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GREETINGS TO ALL

Wishing all of you a peaceful and pleasant 2016, our ‘bulletin’ comes out a bit later this year but just in time for spring 2016.

This has been a productive year for the French section with many accomplishments that are highlighted in the following pages. News of our faculty members and students illustrate our commitment and contribution to the University of Florida’s reputation for academic and international excellence. Our activities reflect our engagement with the various events that have taken place over the past year.

Our program sends about two students a year to attend a program at Sciences Politiques. Dr. Carol Murphy has given us an update on them. Annually, three or four students go abroad to teach in the TAIPF program in France; we have heard directly back from one of them, featured in the present edition of our newsletter: Hannah Morse reports on her first time experience living and working in Saint-Quentin, France. Our alumni are eager to present and update their activities and we learn each year with a pleasure of their continued ties with French in the larger world. We are pleased to see that their background in French and Francophone Studies accompanies them in a wide array of academic and professional pursuits.

One of them, Beth MacGovern has sent a portion of her blog as a Peace Corps volunteer in Benin (see featured article on Beth). Another alumna, Lane Nieset has become a travel writer, and sends us some of her news via one of her published travel essays.

The France-Florida Research Institute has been active in its series of public lectures; the focus this year reflects on the current debate about climate change. Imagining Climate Change: Science and Fiction in Dialogue brought together French and American science fiction authors, graphic novelists, scholars, physical scientists and researchers, to discuss the effects of climate change on the physical environment and the human imaginary. The special project “French in contact” across multiple locations and its implications for cultural productions will continue in Spring 2016, with several guest speakers. The study focuses on linguistic practices and dynamics as well as investigates the changes and innovations in literature, cinema and urban music.

Our Study abroad program in Paris spearheaded by Dr. Blondoua is going strong, with a dozen of students moving their classrooms to Paris in May-June; some of them benefited from scholarship assistance for the program such as the Conner scholarship. This past year, the recipient was Erica Hitchner (Double major: FFS & Anthropology) who attended the UF in Paris Culture and Language in Context. A scholarship was also attributed to Nadj PIERRE (Double major: Neuroscience & FFS) for spring 2015 in Paris.

Congratulations are in effect for Dr. Blondoua who is the recipient of the International Educator of the year for CLAS! Many activities took place in the fall for our undergraduate student body, especially in view of President Fuchs’ inauguration, which consisted in a CLAS open house in Pugh Hall in December. We would like to hear from you. Continue to send any news you want to share and feel free to contact me or my colleagues for any updates or feedback.

Warmly,

Sylvie Blum-Reid

FRANCE FLORIDA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

This past year, the FFFRI organized and hosted several activities. The 2015-2016 annual research project is dedicated to science-fiction and climate change. The aim of the project “Imagining Climate Change”, organized with Dr. Harpold from the English Department, is to bring into conversation French and American scientists and science fiction writers and initiate an interdisciplinary dialogue on the imperatives of climate change, investigate responses to climate change in both the scientific and cultural domains and stimulate scholarship on the topic. The ambition is also to emphasize the key role played by texts in the understanding and the responses to local and transnational imaginaries of climate change. The Fall 2015 colloquium (Oct. 9-10, 2015) brought together science fiction writers Jean-Marc Ligny and Nathaniel Rich as well as paleoclimatologist and paleoceanographer Andrea Dutton. The presentation were moderated by Amanda Vincent (French), Ron Taylor (Religion) and Sidney Dobrin (English). The second colloquium of the project will take place February 17-18, 2016. Participants include scholar Christian Choleboung from Université de Lorraine, writers Yann Querro, Tobias Buckell and Jeff Vandermeer as well as Jay Famiglietti. These events are filmed and edited by Lauren DeFilippo who will release in January the first of two documentaries. “Imagining Climate Change” is co-sponsored by the Center for African Studies, the Center for the Humanities and Public Sphere, the department of English, the Florida Climate Institute at UF, the Science Fiction working group, the Water Institute and the office of the Dean in CLAS. We hope that this project, as the past ones, will contribute to building a productive network and lasting collaboration on these topics between UF and French and Francophone institutions such as the Centre d’Études Littéraires Jean Mourlot.

In addition to the annual project, the FFFRI has organized several events with the aim of exposing UF students and faculty and the general public to contemporary French literary production in its diversity. On April, 13th 2015, Award winning investigative journalist and filmmaker Marie-Monique Robin visited UF to present her new book and film. She gave a lecture titled “Our Daily Poison: From Pesticides to Packaging, How Chemicals Have Contaminated the Food Chain and Are Making Us Sick”. Her visit was sponsored by the TCD and MDP Programs (Centers for Latin American Studies and African Studies).

On April 29th, 2015, best-selling graphic novelist Annie Goetzinger presented her last work, La jeune fille en Dior, on the life of Christian Dior. Annie Goetzinger has published in multiple venues such as Circo, L’Echo des Savanes, Fluide Glacial, Météo Bural, Pilote, Le Monde. Her celebrated graphic novels and comic series include Casque d’Or, Auvers, L’événement, Le sommeil d’or, Ajonc Hardy, Le Regard des jours and Marie Antoinette, Le Reine Restitutie.

In 2015, the FFFRI has also organized the French Film Festival. This year the festival was organized by graduate students Cara Bailey, Alexandra Cherry, Jacqueline Lopez and Farrah Mahroug. Films included Renoir’s Le grand illusion, Winoour’s Augustine, Lanzmann’s Le dernier des Injustes, Mahamat-Saleh Haroun’s Gria-Gria, and Chour’s Le sommeil d’or.

