

# FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES • VOLUME 4 • FALL 2011

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**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA

## A WORD FROM **THE FRENCH SECTION COORDINATOR**

*Dr. Theresa Antes*

**T**his has been an exciting and productive year for the French section. To begin, we officially changed the name of our degree programs from “French” to “French and Francophone Studies.”

This name change, much more than symbolic, marks the truly global nature of French, and represents the great variety of research specializations among our faculty, the diversity of the courses that we offer, and the assorted and increasingly imaginative theses written by our students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Students’ diplomas will henceforth reflect the fact that at the University of Florida they can earn a degree not only in French, but also with a concentration related to one of several aspects of Francophone studies: literature from the French-speaking world, Francophone cultures, linguistics, etc.

At the same time, our doctoral program was ranked

among the best in the nation, the only one in Florida and in the entire southeastern United States to be named in the National Research Council’s top PhD programs in French. Among our four PhDs since 2009 (see below for updates!), graduates have landed full-time positions at Tulane University and the Defense Language Institute, and it is this record of placement, among other factors such as support for our graduate teaching assistants, that contributed to our ranking.

Additionally, our faculty have enjoyed a very successful year. Drs. Rori Bloom and Alioune Sow were both tenured and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. Drs. Alioune Sow and H  l  ne

Blondeau published books; Dr. Ben Hebblethwaite has a book forthcoming this October, and many other faculty members published articles and/or made conference presentations (see below). At the same time, Dr. H  l  ne Blondeau was named co-investigator on a major grant (\$2.5M CAD) researching the evolution of French in North America. This grant, awarded to Dr. France Martineau of the University of Ottawa, will involve a team of distinguished international researchers collecting and comparing data from around Francophone sites in North America, and we are pleased that our own Dr. Blondeau is among them! Dr. Amanda Vincent joined our team last year as a Visiting Lecturer, and spent the summer in Paris becoming certified as an examiner for the *Chambre de Commerce et d’Industrie de Paris*, so that we may continue to remain certified as a testing site for the

business French courses that are so popular amongst our students. We welcome Amanda, a specialist in 20<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> century French literature and culture, with special interests in sustainability, architecture and gardening, and look forward to eventual courses that will showcase those research interests!

Finally, in an initiative launched by Dr. Sylvie Blum, we are moving to expand our study abroad options for students. We thus ran our first course at the *Institut Catholique* in summer 2011 – an intermediate-level course taught in French by Dr. Ben Hebblethwaite on French Hip-Hop. The course was a success and will be repeated in summer 2012, although in English, with visits planned to both Amsterdam and Paris. Additional courses taught in French may also be offered at the ‘Catho’ – check our website for further information!

For updates on our activities throughout the year, visit our website: [www.languages.ufl.edu/french](http://www.languages.ufl.edu/french)

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# SPOTLIGHT ON OUR STUDENTS

Christine Carnell is the first UF student to participate in the student exchange agreement between UF and *Université de Rennes II*.

It is with great pleasure that we report about our student exchange agreement between UF and *Université de Rennes II*, France. UF student **Christie Carnell**, double Major in French and Francophone Studies and Linguistics, is currently abroad for a semester in Rennes in the context of this student exchange agreement. We hope to welcome students from Rennes in the near future. Dr. Helene Blondeau, in collaboration with Dr. Martin MacKellar from the International Center, is responsible for selecting the students who will represent UF at *Université de Rennes II*. Students pay tuitions to their home institution and are able to apply scholarships, such as Bright Futures to the program fees.

The fall semester in France is just starting and Christie has decided to take one course in French literature and other courses in the area of linguistics: "Langage et Doxa, La Communication, L'accès au langage." UF recognizes the invaluable study abroad experience, and Christie's course work in Rennes will be recognized for both UF programs in French and Francophone Studies and in Linguistics. Christie is sharing with us her first impressions about Rennes:



*The moment I stepped out of the metro station and onto the street my first night here, I knew I would love Rennes. Even though it was 10:00 at night, I was dragging two heavy suitcases, and I was utterly lost, I still couldn't help but be struck by the breath-taking charm of this city. But in a city that is characterized by timber-framed buildings and cobblestone streets, how could it be anything but charming? Countless times when walking through the streets of Rennes, I've found myself in awe of the fact that I get to spend a semester in a city so beautiful.*

*As for the people of Rennes, I have found them to be extremely friendly and welcoming. From strangers giving me directions when I was lost my first night here to random bus drivers striking up conversations with me, they all seem genuinely interested in making the foreign students feel as welcome as possible. And, with 5,500 foreign students pouring into this city every year, there is plenty of opportunity for them to do so.*

*So far, I have been enjoying French culture to the fullest, buying freshly baked bread from my local boulangerie, visiting the market on Saturday mornings, and spending lazy afternoons in cafés. Suffice it to say, my first month here has already been an experience of a lifetime and I can't wait to see what the next 3 months will bring.*

If you want to know more about this student exchange agreement between UF and *Université de Rennes II*, please contact Dr. Helene Blondeau: [blondeau.ufl.edu](mailto:blondeau.ufl.edu).

Ana Gonzalez is a Senior Political Science and French Major.

In March 2011 she became the recipient of 2011-2012 University Scholar Program (USP) Research Grant, under the direction of Dr. Sylvie Blum-Reid. Funded by USP, this past summer she conducted archival/filmic research at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. "Demystifying The Past: The Evolution of Jewish Memory in French Film," an article she produced detailing her summer work, will appear in the next publication of the UF Jewish Studies Ha-Tanin Newsletter. Her research proposal follows:

## *Working Through The Past: Jewish Memory & French Cinema*

In his controversial 1955 documentary *Nuit et Brouillard*, director Alain Resnais constructs a provocative work of contemplation that calls for defiance in the face of receding memories of World War II. More than half a century has passed since the film's debut and yet French society is still grappling with the question "Alors, qui est responsable?" As historian Henry Rousso notes in *Le Syndrome de Vichy*, France's "obsessive" preoccupation with "les zones d'ombre" of its collaborationist past has come to dominate public/private discourse after decades of silence. Combining my passions for film, politics, and history, I decided to focus my thesis research on the evolution of a Jewish cultural "récit" via postwar French film. Due to the level of esteem accorded to the cinema in France, the seventh art has played a definitive role in the way this particular past is remembered. Leaving an indelible imprint on the national psyche, the medium of film has served as a vehicle for memory debates. In order to adequately track the shifts in French Jewish cultural memory, my analysis is structured into three phases: post-war repression of the 1950s-60s, the Jewish cultural reawakening of the 1970s-80s, and modern-day demystification of the dark zones of France's past.

Reflecting the mental paralysis of the traumatized "déportés," postwar cinema dealt with the Occupation in political terms while remaining numb on "La question juive." Alain Resnais's *Nuit et Brouillard* (1955), along with the literary works of Patrick Modiano (*La Place de L'Étoile*, *Dora Bruder*) and Marguerite Duras (*La Douleur*, *Hiroshima mon amour*), embody the suffocating struggle surrounding traumatic memory and "l'indicible." Following this period of repression and enigmatic encodings of Jewish suffering, "les événements" of May '68 ushered in a new generation of filmmakers prepared to shatter post-war national myths and to tackle the "points aveugles" of the "official (Hi)story." The "rétro" style of Louis Malle's *Lacombe Lucien* (1974), Joseph Losey's *M. Klein* (1976), Claude Berri's *Le vieil homme et l'enfant* (1968) along with the documentary "enquête poussée" of Marcel Ophüls (*Le Chagrin et la Pitié* and *Hôtel Terminus*) and Claude Lanzmann (*Shoah*), confronted taboo subjects of French complicity vis-à-vis collaboration and extermination of European Jewry. The Jewish cultural "éveil" of the seventies and eighties was then followed by a new generation, the grandchildren of the Holocaust, negotiating with the image of a 1940s French dystopia. In 1995, fifty-

six years after the Liberation of Nazi-occupied France, Jacques Chirac became the first president to publicly acknowledge the culpability of the French government in the persecution of not only foreign Jews, but of its own Jewish citizens. Thus, the age of demystification began anew and works like *Un héros très discret* (Jacques Audiard), *Delicatessen* (Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro), and *Train de Vie* (Radu Mihaileanu) have challenged accepted historical narratives and traditional methods of cinematic representation of this period. While some recent films fall prey to the “tire-larme” Spielberg effect (*La Rafle*, 2010 and *L’Armée du crime*, 2009), others like *Plus tard tu comprendras* (Amos Gitaï, 2008) explore the intergenerational struggles linked to working through the past. As in the texts of Alain Finkielkraut (*Le Juif Imaginaire*, *Du bon usage de la mémoire*) and Guy Konopnicki (*Né Après*), the question facing the present Jewish community in France is how to transmit French Jewish cultural inheritance to current/future generations? Although there are a myriad of methods, it is certain that the medium of film will continue to play an integral role in the passing on of this particular (Hi)story.

## Matthew Loving, Romance Languages/Area Studies Librarian and doctoral student in French and Francophone Studies

### « LE FRANÇAIS OCCUPE TOUJOURS UNE PLACE IMPORTANTE AU NIVEAU INTERNATIONAL »

Matthew Loving, responsable des collections en langues romanes à la bibliothèque de l’université de Floride, est intervenu récemment lors d’un colloque pour bibliothécaires en Martinique (août 2011).

