2017 French Teacher of the Year Celebration
April 28, 2017
Old Main 4th Floor Lounge
Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

The AATF-MN celebrates
Milan Kovacovic
University of Minnesota - Duluth
as our 2017 Teacher of the Year

Join us for a celebratory light meal and our Teacher-of-the-Year award
Friday, April 28th, 2017
6-8 p.m.
Old Main Building
4th floor
Macalester College
St Paul

Questions to Cristina Sturm
Chesturm@frontiernet.net
or Christine Lac
clac@carleton.edu

Registration
$15 per person
(includes AATF-MN sponsorship)

Please register before April 17

Are you a new French teacher?
Let Cristina know by email before registering.

Join our President Prof. Christine Lac and our board members to congratulate Dr. Kovacovic on this award. We encourage members to bring a guest and help us make this a memorable event.

A catered finger food buffet, wine, and warm beverages will be served.
MILAN KOVACOVIC
2017 MN-AATF FRENCH TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Christine Lac, President, AATF-MN, Presided over the Award Ceremon
SELECTED NOMINATION COMMENTARY

Kirsten Hylenski
Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Minnesota-Duluth

In an educational landscape increasingly defined by big data, bureaucracy, and assessment plans, Dr. Milan Kovakovic tenaciously upholds personal relationships and community in his classrooms. He is committed to a deeply engaged one-on-one investment of his time and his talents. A firm supporter of Claremont Graduate University’s transdisciplinary perspective on college education, Milan has been combining the study of French language with literature, film, music, and the visual arts long before the 5 C’s of the 21st Century Standards were developed.

As one anonymous student wrote:

“He interwove music, art, poetry, and French culture, into his class. He even had a nationally known French musician give a concert…”

Another student praised Milan:

“He is willing to put in a lot of extra work to make sure all of his students understand the material. He uses many videos and articles to familiarize his students with French culture as well as the language.”

Student comments I have read over the years repeatedly speak of how Dr. Kovacovic motivated them – not by force, but by his enthusiasm, deep knowledge of the subject matter, and mutual respect, igniting interest in the student to want to learn.”

Chris Ibarra
Marshall School (former student)

Milan has an extensive library of experience which he brings into the classrooms, sharing his own passion in the subject area with otherwise apathetic students in order to create a classroom environment in which students push themselves to discovery. Due to his constant sparks of inspiration, his students often joke that his catchphrase is “Je reviens tout de suite”. Nearly every time that a student asks a question directed at a cultural or historical aspect of any vocabulary or grammatical principle, Milan will present a book, film, article, or any other number of primary resources to share with that student, as well as the class as a whole. No two semesters were the same with Milan because he tailored each class to the students.

Without the work that Milan put into my time in his department, both inside and outside of his classroom, I would have never found the successful career in French education that I am currently enjoying….”

Several of those present spoke of their admiration for Milan over the years. Among them: Annie Muske, MnAATF A Vous La Parole co-coordinator; Dana Strand, Carleton, Univ. French Prof. emerita; Cheryl Pettersen, Duluth Schools, emerita.
Françoise Denis
Macalester College, French/Francophone Studies, Emerita

As colleague and co-judge AVLP Speaking Contest Françoise wrote this testimony:

«Il est aussi l’auteur acclamé de son livre «Ma’s dictionary». Inutile d’insister sur les talents littéraires indéniables qu’il révèle. Tout professeur qui a eu la chance de lire ce petit bijou peut témoigner de l’intérêt et du plaisir qu’il lui a donnés, particulièrement dans les chapitres concernant l’éducation, la vie professionnelle ou encore les amusantes incohérences de prononciation et de logique impliquées dans la maîtrise d’une nouvelle langue. Ces passages, trempés dans l’encre de son expérience personnelle d’apprenant et d’enseignant, signalent à la fois le regard aiguisé du pédagogue et la clairvoyance du philosophe…

Soutenu par une passion constante de transmettre et d’éduquer au sens large du terme, il a enrichi son département de son expérience, de ses connaissances, de ses cours innovants, visant le développement intellectuel et humain de ses étudiants. Tout cela - imprégné de sa grande sagesse et modestie - fait de lui, malgré sa discrétion, un professeur-phare dont l’action et la vision ont un impact sur ceux qui entrent en contact avec lui.»

The text was published in the Summer issue of REFLETS de l’étoile du nord to be archived soon at: http://mnaatf.org/Reflets.htm

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Mn Chapter AATF French Teachers of the Year Webpage:
http://mnaatf.org/4.htm

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http://mnaatf.org/28AprilCelebratory.pdf created June, 2107 and updated, Aug. 2017