Additional support for the festival came from the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

The details of some forthcoming events are on our website: http://www clas ufl edu/Franceflorida/.
NEWS FROM FACULTY

THEMREE ANTES
I've spent a large portion of the 2014-15 academic year continuing my research into the acquisition and storage of fixed expressions by both native and non-native speakers. I'm currently looking at expressions that are not considered idiomatic by native speakers and that generally sit below their level of consciousness, yet that are stored as whole expressions and do not allow permutations of any sort. My research shows that awareness speeds the acquisition process for non-natives, who otherwise do not understand that these expressions cannot be analyzed word-for-word and cannot be altered. Without awareness, the acquisition process is slow and rarely demonstrates the same level of success as that attained by native speakers. Joined by a graduate student who served as a research assistant last year, I will be making a presentation of this research at the American Association of Applied Linguistics in April 2016. We have one article currently under review and a second in preparation. I intend to spend the summer developing a new study, this time to gather similar data from students of French as a second, foreign language. I continue to be busy supervising graduate students, as well. Special congratulations to Michelle Erown, who defended her MA thesis in May 2014, earning her Master’s degree in French Linguistics. Along the way, she was rewarded with an excellence in teaching award. If you’re a former student reading this, and would like to consider an MA in French at UF, please contact us!

SYLVIE BLUM-BEJEC


After being approved this year, we offered a new edition of the French Documentary Film Month Festival in November with four films, thanks to Images Bibliothèque, the French Institute and the France Florida Research Institute.

I have been working on a short translation project of Alex- ander Vialatte for the journal Delos, directed by Prof. Hal Tremblay, Université de Montréal and Heather Burnett, CNRS, (Paris). Our paper “The variable-gramm of Negative Concord in Montreal French” was selected from the NWAV conference and published in the University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics. I have also given papers at conferences in Chicago, Montreal, Birmingham (UK) and in Paris, Caen and Mulhouse, France. In addition, I am pursuing my collaborative project on French in North America funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Finally, I have recently completed my research project, funded by the Quebec Government, on the emergence of new francophone language practices in Montreal for which I have an article in press and another accepted. On the teaching front, I am developing a new course in French in Contact offered as a special topic in Spring 2016. Last summer, I also directed the UF in Paris: Culture and Language in Context study abroad program. Finally, I am also pleased to report that I received the CLAS, Educator of the Year Award last November.

I continue to advise our students regarding their progress toward their Minor, Major and their many study abroad options.

I am pleased to report that we have many students who have declared a double major or a dual degree adding French and Francophone Studies to their undergraduate experience. We have also a new dynamic Mentorship Program in French and Francophone Studies in which undergraduate students at the lower level could be paired with students at the advanced level and participate in a series of activities.

On the research front, I am delighted to report that I am acting as a collaborator for a new research project on the topic of Variation and Diglossia in Quebec: French funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada. In this context, I have developed collaborative work on the linguistic phenomenon of negative concord (with Mireille Tremblay, Université de Montréal and Heather Burnett, CNRS, Paris). Our paper “The variable-gramm of Negative Concord in Montreal French” was selected from the NWAV conference and published in the University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics. I have also given papers at conferences in Chicago, Montreal, Birmingham (UK) and in Paris, Caen and Mulhouse, France. In addition, I am pursuing my collaborative project on French in North America funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Finally, I have

BILL CALIN
Being 79, I suppose, I was ill, really ill, with medical leaves of absence. Am now largely recovered, have been back in the classroom in January. I’ll never retire!


And The Donald vs. Hillary? I wonder if the neighbors of imperial Rome laughed at the Romans.

AMANDA VINCENT
In 2015, I had the opportunity to share my research in a number of venues. My essay, “Image, Form, and Process in the Parc du Sausset” appeared in the collection Disciplines of Flora, edited by Brigitte Weltman-Aron in collaboration with other UF faculty members, published in August. I also participated in a roundtable on teaching and researching in French Civilization at the the Society for French Historical Studies conference in Colorado Springs in March and presented a paper on the promenade cinématique series of gardens in Paris’s Parc de la Villette at a conference organized by the journal Contemporary French Civilization in Baltimore in September. During the Imagining Climate Change symposium co-sponsored by the France Florida Research Institute, I served as respondent for climate fiction author Jean-Marc Ligny’s presentation on his novel Exodes. I have also continued to teach Business French and Intercultural Competency for Management. In Business French, I have begun collaborating with teachers of Business English at the Lycée Marguerite de Valois in Angoulême, France to develop shared activities for our language classes.
I enjoyed teaching La Linguistique de la chanson française in the spring of 2015. We focused on hip-hop music and we used Abdelkarim Tengour’s book Tout l’argot des banlieues (2013) to decode the surprising world of the urban French vernacular, a tongue peppered with Arabic, Nouchi (Sovran slang), Romani, verlan syllable-switching, and so much more! Please join me for my courses on Haitian Creole and Haitian studies in 2016-17. Over the last year, some of my publications include, “Historical linguistic approaches to Haitian Creole: Vodou rites, spirit names and songs: the founders’ contributions to Asogwe de Marguerite Duras.” I was honored to have been invited by the Society for French Studies in St. Louis, Missouri, to offer it again to students in the graduate program in French and Francophone Studies. I taught a new culture course on portrait boxes in the future.

During the summer, Dr. Weltman-Aron received the 2015-16 Robin and Jean Gibson Term Professorship. She presented her work at two conferences in Montreal and Vancouver (Canada), and published an article on Marcel Schwob. I was active in the Center for Jewish Education, and co-produced with Boaz Dvir and Richie Sher, a feature documentary film and interviews for a documentary film, and that takes post-war France as its background, moving from WWII to the Entebbe hijacking, and co-produced with Boaz Div and Rachie Shuman. This year, I have been awarded 5 grants and delivered 5 papers and 1 keynote lecture: “Happy as a Jew in France: Legacies, Crises, and Conscience,” at Binghamton University, “Décombres de Claude Cahun: lettres et legs,” at Université de Montréal, Montreal, “Terrifying Humanities and Contaminating Narratives in Marcel Schwob,” at the University of Paris 7, “‘Rounding the Individual-Agent in Claude Cahun” at the Society for French Studies, Cardiff, U, “Contaminating Narratives: Grotesque messianism and Marcel Schwob’s Plagues” at Princeton University, and “Happy as a Jew in France: Exoticism, Social Justice, and Cultural Activism in Franco-Jewish Literature” at the American Jewish Studies Association in Boston. My article “Figures Framing Impressionisms: Mirrors of Dissonance and Realism in Literature and the Visual Arts,” appeared in Monet and American Impressionism, this year and I wrote “The Happy Jew: Legacies, Crises, and Post-Charlie Hebdo Conscience,” to appear in Contemporary French Civilization. I continue to revise my book project on writer, photographer, journalist, and resistant, Claude Cahun, have begun another on Marcel Schwob. I was active in the Center for Jewish Studies and the Center for European Studies, and thoroughly enjoyed teaching 2 new courses: “Children of the Revolution, Citizenship, Social Engagement and the French Avant-Gardes,” and “Resistance Literature.”
EMERITI NEWS