« Nos fonds en français donnent aux étudiants et aux chercheurs l’occasion de s’ouvrir à un autre modèle de pensée. Car le français conserve un statut important au niveau international, en particulier dans les grandes instances comme l’Onu. C’est important de maintenir cette diversité, même si actuellement nous devons nous battre pour défendre la place de ces collections [...]. Le fait de parler moi-même français me permet d’échanger directement avec mes collègues étrangers et de mettre plus facilement en place des partenariats comme celui que nous avons avec le portail Manioc de l’université Antilles-Guyane. »



Livres Hebdo n° 874 - Vendredi 26 août 2011

## THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA FRENCH CLUB – LE CERCLE FRANÇAIS by the President, Debbie Parrales

Over the past year, the University of Florida’s French club has gone through dramatic changes. After renovating, renaming, and rejuvenating the club, we have come out on the other side as an active and rapidly expanding organization.

*Le Cercle français* now boasts over 125 active members, and we are adding new ones every day. The support and participation of our members and the executive board have made this past year’s events amazing successes. We enjoyed: weekly movie nights and French conversation sessions, wine and cheese tasting soirées, raclette and fondue dinners, karaoke nights (“en français, bien sûr”), and Mardi Gras festivities, all leading up to a New Orleans excursion over the summer. In between these events, we regularly held outings to see French films at the Hipodrome, dinners, and study groups at Maude’s.

Now with an expanded membership base, this year’s events will be larger and more dedicated to celebrating the variety of francophone culture. Each month, we will hold informational meetings that are coupled with a themed dinner that reflects a different French speaking country. Also, our popular events, such as the movie nights and conversation sessions, will continue in addition to advanced and native speaker sessions. But this is only a taste of what *le Cercle français* has to offer you. We invite you to join the French club family by visiting [www.languages.ufl.edu/french/frenchclub.html](http://www.languages.ufl.edu/french/frenchclub.html) and sending an application to our president, Debbie Parrales, at [debbieparrales@ufl.edu](mailto:debbieparrales@ufl.edu).

## STUDENTS OF FRENCH AWARDED THE DIPLOME DE FRANÇAIS PROFESSIONNEL

by Dr. Amanda Shoaf

The *Diplôme de Français professionnel* exams administered by the *Chambre de commerce et d’industrie de Paris* allow students to demonstrate their skill in written and oral French, as measured by European Union standards, in typical business and professional situations. The B2-level diploma certifies an advanced-intermediate skill level and an ability to communicate in a number of typical business contexts. Congratulations to the following students who passed the DFP Affaires B2 exam in Spring 2010:

**Reçu:** Natalya Bull, Stephen Moore

**Reçu, avec mention Bien:** Gabriela Gonzalez, Jacqueline Lozano, Taylor Maxfield, Mélanie Vistelle

**Reçu, avec mention Très Bien:** Samantha de Groen



# STUDENTS OF FRENCH AWARDED TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS IN FRANCE (TAPIF) BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT – UF students of French successfully competed for coveted TAPIF scholarships. *FÉLICITATIONS!* by Dr. Hélène Blondeau

**Kate Barkhurst (B.A. 2011, Major in Art History, Minor in French)**

I am happy to let you know that I have been accepted for the Teaching Assistant Program in France, at the *Académie de Nantes*. I'm really looking forward to experiencing the French life first-hand and improving my language skills.

**Isabella Escalona (B.A. 2010)**

Isabella Escalona has secured a position as an English Language Assistant with the Teaching Assistant Program in France for the 2011-2012 school year. She is teaching at a vocational high school and a middle school in Saint-Claude, Guadeloupe. As an English assistant, her primary function is to develop her students' conversational English. So far, the students have been very curious and enthusiastic, the people welcoming and the island beautiful.

**Allison Griner (B.A. 2010, Double Major in English and Anthropology, Minor in French)**

A la fin du mois, je vais déménager à Orléans, en France pour travailler pour TAPIF: Teaching Assistantship Program in France. Financé par le gouvernement français, les assistants sont affectés à

une ou plusieurs écoles en France ou dans un département outre-mer. Comme assistant en langues, on doit améliorer la prononciation des étudiants et organiser des clubs et des programmes d'échanges.

**Janelle Lyons (B.A. French and Francophone Studies, 2011)**

Until the end of April I will be teaching English to French high school students in Pau, France. I am working at a "lycée général et technologique" with students who are pursuing studies in science and technology. Because of how my schedule is arranged, I have the opportunity to work with a large number of the students studying English, seeing different students on a weekly rotation. After studying abroad in Grenoble for a semester, this has been a great way to further immerse myself in the French language and culture in a situation with more independence. When I am not working with students, I hope to travel around Europe and in particular visit Spain to practice my Spanish.

**Elizabeth McGovern (B.A. French and Francophone Studies 2010)**

I start teaching today and have been living in France for almost three weeks now. The experience is like study abroad,

except so much more. I'm learning the French of life - feeding myself, getting a bank account and a place to live. I was lucky enough in my first week to meet a Scottish girl, who teaches English at the University nearby and because of that tenuous first meeting, I now live in a building that has a reputation as an "Auberge Espagnole" in Metz. I've visited all my schools and the children are so genuinely excited about learning that it has taken away any nerves that I have felt. This is an experience that I will always treasure and I know will only grow more dear with time.

**Lane Nieset (B.A. French and Francophone Studies, Journalism, 2011)**

Lane Nieset is an English teaching assistant in Nice for the 2011-2012 school year. She is working at a lycée helping to prepare students for the oral portion of the baccalauréat exam.

**Madeline Zardoya (B.A. French 2010)**

Madeline Zardoya is an English teaching assistant in Versailles for the 2011-2012 school year. She is working at a lycée helping to prepare students for the oral portion of the baccalauréat exam.

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## SCIENCES PO EXCHANGE PROGRAM : UF'S RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH L'INSTITUT D'ÉTUDES POLITIQUES (SCIENCES PO) PARIS, FRANCE by Dr. Carol Murphy

Since 2002, UF has been a partner University with the internationally renowned *Institut d'études politiques* in Paris. One of only 61 American universities and colleges to have a reciprocal exchange agreement with Sciences Po, a prestigious institution of higher learning (a « grande école »), UF sends 4 to 6 students per year to this center of excellence in the social sciences. In turn, UF welcomes qualified Sciences Po students to campus. Academic director, Dr. Carol Murphy, in cooperation with Dr. Martin McKellar of the UF International Center, is responsible for selecting those

students who will represent UF at Sciences Po. For the Academic Year 2011-2012, the following students have been selected: Karalyn Hartford, a third-year double major in Political Science and Geography with minors in French and Sustainability. Her long-term interests include graduate school in Political Science and also, in the short-term, humanitarian work with the Peace Corps; Lina Montoya, a senior double major in Sociology and Political Science with a minor in French. Lina aspires to work with an international organization in Latin America; Leticia Tiznado, a se-

nior student of Economics in the Business School and a student of French. Leticia is interested in pursuing an M.A. in International Relations in Geneva after she graduates from UF. For the first time next year, two of UF's students will be attending one of Science Po's satellite campuses. Both Renato Barreda, a History major with a minor in French, and Pablo Pazos, a Political Science Major with background in French, will study at the Poitiers campus which specializes in European-Latin American relations. Each of them will have the opportunity to take content courses in Spanish, as well as in English, and continue with their French language instruction. All students pay tuition to their home institution and are able to apply scholarships, such as Bright Futures, to the program fees.

# NEWS FROM OUR CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENTS

by Dr. Rori Bloom, Graduate Coordinator

**Christian Ahihou** continued working on his dissertation project: "Lire Ken Bugul – Techniques et effets de glissement dans l'écriture du roman chez Ken Bugul." He presented three different papers at three different major conferences. "Apprentissage de la langue à l'école de Ken Bugul" at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Conference in the Humanities, sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures of West Georgia, "Le règne du sémiotique, fondement de la poéticité du langage romanesque chez Ken Bugul" at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual African Literature Association Conference, sponsored by the Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, and "Poéticité du langage romanesque de Ken Bugul : *maternement*, mutilation et fonctionnement de la *mimesis*," American Association of Teachers of French 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention held in Montreal, Canada. He received a CLAS Travel grant of \$250 plus an Ernest G. Atkin Memorial Endowment Fund (\$800) granted by the French Graduate Committee to attend the convention. As for the academic year 2011-2012, his projects are to finish writing his dissertation, write more papers for publication, and get ready for a real professional life while improving his teaching skills through his current teaching assignments in the department.

**Laila Fares** passed her qualifying exams in April 2011. She earned the Delores Auzene dissertation fellowship and is currently at work on her dissertation entitled "Le Baroque narratif et la spiritualité mystique de Pierre Le Moyné 1602-1671." She also enjoyed teaching FRE 1131 in summer 2011.

**Kate Hunter Fredericks** pursued her work on her dissertation entitled: "Geography in Voltaire's Philosophical Tales: *Zadig*, *Micromégas*, *Candide*, and *l'Ingénu*." She attended the MLA Annual Conference in Los Angeles, CA in January 2011, and in March 2011 she presented a paper on "Voltaire and Geography" at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC. She received both the ASECS Traveling Jam Pot Award Fellowship and a UF-LLC Spring 2011 Graduate Travel Award to attend the conference in Vancouver. In the Summer of 2011, she taught Intensive Beginner French at the UF Paris Research Center during the Summer Program, where she

worked also as a program assistant. She was the recipient of the J. Wayne Conner Award for Summer Research to be conducted in a Francophone Country (Paris, France) in conjunction with her dissertation. In addition, in June 2011 Kate gave a speech (in both French and English) at the *Mairie de Lille* in Lille, France, where she was the "Invitée d'honneur" for a ceremony to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the *Université Catholique de Lille's* European Summer Program, of which she took part in as an Undergraduate during the program's inaugural year in the Summer of 2001.

