



## Historical Perspective 2007 - 2008

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The year 2008, our 91<sup>st</sup> year, NYSAFLT has continued to make leaps and bounds into the future, or rather, creating our future and the future of this amazing organization!

2008 saw the finishing touches put on a reorganization plan, to be voted on by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting, that will hopefully bring NYSAFLT and the many regional associations around the state closer together in our common cause, that of promoting and supporting foreign language teachers, students, and learning.

In 2008 we learned that a second Associate for Foreign Language Studies had been hired at the State Education Department. We wish Kin Chee all the best in his new position, and look forward to a long and collaborative relationship! Sadly (for us), we also saw our other Associate, Mary Holmes, whom we had just gotten to know, move on to a new position in New Paltz. We'll surely miss Mary, and wish her all the best!

The NYSAFLT Leaders of Tomorrow Project was funded for a second year by Holt McDougal. Five new candidates were selected from a pool of highly qualified applicants. The group will be meeting for the third time at this Annual Meeting, continuing their exploration of what it means to be a leader in the profession. Look for them and many of last year's cohort presenting their workshops! The primary goal of the program has been to develop new leadership in the profession and, to date, it has been profoundly successful! All 5 of last year's cohort have been very active in NYSAFLT and in the profession this year. NYSAFLT's members will be reaping the rewards of this project for many years to come. Thank you to Holt McDougal, and especially to Susan Martin, for affording us the opportunity to run this program again this year.

The NYSAFLT website, under the stewardship of Ken Hughes, continues to be the most powerful communication tool this organization possesses. With the ability to communicate with thousands of members and teachers in the blink of an eye, we've never been in a better position for getting the word out about the importance of LOTE instruction. Thank you, Ken, for all that you do!

Our Annual Meeting 2007, co-sponsored by CAES, was successfully chaired by Sue Hochmuth in Rochester, NY. Almost 120 workshops were offered, with post-conference workshops being added to the line-up for the first time. Keynote speaker, Carol Bellamy spoke well to the conference theme, Languages: Connecting Students to the World as she discussed the importance of being a global citizen and the impact her global experiences had had on her life.

The 2007 Awards Banquet, was, per usual, a celebration of the contributions and careers of our colleagues and friends. Joanne O'Toole very deservedly received the Ferdinand DiBartolo New York State Distinguished Foreign Language Leadership Award for her outstanding service as President of NYSAFLT. The Sen. Paul Simon NYS Friend of

Foreign Language Award was awarded to Senator Joseph Robach, NYS Senator, 56<sup>th</sup> District, for his support of our bills over the past few years. The Anthony J. Papalia Award was presented to Dr. Jianguo Ji, and to sibling writing team Drs. Elvira Santullova-Allison and Marat Sanatullov. The Sr. Rose Aquin Caimano Distinguished Administrator Award was presented to Michael Ferrara, Principal of Waterloo Middle school, nominated by NYSAFLT Board member, Karen Moretti. The Ruth E. Wasley Awards were presented this year to Jo-Ann B. Esrick (K-12) and to Dr. Eileen Angelini (Post-secondary). Gary Milgrom was this year's recipient of the Dorothy Ludwig Memorial Award for service to the profession. Joanne O'Toole recognized Ginny Levine and Nicole Alberico-Farr with President's Awards.

The 2008 NYSAFLT Colloquium, successfully chaired by President-Elect Sue Barnes, was keynoteed by Sharon Feiman-Nemser, Ed.D., with the theme "Setting a Course for Success: Induction, Mentoring, Networking." Panelists Patience Peebles, Darlene Contario, Sharon Feiman-Nemser and Gregory Schaefer, elaborated well on the theme, and set the stage for very rich discussions in breakout sessions. The 2008 NYSAFLT Summer Institute, "Making Connections" was held in Oneonta, NY, and was co-chaired by Sue Hochmuth, Swaz Piron and Jennifer Berie. A variety of informative, fun and enriching workshops were presented by talented leaders in the profession from around the state and beyond.

Looking forward to a successful 2008-2009 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!