential skill for life in the 21st century. This year's winners were **Maria Nuzzi** of Garden City High School and **Yoshana Silver** of Massapequa HS – Ames Campus. Congratulations to Marie, Yoshana, and their students.

The Sally G. Hahn Memorial Outstanding FLES Program Award is named after a long time member of NYSAFLT and teacher of foreign languages who strongly believed in the importance of beginning language instruction at as early an age as possible and in stressing conversational fluency. The interest earned from Ms. Hahn's bequest to NYSAFLT funds up to \$1000 in monies, and is awarded annually to one or more outstanding school-based FLES programs in New York State. This year's Hahn Outstanding FLES Program Award is given to Wilson Elementary School in the Rockville Centre School District.

The Northeast Conference on Teaching of Foreign Language (NECTFL) offers a program to select Mead Leadership Fellows who have demonstrated leadership potential at their schools, colleges or universities and/or at the local, state, regional or national level, a prescribed program to groom leaders for the profession. The applications come from the member state organization (NYSAFLT Board members). Each state is asked to send in the name of one candidate based on the applications received. The winners are then selected by the NECTFL committee and receive hotel for three nights, registration at the conference, participation in preconference workshops, and follow-up mentoring by NECTFL Board members and state association leaders. Click [here](#) for more information on the NECTFL Sans/Mead Scholarship. 2016 information will be posted soon.

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 **September 15th**.

1. What is the new regular membership rate?
2. Who is one of the Regional Directors for the NYC-LI region?
3. What organization is sponsoring the Annual Conference mentor scholarships?
4. Who presented *Movie Making and Green Screens* at the *NNELL Summer Institute*?
5. How much does it cost to send a NYSAFLT card?



NYS AFLT Cards

<p>Are there people whom you would like to recognize or honor? You can now send greetings, words of comfort, or any other sentiment with a NYS AFLT card. For a minimum of \$5.00 per card, we will print your message to indicate that a donation has been made. These will be published in the <i>NYS AFLT News</i> and will benefit the teacher travel scholarship. Cards may be obtained by going to www.nysaflt.org and clicking on “Donate” or by sending a check (made payable to NYS AFLT) to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NYS AFLT Headquarters 2400 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14214-2364</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~~~~~</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Condolences to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TARA TASSANI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">on the recent passing of her father. Tara has been in our thoughts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">From: JoAnn Thomasson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~~~~~</p>
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Mark Your Calendars

September

16-17 Board of Regents Meeting

October

26-27 Board of Regents Meeting

30-31 **NYS AFLT Annual Conference**, Saratoga Springs, NY

November

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

16-17 Board of Regents Meeting

20-22 ACTFL Annual Convention and World Language Expo, San Diego, CA

December

1 **Deadline:** NECTFL Mead Scholar Award Applications (to NYS AFLT)



Message from the Editor



Here we are, beginning a new school year. I hope you were able to take advantage of the summer to relax, recharge and maybe even reacquaint yourself with some of your favorite overseas countries! I was lucky enough to spend two weeks in France with my husband and daughter. We visited Paris and Angers, where I studied abroad in college. We were able to stay with my host sister who is now a doctor in Paris (she was four when I lived with her; you do the math!!) and visited my host family in the Loire Valley. It was *magnifique* to be able to introduce my daughter to some of the people and places I love in France. I know NYC-LI Director **Tara Tassani** did some traveling in Europe, as did both Mid-Hudson/Westchester Directors, **Fabien Rivière** and **Sally Barnes**. And from what I understand even our own **John Carlino** unexpectedly found himself in Germany! If you have a short travel story you'd like to share, I'd be happy to include it in my message in the December Newsletter. Just send me an [email](#) telling me where you went and a sentence or two about it!

We at NYS AFLT wish you a very successful school year and hope to see you at one of the many regional events around the state and/or the Annual Conference in October. And don't forget our webinar series; a new line up will be available soon.

Thank you to **Denise Mahns** for her help with this issue of the *NYS AFLT News*.

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

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