BERNADETTE CAULLER

Publications:

- “‘La grande douleuruse douceur’ (E. Glissant) d’Aimé Césaire et Sainte-Beuve, Port Royal (une somme du XVIIe siècle français).” (2011) ?” (Réflexion sur l’œuvre d’Hélène Bourouza, Dierre, June 8-9, 2016, Conference organized by the Centre d’Etudes Supérieures de la Littérature, Tours, Dir.: Frédéric-Gael Theuriau. 2) Title TBA for “The Performance of Pan-Africanism from Colonial Exhibitions to Black and African Cultural Festivals”,Winthrop-King Institute, Florida State University, Dir.: Martin Munro, October 20-22, 2016.


- “Schœlcher, Briand, Mandela, ou ‘Poétique, Politique, et Éthique de l’Imaginaire dans La ‘grande douloureuse douceur’ (E. Glissant) d’Aimé Césaire and Sainte-Beuve, Port Royal (une somme du XVIIe siècle français).” [Image 648x531 to 909x704]

- Presentations:
  - “Entre culture et barbarie, enchantement et désenchante-ment: Les beaux de Driss Chaoui (1955?), 41st Meeting of the African Literature Association, University of Bayreuth, June 3-8, 2015, Planners: 1) Quand les mythes de la filiation s’enfan-cent, on comment livre Paris berbère (2011) ?” (Réflexion sur l’œuvre d’Hélène Bourouza, Dierre, June 8-9, 2016, Conference organized by the Centre d’Etudes Supérieures de la Littérature, Tours, Dir.: Frédéric-Gael Theuriau. 2) Title TBA for “The Performance of Pan-Africanism from Colonial Exhibitions to Black and African Cultural Festivals”,Winthrop-King Institute, Florida State University, Dir.: Martin Munro, October 20-22, 2016.

FRENCH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

By Taylor Parker

French mentors’ activities at UF, museum of Modern Art, 2015

I n a world in which developing technologies are para-mount to the improvement of human life, it is easy to forget the importance of cultural awareness, history, as well as our histories with our international neighbors. As college students at one of the nation’s top research universities, it may even seem that languages or cultural literacy are irrelevant; however, The University of Florida’s French and Francophone Studies Mentorship Program asserts just the opposite. In an increasingly diversifying world where international rela-
tions, diplomacy, human rights, and social justice are integral to attaining a global unity that seeks to improve the quality of life for all people, possessing other skills that allow one to communicate with others and understand how to best employ technologies within their respective societies is directly related to what a French degree can offer. Here are a few exam-ples provided by The University of Tennessee-Martin (https://www.utm.edu/staff/globeg/frenchdegree.html) of extraordin-ary, successful people that chose French as their major:

- Sarah Nash, a Research Staff Member of the Science and Technology Policy Institute, holds a bachelor’s de-gree in French from Dickinson College.
- Marjorie Scardino, CEO of multi-billion dollar inter-national media conglomerate, Pearson, earned a BA in French and psychology from Baylor University.

Helping students understand the versatility of a degree in French is one of our main goals. Students in our program share a variety of interests between pre-professional studies, such as law and medicine, biology, business, economics, linguistics, and many other fields. Through interactions with our esteemed French Studies Program faculty, we hope to give students in-sight and inspiration to their future career goals while cultivat-ing their interests of the Francophone world and language. Our Mentors, usually students at or above the 3000-level within the department, are paired with students just beginning within the major or minor. Students are paired based on their interests, extracurricular activities, and fields of study in order to promote sound relationships between peers. In this way, students find that they can network in more than just Francopho-ne studies, and thus find that they can make other acquaintances that share similar passions.

In an increasingly diversified and evolving global community, the practicality as well as the necessity of cultural awareness is critical to the success of the future. Students interested in French may not always realize the opportunities that are available to them and their specializations. With French as an official language of 29 countries and a significant global pres-ence in economics as well as foreign affairs, the knowledge of French and language culture offers limitless opportuni-ties available to them with their specializations in French. Although this is only our inaugural year, our program has al-ready been able to meet some of these goals. Our students have explored some aspects of French cultural history, such as the 19th century impressionist movement via the Monet Exhibit at the Harn Museum last Spring Semester. Our students also learn about cultural and social questions through fun, social activities such as film festivals at the Hippodrome (two of which our students have attended last Spring and this Fall). Presentations from our French Department on their careers and interests help our students think about how they can em-ploy their own interests with their French degree with their re-spective interests. Through a combination of social activities, interactions with French department faculty and networking between our peers within the department, our program hopes to create an engaged population of aspiring professionals that are globally conscious and competent in world affairs through French.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

UFFMP15@gmail.com (will reach Co-Directors Maria Camila or Taylor Parker)
blondeau@ufl.edu (French Undergraduate Adviser and Program Faculty Adviser)

French and Francophone Studies
This year, two of our students studying at Sciences Po Paris wrote in to tell us about their experiences in the French capital after the November 13 terrorist attacks. Pedro Perez is a History major and Angélique Talmor is a double major in UF’s Reciprocal Exchange Program with L’Institut d’études politiques.

ANGÉLIQUE:
UF’s partnership with the internationally renowned Institut d’études politiques was established in 2002 and continues to be relevant to their chosen expertise. Sciences Po has six campus- es in France which offer specialized area studies. In addition to Paris, the other poles include: Menton (Middle East and Mediterranean Studies); Le Havre (Europe-Asia Campus); Reims (European and North American Relations); Dijon (Central and Eastern European Studies); Poitiers (Europe-Latin America); and Nancy (European France-German Relations).

