

MAFLT @ MSU

Spring Semester 2018

THE ALUMNI ISSUE

Where are our MAFLT Alumni now? Interested in learning about where our Alumni have gone? This issue is for you. We contacted all of our graduates and asked them to describe where they are in their careers and to offer any advice they may have for our current and prospective students. Head to the [Notes & Notables](#) section for an update from our Alumni!

MAFLT COMMUNITY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

In Summer 2018, we will welcome yet another strong cohort with seven new members from around the U.S.: Ana Isabel Alcocer Arreguin, Joshua Brown, Trisha Funk, Courtney Mayes, Charlotte Nevin, Matthew Starr, and Patricia Wyza. Our new members reside in six different U.S. states. **Ana, Trisha, Courtney, Matthew, and Patricia** teach Spanish at various levels and **Joshua and Charlotte** teach German. Bienvenidos and Willkommen to the program!

SURVIVING TECH TODAY: SOME ADVICE FROM THE FIELD

Merih Sumpter, (Class of 2016), Dr. Wesley Curtis, and our director, Dr. Dustin De Felice, recently contributed the lead article, *Just try this new app*, to [CLEAR's Newsletter](#). Congrats to Merih, Wesley, & Dustin! Interested in reading more about our field. Be sure to view the [CLEAR archives](#).

WANT TO KNOW THE LATEST IN TECH & TEACHING?

This year's e-text [Teaching with Tech 2017](#) is available for download. This is the **fifth** volume of this annual text, which presents content produced by your colleagues in the MAFLT course on teaching with technology, FLT 881.

TEA WITH BVP ENDS ITS RUN

While [Tea with BVP](#) has ended (listen to the final episode [here](#).), this successful podcast on language acquisition still maintains its archive. There are over 75 podcasts full of information on our field. Over its run, many MAFLT students have called into the show with their questions and Sean Magee (Class of 2017) created some teacher-friendly materials to complement many of the earliest shows. Go to [Sean's Google Site](#) for more information.

This summer, we offer three courses: Assessment, Intro to F/SLA, and Methods. Enroll soon! See sample syllabi on the MAFLT site at [MAFLT Courses](#).

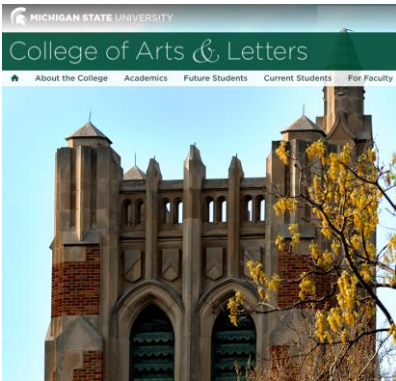
 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Letters



Master of Arts in
Foreign Language Teaching

Welcome to the newsletter for the online Master of Arts degree in Foreign Language Teaching (MAFLT) at Michigan State University (MSU). For more information go to <http://maflt.cal.msu.edu/>



The MSU College of Arts & Letters (CAL) educates actors, artists, designers, filmmakers, linguists, philosophers, poets, teachers, translators, writers, and much more in a creative, learning, and nurturing environment.

Contact Us

The MAFLT Program

maflt@cal.msu.edu
<http://maflt.cal.msu.edu/>

person. To watch all our graduates who have attended the ceremony receive their diplomas, click [here](#). Students nearing the end of the program are reminded to [file for graduation](#) in the first week of the semester they intend to complete all program requirements.

LOOKING TO CHANGE CAREER TRAJECTORY? WHAT ABOUT A NEW JOB?

Job searching is a challenging endeavor and it can even be exhausting. We'd like to help no matter where you are in the process. If you are working on your cover letter, a statement of interest, or other job-related documents, we suggest contacting [the Writing Center](#) and schedule an appointment. Their tutors are skilled at reviewing your work with you in order to improve. If you are working on your resume, CV, or other job-related documents, we recommend [the Career Center](#). Lastly, you are always welcome to contact Dustin for any help related to job searching documents, resources, and/or guidance, especially our alumni. Send a message to defelic5@msu.edu

RESOURCES @ MSU

Have you checked out these links? Bookmark them!

MAFLT Community in D2L

[SpartansLearn & Spartan365 Tech Tools](#)

[MAFLT Library Guide](#)

[Writing Center Online Appointments](#)

[Career Center](#)

SPRING/SUMMER GRADUATION

We are very pleased to report that five more students completed the MAFLT program this semester. We will be able to celebrate 39 graduates since the program started in the fall of 2012. When you graduate, we would love to see you come to East Lansing and attend the graduation events, too! Mariela Andrade, C J Hague, YoungOak Morgan, and Lillian Lermon attended the ceremony in



REMINDERS

Aiming to work on your EM or Portfolio next semester? Contact the mentor and ask for an override.

Graduating soon? Register to graduate at the beginning of your last semester.

Have a friend who wants to apply to the MAFLT? See deadlines and instructions at [APPLY NOW!](#)

NOTES & NOTABLES: ALUMNI FOCUS

Stephanie Bennett (Class of 2016): Stephanie is in her fifth year of teaching and her second year of teaching French. She is doing a much better job of getting the students to speak the target language and doing more hands on, real life activities. While she knows that it is difficult to plan wonderful, engaging, perfect lessons when you are also in school, she has been able to apply so many things that she learned. For example, her students are on a “trip” to Paris where they have to apply the vocabulary and grammar structures that they’ve been learning all semester (following commands at the airport, ordering food at a café, haggling prices at the market, etc). It has been so rewarding for them so far to put into practice what they’ve been learning in a somewhat authentic situation. She would never have designed something like this if she hadn’t learned so much about authentic language production, the importance of using the target language, and alternative methods of assessment in the MAFLT program. She would tell current and future students that even though the program is hard work, it will truly make you a better teacher, so keep going!

