



Historical Perspective 2006 - 2007

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The year 2007, our 90th year, has been a busy one under President Joanne O'Toole. From continuing the process of reorganization, begun last year under Lou Baskinger, to tackling the Committee Handbook, there has been very little down-time for anyone in NYSAFLT leadership this year!

2007 saw the hiring of Mary Holmes, our new Associate for Foreign Language Studies at the State Education Department. Mary literally hit the ground running, and NYSAFLT has been extremely pleased at the level of collaboration thus far. We are very excited at the depth and breadth of the projects undertaken in her first year, and look forward to a long and productive relationship with Mary and with a second, soon-to-be-appointed, foreign language associate.

The NYSAFLT Leaders of Tomorrow Project, first proposed in January 2006, got off the ground in 2007. Five candidates were selected from the pool of applicants and these five aspiring leaders will have met three times this year, each time learning new things about themselves, leadership, and our profession. Look for them at the Annual Meeting presenting their workshops! The 2007 cohort was comprised of Marissa Coulehan, S. J. Preston Elementary School, Nathan Lutz, Manlius Pebble Hill School, Patience Peebles, South Jefferson Central School District, Peggy Sharkey, WSWHE BOCES Language and Culture Resource Center, and Robin Thompson, University Neighborhood High School. Thank you to McDougal Littell for affording us the opportunity to run this program this year.

Our Public Advocacy Committee has continued to work tirelessly in the promotion of our bill in the New York State Assembly and Senate which would strengthen LOTE study in New York State by providing funding for five schools in high-needs districts to begin FLES programs, and by providing incentives to college students wishing to become LOTE teachers. Under Nancy Ketz' leadership, the bill made it further this year in the legislative process than ever before. Hopefully next year will be 'our' year! Please contact your state legislators to ask them for their support. Complete information regarding bill numbers is available on the NYSAFLT website.

Speaking of which, the NYSAFLT website and our illustrious and gregarious Webmaster, Ken Hughes, deserve all of our thanks and admiration. With literally thousands of hits monthly, the NYSAFLT website has evolved under Ken's leadership into one of the best state language association websites in the United States. A highly useful and easily navigated site, almost anything a member could need is available there. The NYSAFLT member listserv boasts over 1500 e-mail addresses – what more powerful communicative tool could there be? Thank you, Ken, for all that you do!

Our Annual Meeting 2006, successfully chaired by Susan Barnes, was held in beautiful Saratoga Springs, NY. Keynote speaker, Ken Stewart, 2006 ACTFL Foreign Language

Teacher of the Year, spoke to his love of language, which led him to a career in teaching, and about students of his own who have been bitten by the ‘bug’ and are on track to become teachers themselves. We are all truly our own most important advocates and, whether we realize it at the moment or not, we are the inspiration for our successors in the classroom.

Our 2006 NYSAFLT awards banquet was a memorable one. Louis Baskinger received the Ferdinand DiBartolo New York State Distinguished Foreign Language Leadership Award for his service as President of NYSAFLT. The Ruth E. Wasley Distinguished Teacher Award, K – 12, was given to Josephine A. Maietta of Robbins Lane Elementary in Syosset. Dr. Lori Langer de Ramirez, of Herricks High School in New Hyde Park, was the recipient of the Remunda Cadoux Leadership in Foreign Language Supervision Award. The Sister Rose A. Caimano Distinguished Administrator Award was presented to Louise Cleveland, retired, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at Harrison Central School District. The Dorothy S. Ludwig Memorial Award was presented to Susanne Hochmuth for her outstanding level of service to the profession, and the Joseph A. Tursi Distinguished Speaker Award was presented to keynote speaker Ken Stewart. President Louis Baskinger recognized Beth Bossong and Vincent Condro with President’s Awards. The Outstanding Journalist/Media Award was presented to Kathy Ceceri, and Drs. Jean LeLoup and Robert Ponterio were recipients of the 2006 NYSAFLT Anthony Papalia Award. Senator Paul D. Tonko was awarded the New York State Senator Paul Simon Friend of Foreign Language award for his steady and reliable support of our bills in Albany. Special honors went this year to Karen Moretti and Laurie Clarcq, winners of the 2006 Best Workshop of the Annual Meeting. Karen and Laurie were invited to present their workshop at the NECTFL Conference in New York City.

The 2007 NYSAFLT Colloquium, successfully chaired by President-Elect Paul Sabatino, was keynoted by NYSAFLT Past President, Dr. Joseph A. Tursi. The theme of the Colloquium was “The Pathway to the Future of LOTE: Bridging K — Post Secondary Education.” Panelists Cindy Kennedy, Josephine Maietta, and Dr. Lois Mignone did an outstanding job developing the theme. The 2007 NYSAFLT Summer Institute, “Literacies in LOTE: They’re FUNdamental!” was held in Oneonta, NY, and was co-chaired by Laurie Clarcq and Toni Johnson and Susan Barnes. A variety of informative workshops were presented by talented leaders in the profession from around the state.

Looking forward to a successful 2007-2008 school year and beyond, once again, kudos to all who have worked and continue to work so hard to make NYSAFLT the outstanding organization that it is!