« Ce dernier mois à Paris a été difficile. Les premières semaines après les attaques du 13 novembre, Paris ne se ressemblait plus. L‘exclamation de « fuit tact nec mergitur » semblait moins forte que la hantise de la peur dans les rues vides près de Saint Michel et des Champs-Élysées. Heureusement, le peuple français a montré son courage contre la nouvelle menace accrue de l’islamisme radical ; un mois après, Paris commence à revivre. Il existe une indignation juste contre ces barbares qui s’en prennent aux valeurs de la république, mais c’est une indignation qui s’accompagne d’une conviction que la France ne s’inclinera ni au terrorisme, ni aux islamistes. Entre temps, les Français sont contraints à vivre avec les consignes d’un plan d’action. »

PEDRO:
“Studying the French Revolution and the political edifice upon which our modern society was founded, while living in Paris, has been a remarkable experience.”

Complementing the extraordinary opportunity to study in a prestigious institution as Sciences Po, is the structural and social edifice of Paris, from reading a book at Luxembourg Gardens, to finding inspiration at the Louvre for a term paper, or eating with friends in the same neighborhood that once hosted the players of revolutionary France. This edifice was threatened November 13, 2015 by the enemies of liberty. Victor Hugo once noted that, “he who studies in Paris was born in Paris,” and on that tragic day, where hundreds of innocent people lost their lives to terrorism, I felt I was a Parisian. I felt obliged to defend the banner of liberty, by attending mass at Notre Dame and standing along the citizens of Paris at the Plaza of the Republic, symbol of freedom and republicanism.”

Studying the French Revolution and the political edifice upon which our modern society was founded, while living in Paris, has been a remarkable experience.

**NEWS FROM SCIENCES PO**
by Dr. Carol Murphy

**UF’s Reciprocal Exchange Program with L’Institut d’études politiques**

Every year, the French and Francophone Studies program sends a few students to the teaching Assistantship program in France and overseas (TAPIF) for seven months. They teach English to students of all ages. The program is financed by the French government. It is a highly competitive program, which students apply for yearly. Each year, nearly 1200 American citizens and permanent residents teach in public schools across all regions of metropolitan France and in the overseas departments of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion.

This year, Hannah Mores (B.A. 2015, Journalism, French minor) who just graduated this past year was selected to work in Saint-Quentin. We corresponded. I was elated to hear back from her in December 2015.

HANNAH:
Since graduating with a bachelor degree in journalism in May 2015, I put my French minor to use straight away by accepting a 7-month position as an English teaching assistant with TAPIF (Teaching Assistant Program in France) in Saint-Quentin, France. I’d never been to France before. Since taking up the language in high school, it had always been one of my dreams to go—now I’d be able to live like a local, travel freely, improve my language skills, and see what it’d be like to be an international journalist.

Arriving in Paris was like a dream—exactly like I’d seen in movies and read about in books. But Saint-Quentin was an abrupt wake-up call. It’s a beautiful town with friendly people, but hardly anyone speaks English and I had been out of practice with my French, so it was time to really review and practice. I have 15 classes in 3 primary schools, ranging from 4 years old to 11 and about 25 students in each class. Only a handful of teachers know some English, which makes translating activity instructions a hit easier. And the kids aren’t shy to correct me or fill in the word if I’m explaining something in French before translating it to English. From speaking to the other language assistants who teach college and lycée, my école primaire students are always excited to learn English and are always happy to see me, bombarding me with bisous whenever I see them in the hallway.

The night of the Paris attacks, I was in my studio with two assistant friends, watching a movie and celebrating my birthday. I was turning 23 on that Saturday and we were going to go to Paris to get Chipotle and visit Montmartre. As soon as it turned midnight, I got a phone call from my mom. I assumed it was a birthday wish call, but instead she was asking me where I was. The shooting was still going on, and our attention turned from the movie to news websites and Facebook. Even though I was an hour away, I was still frozen with fear. For a while, I didn’t want to do anything or even go outside.

On Monday (my day off), my assistant friends said all of the schools had a moment of silence. On the next Tuesday, I walked into my CP class (kindergarten) and they were coloring. The teacher explained that they were drawing pictures of peace. I was here to teach the children English, but I also had to be here to show the kids not to be afraid. They shouldn’t have to worry about these things. Bad guys should only exist in movies and fiction.

The Christmas markets recently began to pop up, Fere Noel lessons are underway, and vacation is only two weeks away. The air is cheery but cautious as the French try to move on and live.
by Dr. Rori Bloom, Graduate Coordinator

I am pleased to continue coordinating our graduate program and very glad to welcome 3 new students this year: Todd Peters from Webster University and Juliette Burger and Prisca Piccirilli from the Haute Ecole de Bruxelles. I’m also happy to see one of our combined degree (5 year B.A. - M.A.) students, Lidia O’Sheilds, complete her M.A. degree this spring. I hope you will enjoy reading the news of some other graduate students below:

CARA BAILEY

This is my second year of my MA in French and Francophone Studies, and I am currently working on my thesis titled L’éve­vin comme instituteur laïc dans Vérité d’Émile Zola et La Déracinée de Maurice Barrès. After graduation in May, I hope to continue on to a PhD in French. My first year at UF passed by more quickly than anticipated because of all the hard work that went into planning the Tournées French Film Festival over the course of several weeks in February of 2015. During the months of June and July, I also had the pleasure of studying in Avignon, France with the Institut d’Etudes Françaises d’Avignon. The program functions under the auspices of Bryn Mawr College and welcomes a renowned faculty every summer. Over the past academic year, I have attended Makwa” giving French-language tours of FL to 17 year-old students who loved discussing literature after dinner! One thing I will miss about UF next year is how supportive and challenging the French department is. I feel that I have grown tremendously this past year, not just in my knowledge of French but in my desire to learn more about literature.