**Richard Hendrie** has completed all the courses for the Master's degree and has also completed his thesis entitled "L'affaire Dreyfus: Une Perspective sur le film de Georges Méliès". He will take his comprehensive exam and defend the thesis in October 2011.

**Matthew Loving** has published two French translations, one technical on library software ("How to choose a free and open source integrated library system", *OCLC Systems & Services*, Vol. 27 Iss: 1, pp. 57-78) and another on the siege of Paris ("Bullets and balloons: with Paris under siege in 1870, an adventurous scientist, dodging gunfire, attempts to escape in a leaky airship." *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History*, 24.1). He was also invited to participate in a panel entitled "Développement durable et documentation numérique francophone: l'exemple des livres et des revues diffusés par Cairn en francophonie et au-delà" as part of the *Association Internationale des Bibliothécaires et Documentalistes* (AIBD) annual conference in Martinique in August 2011.

**Robyn Novak** just started the French Master's program at UF this fall. She received a B.A. in French and Francophone Studies from Earlham College (Richmond, Indiana) in May 2007. Since then, she has spent a few years deciding what field to go into; she went to veterinary school in the Caribbean for a year, worked as a paralegal at a law firm, and worked at a humane society before coming to UF to start graduate school. She is taking Francophone Literature, Phonetics and Phonology, and Language Teaching Methods, as well as teaching one section of first semester French.

## Jordin Patten

Over the summer, I collaborated with Kelly Weichman and Dr. Hebblethwaite and we created a corpus of French rap songs, that was over 800 pages! I am currently working on my Master's thesis, which will focus on the representation of women in French/Francophone rap with a linguistic approach.

**Audrey Viguier** was the recipient of the Center for European Studies Course Development Grant which gave her the opportunity to develop a new course "Representation of Ethnic Minorities in French Movies;" she was also the recipient of the Center for European Studies Travel Grant and the recipient of the Ernest G. Atkin Memorial Endowment Fund to conduct research in France, and the recipient of a travel grant from *Institut d'Études anglophones* (*Université Paris-Diderot*, France) where she attended an international conference on American TV shows, giving a presentation entitled "Le remake de la série V et le système de santé universel de Barack Obama: entre réalité et fiction, histoire d'une défaite programmée." She has an upcoming publication with *The French Review* (May 2012): "L'abbé Gouttes et le curé du Couvent ou les vœux forcés d'Olympe de Gouges (1790)" (special issue on the Enlightenment), and an article under revision entitled "Le Paysan dans les pamphlets toulousains en occitan: histoire d'une propagande linguistique révolutionnaire (1789-1794)."

## Kelly Wiechman

Over the summer I collaborated with Dr. Hebblethwaite and Jordin Patten on the creation of a French hip-hop and rap corpus totaling over 800 pages that will be the foundation for my thesis on a linguistic approach to French rap and hip-hop in which I explore neologisms, argot/code, verlan, and borrowing from other languages such as English, Arabic, Romanian, and Vietnamese. I am also involved in the lexicology and lexicography aspects of the corpus as it will again serve as a starting point for a book project that I am working on with Dr. Hebblethwaite. I plan to pursue my passion for French and linguistics at the doctoral level where I would like to continue my research in more depth and publish articles on my findings.

# NEWS FROM THE **FRANCE-FLORIDA RESEARCH INSTITUTE (FFRI)** *by the Director, Dr. Carol Murphy*

In March 2011, the FFRI received a grant of \$19,500 from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to continue its programming on the UF campus. Recognized as a center of excellence in French Studies in 2002 by the French Cultural Services of the French Embassy in Washington D.C., the FFRI is one of 16 U.S. institutions of higher learning to enjoy this status and financial support.

Events for the 2011-2012 academic year will begin in October with the visit of Emeritus Professor J. Hillis Miller to UF. A distinguished critic of late 19th-century English and Comparative Literatures and a former member of the "Yale School of Deconstruction," with Professors Jacques Derrida, Paul de Man, and Geoffrey Hartman, among others, Professor Miller is no stranger to UF (and the FFRI). In this return visit, he will speak to UF's Center for Jewish Studies on Monday, October 24, and on Tuesday, October 25, at the Harn Museum of Art, he will answer questions after the screening of a documentary film on his life and work. The film, *The First Sail: J. Hillis Miller*, was written and directed by Dr. Dragan Kujundzic, Professor of Jewish Studies, Film and Media Studies, and Professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. The FFRI is pleased to be a co-sponsor of this event, organized by Professor Kujundzic.

As a co-sponsor of the Center for the Humanities in the Public Sphere's lecture series on "Rehumanizing the University: New Perspectives on the Liberal Arts," the FFRI will welcome Dr. Emily Apter,

Professor of French and Comparative Literature at New York University, on Monday, November 14. Her talk, "Incomparative Literature: On the Problem of Untranslatability in Literary Studies," is the third in the 18-month long series organized by Dr. Bonnie Effros, Rothman Chair and Director of the Center. Professor Apter is the author most recently of *The Translation Zone: A New Comparative Literature* (Princeton UP, 2005). The editor of the book series, Translation/Transnation, for Princeton, she has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the ACLS, the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In addition to her talk, Dr. Apter will lead a seminar on her topic for interested faculty.

In the Spring, the FFRI will collaborate again with the Department of Theatre in the College of Fine Arts. In coordination with Dr. Ralf Remshardt's direction of Bernard Koltès's play, *Roberto Zucco*, the FFRI will sponsor the visit of two members of the theatre company 7 Stages in Atlanta. Members of the troupe have embarked on a decade-long "US Koltès Project" involving translation and production of all of the plays, with the cooperation of

Emory University. Their visit is scheduled for late January or early February.

Martinican writer Suzanne Dracius will be FFRI Visiting Professor in February 2012. A writer and former professor of Classics, both in France where she now resides and also at the *Université Antilles-Guyane* in Fort-de-France, Suzanne Dracius is the author of novels, short stories and poetry. Her novel *L'Autre qui danse* (1989) was a finalist for the Prix du Premier Roman, and her collection of short stories, *Exquise dérégulation métisse*, received the Prix Fetkann in 2008. In 2010, Suzanne Dracius was awarded the Prix de la Société des Poètes français for the ensemble of her work. During her week-long visit to UF, she will be a guest lecturer in two undergraduate courses (Haitian Creole, French and Francophone Cultures) and deliver a public lecture in French.

And last, but not least, the FFRI is proud to produce this newsletter—our fourth annual volume—in collaboration with students and faculty in French and Francophone Studies.

Please check our website for updates on these events and other activities that we will be organizing in 2011-2012 (<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/FranceFlorida>). Members of the FFRI Advisory Board include Drs. Jessi Aaron, William Calin, Ben Hebblethwaite, Alioune Sow, and Brigitte Weltman-Aron.

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## NEWS FROM THE **ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE** *by Dr. Bernadette César-Lee*

Un petit mot de l'Alliance Française de Gainesville, Florida!

Créée en 2005, l'Alliance Française (AF) de Gainesville s'est développée à un rythme imprévu. Le nombre de nos membres est passé de 25, en 2005 à plus de 130 au 14 juillet 2011, un taux de croissance dont nous sommes fiers. Nos membres de Gainesville, Ocala, Lake City, Micanopy, Tampa viennent au départ de France, Belgique, Luxembourg, Suisse, Grande-Bretagne, Maroc, Ile Maurice, Hollande, Grèce, Roumaine, Canada, Mexique, Haïti, Benin et Rwanda ; ils couvrent un réseau professionnel impressionnant, bref, une belle mosaïque de la francophonie! Grâce à nos membres et à notre fichier de plus de 300 contacts, nous sommes devenus un forum de rencontre où parler français « en dehors d'une salle de classe » est une réalité bien concrète! L'enthousiasme et le dynamisme continu de l'AF nous permettent de répondre aux objectifs que poursuit le « Réseau Mondial » des AF : **promouvoir la langue française et les cultures française et francophone.**

Voici un aperçu de nos activités :

- Les traditionnelles : Café Conversation, nos Fêtes... de la Bastille, du Printemps et des Vendanges
- Les sportives : Randonnées du dimanche et Pétanque
- Les culinaires : Crêpes et cidre « fait maison » de la Chandeleur
- Les culturelles :
  - o Nuits du musée : au Harn et Grinter Hall
  - o Festival du Film Français, tout d'abord en participation avec le Département de français à UF et Dr. Sylvie Blum, et en automne 2010 dans le cadre de la « National French Week », en joint-venture avec le cinéma de l'Hippodrome, le centre B'nai Israel, la bibliothèque du Comté d'Alachua, le Gainesville Sun et plusieurs entreprises de Gainesville
  - o Le Festival 2012 est en préparation pour le printemps!
  - o Dans la cadre de la « Semaine de la Francophonie », le 3 novembre : film français au centre B'nai Israël
- Les éducatives : « Pardon my French » avec la collaboration des lycées de Gainesville et nos « mini-classes » de français.



Le 12 novembre ... une « traditionnelle » : la « Fête des vendanges », avec boeuf bourguignon et dégustation, fête ouverte à toutes et tous !

