

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 87<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

The 87<sup>th</sup> annual AATF Convention was held July 19-22, 2014 at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel in New Orleans, LA and had as its theme, "Le Français, langue à multiples visages."

The AATF Executive Council spent two days deliberating and doing

*plénière*, more than 100 enthusiastic *congressistes* and their guests attended the Welcome Luncheon where they were seated by region in order to network with colleagues from their geographic area. Zachary Richard was presented with an Honorary Membership in recognition of his contribution to the promotion of the French language and our Francophone heritage within the U.S.

There were five both free and ticketed workshops in the afternoon. To close the 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 cosponsored by the AATF and the Cultural Service of the French Embassy in Washington, DC. The Cultural Service was represented by Céline Jobé. Music was provided by Marc Abrate and Jacob Dupre, recent graduates of

highlighting the theme of the convention. 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 10). At the end of the day, 60 attendees participated in a French-language Walking Tour, *Le Monde Créole*, despite a summer downpour. In the evening, as they do every year, the American Society for the French Academic Palms held

the Association's business convention before the began. They met on July 17-18. In addition, the fourth Future Leaders Fellowship Program with nine participants was held on those same days under the able direction of Janel Lafond-Paquin (page 12).

On the afternoon of July 18, a group of 50 *congressistes* participated in an excursion to the Jean Lafitte Museum. Unfortunately, the planned swamp boat tour had to be cancelled because of thunderstorms.

The convention opened officially on Saturday, July 19. AATF President Mary Helen Kashuba, SSJ, welcomed attendees (see her remarks on page 1). She then introduced our keynote speakers, Cajun singer, song-

writer, and French poet laureate of Louisiana, Zachary Richard, and Denis Desgagné, Director of the *Centre la francophonie des ques*. After the open-

de Améri- séance

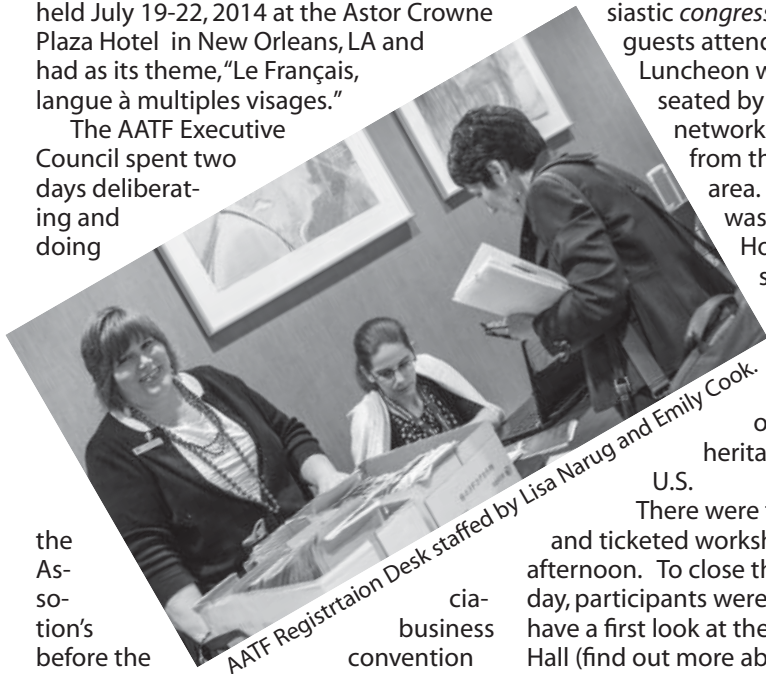
the Eastman School of Music. As they do each year, members of the Executive Council were at the AATF exhibit booth to take pictures with attendees, who then receive a press release and the photo to publicize their attendance at their schools and in their local newspapers.

Day 2 was a full day of sessions, often

their annual dinner. Guest speakers at the convention included Bill Rivers, Executive Director of the Joint National Committee for Languages/ National Council for Languages and International Studies (JNCL-NCLIS), AATF Honorary Member Barry Ancelet, and Marie-Josée Lepage and Leif French from the *Université du Québec à Chicoutimi*. 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. 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. We would also like to thank the Carole D. Fredericks Foundation for sponsoring the badges.

In the afternoon, the AATF Assembly of Delegates met to ratify the decisions of the Executive Council and to dis-



AATF Registration Desk staffed by Lisa Narug and Emily Cook.



Executive Director Jayne Abrate and new Honorary Member Zachary Richard.



Exhibit Hall

# CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS

cuss ideas for recruiting new brief presentations was also made inviting del-

identifying and members. A tation

Among the numerous award recipients were Tracy Rucker and Martine Morard-Noar who received the 2014 AATF Dorothy S. Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Awards (see page 16). Intercultural Student Experiences again sponsored the ISE Language Matters Award, presented by Rachel Faynik, which was given to Tripp

DiNicola (see page 15). Outstanding National French Contest Administrators Jennifer Corbin (AR) and Carolyn Fisk (MN) were also recognized as were our Outstanding Chapters for 2014 (page 4).

language excursion to the Laura and Oak Alley Plantations.

We would like to thank the Local Committee, under the able leadership of Dolliann Hurtig, Co-Chair of the AATF Commission on Cinema, who organized the hospitality desk. Volunteers included Tamara Caudill, Glynis Davis, Laura Marie Harrelson, Robert Hurtig, Jeanne Jegouso, Stephen Kiley, Tom Klingler, Jacqueline Labat, Amanda LaFleur, Lena Lucietto, Charles Mignot, Haley Norris, Mary Anne O'Neill, Soazic Pougault, Stefan Tassin, Jared Toups, and Farida Ngandu Tshiebue. A huge thank you to the Committee which provided attendees with information about things to do and places to eat in the



(L. to R.) Outgoing Executive Council Members Jane Romer, Joyce Beckwith and Marie-Magdeleine Chirol.

egates to attend next year's convention in Saguenay, Quebec by Marie-Josée Lepage, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, and Guy Paradis, Collège de Jonquière. Another group of 60 attendees participated in Le Monde Créole Walking Tour.

Over 90 people participated in the Awards Banquet (see individual winner profiles in this issue). Following dinner, we honored Outstanding National Administrators, our

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

50 attendees



(L. to R.) Past-Presidents of the AATF: Ann Sunderland, Marie-Christine Koop and Margot Steinhart.

Vieux Carré.

In short, the 400 participants were able to enjoy 113 sessions, including 9 exhibitor sessions and 12 commission sessions, and five workshops, 24 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, Emily Cook and Jessica Nelson 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 (see page 7), the personnel of the Astor Crowne Plaza 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 1999. The AATF would like to thank the speakers, exhibitors, and sponsors without whom the convention could not have happened.

We invite everyone to join us in 2015 as we explore the region of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean in Quebec (see page 35).



(L. to R.) Opening Session: President Mary-Helen Kashuba, SSJ, Denis Desgagné and Zachary Richard.

sen- tive Marie-Magdeleine Chirol, and Vice-President Jane Romer who will finish their terms on December 31, 2014. We also welcomed two new honorary members, Past-President Ann Sunderland and singer/songwriter Zachary Richard.

stayed to par-

ticipate in the post-convention French-