ALEXANDRA CHERRY

Preceding the academic school year, this summer I worked as an “animateur” for the Québec-based company “Les Aventures Makéwa” giving French-language tours of FL to 17 year-old students from Paris. Over the past academic year, I have attended the French “Festival du Documentaire” in November at the Hip­dents from Paris. This coming consecutive class of FRE1130 as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, the French “Festival du Documentaire” in November at the Hip­dents from Paris. Over the past academic year, I have attended Makwa” giving French-language tours of FL to 17 year-old students who loved discussing literature after dinner! One thing I will miss about UF next year is how supportive and challenging the French department is. I feel that I have grown tremendously this past year, not just in my knowledge of French but in my desire to learn more about literature.

JACQUELINE LOPEZ

My second year of the MA program has been has been a period of great growth and learning. Earlier in the year, I had the won­derful opportunity of coordinating and hosting the French Film Festival of Gainesville. With the help of my colleagues and Dr. Alioune Sow, we were able to establish a solid base for future French film festivals. Even though planning the film festival was challenging, I was able to learn so much more about French and francophone films, which was very gratifying. I am currently working on my thesis with the help of Dr. Gayle Zachmann. My thesis will focus on Eugénie Foà’s “Contes Historiques pour Jeunes Filles” and her approach to the Jewish question and feminism in the early 19th century. Although it is a challenge, being a teaching assistant this year has been fantastic. It is a joy to guide students in their French studies by helping them see the influence of French studies in today’s culture, politics and language. After I graduate, I plan on joining the TAPIF program in order to enhance my teaching and language skills.

FARRAH MAHROUG

During the spring 2015 semester, I had the great opportunity of organizing the French Film Festival on campus with the help of three other graduate students from the French Department, under the supervision of Dr. Alioune Sow. Setting up the entire festival was a big challenge for me as I was still discovering the various advantages offered on campus. I am also active in the Lebanese American Society (LAS) since 2015. Although it is demanding to be a second year graduate student in the MA program, I am still taking great pleasure in teaching French to undergraduate students. In the meantime, I am preparing for the comprehensive exams that will take place in the spring and aching my thesis topic on the process of the mystification in one of Diderot’s tale with the help of my supervisor Dr. Brigitte Weltman-Aron. One chapter will be presented for the SEAC­SCS 2016 conference in February 2016 in Savannah, Georgia. I am applying to Ph.D. programs in literature and hoping to continue on my research.

KELLY WIECHMAN

The fall 2015 semester was a busy one for Kelly as she taught FRE 2220 and passed the Ph.D. Qualifying Exams. She is looking forward to teaching two sections of FRE2220 in the spring and will be preparing for a conference at St. Boniface University in Winnipeg, Canada, taking place the first week of June. Kelly’s research focuses on the Francophone groups that migrated to South Carolina during the 17th and 18th centuries and the effect that these populations had on the development of South Carolina from British colony to American state utilizing a sociolinguistic optic that also addresses the process of the mystification in one of Diderot’s tale with the help of my supervisor Dr. Brigitte Weltman-Aron. One chapter will be presented for the SEAC­SCS 2016 conference in February 2016 in Savannah, Georgia. I am applying to Ph.D. programs in literature and hoping to continue on my research.

JORDIN PATTEN

In this past academic year, I successfully completed my qualifying exams and from there I have been continuously working on my dissertation, entitled The Relationship between Gender, Interruption and Conversational Roles in Naturally Occurring Speech. As I have not been to any conferences this academic year, I would like to pursue more during 2016 and present varying chapters from my dissertation. I would like to focus on research that involves masculine speech roles in relationship to gender and interruption use in exclusively male friendship groups in naturally occurring speech and films.

TODD PETERS

Never would I have thought that the University of Florida would be my home for this stage in my academic career. This lifelong lover of sunny landscapes and cozy fireplace scenes with a pot of tea and wool sweaters had to abandon those moments for the swampy heat of Gainesville. But this was the right decision for me. I’m a native of St. Louis, MO where I did my BA in French Studies at Webster University. During my time there, I was fortunate enough to take English in L’Académie de Toulouse for a year. My professional life has included being a general manager of a retail store and a used car salesperson. Surprisingly enough, I never forgot my true passion for French Literature, Francophone cultural studies, and history. The literary milieu that interests me the most is poetry and the semiotics used to create the images and aesthetics in poetical works. I’m interested in the Romantic age to the present with inquiries into the development of the Symbolists to the Surrealists and their influences on the contemporary literary environment. I am also interested in cultural production and how literature and art intersect to define and give credence to a particular space and time. I want to continue my studies to result in a PhD and teach literature and culture studies. I’d like to thank the University of Florida for this opportunity to pursue my passion.
Graduate Students

CHRISTIAN AIHOUH
PhD French 2012
Christian is currently teaching French Language and Culture at Creekside High School (Georgia) where he enjoys interacting with his students while transmitting to them his knowledge of the French language and also sharing with them his passion of French and Francophone cultures. So far, the experience is new and very enriching in many aspects.

On the research side, Christian continues his work on French and Francophone literature, His second book manuscript is currently under review at an publishing house in Paris. He also contributed to the writing of the forthcoming anthology: Legacies of African Woman Writers which proposes an examination of the work by first African women writers before it gets eradicated by the upsurge of years. His book chapter: “Mariama Ba et Ken Bugul, Pionneer Women Writers in Francophone African Literature” in Legacies… is a celebration of the two pioneers of the emergence and radicalization of women’s literature in French speaking Sub-Saharan Africa. In April 2016, Christian will present a paper: “Représentations des thèmes de migration transafrique et de dignité humaine dans le roman d’expression française d’Afrique subsaharienne” at the African Literature Association annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia. He is also working on other research projects, which will become more defined in the course of the months to come.

Christian remembers he concluded his entry in the last newsletter with a sparkling wishful “Fievment 2015”. But now, with so many works in progress, he can’t wait for a more and more defined in the course of the months to come.