Notre site internet fait peau neuve! Alors, pour en savoir d'avantage, contactez-nous: [danieleb@ufl.edu](mailto:danieleb@ufl.edu) ou [cesarlee@ufl.edu](mailto:cesarlee@ufl.edu) Pour le Conseil d'Administration, Danièle Buchler, Présidente ; Bernadette César-Lee, Vice-Présidente ; Anne White, Secrétaire

## NOTABLE GRANT TO DR. HELENE BLONDEAU **LE FRANÇAIS A LA MESURE D'UN CONTINENT: UN PATRIMOINE EN PARTAGE**

University of Florida expertise chosen for major project on French in North America

University of Florida Associate professor of French and Linguistics Hélène Blondeau, from the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, is a co-investigator on a \$2.5 M (CAD) project funded by the prestigious Major Collaborative Research Initiatives (MCRI) grant, under the auspices of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada. The University of Florida France-Florida Research Institute is also an important partner for the project.

This large-scale project, with the title *Le français à la mesure d'un continent: un patrimoine en partage* (French language across a continent: a shared heritage), is led by Professor France G. Martineau of the University of Ottawa's *Département de français*. Martineau who was invited to UF in 2007 by the France-Florida Research Institute holds a University Research Chair in language and migration in French America. The study involves 13 fel-

low researchers and 59 partners from Canada, the United States, France and Japan, working in a variety of disciplines, including linguistics, anthropology, history, sociology, geography and computer science. University of Florida has been chosen as one of the two US institutions participating in the project.

The project will provide a comprehensive picture of 400 years of Fran-

cophone presence in North America. By examining how French is spoken in places as diverse as Montreal, New Orleans, Chicoutimi and Moncton, the project will shed light on how the French language has shaped communities and cultures. The multidisciplinary nature of the project will situate the evolution of North American French in its broader socio-historical setting.

The research will assemble a large corpus of French in North America, which will include informal exchanges between individuals in the form of private correspondence or spontaneous conversation. During this academic year Hélène Blondeau will participate in the data collection taking place in Montreal, Quebec. The study will use innovative approaches, by presenting individuals and their language as a central factor in the changes that society undergoes. Relying on extensive documentation, the study will seek to identify the concerns of present-day francophone communities in North America, in majority, minority or multicultural settings.

## DR. SYLVIE BLUM-REID **LECTURES IN SINGAPORE**

I was invited to participate in *Visions of the East: Asia through French Eyes*, a program of the National Museum Cinémathèque of Singapore, co-organized with the French embassy. This cultural/academic engagement took place from October 4 through October 16, 2011. It explored ways in which Asia has been portrayed and imagined through the history of French cinema. I wrote an essay that was commissioned for the program and that was featured in the program booklet: *"Looking back: Cinematic Impressions of Asia in French Cinema"* (87-99). I was a guest speaker and took part in a round-table discussion around the topic of Asia on film along with Pierre Rissient, Farish Ahmad-Noor, and moderator Paul Slater (from left to right on the photo). I also introduced J.J. Annaud's *L'Amant*, which was shown for the first time in its unabridged version since its initial 1993 release in Singapore. I was able to attend the last days of the festival and several film screenings; some of the films came from the French *Institut National Audiovisuel* (INA) and addressed the way that the French media had covered Singapore in the 1960s. "Images of Singapore from French television 1964-1973" attracted a large audience because it unearthed for the first time a selection of documentaries, travelogues, and television programs about the city and country. Similarly, early footage shot by the Lumière, Pathé, and Gaumont teams of cinematographers and Albert Kahn's operators dispatched in the region, taken in the early days of cinema, was screened. The selection was comprised of films such as Corneau's *Nocturne Indien*, Schoendoerffer's *The 317<sup>th</sup> section*, Malle's *Calcutta*, Wargnier's *Indochine*, Annaud's *L'Amant*, Rissient's 5

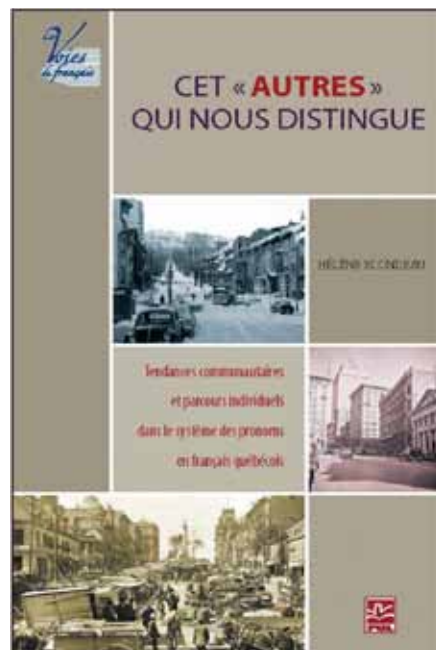
*ou la Peau*, and Perrin/Deroo's *L'Empire du Milieu du Sud*, to mention just a few. I was happily surprised by the selection and the vibrancy of the project, not to mention the energy and amount of research that it took to assemble such a curated program. On top of this, I noticed a genuine enthusiasm regarding French cinema, scholarship, and culture, as well as a profound respect for the French presence. The program was housed at the Cinémathèque in the beautiful National Museum of Singapore, which seems like a hotbed for cultural activities recently. This event is the first of its kind to assess the contribution of French filmmakers with regards to the way they approached Asia in the colonial and post-colonial eras in both francophone and non-francophone countries.



# FACULTY NEWS

**Theresa Antes:** The academic year 2010-2011 proved to be a busy, yet productive, time for me. I was asked to serve as UF liaison for a Department of Education grant awarded to the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Magnan and Murphy, PIs) to collect research from students in a number of world languages in a study entitled "Goals of Postsecondary Students and the National Standards for Language Learning." My role as liaison in this extensive study, which involved data collection on eight campuses nation-wide, consisted of facilitating IRB clearance for the researchers, and contacting classroom instructors of 1<sup>st</sup> year courses in Fall 2011 to arrange for distribution of the questionnaire amongst their students. As many as 44 sections of 1<sup>st</sup> year language courses were involved during the Fall semester at UF. In addition, I served as faculty mentor for a visiting scholar from China, aiding her in the analysis of data that she had collected on the acquisition of intonation patterns of second language learners of English, and in the presentation of that data at a "Linguistics Seminar" session at UF. November 2010 was highlighted by the publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of my co-authored textbook *A vous!: The Global French Experience*. Revisions to both the textbook and ancillary materials include a revamped organization and presentation of vocabulary and grammar structures, (involving condensing from 16 to 14 chapters), highly revised cultural readings, incorporation of an entirely new listening strategies feature in each of the chapters, and a new cultural section highlighting a geographical region of the Francophone world after every even-numbered chapter. Students across the US are now transitioning into the new and improved 2<sup>nd</sup> edition! Finally, I am continuing my research on vocabulary acquisition by learners of a second language. I have recently received IRB approval for a new phase of this research, and will begin collecting data from approximately 100 participants in October 2011, with data collection set to continue throughout the Fall semester.

**Hélène Blondeau:** In her new book, sociolinguist Helene Blondeau, professor of French and Linguistics, traces a linguistic change in progress affecting the usage of pronouns in Quebec French. Her real time analysis of the linguistic variation observable in authentic spoken French corpora collected during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century examines the contribution of individuals to change affecting the community as a whole.



This year I have celebrated the arrival of the first printed copies of my book on a linguistic change in progress in Quebec French. *Cet « autres » qui nous distingue. Tendances communautaires et parcours individuels dans le système des pronoms en français Québécois*. (Presses de l'Université Laval). I am also pleased to report my new chapter "Les effets de résonance et la contribution des bilingues d'origine Anglophone à la dynamique du français parlé à Montréal" published in the book *Le français en contact: hommages à Raymond Mougeon* edited by France Martineau et Terry Nadasdi (Presses de l'Université Laval). I also recently traveled to France to attend the annual meeting of the Association for French Language Studies in Nancy where I presented my new research results of a longitudinal study of Montreal French. Since last year I have given co-authored presentations in Oslo (Norway), London (Canada), Urbana-Champaign, Pittsburgh and Burlington. I am also delighted to report that I am currently acting as co-investigator in a major collaborative research on French in North America *Le français à la mesure d'un continent* funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada. In this context I will spend time in Montreal, Canada to collect a new corpus of data on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Montreal French. For more than a year now as undergraduate coordinator I have advised many students interested in the major or the minor in French and Francophone Studies.

**Rori Bloom:** Rori Bloom was recently tenured and promoted to associate pro-

fessor, and she has also taken over as graduate coordinator for French and Francophone Studies. In summer 2011, she taught a course on literary representations of Paris at UF's Paris Research Center and had a fantastic summer with an excellent group of students and colleagues there. As well, she presented two papers on late seventeenth-century author Marie-Catherine d'Aulnoy at the annual meetings of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Vancouver, Canada and the Society for Seventeenth-Century French Studies in London, England. She also completed an author entry on Restif de la Bretonne for the Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism series.

**Sylvie Blum** was invited to contribute as a commissioned writer and guest speaker for the film program: "Visions of the East: Asia in French Films" at the Cinémathèque of Singapore National Museum, in October 2011. The essay she has contributed is entitled "Looking Back: Cinematic Impressions of Asia in French Cinema." She is currently teaching a new course: "Fashion and Women in French Cinema." She will be co-teaching a new Honors Interdisciplinary course: « Correspondences between music and texts in French literature [sub-title]: Textes et musiques. La littérature française à l'écoute de la musique » with music professor Miriam Zach in Spring 2012. In 2011, she directed Leah Booth for her honors thesis – a film and script project entitled: "Communauté sur Palier." She is now supervising Ana Gonzalez's project (see "Spotlight on our Students," above). Her article "Cooking with Julia (Child) in 1950 France, or An American in Paris: A film-inflected essay" appears in *Cuisine and Symbolic Capital*, edited by Cheleen Ann Catherine.

