THE VIRGINIA LEVINE SECOND LANGUAGE EDUCATORS CONFERENCE: A CONFERENCE FOR SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHERS AND TEACHERS IN TRAINING

"Building Bridges through Language Education"

September 21st, 2024

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT CORTLAND

Sperry Center

Welcome! We have organized this conference and chosen workshops to meet your unique needs and interests. Between 8:15 and 8:45 a.m., please check in at the Registration table and pick up your conference folder. As a courtesy to presenters and participants, we ask that you attend each workshop in its entirety.

NO FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE ROOMS OF SPERRY CENTER

Patricia Martínez de la Vega Mansilla, *Conference Coordinator*

SCHEDULE

8:15-8:45	Check-in, Conference Folder Pick-up, Sperry Center, 1st Floor
8:45-9:15	Opening Remarks & Welcome: Dr. Erik Bitterbaum Lecture Hall 104, Sperry Center, 1st Floor
9:15-10:00	Keynote Address: *"Look Them in the Eyes and Say Hello!"* by **Mary Holmes**, *NYSAFLT Past President and MAFLA member* Lecture Hall 104, Sperry Center, 1st Floor
10:00-10:10	Break
10:10-10:55	**Session I: Workshops 1, 2, and 3** (See individual workshop descriptions for location)
10:55-11:05	Break
11:05-11:50	**Session II: Workshops 4, 5, and 6** (See individual workshop descriptions for location)
11:50-12:00	Break
12:00-12:45	**Session III: Workshops 7, 8, and 9** (See individual workshop descriptions for location)
12:45-12:55	Break
12:55-1:15	Closing Remarks: Evaluations & **Raffle** **Lecture Hall 104**

The coordinators of this event would like to thank *Auxiliary Services Corporation* (CAS), SUNY Cortland's *International Programs Office*, *Clark Center for Global Engagement*, *Extended Learning,* and *Modern Languages Department* for co-sponsoring this event and for their invaluable assistance and support.

9:15 –10:00 Keynote Address:

"Look Them in the Eyes and Say Hello"

Mary Holmes
NYSAFLT Past President and MAFLA member

Lecture Hall 104, Sperry Center, 1st Floor

I am here to explore and celebrate how learning a new language deepens and enriches cultural connection.
Firstly, let's acknowledge technology's role in facilitating quick, often accurate, translation going from screen to screen. But quick translation is only one part of what we teach in our language classes. We, language teachers, go much deeper than communicating through screens. We use teaching language and culture to help our students connect on a human to human, face to face, level. We want our students to use language and culture to build relationships.

In today's keynote, we will discuss how teaching and learning new languages encourages connection. We want our students to do more than look at a screen to communicate, we want our students to have the confidence to look someone new in the eye and say hello.

Language of presentation: *English*.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS (Sperry Center, 3rd Floor)

10:10 –10:55 Workshop 1:

Harnessing AI for Process Writing in EFL/ESL Classrooms: Insights and Implementation Strategies

Chak-Lam Colum Yip
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo/ SUNY Cortland

Sperry Center, room 305

This workshop aims to bridge the gap between traditional writing instruction and the evolving landscape of AI-assisted composition. The presenter will discuss key findings from his recent studies exploring the ethical integration of AI tools (specifically ChatGPT and Perplexity) in teaching process writing to EFL students. Many of these insights can be effectively adapted for ESL writing classrooms and offer practical strategies for educators.
Our session will cover the following topics:
1. Comparison of ChatGPT and Perplexity
2. Collaborative development of AI guidelines for your class
3. Techniques for teaching prompt engineering
4. Implementing a step-by-step process-oriented approach to writing using AI tools
5. AI feedback as a model for peer review

Participants will gain insights into how to equip students with the skills to harness AI ethically and effectively in their writing processes, both within and beyond the classroom setting.

Language of presentation: *English*

10:10 – 10:55 Workshop 2:

United States and Latin America, Two Diverse Societies United through Language, Art, Advocacy and History

Odalis Hidalgo
SUNY Cortland – Modern Languages Department

José Ortiz
SUNY Cortland – Foundations and Social Advocacy

Sperry Center, room 307

The United States and Latin America have been seen, throughout history, as a two diverse, but substantially different societies. However, in recent years, this concept has changed due to the broader understanding of their Cultures, and the strong relationship they share together.
This workshop will provide tools, that can be utilized in a classroom, to recognize the many commonalities and interdependency within these territories and their people. It will provide concrete examples of the ways in which these cultures, despite their differences, are bound together through language, art, advocacy and history.