During my last two semesters of the graduate program, I was able to go to a graduate student conference in Linguistics at Georgetown and to the Association for French Language Conference in Gaen, France. This semester, I have been start- ing and building the French program at Plagker College, where I taught two sections of Elementary French One. I also teach English as a Second Language at U’s English Language Insti- tute and continue as a sociolinguistic research assistant for Dr. Helène Blondeau. I am very appreciative of UP’s MA/M4 +4 program because it gave me the opportunity to study, teach, and research, all while improving my French. In the coming year, I hope that my teaching experiences will allow me to continue learning more about foreign language teaching methodology in order to apply it in my future classrooms.

KATHERINE DIAMOND
BA French, 2008; MA French, 1063
Kathleen Diamond writes to tells us that she has completed her term as Commissioner for the Certification of Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI). She received a crystal plaque commending her as founding commissioner of the organization and member of 6 years standing (2009-2015). The plaque recognizes her “remarkable dedication to CCHI and long-standing commitment to a national, valid, credible and vendor-neutral certification program for healthcare interpreters. October 5, 2015,” Kathleen has also generously contributed to study abroad opportunities for students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences through the creation of the Diamond Scholarship.

KATHRYN E. FREDERICKS
PhD 2012. Director: Brigitte Welten-Arons
Kathryn began her first semester as Assistant Professor of French at SUNY Geneseo this fall 2015. At Geneseo, Kate teaches a variety of language, literature, and culture courses. She currently serves as the Instructor for Western Humanities II in Paris, which takes place in Paris, France each summer. Current scholarship activity includes: an article accepted in Dullens, French Studies, with the title: Visual and Philosophical Spaces in...d’Oeuvre: Geography in the Eighteenth Century”; and two upcoming conferences: AHECS 2016 Meeting (Pittsburgh, PA) and NEMLA 2016 Meeting in Hartford, CT.

RYAN GALLANT
BA 2010/MA French 2014
I have started my second year of the PhD program in French Language at the University of California, Davis. I am current- ly working on research regarding syllabification in L2 French. I am also currently teaching Beginning French 2.

EVE HERSBERGER
PhD French 1075
In my 2013 update for the Newsletter I had just finished presentations in Vienna, Nice and Paris. The Paris presentation on Sophie Gay’s “Ellénore” was a springboard for a 2015 presen- tation at The Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference in Charleston encouraging instructors and students to become Wikipedia editors. In my 2015 Newsletter update I promised that an article for publication would follow. I turned the Vienna presentation on Henry James’s “The Turn of the Screw”and Longfellow’s “The Children’s Hour” into that article published in the International Journal of Arts and Sciences as “Dangoes of the Heart: How Freud Taught Us to Read”. The focus of the article was a parallel reading of James and Longfellow using Freud’s early insights into unconscious ambiguity bursting into consciousness. A new reading of Longfellow’s poem with connections between James and Longfellow that were surpris- ing to me made writing the article feel like a literary detective treasure hunt. Speaking of treasure hunt reminds me that I am a book lover, a very small scale book collector and have even modestly explored the world of book trading as a dealer. Those interests came into play for the 2015 South Atlantic Mod- ern Language Association (SAMLA) conference thematically focusing on literature and the other arts. Before submitting an abstract for the conference, I am not sure why I reread Balzac’s Le Chef d’oeuvre inconnu but in doing so I was delighted to find an ambitious work whose potential readings have intrigued historians, world-class artists (Cezanne, Picasso, Renoir, bookbinders whose editions are worth thousands of dollars, writers, collector/editors, translators and movie directors. In- cidentally in case you happen to find a 1931 Vollard-published/ Picasso illustrated edition of Le Chef d’oeuvre inconnu at a yard sale at SUNY Geneseo, call me immediately. This edition markets at over $100,000.00. The cross-over between Le Chef d’oeuvre inconnu and the other arts and trades was perfect for the SAMLA conference. I certainly never sus- pected that I would return to my original UF dissertation topic, Balzac, forty years later with two with 2015 SAMLA submission. For the Comparative Literature conference I presented on La belle mise, Ravel’s 1915 Cannes Film Festival, four-hour Grand Prix version of Balzac’s story mentioning also fictional readings (a type of literary palimpsest) by Henry James and Zola. For the SAMLA poster session with co-presenters Lynn George, we had a lot of fun selecting and arranging a myriad of available, on-line visual representations associated with illus- trations and artistic masterpieces inspired by or mentioned in Le Chef d’oeuvre inconnu. Poster sessions, as SAMLA informed us, are relatively new at literary conferences but have been a staple for many years at medical and scientific meetings. This brings me full circle to mention that my next presentation may be at the 2016 Amsterdam psychiatric conference on Bipolar Disorder for which I am hoping to combine literary analysis with my “day-job” as a psychiatrist. After the Amsterdam conference I am planning to spend some time at the location of my newest adventure, a fractional ownership of a tiny efficiency apartment behind Notre Dame, just over the bridge from Shake- speare and Company where last year I found a very nice partial set of La Comédie humaine including the original illustration of Le Chef d’oeuvre inconnu, a great addition for the SAMLA poster. At 3 euros per volume (the bookstore ships) it was a must-buy. I thank Shakespeare and Company for their reassur- ance via regular newsletter of their resilience and uninterrupt- ed presence. E at evh347@swl.com

E. JOE JOHNSON
PhD French 1999
Joe is Professor of Foreign Languages at Clayton State Uni- versity in metropolitan Atlanta. Having completed a five-year stint last summer as the chair of the Department of Humanities, he is now serving as the department’s Foreign Language coordi- nator and helping to implement “Majors” in French and Span- ish with a consortium of state universities in Georgia. With four more yet to come forth this year, Joe published translations of thirteen French bédé in 2015, including the translations of An- nie Goetzinger’s The Girl in Dior (NBM Publishing) and Ettienne Davodeau’s Lulu, Woman Anew (NBM Publishing). With the latter in May, Joe happily made it back to Gainesville where he gave a talk on “Further Considerations on Mme Thiroux d’Arvallonne’s De l’Amour (1761)” at the 41st meeting of the Southeastern Association of the American French-American Communities (SEASECS). At the beginning of November, Joe presented a talk on “Chil- dren’s Friendship Deconstructed: Lucien Biart’s De l’Amour (1877)” at the 71st Annual South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) in Nashville, Tennessee. This semester, Joe was selected to become the co-editor and eventual editor of SEASECS’ annual journal XVIII: New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century.