**William Calin:** I completed my book, *The Lily and the Thistle: The French Tradition and the Older Literature of Scotland* and sent it off to the publisher. Ooof! Hooray! Publications: some articles: "Is Orientalism Medievalism? or, Edward Said, Are You a Saracen?" *Year's Work In Medievalism* 22 (2008): 63-68; "Robert Brasillach, Maurice Bardèche et moi: The Story of an Interview and Why It Is Important," *Contemporary French and Francophone Studies: Sites* 15 (2011): 357-62; and "Traces de la chanson de geste en Ecosse: lecture d'un roman carolingien," in *Le Souffle épique: L'esprit de la chanson de geste*, ed. Sylvie Bazin-Tacchella et al. (Dijon: Editions Universitaires de Dijon, 2011), 445-51. Papers: "The International Guillaume de



Machaut Society: "Tis Twenty-Five Years Since," at the Forty-fifth International Conference on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2010; "Sex, Food, and Deceit: A French and a Scots Fabliaux," at the Nineteenth Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Interdisciplinary Symposium, University of Miami, February 2011; "To Hell and Back: Interviewing a Fascist French Intellectual and the Unforgotten World War II," at our inaugural Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Seminar, University of Florida, March 2011; "Sex, Violence and Perversion in Rural Provence: Théodore Aubanel's Occitan Play *Lou Pastre*" at Gayle Zachmann's "Cultural Production in the Nineteenth Century Colloquium," UF Paris Research Center, May 2011; and "Mary Queen of Scots: Her Poetry in Its French Context," at a marvelous International Scottish Studies Conference, University of Padova, Italy, July 2011. I taught History of the French Language in spring 2011 and am currently directing Ph.D. dissertations by Audrey Viguier on literature of the French Revolution (in French and Occitan), Laila Fares on the seventeenth-century baroque poet Pierre Le Moyne, and Lakhdar Choudar on Algerian novels in French and Arabic. Future research projects: *What is Christian Literature?* and continued work on *Essays in Medievalism and Occitan Literature: the Baroque and the Nineteenth-Century*. At the Kalamazoo Conference last May I was honored in a session devoted to Makers of the Middle Ages. Regina Psaki read a paper "Calin, the Maker," and, at a reception, I was presented with a commemorative

book, *Cahier Calin. Makers of the Middle Ages. Essays in Honor of William Calin*. Eds. Richard Utz and Elizabeth Emery. It was a complete surprise. It looks like two other scholars are organizing another festschrift. Finally, I have been asked to give the plenary session address for a conference at Yale on Literature and Ethics.

**Benjamin Hebblethwaite:** In the 2010-11 academic year, Benjamin Hebblethwaite published the article "Adverb Code-Switching among Miami's Haitian Creole-English Second Generation," in *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*. With Jacques Pierre he published the book, *Une saison en enfer / Yon sezon matchyavèl* (L'Harmattan),



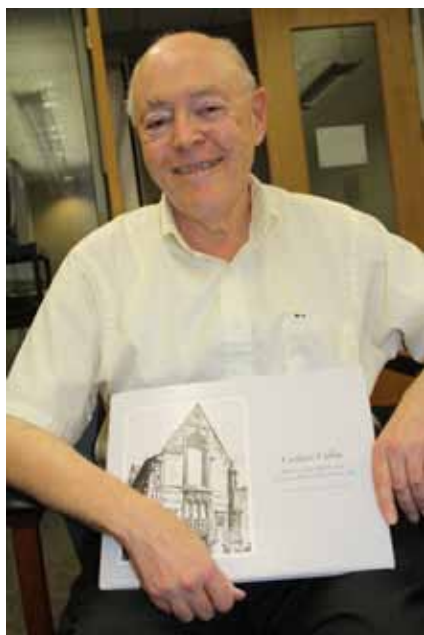
which is a bilingual edition of Arthur Rimbaud's prose poem and includes a critical introduction in Haitian Creole and French. The book was ranked the 6<sup>th</sup> best book of 2010 by Haiti's oldest newspaper, *Le Nouvelliste*. In the spring of 2011, he published "Haiti, 2010," an entry in the Encyclopedia of Disaster Relief (Sage Publications). Over the summer, Ben taught a Study Abroad class in Paris at the Institut Catholique called, "Hip Hop and the French Language and Culture." His book, *Vodou Songs in Haitian Creole and English*, will be released by Temple UP in October, 2011. Ben is currently teaching the class "La linguistique de la chanson française," which uses French songs as a corpus for linguistic analyses. Ben gave talks at Florida International University, at the University of Florida Grimes Panel, at the Atlantic World Literacies conference at the University of North Carolina, Greens-

boro, at the Haitian Studies Association 22 at Brown University, and at the Social Movement Governance, the Poor and the New Politics of the Americas conference at the University of South Florida. He is making plans to teach a class called "Hip Hop in Europe" in Paris and Amsterdam in the summer of 2012. Write to [hebble@ufl.edu](mailto:hebble@ufl.edu) for more information!

**Carol Murphy:** Dr. Murphy continues to be the director of the France-Florida Research Institute (FFRI), while teaching and pursuing research in the department. In the spring she will be teaching a new course to undergraduate and graduate students in French on the French novel in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. Subtitled "multiplicités, altérités, mondialité," the course will explore the engagement of canonical French novelists (Proust, Gide, Duras, Modiano, Cixous, Beckett and others) with other cultures and languages. She continues her research on twentieth- and twenty-first century authors and has recently published (Fall 2011) two invited essays: "Sylvie Germain, sculpteur des lieux de mémoire" in *Dalhousie French Studies*, and "Reading Bowie reading Proust" in a collection of articles, "When familiar meanings dissolve...": *Essays in French Studies in Memory of Malcolm Bowie* (Peter Lang, 2011). In February 2011, she presented a paper on Marguerite Duras and Simone de Beauvoir ("Spectacular Women, Telling Tales") as part of the one-day Simone de Beauvoir Conference that the FFRI organized with the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research at the University of Florida. In March, she delivered a talk at the annual 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century French and Francophone Studies International Conference in San Francisco on the contemporary writer Marie Nimier, "Animalité abjecte dans *La Girafe de Marie Nimier*," and in July, she was invited to the annual American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) Convention in Montreal to speak about the successes of the France-Florida Research Institute. In July and August, she was in Paris continuing her work as co-editor of the Correspondence of Jean Paulhan, editor, critic, and author, and Jean Fautrier, artist.

**Héloïse Séailles:** In the Spring, I will be teaching "FRE3930: Electing a French President in 2012." We will be reading a political novel, *18 mois chrono*, which imagines the 18 months leading up to the first round of elections in April 2012. The

*continued on page 10*



book will acquaint us with a large number of the political figures active in the campaign and in the present government. The language of politics, the idiomatic expressions, terms, dates, acronyms, and historical background found in the novel will give us a firm foundation. This will enhance our understanding of the news media coverage which we will follow closely as well. My goal is to help students construct a wide base of knowledge and vocabulary capable of rendering us all more competent to follow and analyze the campaign with intelligence and precision. I am hopeful that by the time the course ends, students will have a sense of personal engagement in the outcome of these elections.

**Alioune Sow:** In the past year, my book *Vestiges et vertiges: récits d'enfance dans les littératures africaines* was published by Artois Presses Université. I have made one trip to Bamako to continue my research on the changes in the Malian literary landscape, working on life narratives, memoirs and biographies published since the democratization of the country in 1991. I also pursued my work with the ANR Miprimo, an interdisciplinary research project on migration directed by Cécile Canut from the *Université Paris-Descartes* and the Ceped. Focusing in particular on theatre, I examine the transformations of Malian theatre practices to respond to the new discourses on migration. I have presented two conference papers on this topic in the UK (African Theatre Association, June 2011) and in Paris (December

2010). I was also invited to give a talk on African bildungsroman and migration as well as one talk on Malian memoirs (Paris, 2010). I also co-convened with Dr Weltman Aron, the annual Gwendolyn Carter Conference examining cultures of memory, commemorations and celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of African political independences. Speakers included Alain Mabanckou, Jean-Marie Ténou, Gregory Mann, Réda Bensmaïa, Mildred Mortimer, Cécile Canut, Didier Gondola, James Straker, Ken Walibora, Waliaula, Alou, Antoinette Tidjani, Argenti, Nicolas, Florence Bernault, Joana Grabsky and Elleh, Nnamdi.

**Amanda Shoaf Vincent:** In the past year, I have become much better acquainted with my colleagues and with the students in French. In addition to teaching intermediate grammar and writing courses (FRE 2201 and FRE 3300), I taught FRE 3440 and FRE 3442, the two Business French courses. Seven students in the Spring 2011 class successfully took the exam for the *Diplôme de Français Professionnel Affaires* at the B2 level, and these students are recognized elsewhere in the Newsletter. In July, I traveled to Paris to complete a training program for teachers of French for Special Purposes at Paris's *Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie*, an opportunity funded in part by the France-Florida Research Institute. For three intensive weeks, I studied theoretical approaches and pedagogical methods for teaching Business French alongside educators from all over the world. Com-

pleting this program certifies me to continue administering the Business French exams and to allow the Department of Languages, Literatures, and cultures to remain a qualified exam center, the only one in the Southeastern U.S. In my spare time, I took in as many events related to landscape and ecology as possible, including an exhibition on the Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle-Marx at the *Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine*, a garden installation in front of the Paris City Hall, and *Paris-Plage*. I also served as a commentator for a panel on modern and contemporary representations of France at the Society for French Historical Studies annual conference in Charleston, SC in February.

