

# FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE STUDIES

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**UF** UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

## A WORD FROM THE COORDINATOR OF THE FRENCH SECTION

*Dr. Sylvie Blum-Reid*

Dear Alumni and friends of French Studies,

The past academic year has been diverse and busy for all of us as confirmed by the colleagues and students' contributions in this newsletter. Since last year, we have seen some of our students graduate and move on to other areas of studies or work, nationally and internationally. We are always eager to hear from all of you through various means and the new Facebook page *University of Florida French Friends and Alumni* helps maintain our connections.

We sent a good number of undergraduate students to the study abroad program organized and led by Dr. Hélène Blondeau, last summer in Paris. Some applied to teach in France. Three of our graduate students benefitted from the Atkin Fellowship and went for research trips in Paris. Their

research is featured here ("News from our current graduate students"). The Ernest G. Atkin Memorial Endowment Fund is a fellowship that supports graduate research or study in summer or fall.

Several undergraduate students received the generous support of the J. Wayne Conner award to study abroad. The two recipients of the Conner awards in French and Francophone Studies for Study Abroad are Georgia Eloisier (FFS) and Mikaela C. Harris, (English & FFS). We are also pleased to report that Cassidy Howell, (International Studies & FFS minor) was the recipient of one of the Diamond scholarships for her participation in the *UF Paris Culture and Language in Context* abroad. The Diamond Scholarship is a legacy of our former student Kathleen Diamond (see "News from Alumni"). We are grateful for such generous support.



Chair person and colleagues in French at the reception for the French ambassador's visit to UF. From left to right: Dr. Blondeau, Dr. Bloom, Dr. Antes and Dr. Watt. More photos from the reception on page 12.

We are already planning ahead for next summer's program.

We happily participated in French Ambassador François Delattre's visit at UF on April 26, 2013. We gathered with colleagues and students for a reception in his honor at the President's house. He gave a talk underlining the importance of innovative research sectors, both private and public, a top priority for the French government. He visited different parts of our campus such as the Nanoscience Institute for Medical and Engineering Technology, The Harn museum of Modern Art, and the France-Florida Research Institute de-

voted to collaborative research and exchange programs between the two countries. His visit was part of a dynamic tour of North Florida, a moment which celebrated the partnership between France and Florida and which commemorated 450 years of French history on the first coast. Ambassador Delattre visited Fort Caroline, a settlement established in 1564. He also gave the commencement address speech at the Graduate Award ceremony.

The France-Florida Research Institute (and its director Dr. Alioune Sow) was instrumental in the production of an

*continued on page 4*

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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# FACULTY NEWS

## Theresa Antes

It has been an interesting and productive year for me. Following several years of committee work to create the new AP French Language and Culture curriculum and exam, I was commissioned by the College Board to write a curriculum module for high school teachers. This module, entitled "Les Civilisations traditionnelles se modernisent" was published in Fall 2012 and is distributed to AP French teachers as a model unit for their own curriculum development, illustrating how to integrate authentic literary and journalistic texts, along with audio and video recordings, into an interdisciplinary classroom focused on 21st century language skills, and thus practicing interpretive reading and listening, and interpersonal and presentational speaking and writing. It was a privilege to be chosen to author these materials, and I hope that as students prepare for the exam, they will grow in their understanding of the French-speaking world.

At the same time, I continued my research into various aspects of second language acquisition, focusing particular on acquisition of the lexicon. I am primarily interested currently in how second-language learners acquire binomial expressions such as salt and pepper, and have an article ready for submission following a semester-long study conducted in Spring 2013. In this article, I examine whether these expressions constitute a psycholinguistic reality for learners; that is, whether they are truly aware of these expressions as frozen expressions, invariable in word order. While a non-issue grammatically, from an idiomatic point of view producing 'pepper and salt' marks one as a non-native speaker immediately, yet these expressions often escape the notice of even advanced learners. A second article, looking at the effect of pedagogical interventions, will follow.