Danielle Boston (Class of 2016): Danielle has moved over completely to teaching online, and she must say that she loves it! Getting her masters online really gave her an edge in getting hired, and in understanding the different operations of the virtual classroom. She is working for the South Carolina Department of Education at their virtual school ([Virtual SC](#)) teaching French courses, and she has also started teaching ESL courses with a Chinese company called [51Talk](#). This type of teaching has been a bit of an adjustment, but a challenge that she is truly enjoying!

Sheila Conrad (Class of 2015): Sheila is still teaching French at [Bettendorf High School](#) in Bettendorf, Iowa. This is her 9th year. Her recent career achievements include being President of [the American Association of Teachers of French](#) (AATF) of Iowa and she has been elected the AATF Regional Representative for West Central Region of the U.S. - her term begins in January. Lastly, she has successfully run two “French Days” in the Quad City Area for middle, high, and college students.

Megan DeVoss (Class of 2016): She is currently teaching high school ESOL, pursuing her Ed.D. in School Improvement with a focus on ESOL, and teaching undergraduate courses at [Kennesaw State University](#).

Carmen Durham (Class of 2016): Carmen is presenting her EM project at the [NCTEAR](#) conference in March, which is at Towson University in Baltimore. She also rewrote the lit review and some of the methods section from her EM project and resubmitted it to [the Qualitative Report](#) because they give specific feedback. Her paper is available for download here: [Teacher Interculturality in an English as a Second Language Elementary Pull-Out Program: Teacher as Broker in the School’s Community of Practice](#).

Alison Dykman (Class of 2016): Alison is teaching at [Haslett High School](#) and she is considering a move toward a more technology minded position in the future, thanks very much to the MAFLT program. Her advice for current students would be to absorb as much as possible. Alison noted that life is busy and it is easy to not make school a priority. But she uses what she learned in the MAFLT everyday and there are some things she wishes she could go back and take in more fully.

Raneen Elbakry (Class of 2017): Raneen recently interviewed for a position at [Seton Hall](#) and she was requested to complete two back to back demo Arabic classes for beginner and intermediate levels. She found that the students showed a high level of participation. Although her teaching approach seemed to be very different from the department’s director, he offered her two classes with a potential independent study class if needed. She is just waiting on the official offer. She noted that the demo classes were the most rewarding part of this experience! She would not be able to achieve this step without all that she had learned from her professors in the MAFLT!

Nancy El Sobkey (Class of 2016): Nancy has been teaching Arabic as a foreign language at a language center at one university in Dubai since 2011. After completing her masters, she was successfully able to introduce Arabic as an undergraduate area of study. Additionally, her university only extended this new area study because of her MAFLT credential and she finds her job has become more stable and more prestigious. She noted that one of the most important things that she has learned was how to educate herself and to keep learning continuously.

James Fetterman (Class of 2015): James recently moved to Baltimore and he teaches Spanish at [Howard High School](#). He is also interested in exploring options in district level administration for world language programs. He has begun this journey toward administration as he was recently accepted into the online doctoral program in Literacy, Culture, and Language Education through [Indiana University Bloomington at Indiana University](#). He begins his studies in the fall.

Chris Higashi (Class of 2015): Chris noted that she hasn't made any traditional career achievements since she graduated from the MAFLT, but advancement wasn't the reason for pursuing her masters. One thing that she is proud of, however, is her contribution to her school district's re-writing of the World Language curriculum for French. At the time, she was finishing up with the MAFLT program and was able to provide direction and leadership to the committee of WL teachers of not just French, but Spanish and Japanese as well. In addition, and through her work with MAFLT, she became much more comfortable with technology use, both for herself and for use in her classroom. Her district, as of this school year, finally has been able to provide students with their own devices, so her classroom is virtually paperless. She is enjoying so many things that allow her to differentiate and personalize instruction. She loves the many ways she can assess, including speaking. Teaching has become so much more clear, organized, and exciting for her since doing her MAFLT studies. She would recommend that current MAFLT students cherish the opportunity to accept and run with the challenges that every course avails them to consider. She thinks it will rekindle their passion for their career and make them more confident, effective educators.

Lillian Lermon (Class of 2018): Lillian will be writing curriculum for her school district this summer and the EM project really helped her prepare for that. She recommends studying during any free time you have. She also hopes you try to enjoy the classes as much as possible, and ask the professors questions! Your classmates are helpful too! Email and get to know your classmates!

Kady Neal (Class of 2016): Kady and her husband moved to Illinois in July when he was accepted into a doctoral program in bio chemistry. She has started working as a Nanny because she wanted to get away from the corporate world for a while, and she's loving it. The little girl she watches is almost 2 and it's so rewarding.

Merih Sumpter (Class of 2016): Merih is employed as a full time EFL teacher at [Istek Private Schools' Izmir branch](#) which opened its doors in 2017-18 year in Turkey. She teaches 5th and 7th grades and she also runs the elementary school drama club. Her MAFLT experience gave her the insight, academic perspective, and motivation to further her studies. Upon her graduation, Merih transferred some of her MAFLT credits to the Master of Arts program in English Language Teaching with thesis at [Bahcesehir University in Turkey](#). After having completed the coursework, she is now working on her thesis. Having taught at secondary and university level for about 12 years, she is now teaching EFL at Istek private schools in Izmir, Turkey at middle school level. She is a proud and thankful member of the MAFLT community who got help from other members to conduct research and collect data even after graduating.

Watch for our next newsletter, when we highlight a number of exciting changes coming to the MAFLT program.

Have a story, a news item, or achievement to share with us? Send it along. We'd love to include it in the next newsletter. Send your contribution to maflt@cal.msu.edu.