**Brigitte Weltman-Aron:** In 2010-11, Brigitte Weltman-Aron pursued her work on the writings of two contemporary writers, Assia Djebar and Hélène Cixous. She was invited to participate in a conference on Hélène Cixous at the Sorbonne in Paris in October, and gave another talk on this writer in April 2011. With her colleague Alioune Sow, she received the Gwendolyn M. Carter Faculty Fellowship in African Studies and organized a conference at the University of Florida in February dedicated to commemorations of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of Independence in Africa. In the summer, she received a grant to conduct research at the Jean-Jacques Rousseau archives in Geneva and Neuchâtel. At the University of Florida she participated with other colleagues in a conference devoted to the writings of

## EMERITUS NEWS

**Bernadette Cailler** regrets that an error was made in the 2010 Newsletter: the paper she gave at a conference held in homage to Valentin Y. Mudimbe was delivered at Université Laval, Québec, in October 2010 (not at Duke). In Spring 2011, Cailler organized two sessions in homage to Edouard Glissant, who died earlier, this year: CIEF, Aix-en-Provence, June 2<sup>nd</sup> : 1. Edouard Glissant, poète : textes, contextes, affiliations, with papers by Jean-Pascal Pouzet : "Le Moyen Âge d'Édouard Glissant – philologie et Relation" ; B. Cailler : "Interfaces: Walt Whitman (1819-1892) et Edouard Glissant (1928-2011)" ; Hugues Azérad : "Yves Bonnefoy et Edouard Glissant : la présence et le sacré". 2. Edouard Glissant, poète : traductions et musiques, with papers by Daniela Hurezanu : "Les néologismes de Glissant en anglais: de l'ambiguïté poétique à l'explication prosaïque" ; Touriya Fili-Tullon : "Une traduction arabe de la relation : les « Versets » (*La Terre inquiète*)" ; Jean-Luc Tamby : "Mesure et démesure dans un poème de Glissant et improvisations du quintet de Miles Davis". This Fall, responding to an invitation, Cailler will travel to Atlanta to participate in an homage to Edouard Glissant, at a Comparative Caribbeans Conference (Emory University, Nov. 2-6). She will read excerpts from his poetry, namely from *Le sang rivé*, *La terre inquiète*, *Les Indes*, *Le sel noir*, *Pays rêvé, pays réel*, and *Les grands chaos*. Recent publications : "Totality and Infinity, Alterity and Relation: From Levinas to Glissant", *Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy*, Vol 19, No 1 (2011), Editor John E. Drabinski. Translation by David-Olivier Gougelet, in collaboration with Bernadette Cailler

(Translation of Cailler's 1999 article – University of Paris-Sorbonne Presses), 135-151. (Invitation) Forthcoming, 2011-2012: "Palimpseste et métaphysique historiographique : une lecture d'*Un Dimanche au cachot* de Patrick Chamoussau" in special issue of *Oeuvres et Critiques* on French-Language Literatures (Invitation); "Rêves sur les funérailles religieuses d'Édouard Glissant", *Revue des Sciences Humaines*. Special issue in homage to E. Glissant. (Invitation); "Pour une vie autre: *Réflexions sur la vie quotidienne* (1972) de Valentin Y. Mudimbe", Champion, Paris (essays in homage to V.Y. Mudimbe -Invitation). Accepted invitations to present papers include: York University, Toronto, Ontario. Conference on *Pluri-Culture et Ecrits Migratoires*, May 2012 ("Canada et Maghreb : deux lieux, deux styles. Analyse de quelques poèmes d'*Echosmos* par Hédi Bouraoui") ; Université Laval, Québec, Conference on

*Imaginaire et urgence du social dans le texte francophone* ("Poétique, politique, et éthique de l'imaginaire dans *Les neuf consciences du malfini* [2009] de Patrick Chamoiseau"), May 2012; BnF, Institut du Tout-monde, Paris-Sorbonne, Conference on *Saint-John Perse, Césaire, Glissant: Regards croisés*, Sept. 2012 (Topic : TBA). An invitation to present a paper on Lorand Gaspar (CIEF, Greece, June 2012) was declined for lack of time.

**Raymond Gay-Crosier:** In 2011, as for many years before, I continued to maintain the online critical bibliography on Albert Camus. It is also listed among the MLA reference titles. Starting in 2012, this widely used research tool will be maintained by a specialist at, and carried by, Boise State University. After more than twenty years as Editor of the *Camus* series (Paris: Lettres Modernes), I resigned and handed the responsibility over to a French colleague. The following articles were published: "Re-editing Camus: Methodological Issues", *Expressions maghrébines*, vol. 9, no 2, hiver 2010, p. 151-169; "Un triangle complémentaire: laïcité, sainteté, mesure", *Études camusiennes* [Japan], no 10, mai 2011, p. 155-172; "Réception nord-américaine", *ibid.*, p. 175-179; "Camus en Pléiade, hier et aujourd'hui", *Autre Sud*, no 44, mars 2009, p. 16-21; "La négation affirmative: paradigme de la pensée camusienne", *Camus Now, The Florence Gould Lectures at New York University*, vol. XII, Winter 2010-2011, p. 23-39. In January 2011, I added the annual updates and minor corrections for the fourth edition of vol. I and II and the second edition of vol. III of Camus's *Œuvres complètes* in the new Pléiade edition.

**Albert B. Smith :** Thanks for your kind invitation to send news about my recent doings. I had to have back surgery in June. That's where I am physically. Don't even talk about spiritually! My morale is still pretty good. I am able to distance myself from my ills, laughing at their often ridiculous aspects and exaggerating my own "suffering." This is not to say that I don't occasionally curse—literally and loudly—my ailments but for the most part I stay pretty cheerful. What have I done of interest over the past eleven years? (Yes, eleven, since I retired fully!) My principal focus has been on achieving some measure of competence as a watercolor painter. Thanks to Rita's encouragement I took watercolor lessons from a local artist while I was on

phased retirement. I joined a couple of art associations, read a number of books on design and technique, and painted and painted and painted and... you get the idea. Since we moved to St. Augustine in 1999, I've been an active member of a small critique group who meet weekly to discuss members' productions or works in progress. I've managed to pick up a few Honorable Mentions and even a Second Place in a local competition. I'm happy you are able to continue publishing the French newsletter. I've always enjoyed reading about department activities, all too often lately carried on under a cloud of adversity. I admire you all for your perseverance.



## ALUMNI NEWS

### Undergraduate Majors and Minors

**Corey Brown (B.A. 2011, Double Major in French and Linguistics)**

I have started a Master's Program in Linguistics at the University of Hawaii.

**Allison Griner (B.A. 2010, Double Major in English and Anthropology, Minor in French)**

En mai 2011, j'ai reçu mon diplôme d'études en anglais et en anthropologie, avec le français comme matière secondaire. Sous la supervision des professeurs Robert Ray et Richard Burt, j'ai écrit ma thèse sur les détails cinématiques du film *Meet John Doe*, réalisé par Frank Capra.

Cet été, j'ai fait un stage dans le bureau de diplomatie publique à l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis en Belgique, où j'ai travaillé avec des Belges et des Américains dans un environnement polyglotte. La diplomatie publique a comme principe de base une déclaration par le journaliste Edward R. Murrow: "Le véritable lien crucial dans les échanges internationaux est les trois derniers pas, qui sont enjambés à travers les contacts personnels, une personne parlant à une autre." Pour aider à réaliser cet objectif, j'ai été chargé de répondre à des lettres envoyées à l'ambassadeur, j'ai fait des recherches sur des événements culturels, et j'ai

mis à jour des médias sociaux. En 2009, l'ambassadeur américain Howard Gutman a promis publiquement de visiter chacune des municipalités belges—589 au total. J'ai accompagné l'ambassadeur dans ses voyages cet été, et j'ai eu l'occasion de pratiquer mon français en rencontrant les membres des mairies ou des industries locales.

**Jenna Nichols (B.A. 2011, Double Major in French and Linguistics, Minor in German)**

J'ai terminé mes études de premier cycle à UF en mai 2011 avec une double spécialisation en français et linguistique et avec une sous-spécialisation en allemand. Ma dernière année à UF était pleine d'activité. Premièrement, une



bourse du University Scholars Program m'a permis de compléter un projet de recherche sur une communauté de Francophones en Floride du Sud. Sous la direction de Dr. Blondeau, j'ai étudié les pratiques langagières de ce groupe de locuteurs divers. Nous avons présenté les résultats de cette enquête en novembre 2010 à la conférence de l'American Council for Quebec Studies à Burlington, Vermont. D'ailleurs, notre article sur le même sujet va apparaître dans la revue *Quebec Studies* en automne 2012. Finalement, ce projet m'a aussi servi de Honors Thesis en français, qui m'a gagné la distinction *summa cum laude* lors de l'achèvement de mes études. J'ai décidé de continuer mes études de français aux niveaux supérieurs et je viens de commencer ma première année au doctorat à l'Université du Texas à Austin dans leur programme de linguistique française. Le département de français et d'italien m'a chaleureusement accueillie et je suis déjà convaincue que les prochaines années vont m'offrir une formation professionnelle formidable. A cet égard, je suis vraiment reconnaissante de toutes les expériences que j'ai eu la chance d'avoir à UF. Je me sens bien préparée pour l'avenir et j'espère que d'autres étudiants continuent d'avancer dans leurs études de français!

