

Mimma-Marie Cammarata, teacher of Italian and Michelle Myers, teacher of French employ a content-based, interdisciplinary, and experiential teaching style that offers numerous opportunities for their students to be actively engaged in the learning process well beyond the pages of a textbook and the walls of a school. They are passionate about connecting Italian and French to other disciplines because in addition to learning the language, they want their students to see global connections. A pivotal moment in their career was being awarded two Geraldine R. Dodge Teacher Fellowships, one to study Italian mosaics and French Impressionists in Italy and France and a second to work with other Dodge Fellows to publish a booklet highlighting their experiences. Winning these fellowships greatly inspired them to continue finding opportunities to study abroad. To date together they have been awarded two FLENJ mini grants and both have been recognized by FLENJ for excellence in teaching. Mimma and Michelle were educational reform award winners of the Murdock-Thompson Summer Fellowship For Innovative Teachers Grant for their Art and War thematic unit: "An Interdisciplinary Approach to Teach World Languages." Both were awarded a NJEA grant to participate in NJ Commission on Holocaust Education Educational Seminar to study the Infamous Sites of the Holocaust in Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, and the Netherlands. Upon their return they were featured in a Classroom Close-Up NJ documentary *Transformation & Remembrance: A Journey from the Holocaust to the Classroom*, and subsequently awarded a Camden County Freeholder Proclamation for bringing history to life and teaching valuable lessons to our children. Both are enthusiastic and involved faculty members of Sterling High School, have chaperoned students abroad, are active members of their union, both holding chair positions, and keep current with world language pedagogy through professional organizations.

In addition to their collaborative accomplishments, Michelle is the World Culture Club Advisor and holds a Master of Education in School Leadership. She has been awarded the Sterling High School Service Award and Educator of the Year, Schreiberstein Award for Emerging Community Leadership, Helen and Harry Pinsky Memorial Award for Outstanding Professional Leadership, Honey & Maurice Axelrod Family Teaching Tolerance Award, NJ-ALPHA Peace and Reconciliation Asia Study Tour Grant, and NEA Foundation Learning and Leadership Grant. Mimma is the assistant cheerleading coach and organizes the *Sterling Silver Awards* ceremony designed to highlight academic achievement. She has been awarded National Endowment for the Humanities Grant: The Art of Teaching Italian Through Art, Phila-Nipponica 2010 Summer Seminar: Japan in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and Okumus/ TAFSUS Turkey Fellowship Program.

On their gastronomic tour of Peru with their distinguished Spanish teacher colleague Sharon Galt, Michelle and Mimma will explore the agricultural and culinary practices of the Inca in order to trace the indigenous foods from the Americas to the Mediterranean. Their hope is to show how the staple foods of the Inca revolutionized the Mediterranean diet and cuisine in Italy, France, and Spain. Their research will be used to create common lessons to improve students' linguistic and cultural fluency in Spanish, French and Italian. Michelle and Mimma are eager to present their experiences and classroom activities at the next FLENJ conference as they have done in the past.