

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 74th ANNUAL AATF CONVENTION IN DENVER

Over 350 attendees gathered July 5-8 in Denver for the 74th Annual AATF Convention. Everyone enjoyed the excellent selection of sessions and workshops, the other events and activities organized for members, and the beautiful mountain setting. As

activities. We are certain to see more of them.

We were also pleased to welcome a number of guest speakers and dignitaries to the Convention, many of whom gave sessions. Among these were **Mervin**

Chedumbarum from the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie*; **Robert Bourassa**, President of the *Association québécoise des Enseignants de Français Langue seconde*, who represented the *Commission Améri- que du Nord de la FIPF*, and his wife Marta, **Marc Champeau** and **Camille Marchand** from the Quebec Ministry of



AATF Regional Representatives Diana Regan (Middle Atlantic), Danielle Raquidel (Southeast), and Suzanne Hendrickson (Pacific) at the AATF Awards Banquet.

usual, the Executive Council met for the two days preceding the convention. In addition to yearly reports, the Council dealt with other Association business. A special thanks go to the FIAP Jean Monnet which sponsored the Executive Council luncheons on both days.

The Convention began on Thursday morning with an opening Plenary Session. Despite the last minute cancellation of one of our speakers, the other speaker, Dário Pagel, President of the *Fédération internationale des professeurs de français* (FIPF), was able to step up and fill the void. In addition, *congressistes* were treated to an update on the new *Français dans le monde* by Raphaële Bail and a visit to the newly revised AATF Web site.



Executive Director Jayne Abrate, new Honorary Member Adam Steg, and Vice-President Marie-Christine Koop at the AATF Banquet.

Following the opening session, more than 100 members attended the Welcome Luncheon where, seated by region, they could meet with others members from their chapter or region. The first sessions, workshops, and Commission meetings began right after lunch. In particular, President Jean-Pierre Piriou and Executive Director Jayne Abrate held a Newcomers' Session for new AATF members and first-time Convention-goers. The 10 people who attended were all enthusiastic about their experience and anxious to participate further in AATF

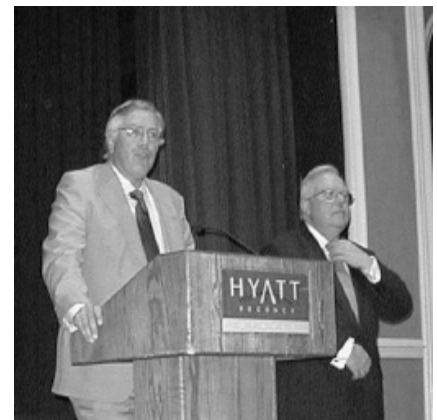
Education; **Timothy Rogus**, from the Public Affairs Office of the Quebec Government in Chicago; **Helen Coltrinari**, President of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers; **Marie Frosst**, representing the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers; **Dinah Lewis**, representing the British Columbia Association of Modern Language Teachers; and **Charles Barrière, Fabrice Jau- mont, and Adam Steg** from the Cultural Service of the French Embassy.

Thursday evening our Exhibitors welcomed attendees to examine their products and services at a Wine and Cheese Reception cosponsored by the AATF and the French Cultural Service. The Exhibit Hall was full, and we thank all those Exhibitors who joined us in Denver. In particular, we would like to thank M c G r a w - H i l l, McDougal Littell, Continental Book Company, and Prentice-Hall, sponsors of coffee breaks throughout the meeting. Visit the AATF Web site to learn more about those companies that exhibited in Denver.

Local chairs, **Alain Ranwez** and **Ann Wil-**

liams-Gascon, organized a restaurant tour on Thursday evening. Despite a late-afternoon downpour as members were leaving the hotel to arrive at the restaurants by 7:30 p.m., everyone had an excellent meal in the four restaurants chosen.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning, *congressistes* were able to participate in 84 sessions, 12 Commission meetings, 5 workshops, and 6 Exhibitor sessions. Other activities which were organized for members included a Walking Tour of Old Denver led by Professor **Tom Noel**, a concert given by **Steven Langlois** and sponsored by World of Reading, the AATF Award banquet on Saturday evening, and a day-long excursion on Sunday to the Paris Hotel in



Editor in Chief Christopher Pinet and President Jean-Pierre Piriou presenting an award.

Georgetown, CO. At the Awards Banquet the AATF was pleased to honor many members who have contributed significantly to AATF activities, including inducting two new Honorary Members (see page 20), recognizing four outstanding teachers (see November issue), two National French Contest Administrators (see page 36), and four outgoing Executive Council members (see page 13). In addition, a special plaque was

presented to Ronnie Moore, longtime typesetter for the *French Review* who was able to attend the banquet with her husband.

In short, a wonderful time was had by all. We look forward to welcoming participants next summer at the



Local Committee member Michael Nettleton with Region IX Rep Helen Lorenz (Southwest).

75th Annual AATF Convention in Boston, July 11-14.