CYNTHIA C. LEES
PhD French 2006
Cynthia Lees is an Assistant Professor of French and Foreign Language Pedagogy in the Department of Languages, Litera- tures, and Cultures at the University of Delaware in Newark. She is currently developing a new course, Women Writers and Their Worlds, to include iconic authors Gabriela Mistral, Monique Proaulx, and Nicole Brossard as well as Francophone writers Marie-Célie Agnant, Yin Chen, and Kim Thúy who now call Montréal their home. Cynthia gave a talk “Chez Nous au Québec: Littératures et cultures partagées” at the Annual Congress of the American Association of Teachers of French 2015 Convention in Chicoutimi, Québec. Cynthia and her husband Daniel have recently welcomed a granddaughter, Taylor Isabelle, into their family, and they continue to divide their time between Delaware and Florida.

I hope that my teaching experiences will allow me to continue learning more about foreign language teaching methodology.
**ALUMNI NEWS**

**PHD. French, 2000**

Literature conference for Western Pennsylvania which will take place in Pittsburgh last September. I co-directed the Pitt in Paris program, I have also created a new course on American expatriate writers in Paris which I taught last May. I am co-chairing the Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Conference. I teach elementary French, literature in translation, and English composition.

**THE REVEREND JUDY G. QUICK, DEACON**


The Reverend Judy Quick enjoyed a 25-year career with BellSouth Corporation (now AT&T) in sales, marketing and operations positions with experience in international projects, special event planning and financial management activities. As a loaned executive to the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (AOCG), she developed and represented the Centennial Olympic Games Technology Plan to the international Olympic community. As an Instructor at Georgia State University (GSU), Ms Quick has taught graduate and undergraduate international programs notably in France, Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Georgia. She has taught international business in Paris and is currently teaching in Beijing. She writes to tell us the following: "My life has been rich and rewarding. I shall always treasure my experience at the University of Florida for my wonderful academic studies and also for the international friends I made there. I did teach French at the very beginning of my career, first at Jacksonville Episcopal High School and then after I got married, at Valwood School in Valdosta, Georgia. I also worked one year for a French company in Valdosta (who knew?) SAPT, Inc. But in sum, I have had three wonderful careers, in business with BellSouth, in higher education working as a language expert for five years in Atlanta, university teaching with a focus on international business, and now as an ordained minister in the Episcopal Church with a passion for global mission, reconciliation, and understanding. I tell folks that my seemingly useless liberal arts degree is now a Medieval French literature enabled me to be very "trainable". The critical thinking skills helped me in all my professional responsibilities."

In addition to a BA and MA from UF with international studies at the University of Geneva, the Reverend Quick holds an MBA in International Business from Georgia State University. She completed the four-year Education for Ministry Program at the University of the South (Sewanee) and the Diocesan MBA in International Business from Georgia State University. She completed the four-year Education for Ministry Program at the University of the South (Sewanee) and the Diocesan

**Undergraduate**

**LEAH BOOTH**

PhD. French, 2016.

A "real job" was not my dream. It was something I was taught to want through the many years of learning how society defines success. Fortunately, at university, I did pursue some of my true passions: languages and cultures. Nevertheless, it was always understood in my mind that this would be a difficult path by which to have a "successful career", and that the day may come where there would be a choice: whether or not a salary was worth entering into a field where languages can be used, but play only a supporting role.

Naive, and attracted by the security of a salary that would assure student loan payments, I began a career in the international business sector. (Let’s be realistic here, by the grace of Bright Futures, which once came with full textbook finds, I was saddled with far less debt than most.) Still, the impending burden of loans weighed heavily on my "responsible" choices to go with a less creative career. I had studied business in school; it interests me and I enjoy applying myself to ensure I am adept in the field.

Three years passed, and a sudden realization hit. My full- filament at work came from cultural understanding, working with others, learning together, and providing translational services that allowed for a greater customer experience. In short, my passions had become a lifetime of positivity in the sea of a daunting career path that was not my end goal and did not allow for any use of travel for vacation or language practice. Vaca- tion, one thing that justified my 60 hour a week contributions, became no longer worth it.

This new experience taught a valuable lesson: why possibly fail to be great at things you don’t love, when you are able to at tempt those about which you are ardently passionate? Looking back, the teachable moments and multi-cultural interactions were a source of pride and joy. Sometimes, the only source.

Running a successful business was no longer challenging. Cre- ativity in my work had become a must. It was time to make a change; although lack of security was terrifying, I aggressively researched the markets and began to position myself as a free lance language instructor.

I say I love my work, career, and life path.

Please, if you are anything similar to myself, do not undervalue your instructors, your teachers, the significance of language, or your desire to be creative in your success. It is a happy thing to love your work.

* A special thank you to Dr. Sylvie Blum-Reid, Dr. Helene Blondeau, Dr. Theresa Antes, Dr. Alouine Sow, and Dr. Rori Bloom and my fellow French majors for all that you have done in support of my development.

**ISABELLA ESCALONA**

BA in French, Minor in Business Administration

Desde la fin de mi desarrollo profesional, Isabella ha conseguido una carrera en el enseñanza con el auspicio de sus conocimientos en inglés, español y francés. En el año académico 2011- 2012, ella ha sido seleccionada para un Fulbright English Assistant Program in France (TAPIF). Partegaré entre dos establecimientos, ella trabajaba como asistente de idiomas en un colegio y un lycée profesional a Saint-Claude. A su retorno en Florida, ella ha trabajado en una asociación que aporta la educación y el apoyo a los niños en la comunidad. Desde su retorno en Florida, ella ha trabajado en una asociación que aporta la educación y el apoyo a los niños en la comunidad. Desde su estudio de idiomas en el lycée y el ensayo de idiomas en el terreno laboral.

