

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 89TH ANNUAL



President Catherine Daniélou recognizes outgoing President Mary Helen Kashuba, SSJ.

The 89th annual AATF Convention was held July 3-6, 2016 at the Hilton Hotel in Austin, Texas and had as its theme, "En avant vers les nouvelles frontières du français."

The Executive Council spent two days doing the Association's business before the convention. They met on July 1-2. In addition, the sixth Future Leaders Fellowship Program with 11 participants was held on those same days under the able direction of Janel Lafond-Paquin (page 2).

The convention opened officially on Sunday, July 3. AATF President Catherine Daniélou welcomed attendees. Following her introductory remarks, she then introduced our keynote speaker, noted French author Julien Suaudeau.

After the opening *séance plénière*, more than 100 enthusiastic *congressistes* and their guests attended the Welcome Luncheon, co-sponsored by the AATF and the Embassy of France, where they were

seated by region in order to network with colleagues from their geographic area. After a brief welcome by Karl Cogard, *Attaché de coopération éducative à l'Ambassade de France*, the Dorothy S. Ludwig Award for Post-Secondary teaching was presented to Kirsten Halling, Wright State University, who was unable to be present at the Awards Banquet (see page 14). Following six 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 tenth annual *Dictée* organized by AATF President Catherine Daniélou (See the list of winners on page 16). 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), Emmanuel Kayembé, University of Botswana, in addition to Julien Suaudeau. 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). Two groups of 25 participants headed off at the end of the day to an olive oil tasting and a cheese tasting activity respectively. Day 3 of the convention was equally busy. There were several coffee breaks in the exhibit hall, one sponsored by Language and Friendship. Two raffles were held during the exhibit breaks where lucky attendees



Executive Director Jayne Abrate, Karl Cogard, Attaché de coopération à l'Ambassade de France, President Catherine Daniélou

won valuable prizes. We would also like to thank Vista Higher Learning for sponsoring the badges.

In the afternoon, the AATF Assembly of Delegates met to ratify the decisions of the Executive Council and to discuss ideas for strategic planning. At the end of the afternoon, two more groups participated in the olive oil and cheese tasting excursions. We would like to acknowledge Sojourner Tours who organized the excursions for the convention.

That evening over 100 participants attended the AATF Awards Banquet where those receiving special recognition for their achievements in 2016 were celebrated. These included our outgoing Executive Council members, AATF Past-President Mary Helen Kashuba, SSJ, Vice-President Madeline Turan, and Region III Representative Christine Gaudry who will finish their terms on December 31, 2016. In addition, outgoing editor of



LaSalle's ship La Belle

CONVENTION IN AUSTIN



President Catherine Daniélou with the display recognizing our 2016 Future Leaders.

the *National Bulletin*, Jane Black Goepper, whose term was completed just prior to the convention, was recognized. We also

and Betty Clough, for all they did to help organize a memorable convention.

In short, the 243 participants were



welcomed three new honorary members, our keynote speaker Julien Suaudeau, AATF Life Member Maurice Elton, and *National Bulletin* Editor Jane Black Goepper. Among the numerous award recipients were Bonnie Estes and Kirsten Halling who received the 2016 AATF Dorothy S. Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Awards (see page 14). Intercultural Student Experiences again sponsored the Language Matters Award which was given to Brandi Prunte (see page 24). Outstanding National French Contest Chapters were also recognized as were our Outstanding Chapters for 2016 (pages 25) and our

sions, and six workshops, 22 exhibit booths, two raffles, and several unique

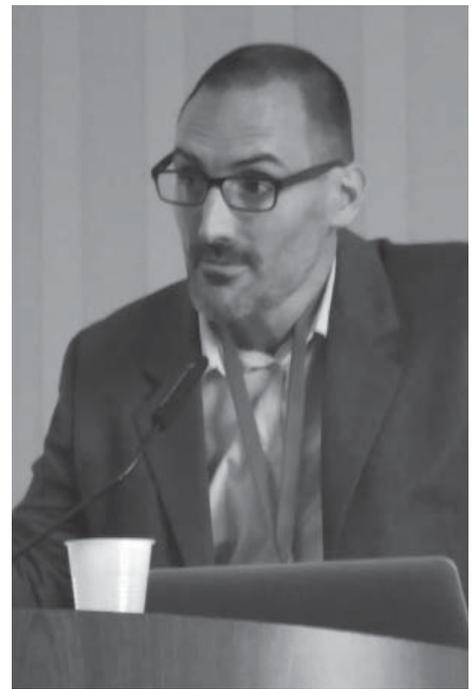


Outstanding Chapter Officer, Michael Hebert (page 25).

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

Following the convention, more than 25 attendees stayed to participate in the post-convention excursion to the Texas History Museum to see LaSalle's ship *La Belle* and to the Blanton Museum of Art.

We would like to thank the Local Committee, Marie Schein



Keynote speaker Julien Suaudeau excursions and activities. The AATF would like to thank the staff members who helped make the convention such a success, Lindsey Gibson and Denise Sandlin, as well as Christy Brown 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 6) and the personnel of the Hilton Hotel. We also would like to thank our AV technician Shaun Reis. 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 2017 as we visit Saint Louis (see page 21).