



# COLT

Capital Organization of Language Teachers

An Affiliate of New York State Association of Language Teachers (NYSAFLT)

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## Up Close and Personal with LOTE Colleagues in The Capital Region.

On Thursday, January 10, 2008, COLT gathered for an "Eat, Meet and Greet" potluck at Schalmont High School in Rotterdam. Kathy Fagan and her Home and Careers colleagues were gracious enough to let us use their kitchen and classroom for a social and educational event that yielded an impressive turnout.

Many new and familiar faces from across the region enjoyed some good home cooking and a wonderful and interactive presentation offered by Jeff Klamka and Lizette Liebold from Bethlehem Central School District. Jeff and Lizette reminded us that getting to know your students is key to a successful learning environment. We also learned that a date with Johnny Depp is more interesting than a date with one's cousin.

During the meeting, the 2008 COLT officers were elected. They are listed to the left of this article. Your 2008 COLT officers hope to plan more events like this that offer a chance to socialize with local colleagues, but also provide guest speakers and scholarly presentations.

## A Quick Note from Your New President:

Hello everyone! It is truly an honor to be your Capital Organization of Language Teachers President. My name is Mike Mitchell and I am entering my 8<sup>th</sup> year of teaching Spanish. I started my teaching career at Islip Middle School in Islip, Long Island where I was an active member of Long Island Language Teachers (LILT) as well as NYSAFLT. Currently, I teach Spanish at Bethlehem Central High School and Bethlehem Central Lab School. I also teach "Spanish for Travelers," a continuing education course for adults in the Bethlehem community. I am still actively involved in NYSAFLT and COLT and have presented workshops on TPRS (Teaching Proficiency Through Reading and Storytelling) with both organizations. Most recently I was secretary of COLT.

During my term, I plan to focus on several areas that are essential to the success of COLT. First, we need to attract new members. Across the region, we are inundated with a new class of LOTE teachers. Many of these teachers are unaware of what COLT can offer them. Second, we need to bring more educational workshops to our meetings. Among us, there is a large body of professional knowledge and COLT is the perfect means to share that knowledge.

I hope to see many of you at our planning meetings, social gatherings and regional meetings. Feel free to contact me anytime at [mitcm1hs@bcsd.neric.org](mailto:mitcm1hs@bcsd.neric.org) with ideas, suggestions or just to rant about a rough day on the educational battlefield.

### Editor:

[Mike Mitchell](#)

### Regional Directors:

[Colleen Sheehan](#)  
[Jill Dugan](#)

### COLT Officers 2008:

[Mike Mitchell](#)  
*President*

[Colleen Sheehan](#)  
*Vice President*

[Kathy Fagan](#)  
*Treasurer*

[Joanne Veglia](#)  
*Secretary*

**Save The Date:**

**COLT Regional Conference:**

*Saturday,  
March 29, 2008  
Farnsworth Middle  
School*

***Not yet a member?***

*See membership form on last page of this newsletter.*

***Do you have a student teacher?***

*Consider giving your student teacher a COLT or NYSAFLT membership as a gift.*

**Capital Organization of Language Teachers**

**c/o Kathy Fagan**

**13 Pepper Hollow**

**Clifton Park, NY 12065**

**[kfagan@sabrenet.net](mailto:kfagan@sabrenet.net)**

## The latest from our regional directors:

Dear Foreign Language Colleague:

As your Capital Region directors for the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYSAFLT), we attended a Board of Director's Meeting earlier this month. We would like to share some important information with you regarding upcoming events! Please "grab" your calendars and mark the following dates:

**Sat., March 29(8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.):** Capital District Regional Meeting (with workshops) at Farnsworth Middle School, Guilderland.

Theme: "Putting your Language Program on the Map!"

Keynote Speaker: Ms. Nancy Ketz, NYSAFLT Public Advocacy representative & LOTE teacher.

*\*\*\*You should receive a mailing (if a member of NYSAFLT or present COLT member) shortly regarding registration and workshops or go to [www.nysaflt.org](http://www.nysaflt.org) and click on Regional news.*

**Friday, April 25 (afternoon) and Saturday (day) April 26:** NYSAFLT Colloquium at the Clarion Hotel in downtown Albany!

Theme: "Setting the Course for Success: Induction, Mentoring, Networking"

Keynote Speaker: Sharon Feiman-Neser, Professor of teacher education at Brandeis University.

Registration price: NYSAFLT members with a pre-or post-conference: \$65

Non-NYSAFLT member: \$75

Student member of NYSAFLT: \$25

*\*\*\*A \$10 discount is available to a teacher who is in his/her first 3 years of teaching.*

We hope to see you soon at a COLT/NYSAFLT event.

Jill Dugan  
[duganj@guilderlandschools.org](mailto:duganj@guilderlandschools.org)

Colleen Sheehan  
[sheehanc@crcls.k12.ny.us](mailto:sheehanc@crcls.k12.ny.us)

## LOTE Colleague from RCS battles cancer

Colin Poole, a 4<sup>th</sup> year middle school Spanish teacher from the Ravena Coeymans Selkirk School District is battling a rare form of cancer known as Burkitt's lymphoma.

The school district is raising money for Poole and his wife to help them through the months of treatment at Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Donations can be mailed payable to "Colin Poole Fund" to RCS Middle School; 2025 Route 9W; Ravena, NY 12143.



### Web links

**Click below for more information about COLT.**

**<http://www.nysaflt.org/regions/capital.htm>**

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to your colleagues.

## COLT Membership Form for 2008 (Jan. – Dec.)

As Treasurer for COLT, I thank you for joining! Please provide the following:

First name and last: \_\_\_\_\_

Work e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

and / or

Home e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

(\*\*\*An e-mail address is important because COLT would like to send notices for events via e-mail as well as a COLT newsletter. "Snail mail" may be used should e-mail not be available.)

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Language(s) taught: \_\_\_\_\_

School address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School ph. # (and ext. if necessary) \_\_\_\_\_

COLT would like your input. How might you be able to assist COLT?

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**\*\*\*PLEASE SEND THIS SHEET AND YOUR \$ 5.00 YEARLY DUES  
(payable to "COLT") to:**

Kathy Fagan  
13 Pepper Hollow  
Clifton Park NY 12065

----- Date pd. \_\_\_\_\_  
check\_\_\_\_\_ cash \_\_\_\_\_