

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 88<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

The 88<sup>th</sup> annual AATF Convention was held July 8-11, 2015 at the Hôtel Le Montagnais in Saguenay, Québec and had as its theme, "L'Héritage français en Amérique."

The Executive Council spent two days doing the Association's business before the convention. They met on July 6-7. In addition, the fifth Future Leaders Fellowship Program with nine participants was held on those same days under the able direction of Janel Lafond-Paquin (page 19).

On the afternoon of July 7, a group of 30 congressistes participated in an excursion to the Musée Louis-Hémon, Lac Saint-Jean et Odyssée des Bâtisseurs.

The convention opened officially on Wednesday, July 8. AATF



Le site historique de Val-Jalbert

President Mary Helen Kashuba, SSJ, welcomed attendees (see her remarks on page 3). Following introductory remarks by Marc-André Thivierge, *Directeur États-Unis au Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie du Québec*, Luc Blackburn, representing the Mayor of Saguenay, Solange Moreau, *Directrice de l'École de langue française et de culture québécoise de l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi*, and Guy Paradis, *Directeur du Centre linguistique du Collège de Jonquière*, she then introduced our keynote speaker, author and journalist Jean-Benoît Nadeau. A special thanks to the *Centre de la francophonie des Amériques* for sponsoring the keynote address.

After the opening *séance plénière*, more than 150 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.

Following five afternoon workshops, 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. 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. In the evening, the American Society for the French Academic Palms held its annual dinner.

Day 2 was a full day of sessions, often highlighting the theme of the convention. During the lunch break, many members participated in the ninth annual *Dictée* orga-

nized by AATF President-Elect Catherine Daniélou (See the list of winners on page 41). 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), and ACTFL Teacher of the Year, Nicole Nadeau



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). A group of 40 participants left at noon on an excursion to accompany *La Fabuleuse* during which they explored the history of the Saguenay at various sites and with local authors. At the end of the day, the rest of the attendees left by bus to join them at a special performance of *La Fabuleuse Histoire d'un Royaume* at the *Théâtre municipal de La Baie*.

Day 3 of the convention was equally busy. There

several coffee breaks in the exhibit hall, one sponsored by



Le Centre-ville de Saguenay avec la Petite Maison Blanche.

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# CONVENTION IN SAGUENAY

Tralco-Lingo Fun. held during the where lucky won prizes. We would also like to thank the

Two raffles were exhibit breaks attendees able

Outstanding Chapters for 2015 (pages 26, 28) and our Outstanding Chapter Officer, Mary Anne O'Neill (page 26).

In the afternoon, the AATF Assembly of Delegates met to ratify the decisions of the Executive Council and to discuss ideas for strategic planning.

Over 130 people participated in the *Soirée saguenéenne*,

Lincourt, Ingrid Langevin, and Angélique Longtin, for all they did to help organize a memorable convention.

In short, the 334 participants were able to enjoy 104 sessions, including 9 exhibitor sessions and 10

École de langues de l'UQAC for sponsoring the badges.

In order to schedule our closing gala, an Awards luncheon was held where those receiving special recognition for their achievements in 2015 were celebrated. These included our outgoing Executive Council members, Region IX Representative Ann Williams and Vice-President Steve Daniell, who will finish their terms on December 31, 2015.

We also welcomed a new honorary member, Pierre Lin-

court, former director of the École de langues de l'UQAC. Among the numerous award recipients were Caroline Little and Michèle Bissière who received the 2015 AATF Dorothy S. Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Awards (see page 15). Intercultural Student Experiences again sponsored the ISE Language Matters Award which was given to Abbe Guillet (see page 26). Outstanding National French Contest Administrators Maria del Carmen Ramirez and Heather West were also recognized as were our



organized by the Centre linguistique du Collège de Jonquière where participants tasted *soupe aux gourganes, tourtière, and*



L. to R.: Jean-Benoît Nadeau, Line Gigault, Nicole Naditz au kiosque du Centre de la francophonie.

commission sessions, and seven workshops, 31 exhibit booths, two raffles, and several unique excursions and activities. The AATF would like to thank the staff members who helped make the convention such a success, Lindsey Gibson and Angelica Vickers 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) and the personnel of the *Hôtel le Montagnais*. The AATF would like to thank the speakers, exhibitors, and sponsors who made the convention possible. We could not have happened. We invite everyone to join us in

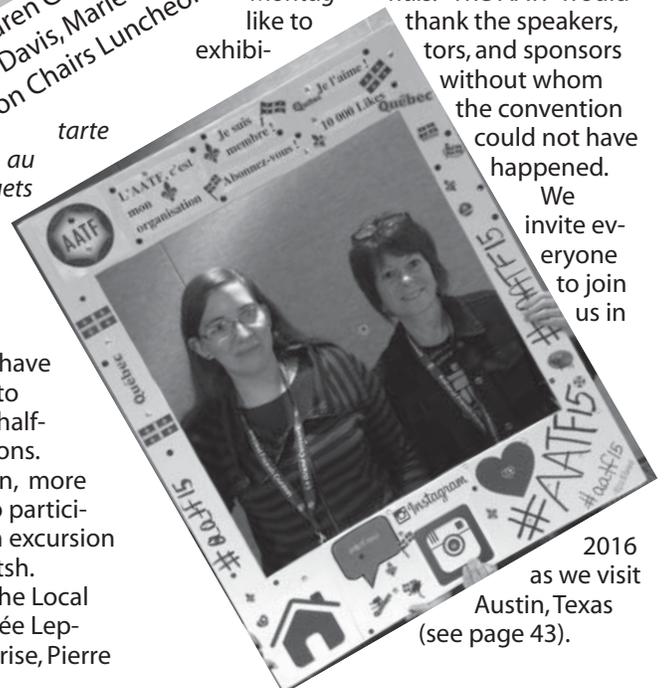


L. to R.: Margarita Levasseur, Janel Lafond-Paquin, Karen Cambell Kuebler, Scott Sheridan, Mary Helen Kashuba, SSJ, Rita Davis, Marie Schein, Dolliann Hurtig, Deb Reisinger at the Commission Chairs Luncheon.

Some extended their evening to enjoy the *Festival de musique* in Jonquière. Those who did not have early departures were able to take advantage of the final half-day of workshops and sessions.

Following the convention, more than 30 attendees stayed to participate in the post-convention excursion to Val-Jalbert et Mashteuiatsh.

We would like to thank the Local Committee, Chair Marie-Josée Lepage, Guy Paradis, Esther Laprise, Pierre



2016 as we visit Austin, Texas (see page 43).