

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 86TH ANNUAL

The 86th annual AATF Convention was held July 11-14, 2013 at the Marriott Downtown Hotel in Providence, RI and had as its theme, "Le Français: langue du 21^e siècle."

The AATF Executive Council spent two days deliberating and doing the Association's business before the convention began. They met on July 9-10. In addition, the

another went to cophone land in

learn about the Fran- heritage of Rhode Is- Woonsocket at the Museum of Work and Culture.

To close the opening day, participants were able to have a first look at

During the lunch break, many members participated in the ninth annual *Dictée* organized by AATF Region IV Representative Catherine Daniélou. Winners were announced at the beginning of the AATF Delegate Assembly (see page 00). At the end of the day, 60 attendees participated in two Walking Tours, Rogue's Island and the Historic District. In the evening, over 65 teachers and guests participated in the restaurant tour, dining at three of Providence's finest French restaurants.

Guest speakers at the convention included Felino Martínez, *Alliance française de Cuba* and AATF Honorary Member, Bill Rivers, Executive Director of the Joint National Committee for Languages/National Council for Languages and International Studies (JNCL/NCLIS), and AATF Honorary Member, and ACTFL President and AATF member Toni Theisen. 🌿

Other special sessions and meetings included numerous exhibitor

third Future Leaders Fellowship Program with twelve participants was held on those same days under the able direction of Randa Duvick (page 00).

The convention opened officially on Thursday, July 11. AATF President Mary Helen Kashuba, SSJ, welcomed attendees and then introduced Michael Hebert, Chair of the Local Committee, who presented and moderated the keynote panel, Alain-Philippe Durand, University of Arizona, Lars Erickson, JoAnn Hammadou Sullivan, and Karen De Bruin, all of the University of Rhode Island (URI). They spoke about the innovative programs begun at URI that combine French with engineering and other disciplines. After the opening *séance plénière*, more than 100 enthusiastic congressistes and guests attended the Welcome Luncheon buffet where they were seated by region in order to network with colleagues from their geographic area. There were seven both free and ticketed workshops in the afternoon. In addition, one group of 30 attendees participated in the Rogue's Island Walking Tour and

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-sponsored by the AATF and the Cultural Service of the French Embassy in Washington, DC. As they do each year, members of the Executive Council were at the AATF exhibit booth to take pictures with attendees, who then receive a press release and the photo to publicize their attendance at their schools and in their local newspapers. As usual, the American Society of the French Academic Palms held

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. There were several coffee breaks in the exhibit hall, one of them sponsored by Tralco-Lingo Fun. Two raffles were held during the exhibit breaks where lucky attendees won valuable prizes. The raffle was expertly organized by AATF staff member Jessica Nelson with help from several Executive Council members.

About 25 lucky members got to participate in Chef's Choice® Cooking Classes ("La Cuisine française facile" and "La Cuisine provençale") at Johnson & Wales University.

In the afternoon, the AATF Assembly of Delegates met to ratify the decisions of the Executive Council and to discuss ideas for identifying and recruiting new members. A special guest at the Delegate Assembly was Clay Pell, Deputy



Exhibit Hall



Clay Pell speaking to Delegate Assembly.

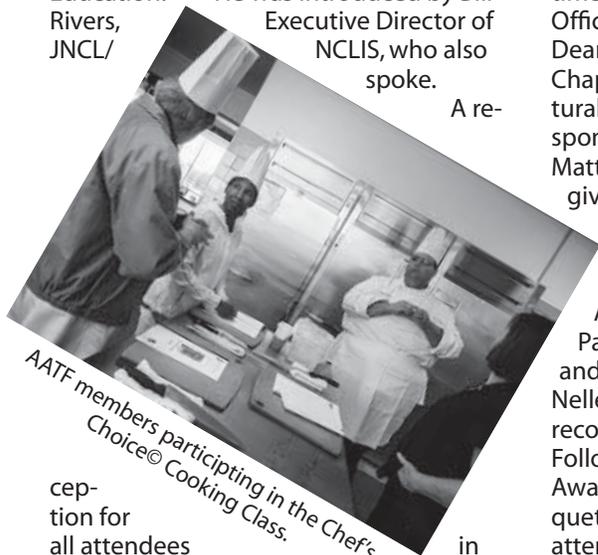


(L. to R.) Past-President Ann Sunderland, President Mary Helen Kashuba, SSJ, Technology Commission Chair Catherine Ouselin, and Region IV Representative Catherine Daniélou.