### **Lane Nieset (B.A. 2010, Double Major in French and Journalism)**

After graduating with degrees in Journalism and French, Lane worked as an editorial assistant for a food website called *MyRecipes.com*. She decided to combine her passion for English with her love of French culture and accepted a position teaching English to French students at a high school in Nice for 2011-2012. While teaching, she hopes to travel and freelance for magazines.

### **Jonathan Scott Parker (B.A. 2003, IDS Major with a concentration in French)**

Jonathan lives in NY, in Plattsburgh, an hour away from Montreal. He is able to practice his French from time to time. He is working in the production of short video films, for example: <http://youtube.com/Ralodutf-b0>. He attended the *Forum des Jeunes Ambassadeurs - Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques* (Summer 2010).

### **Karen Regn (B.A. French, M.A. Linguistics 2003)**

Since my graduation (M.A. in Linguistics, '03), I've barely had time to catch my breath. After spending two years

working as a customer service trainer for a major hotel chain, I moved to Tokyo where I taught EFL at Asia University for four years. During those years, I travelled extensively in Asia and Oceania, learned Japanese and Japanese Sign Language, and took up freelance writing and photography. In 2009, I met my fiancé John while on vacation in Malaysia. I now live in Manchester, England where I work as a freelance journalist. My articles have appeared in a variety of magazines, both online and in print. I'm currently working with two news websites in the lovely city of Manchester and am looking forward to my wedding next year. You can follow me and my freelance career on Twitter@karenregn

### **Anastacia Sams (B.A. 2011, Minor in French)**

Pour cette année, Je fais une pause de l'école. Je suis sur la commission consultative à but non lucratif qui s'appelle Hope Worldwide avec mon église, Gainesville Christian Church. Aussi, je fais du travail à l'Université de Floride dans le service de psychologie clinique. Je travaille pour le président du conseil d'administration. Après cette année, je veux aller au troisième cycle universitaire pour le service d'aide.

### **Eva Schildhaus (B.A. 2009, Minor in French)**

Je voudrais bien vous mettre à jour de ma vie. Je suis un paralegal chez une firme de droit à Washington DC depuis six mois. C'est une firme "class action" et je travaille dans le groupe "employee benefits." J'aime bien mon job car je fais beaucoup de tâches différentes et je contribue à la protection des fonds de retraite, donc je me sens satisfaite que je fasse un job honorable qui peut aider à protéger les employés. Si vous vous souvenez de Katie Finberg qui était dans le cours de "Grammar and Composition" avec moi dans 2008, nous sommes devenues amies plus tard et sa mère m'a aidée à trouver ce job. Maintenant, Katie est dans les Iles Marshall pour enseigner l'anglais. En 2008, vous m'avez écrit une recommandation pour une stage à Washington. Pendant cet été, j'étais travailleuse bénévole au musée de la Shoah et j'y suis retournée quand j'ai déménagé ici et je continue à servir là dans "Visitor Services." Et, il y avait une fois où j'ai pratiqué mon français avec une touriste française. En plus, ma firme a employé une fille qui a étudié à Sciences Po pendant le même semestre que moi! Donc, j'ai plein de temps pour me souvenir de mes mois

à Paris. J'espère que je tiendrai les opportunités ici pour pratiquer mon français. *L'Alliance Française* ici est si grande qu'elle a des annonces dans le metro! En plus, maintenant, j'ai l'aspiration de faire une demande d'inscription dans une école de droit dans une année. J'espère que le programme de français reste fort. Je pense que mes cours avec vous et le programme m'ont donné un équilibre parfait entre les cours plus didactiques comme "Commercial French" et les cours plus émotionnels et romantiques comme les introductions à la littérature française (j'ai adoré!). J'espère que vous allez bien et je vous remercie pour tout votre aide avec mon stage et particulièrement avec Sciences Po. J'ai grandi beaucoup, académiquement et émotionnellement, à Sciences Po et je serais heureuse d'aider les étudiants qui sont intéressés à étudier là.

### **Amanda Tosh (B.A. 2009, Double Major in French and Chinese)**

Amanda Tosh, double major French and Chinese, recipient of the Michael Hauptman Medal for French Majors, 2009. After spending nearly two years in China working in event management for a French firm and then for an Asian firm, including a role as assistant pavilion manager for the 2010 Shanghai World Expo for the Pavilion of Cyprus, Amanda moved to Brussels Belgium to learn Dutch and continue work as a freelance translator. She is now preparing to enroll in a Master of Arts program in Europe in the spring of 2012 in Communications and hopes to further examine the growing trends and conflicts between Eastern and Western societies.

## Graduate Students

### **Camelia Baluta (M.A. 2005)**

Camelia Baluta is Assistant Professor in the French Basic Program at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California.

### **Kathleen Diamond (B.A. 1968, M.A. 1969)**

The following press release brings us news of Kathleen Diamond, donor of the Diamond Scholarship for Study Abroad: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2011/5/prweb8419849.htm>.

CyraCom International, Inc. today announced that Kathleen K. Diamond will be leaving the company to focus on her activities in language advocacy. Kathleen joined CyraCom International in 2009 through its acquisition of Language Learning Enterprises, Inc. (LLE®), a com-

pany she had founded thirty years earlier and of which she was President and CEO." Kathleen is widely recognized for helping to develop the language services industry", said Raquel Moreno-Blake, CyraCom International's Vice President of Human Resources. "We wish her every success in her active involvement in industry wide advocacy and lobbying."

#### **Sophie Ganachaud (Ph.D. 2008)**

Sophie Ganachaud (Ph.D. 2008) received a Master II degree in FLE in June in France. She is currently teaching English to career personnel in Brest at the DCNS (Naval Defense). She also taught full time at Chamber of Commerce and Industry this summer. Her article « Texte, corps et trace dans *Nefertiti et le rêve d'Akhnaton* d'Andrée Chéhid » appears in *Créolisations*.

#### **Eddy A. Hernández (M.A. 1995)**

I am starting my 16<sup>th</sup> year teaching French and Spanish at the Paideia School in Atlanta. Another UF Alum, Joy Lewis-Mendez (Spanish) is a colleague and we have a great time reminiscing about our time as Grad Students at UF. 860 Peachtree St. NE, Unit 1011 Atlanta, GA 30308. Phone 404-276-9333. [eddyhatl@yahoo.com](mailto:eddyhatl@yahoo.com)

#### **E. Joe Johnson (Ph.D. 1999)**

As of Fall 2011, E. Joe Johnson was promoted to Professor of Foreign Languages and is currently the head of the Department of Humanities at Clayton State University in Metro Atlanta. He is serving a two-year term as the president of the Southeastern American Society for



Eighteenth-Century Studies. His most recent scholarly presentations include: 1) "The Louvre as Myth in French Graphic Novels," at the Fall 2011 meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Comics & Popular Arts Conference-Dragon\*Con, Atlanta, GA; 2) "A Foundling Tale in a Novel about a Foundling: Jean-Claude Gorgey's *Victorine* and François-Antoine 'Panpan' Devaux's *Azakia, ou les Reconnaissances*," at the spring 2011 meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Vancouver, BC, Canada; and 3) "Models for Friendship in French Children's Literature from Berquin to Woillez," at the spring 2011 meeting of the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Winston-Salem, NC. In addition to his traditional scholarship, Joe continues to publish many translations of French and Belgian comic books and graphic novels with the sister presses Papercutz and NBM Publishing, including their recent volumes of the *Smurfs*, *The Three Musketeers*, and *The Sky Over the Louvre*. Still preparing the formal proposal for an MLA volume on *Approaches to Teaching the Abbé Prévost's Manon Lescaut*, Joe has signed contracts to produce a classroom edition of Bernardin de Saint-Pierre's *Paul et Virginie*, as well as a co-edited edition of the many versions of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century moral tale "Azakia." One day he hopes to write on depictions of friendship in French children's literature from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### **Stephanie Kupfer (M.A. 2009)**

Stephanie Kupfer is a first-year student in the Film/French Ad hoc Ph.D. program at the University of Iowa. She is also a TA in the French Department, currently teaching Intermediate French I.

#### **Cynthia Lees (Ph.D. 2006)**

Cynthia Lees, a 2006 graduate of UF's doctoral program, is Assistant Professor of French and Foreign Language Pedagogy at the University of Delaware. She serves as Academic Advisor to Foreign Language Education majors in five languages, teaches French language and literature courses, and offers the senior Capstone course in 21<sup>st</sup> century global literature in translation. This semester she is piloting an Honors Capstone in which students are learning how to apply literary theory to texts of social protest—for instance, Bakhtinian notions of carnival and transgression enlighten Ivory Coast and Congolese narratives of African civil wars, and feminist criticism deepens the reading of novels translated from Hebrew and Croatian on crimes

against women. She is also developing a summer study abroad program in partnership with the University of Quebec in Trois Rivières where she will offer a course on the unique linguistic, cultural, and literary history of Quebec province. Cynthia and her husband Daniel, a member of UD's English Department, divide their time between their home in Titusville, Florida, and the Newark campus.

