

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 84<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

The 84<sup>th</sup> annual AATF Convention, July 6-9, 2011 at the *Delta Centre-Ville* Hotel in Montreal had as its theme, "Le Québec: culture nord-américaine, langue française." It actually began a day early with a preconvention tour of the Eastern Townships orga-

and a half days. plenary "Ra-

A special semi-session entitled, "Radio Enfant, un projet innovant et prometteur," was organized by the *Centre de la francophonie des Amériques*, featuring Michel Delorme, *Radio enfant*,

nized by Jumpstreet Tours.

The AATF Executive Council spent two days deliberating and doing the Association's business before the convention began. They met on July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the first Future Leaders Fellowship Program was held on those same days under the able direction of Randa Duvick.

The convention opened officially on Wednesday, July 6, AATF President Ann Sunderland welcomed attendees, and then she introduced the keynote speaker, Kim Thúy, author of the award-winning novel *ru*. After the opening *séance plénière* and one round of sessions, more than 125 congressistes and guests attended the Welcome Luncheon in the *Tour de Ville* revolving restaurant on the top floor of the hotel. Sessions and workshops began in earnest following the luncheon and continued throughout the next two

opening day, participants were able to have a first look at the Exhibit Hall (find out more about our exhibitors on the AATF Exhibitor Web page at [www.frenchteachers.org]) during a wine and cheese reception co-spon-



(L. to R.) Author Francine Ouellette and AATF member Janel Lafond-Paquin

and Anne-Marie Ferland, *École des Pins de Oka* (Québec). To close the



(L. to R.) AATF President Ann Sunderland, FIFP Executive Director Madeleine Rolle-Boumlic, AATF Executive Director Jayne Abrate

sored by the *Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec* and the *Centre de la francophonie des Amériques*. In the evening, 40 attendees took advantage of a dinner excursion to the *Château Ramezay*, organized by Prométour Educational Tours, where they enjoyed the re-enactment of

three historic 18<sup>th</sup>-century criminal trials.

Day 2 was a full day of sessions, often highlighting the theme of the convention. During the lunch break, many members participated in the seventh annual *Dictée* organized by Marie-Simone Pavlovich, herself a finalist in *la Grande Dictée* run by Bernard Pivot. Winners were announced at the beginning of the AATF Delegate Assembly (see page 10). That evening, 55 lucky attendees participated in an excursion beginning with dinner and followed by the *Cirque du Soleil* show *Totem*, organized by Prométour Educational Tours.

Guest speakers at the convention included Manfred Overmann, *Université des Sciences de l'Éducation de Ludwigsburg (Allemagne)*, Madeleine Rolle-Boumlic, Executive Director of the *Fédération internationale des Professeurs de Français*, Jean-Benoît Nadeau, journalist and AATF Honorary Member, and Francine Ouellette, *Québécois* author. Other special sessions and meetings included numerous exhibitor and commission sessions as well as meetings of the National French Contest Administrators and *Société honoraire de français* sponsors (see the complete program on the AATF Web site).

Day 3 of the convention was equally busy. On both full days of the convention guided bus tours of the city were donated by Jumpstreet Tours. The registration fees collected will provide a scholarship for an AATF member to attend a summer study program in Quebec in 2012. In addition, there were two coffee breaks in the exhibit hall where lucky attendees won valuable prizes at the exhibitor raffle. The raffle was expertly organized by AATF staff member Amy Hanson with help from Liz Sterling.

In the afternoon, the AATF Assembly of Delegates met to ratify the decisions of the Executive Council. Delegates were also pleased to welcome the *Conseiller culturel adjoint* from the French Embassy in Washington, DC, Christophe Musitelli, who came to Montreal especially to address the representatives of the AATF. More than 120 members participated in the Awards Banquet (see individual winner profiles in this issue). Following dinner, we welcomed three new honorary members (see page 40), Past-President Marie-Christine Koop, Manfred Overmann, and Marie-Simone Pavlovich, honored Outstanding National French Contest Administrators, and recognized our outgoing Executive Council members, Vice-President Sister Mary

# CONVENTION IN MONTREAL

Helen Kashuba, who finished her term on December 31, 2010, Vice-President William Thompson, Region VI Representative Gregg Siewert and Region VIII Representative Anne Jensen who will all finish their terms on December 31, 2011.

Among the numerous award recipients were JoEllen Delamatta, Judy Davis, and Margaret Haggstrom who received the 2011 AATF Dorothy S. Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Awards (see page 17). This award is sponsored by the late Robert Ludwig, former AATF Region I Representative and Honorary Member, who annually provided a cash award for the recipients which they receive in addition to a year's complimentary membership in the AATF and a one-year subscription to *Le Français dans le monde*. The AATF learned recently that Bob made a \$25,000 bequest to the AATF in his will to continue to fund these awards. This year, we awarded for the fifth time, the AATF CERAN Lingua Outstanding Chapter Officer Award which was received by Joanne Silver, longtime Secretary-Treasurer of the Philadelphia Chapter (see page 2). She will enjoy a one-week stay in one of the CERAN Lingua programs. Intercultural Student Experiences again sponsored the ISE Language Matters Award which was given to Dawn Young (see page 21). The award includes a cash prize, and ISE representative Tanja Gajewski made the presentation. Following the awards, we enjoyed a concert of traditional and original music by our own Tennessee Bob Peckham.

We would like to thank the representatives of Quebec who were so instrumental in the success of this meeting, Frédéric Tremblay and his successor Maria Beauséjour from the *Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec* and Flavie Hade and Marie-Hélène Beaupré from the *Centre de la francophonie des Amériques*.

Those who did not have early departures were able to take advantage of the final half-day of sessions and workshops. Following the convention many attend-

ees stayed to participate in the post-convention excursions to the *Sucrierie de la Montagne*, organized by Jumpstreet Tours on Saturday, July 9, or the excursion

to thank the staff members who helped make the convention such a success, Administrative Assistant Darla Phoenix and Amy Hanson and Liz Sterling who helped us throughout the process of planning and running the convention. AATF staff members were aided in their work by all the members of the Executive Council, the personnel of the *Delta Centre-Ville Hotel*, and the representatives of our AV supplier, CCR



Delegate Assembly

to Quebec City, July 9-11, organized by Prométour Educational Tours. The weather was magnificent throughout our stay.

In short, the 503 participants

tech-André, as the decorating Clarkson-Conway. The AATF would like to thank the speakers, exhibitors, and sponsors without whom the convention could not have happened.

Solutions and our technician well company



Executive Council

were able to enjoy 145 sessions and five workshops, 50 exhibit booths, numerous guest speakers, and several unique excursions. The AATF would like