Para mí, ella ha iniciado el estudio del inglés, la preparación para el GED, de la educación y la enseñanza de idiomas, así como de otras actividades educativas. Su conocimiento de idiomas se ha aplicado en Estados Unidos y Canadá en diferentes contextos. Antes de su terminación en el ensayo de idiomas, Isabella ha sido seleccionada para un Fulbright English Assistant Grant al Sénégal para el año académico 2015-2016. Actualmente, ella enseña el inglés en el Lycée de Jeunes Filles Amélie Fall en Saint-Louis.
ANNA GONZALEZ
BA French 2012

Ana M. González, a 2012 summa cum laude graduate, is working as an associate in the New York City office of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. In 2016, she will be admitted as an attorney to the Second Judicial Department as a result of passing the New York bar exam. Ana continues to focus on an international commercial practice and plans to expand the scope of her Latin American and European transactional experience in the coming year.

JANELLE LIONS
BA French 2011

Janelle grew up in Apopka, Florida. In 2011, she received a B.A. in French and Francophone Studies from the University of Florida. During her undergraduate career, she interned at the UFIC and volunteered as a Study Abroad Poor Advisor. After teaching English in France and serving as an AmeriCorps VISeTA in Orlando, Janelle moved to Washington, D.C. for graduate school. She graduated from the George Washington University with an M.A. in International Affairs in 2015. Janelle is excited to return to UF and the UFIC as an F1 International Student Advisor. In her free time, Janelle enjoys keeping up with her French language skills, working on her Spanish language skills, reading, listening to music, and doing yoga.

EMILY MAZO-RIZZI
BA French 1999

Just one month after my graduation from UF I moved to Paris. My family and friends thought it would be a short after college stay. 16 years later, I’m still here. I started off my life in Paris working first at UNESCO, then in the private sector and then back to the non-profit sector but my work was always as an Internet Project Manager.

Fed up with life at a desk and behind a screen I made a dramatic career switch to become a Pilates Teacher. My French husband, Bruno and I moved to Boulder, Colorado for a year where I completed a 1 year training course to become a Pilates teacher. After a year of exploring the wild west and experiencing a fair amount of fascinating cultural differences we moved back to Paris. I have now been teaching Pilates for 5 years here, my business is called “Pilates de la tête aux pieds”. We also became proud parents to Olivia who is now 3 and just started “la petite section” or first year of pre-school.

I always say that my liberal arts major in French serves me on a daily basis and it truly does. For those of you who do not know Pilates you might be surprised to hear how important language and imagery is in teaching it. I teach Pilates in both English and French and love playing with language, its meaning and observing how different words and images influence the movements of my clients. Raising a bilingual child is another huge adventure in language exploration. Each day we catch ourselves surprised or laughing by some new word, phrase or expression Olivia has picked up! For me personally raising a bilingual child in Paris means that after all these years of doing my best to appear wholly Parisian and blending in as best as possible I am now out and about in the city speaking English to my daughter who is very often speaking back to me in French!

BETH MCGOVERN
B.A. French (See feature article)

HANNAH MORSE
B.A. 2015 Journalism, French minor (see TAPIF Program article)

LANE NIESET
B.A. French, B.S. Journalism 2010 (See feature article)

Over the past two years, I’ve developed a freelance writing career covering travel-related stories from my home base in Nice, France. I initially spent seven months teaching English in Nice during the 2011-2012 school year as part of the Teaching Assistant Program in France. I currently travel on assignment writing about destinations and hotels in Europe, as well as the Middle East and Africa, for a variety of publications including USA Today’s 10Best, Shermans Travel, Forbes Travel Guide and Travel + Leisure. For more on my travels, visit travelswithlane.com.

ANALYSIS

The book analyzes an ethical/political injunction in the works of Assia Djebar and Hélène Cixous, two writers who were born and grew up in French Algeria. It argues that both inscribe discordant histories within their works in order to reappraise the political on the basis of dissensus, that they endow with positive ethical virtualities.

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Disciples of Flora
Gardens in History and Culture
Co-edited volume by Victoria Emma Pagán, Judith W. Page, and Brigitte Weltman-Aron

Disciples of Flora: Gardens in History and Culture, a co-edited volume by Victoria Emma Pagán, Judith W. Page, and Brigitte Weltman-Aron, was published by Cambridge Scholars in 2015. The book originated from an interdisciplinary conference the editors co-organized on the same theme at the University of Florida in February 2013. This collection of essays contributes to a revision of histories of gardens by broadening the scope of scholarly inquiry to include a long history from ancient Rome to the present, in which contesting memories delineate new apprehensions of topography and space. The contributors draw attention to alternative landscapes or gardening practices, while recalling the ways in which spaces have been invested with an affective dimension that has itself been historicized.

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Traveling in French Cinema
Authors: Blum-Reid, Sylvie
This book covers different travel modes and tropes at play in French cinema since 1980 to the present day. It follows the archetypal figure of the traveler and the way these journeys are ‘performed.’ Films travel for us, spectators, and we in turn virtually take off with them. Examinations of departures and returns, as well as destinations and healing rituals attached to travels, take place, as do the way women travel and the urgent situation of migrants attempting to find refuge in the Global North across borders. The book questions high-speed travel, efficiency and technology at a time when slow speed and inner reflection are being revisited, and analyses film narratives that offer a way out of the daily routine and allow the traveler to escape a situation at home.

Roots of the Fig Tree
Vodou Music and Culture in Haiti
Edited by: Benjamin Hebblethwaite & Richard Freeman
“The captive Africans transported across the Atlantic migrated with African religious traditions that they firmly established in the colony of Saint-Domingue (1697-1803) and in independent Haiti (1804). The devotees of these religious traditions are grounded in a belief in one God, Bondye, and they serve intercessor spirits that exist in a cultural system with rich mythological, ritual, historical, and familial underpinnings. African spirit-systems, ritual knowledge, and organizational structures migrated with the African captives to Saint-Domingue, evolved in the colony, and persist into the present day.” (Hebblethwaite 2015:65)
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