CONVENTION IN PROVIDENCE

Assistant Secretary for International and Foreign Language Education, who spoke about his role at the U.S. Department of Education. He was introduced by Bill Rivers, Executive Director of JNCL/ NCLIS, who also spoke.

A re-



AATF members participating in the Chef's Choice Cooking Class.

reception for all attendees in honor of Bastille Day was held on July 13 just before the Awards Banquet. The reception was cosponsored by the French Consulate in Boston, the AATF Rhode Island and Eastern Massachusetts Chapters, and the AATF. It was attended by the Consul, Fabien Fieschi, who also spoke.

Over 90 people participated in the Awards Banquet (see individual winner profiles in this issue). Following dinner, we honored Outstanding National French Contest Administrators, and recognized our outgoing Executive Council members, Region VII Representative Janet Smith and Past-President Ann Sunderland who

will finish their terms on December 31, 2013.

Among the numerous award recipients were Syl-Simard-Newman and Harriet Saxon who

via and received the

2013 AATF Dorothy S. Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Awards (see page 00). This year, we awarded for the seventh time, the AATF Outstanding Chapter Officer Award which was received by Deanna Scheffer, President of the Florida Chapter (see page 00). Intercultural Student Experiences again sponsored the ISE Language Matters Award which was given to Sarah Sexton (see page 00). Outstanding National French Contest Administrators Pat Nakashima and Charlotte Neller were also recognized. Following the Awards Banquet, many attendees headed out to enjoy WaterFire.

Those who did not have early departures were able to take advantage of the final half-day of sessions and workshops. Following the convention, 35 attendees stayed to participate in the post-convention excursion to Newport, RI.

We would like to thank the Local Committee, under the able leadership of Rhode Island Chapter President Michael Hebert, who organized the excursions and activities and who staffed the hospitality desk. Committee members were



Members of the Local Committee: (L. to R.) Magali Boutiot, Stephen Kiley, Janel Lafond-Paquin, Margarita Dempsey, Joyce Beckwith, Chair: Michael Hebert.

Joyce Beckwith, Catherine Ritz, Carole Figuet, Catherine Pastore, Cynthia Teixeira, Sandra Auclair-Shaw, Margarita Dempsey, Magali Boutiot, Janel Lafond-Paquin et Stephen Kiley. A huge thank you to the Committee as well as to our French intern Vanessa Ozawa who had spent six months working at AATF Headquarters and left directly after the convention.

In short, the 306 participants were able to enjoy 94 sessions and nine workshops, 32 exhibit booths, two raffles, numerous guest speakers, and several unique excursions and activities. The AATF would like to thank the staff members who helped make the convention such a success, Administrative Assistant Darla Phoenix, and Jessica Nelson who helped us throughout the process of planning and running the convention as well as staff member Emily Cook who



(L. to R.) Past-President Ann Sunderland, President Mary Helen Kashuba, SSJ, and Executive Director Jayne Abrate.

managed the National Headquarters office during convention and a helping hand in pre-convention preparations. Mark Fish and Vanessa Ozawa also lent a hand on site.

AATF staff members were aided in



Attendees participating in the technology workshop.

their work by all the members of the Executive Council, the personnel of the Downtown Hotel, and the representative of our AV supplier, Technology Express, technician Doug Heimann. We have worked with Technology Express for all our U.S. conventions since 2004. The AATF would like to thank the speakers, exhibitors, and sponsors without whom the convention could not have happened.