Language of presentation: *Spanish/English*

10:10 – 10:55 Workshop 3:

Fostering Curiosity, Connections and Community in Language Classrooms

MaKenna Wilkins
Cortland Junior Senior High School

Sperry Center, room 308

Build your toolbox with methods and techniques to inspire/reinspire students to learn languages. Through discussions with educators and teaching in my classroom, I have become aware of a common theme in classrooms, especially language classrooms. Have your students ever asked: Why do I need to learn this? When am I ever going to use this? Why is this important? The reality is that those questions and curiosities are not going to go away. Instead of stumbling over a response, we will brainstorm and explore answers to these questions together. Through this workshop, we will explore building the three C's in language classrooms again. Curiosity, Connections, and Community. The goal of incorporating these elements into your instruction is that your students will be reinspired to learn about language and culture and answer these questions themselves.

Language of presentation: *English*

11:05 – 11:50 Workshop 4:

Building Bridges by Building Background

Chloe Walters
SUNY Cortland - Modern Languages Department

Sperry Center, room 305

In this 45-minute workshop, we will explore the importance of considering students' background experiences & prior knowledge into our daily instruction, regardless of our content area. We will also examine different strategies and techniques that allow teachers of all subjects and grade levels to meaningfully and effectively build background with all students, including their multilingual learners. Participants will leave this workshop with digital access to presentation materials & helpful building background resources to use in their current/future classrooms.

Language of presentation: *English*

11:05 – 11:50 Workshop 5:

Keeping it Authentic: Strategies and Considerations

Joanne O'Toole
SUNY Oswego

Sperry Center, room 307

ACTFL's guiding principle tells world language teachers that "using authentic texts in language learning is essential." However, selecting and implementing authentic resources well for learners with Novice and Intermediate level proficiency can be challenging. The presenter will share a practical framework for evaluating authentic resources and have participants apply the framework to evaluate authentic resources. In addition, the presenter will share and model considerations in designing tasks for use with authentic resources. Participants will then have the opportunity to apply one or more of the considerations.

Language of presentation: *English with examples in Spanish*

11:05 – 11:50 Workshop 6:

Developing Connections amongst Students while Exploring Online Resources

Danielle Bouchard-Bihr
SUNY Cortland - Modern Languages Department

Sperry Center, room 308

How can we transform traditional online research to create ties among our students?
In this workshop we will explore the use of authentic online resources from Quebec to promote students' interpersonal exchanges and presentational activities. Students will discover new content by following their own preferences and that of their peers, as a starting point. The resources will expose them to new terms, grammar structures in context, and authentic elements of French Culture.

Language of presentation: *English with examples in French*

12:00 – 12:45 Workshop 7:

Language Transfer Workshop: Linguistically Responsive Strategies for Teachers

Christine Uliassi ; *SUNY Cortland*
Kerali Reynolds *Ithaca City School District*
Shuzhan Li *Ithaca College*

Sperry Center, room 305

Join us for an engaging and practical workshop designed for teachers to enhance their cross-linguistic awareness and teaching strategies. While teachers cannot know all their students' home languages, understanding essential features of students' primary languages can support linguistic transfer for English learning. In this workshop, we will share basic linguistic and cultural elements of several common home languages and examples of lessons that support cross-linguistic awareness. We will give attendees time to collaborate to create impactful activities that support language learning.

Language of presentation: *English*

12:00 – 12:45 Workshop 8:

Incorporating Cultural Education into the World Language Classroom

Kerri Freese *OCM - BOCES*
Sarah Brenner Plotkin *Cornell University*

Sperry Center, room 307

Incorporating cultural education into language instruction can be time-consuming, often requiring hours to locate and adapt appropriate activities that resonate with students. This presentation addresses this challenge by exploring the innovative use of Culture Kits provided by the Einaudi Center for International Studies at Cornell University to enrich cultural instruction. These free kits offer a wealth of traditional, hands-on resources that expose students to products and practices of countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. By integrating these kits into their curriculum, educators can efficiently meet the updated New York State World Languages Standards for Cultures while saving valuable planning time. Attendees will gain practical strategies for utilizing these kits and leave the session equipped with engaging, authentic activities to enhance cultural education in the classroom.

Language of presentation: *English*

12:00 – 12:45 Workshop 9:

Vive le STEM en Cours de Français!
Bari Doeffinger
Lansing High School
Sperry Center, room 308

American society places great importance on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, but many people may not realize that world languages have a lot to contribute to STEM! As language educators, we can complement students' understanding of these disciplines by incorporating lessons on renewable energy, robotics and artificial intelligence, urban farms, electric cars, and more. Geared toward teachers of more advanced students, this workshop will provide specific articles, videos, and infographics, as well as plenty of ideas for classroom activities and discussions. Giving students the tools needed to speak about technology and the environment in an additional language, as well as providing opportunities to see how communities in other parts of the world address their challenges, is one way we can truly prepare students for the global workplace. Conducted in French.

Language of presentation: *French*

12:55 – 1:15 Closing Remarks: *Patricia Martínez de la Vega Mansilla*

EVALUATION & RAFFLE!!!

Lecture Hall 104, Sperry Center, 1st Floor