Dear MaFLA members,

I've been pondering what it means to rejuvenate over this summer. Perhaps you, like me, felt more burnt out from this year than any other before it. I've done all the things I love to do over the summer: sail (see first image of our boat while we were still winning the Flip Flop Regatta), beach (see middle photo of the DDay beach in Normandy), travel (see right photo of my husband and me visiting Mt St Michel for the first time), fresh lemonade, afternoon ice cream, lunch dates with friends. Yet when I look at the August days roll by, I don't feel jazzed up for the new year yet.

I attended the opening of MaFLA's Summer Immersion, and mentioned to the participants that I've been convinced that we've all felt stretched in certain ways this past year, and so to relax, we try to unstretch it. I was overwhelmed with emails, so I checked it less. I didn't have time for family, so I've focused on that this summer. Maybe others felt overstretched in the area of content creation or social time. So, we've detached from those a bit this summer. Has it helped you? It hasn't helped me. Instead, I've been trying to stretch in a different way rather than unstretch. For example, this summer, I had the distinct privilege of serving as PEARLL's first Educator in Residence, working particularly with their new Learner Pathways. I developed content to help teachers focus on educating from the student learner's perspective. It stretched my brain to think about Gradual Release of Responsibility and the processing stage of language acquisition from their point of view. As I developed curriculum for the ninth grade French team, I stretched my brain to apply some of my new learning. Similarly, I tried to stretch myself by reading books by francophone authors, because my intellectual language skills are not usually tapped into during class! Another “different” stretch was to be spontaneous on weeknights, since I'm usually an early riser. The jury is still out, but I've felt that these stretches have rejuvenated me more than not doing typical school-year stuff has.

As we enter into the academic year, I encourage you to think about how you feel stretched during the year and how you can find complementary activities to allow you to relax on evenings and weekends ... and maybe even vacation, too! MaFLA is here for you in the stretch and in the relax.

Beckie Bray Rankin

MaFLA Leader in the Spotlight

I can't believe I've made it through half the year without highlighting a board member who is willing to jump in to help with anything from presenting to organizing google drive to directing PD to running our on-boarding program for new board members. Mike Travers, a French & Spanish teacher in Wellesley, is a familiar face to many of you, particularly well known for his presentations on teaching grammar in a proficiency-oriented context. Did you know he also has a blog with lots of examples based on research? His Twitter feed also can't be missed.

Upcoming Events

ACTFL registration is open! Your MaFLA membership gives you the ACTFL member rate and so much more. Registration is OPEN for the MaFLA Business & Awards Luncheon at ACTFL!