#### **Catherine Moore (Ph.D. 1990)**

I received my Ph.D. in 1990. Since then, I have been employed at Western Illinois University. I am currently Full Professor of French and Interim Chair of the Foreign Language Department. I have taught



French courses at all levels, from language to civilization, literature, cinema and Business. My research has focused on Guillaume Apollinaire and the Avant-Garde [my dissertation topic] and the teaching of Business French. In the past 21 years, I have published several books/chapters in books in Europe and in the US, many articles in international journals and I have participated in international conferences, particularly the Colloque de Stavelot, the Apollinaire conference in Belgium. I am also the co-author of the Apollinaire official Web Site which has become extremely popular: [www.wiu.edu/Apollinaire/](http://www.wiu.edu/Apollinaire/). My latest research projects include several chapters in the upcoming *Dictionnaire Apollinaire*, éditions Honoré Campion, the introduction to the Italian translation of Apollinaire's theater [I also helped with the translation] and articles on "Teaching Business French with Microsimulation". At a per-

*continued on page 14*

sonal level, I have traveled extensively in Africa, Asia, and Europe. I spend every summer in Paris, France.

### Jaime O'Dell (B.A. 2002, M.A. 2004)

Bonjour tout le monde! I'm in my 6<sup>th</sup> year of teaching French 1-4 at a college-prep high school in Tacoma, Washington (Charles Wright Academy). I get to plan trips and take students to France every couple of years. This February, we're visiting Paris and the Loire Valley castles, where the history and language we've been studying will come to life. My years in the RLL have served me well, especially TA-ing and working in France. A plus tard!

Jaime O'Dell  
Upper School French, Cross Country  
Charles Wright Academy  
253.620.8358  
[jodell@charleswright.org](mailto:jodell@charleswright.org)

### Pamela Paine (Ph.D. 2000)

Currently Associate Professor of French at Auburn University, Dr. Paine is also serving as Director of the Undergraduate French Program. For the past two years, she was the Director of the Study Abroad

Program in Paris. She continues to attend various conferences and present research on 20<sup>th</sup> century and contemporary French writers (including Maryse Condé, Benoit DuTeurtre, Christiane Rochefort, Simone de Beauvoir, and others). In 2010-2011, she received the College of Liberal Arts Teaching Award in the Humanities. Dr. Paine will be retiring in May, 2012

### Barbara Petrosky (Ph.D. 2006)

L'année dernière j'ai présenté deux communications: « Comment étudier *Entre les murs*: un plan de cours pour les niveaux intermédiaire et avancé ». NEMLA (North Eastern Modern Language Association) at Rutgers University, 7-10 April 2011, ainsi que « Japonisme et représentations du Japon: *Les Cahiers* de Pierre Loti et Félix Régamey ». 23<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Foreign Language Conference. Duquesne University, 24-25 September 2010. Cet article a été publié en août dans le journal *Rondas Literarias de Pittsburgh*. Duquesne University 2009-2010. J'ai aussi publié un compte-rendu de livre: Pierre Taminiaux. *The Paradox of Photography*. Amsterdam, New York: Rodopi, 2009 in *The French Review* 84.4 (March 2011. ) Je m'apprête à présenter une communica-

tion à Duquesne University sur Flaubert durant le *Pennsylvania Foreign Language Conference* en septembre. J'ai posé ma candidature pour être titularisée et promue au rang de Associate Professor of French and Spanish. Je devrais avoir une réponse au printemps. Finalement, je suis enceinte et la naissance est pour le mois de mars. Olivier vient d'avoir sept ans et est rentré en 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

### David Petrosky (Ph.D. 2009)

David a enseigné une section de Français élémentaire au printemps et à l'automne, et il vient d'être embauché de manière plus formelle en tant que lecteur pour enseigner deux sections de ESL à des étudiants étrangers. Avec Barbara, il a commencé une traduction de *Robert le diable* en anglais.

### Jennifer Svienty (M.A. 1999)

Jennifer completed her Ph.D. in French at Emory University where she has been a Visiting Assistant Professor for the past three years but she will be relocating to Central Florida where her fiancé is established. She hopes to find a job in the area.



## INTERVIEW WITH DR. ALIOUNE SOW *by Dr. Carol Murphy*

**Q** Congratulations, Alioune, on your tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Tell us about your recently published book.

**A.** The book is titled *Vestiges et vertiges: récits d'enfances dans les littératures africaines*. It was published in May 2011 by Artois Presses Université, the academic press of the Université d'Artois, which has a collection of monographs in the field of childhood literary studies.

**Q.** How does your book contribute to the field of childhood literary studies?

**A.** The book deals with childhood in African literary productions, which is a crucial topic, a critical literary fact, and a recurrent and highly strategized literary practice. The book examines changing narrative forms, symbolic protagonists and contrasted children's rhetoric and perspectives.

**Q.** What are the broad outlines of your study?

**A.** Building on the analysis and commentaries of Richard Coe, Jacques Lecarme, Franco Moretti, Simon Gikandi and Mohamadou Kane, the book engages with the dominant modes of readings of childhood narratives in French and Francophone literatures, as well as the current criticism on African autobiography, memoirs and, of course, childhood narratives. It focuses on narrative specificities, competitive representations of childhood and critical and often controversial receptions of texts such as Camara Laye's *L'enfant noir*, Soyinka's *Aké the years of childhood* or Kourouma's *Allah n'est pas obligé*.



**Q.** What texts did you choose and why?

**A.** To conduct the analysis, I have juxtaposed several Francophone and Anglophone narratives, autobiographies and fictions, canonical and non-canonical, recent and non recent, in an attempt to first emphasize the existing literary history of the genre; second to disclose and contrast varied literary conventions and discuss the ideological determinations of the narratives and, third, to trace and evaluate the shifting imaginaries associated with childhood.

**Q.** What theoretical and literary critical approaches informed your analysis?

**A.** In the book, I have engaged with theoretical propositions concerning the "African bildungsroman," its conventions, its modalities and its ideologies. Using texts that have been somehow neglected but would deserve greater attention, such as Massa Makan Diabaté's *Comme une piquête de guêpe*, I show how the phenomenology of what Gikandi has called "the colonial bildungsroman" can be augmented by narratives, which rely on configurations and ideologies which are totally divergent from those usually convoked to refer and describe this genre.

**Q.** So, in fact, your study has helped to reshape notions of the "bildungsroman" genre as it has evolved in African literary production.

**A.** In a way I have attempted to problematize the representations and narrative conventions associated with the writings of childhood by looking at how a text such as Henri Lopes' *Le chercheur d'Afriques* with his eccentric and biracial character can nuance some of the binarisms on which most of the commentaries on childhood in African literatures have been constructed. Using texts such as Oyono's *Une vie de boy*, Konaté's *Fils du chaos*, I have also tried to demonstrate how the fragmented childhood narratives can provide different and complementary aspects to describe the modern African tragedy. I also try to trace the new textual identities and innovative modalities imposed by a figure such as the child soldier used by writer such as Iweala with *Beasts of no nation*.

**Q.** What conclusions did you arrive at in your re-examination of African childhood narratives?

**A.** The ambition of the book is to demonstrate the heterogeneity of childhood narratives and examine their critical literary and ideological functions, which are both to reveal the complex dynamics of African experiences and provide alternative engagement with key historical moments. In this respect, the book argues that "childhood" has inherited an unexpected function in the African literary productions, similar to what Franco Moretti considers to be the function of "youth" in European literature that is "the meaning of life" and "the specific material sign" of the transformations of societies.

**Q.** Recently, you were awarded a highly competitive grant at UF, the Faculty Enhancement Opportunity grant (FEO). Félicitations! Tell us about your new research project.

**A.** The purpose of this grant is to conduct research in Bamako, Mali and to complete a study, which I have started few years ago. This research focuses on memoirs and testimonies about the period of the military dictatorship in Mali, written in the aftermath of the democratic transition of 1991. The study critically examines a selection of narratives authored by politicians, former political prisoners, as well as confessions and testimonies written by former military officers, soldiers, civil servants and journalists. It traces and analyzes the literary patterns and configurations, modes of readings, circulation and impacts of such narratives in order to better capture and reflect on the new relationships between literature and politics in democratic Mali.

**Q.** Why Mali?

**A.** I have been working on the Malian literary productions for many years now and I believe these new publications are significant in the study of memoirs and biographies as they provide new forms but also new models of reception and clearly indicate a renewal in the literary history of the country. I also believe that these narratives help us understand better the post-independence period of the country. For personal reasons as I am also originally from Mali and I lived some of these events.

**Q.** What do you hope to achieve in this new study?

**A.** Obviously the goals of the study are to raise questions about modes of engagement with the past; address issues of accountability, personal and collective memory; and consider issues of rehabilitation and charged memory politics during a phase in which the country is trying to come to terms with its past.

**Q.** What progress have you made so far on the project?

**A.** I have conducted several interviews in Bamako, and hopefully I will be able to use this oral documentation to enlarge and better understand political and literary cultures of memory in Mali. Using the oral documentation will also allow me to combine and evaluate different modes of bibliographical research, and investigate new avenues for the studies of biographies and autobiographies in Mali. The people I have interviewed include authors and editors of the memoirs but also political figures of the country and artists.

**Q.** What will this new book-length project contribute to African Studies scholarship, especially as concerns literary production?

**A.** The aim of the study is to participate in the wider debate in the African continent on memory and testimony especially on some of the most obscure moments related to military dictatorships; and at the same time provide new resources for students and scholars of Africa in general and Mali in particular to understand better the mechanisms of democratic transition. Ultimately the goal is to contribute to new perspectives on national African literary production and their relations to politics.





## French & Francophone Studies Newsletter

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