## Hélène Blondeau

For this new edition of the newsletter, I am pleased to report the publication of two book chapters. The first one "Advancing the change? Contact-induced influences and inherent tendencies in variation among pronouns with indefinite reference in Quebec French" appeared in the volume *The interplay of variation and change in contact settings* edited by Isabelle Léglise and Christiane Chamoreau (Benjamins). The second one "Instability of the [r] ~ [R] alternation in Montreal French: An exploration of

stylistic conditioning in a sound change in progress," written in collaboration with Gillian Sankoff, and edited by Lorenzo Spreafico and Alessandro Vietti was published by Bozen University Press under the title *Rhotics. New data and perspectives*. In addition, my article "Future temporal reference in the bilingual repertoire of Anglo-Montrealers: A twin variable" was published online-first and will soon appear in the *International Journal of Bilingualism*. This article, written with two of my former students, Zoe Ziliak - who recently earned her Ph.D. in Linguistics from UF - and Nathalie Dion - from Ottawa University, illustrates the collaborative nature of my sociolinguistic research

Since last year I have pursued my collaborative research project *Le français à la mesure d'un continent* funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada. In this context I traveled to Canada to continue my fieldwork in a Montreal francophone neighborhood in collaboration with Mireille Tremblay from Université de Montréal and France Martineau from University of Ottawa. I also organized a colloquium at Université Laval, in Quebec City in collaboration with another co-investigator of our research project Mourad Al-Khodja from Université de Moncton. In addition, with the support of the France-Florida Research Institute, I organized in November 2012 a workshop at UF on the topic of corpus linguistics in North America, followed by a panel on Francophone language practices at the annual meeting of the American Council of Quebec Studies in Sarasota. Finally I presented papers related to this research project in the US, Canada, Brazil and France.

I particularly enjoyed spending part of my summer in the city of lights where I led the study abroad program *UF in Paris: Culture and Language in Context*. While in France I took the opportunity to go to Perpignan and Nancy where I presented two conference papers, co-authored with my colleague Mireille Tremblay, on pronominal variation in Montreal French. I was also pleased to supervise Robyn Novak who successfully completed the MA requirements and defended her thesis on discourse markers in Quebec French last summer. Now in my capacity of undergraduate coordinator for French and Francophone Studies I advise our undergraduate students regarding their progress toward their Minor, Major and their many study abroad options in the French and Francophone world. Feel free to stop by my office!

## Rori Bloom

Thanks to a grant from the CLAS Humanities Scholarship Enhancement fund, I spent 4 weeks in Paris in summer 2013 working on a project on description in the tales of Madame d'Aulnoy. In Paris, I was able to consult sources (especially illustrated volumes) in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and visit collections at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs and Versailles, and I plan to publish my findings in a future article or two! This research also informs two of my teaching endeavors in fall 2013: a new graduate course on women writers in Old Regime France as well as two guest lectures in the College of Engineering IMOS (Impact of Materials on Society) course. I have also been invited to return to my work on the abbé Prévost to contribute an essay to a volume on prison escapes in the Old Regime edited by colleagues whom I've gotten to know through participation in the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. I have also been asked to organize the 2015 SEASECS annual meeting in Gainesville and am working on the arrangements for that already. Finally, I continue to enjoy my interaction with our graduate students at the M.A. and Ph.D. levels in my role as Graduate Coordinator for the program in French and Francophone Studies.

## Sylvie Blum-Reid

I attended The Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association annual conference in Seattle (October 2012) and presented a paper on "Le dictionnaire du savoir-vivre pour la femme des années soixante," for one of the *Women in French* sessions. In summer 2013, I conducted research in France and supervised Debbie Parrales's independent study project exploring Nadja's manuscripts for André Breton's *Nadja*. Debbie's project was generously funded by an Atkin scholarship. With her assistance, I organized the on-campus visit of Anne Touraine, (March 2013) a Science Po alumna and fashion expert, who gave a talk on luxury brands and marketing for the Fashion and Women film class. My essay on « Transatlantic Beauvoir » is slotted to appear in an upcoming volume on the philosopher "Simone de Beauvoir: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" edited by Andrea Duranti and Matteo Tuveri, Cambridge Scholars Publishing. I am planning my next 2 film classes devoted to the study of auteur Jean Renoir (spring 2014) and enjoying my current classes on European cinemas and French Composition writing.

## William Calin

April to August 2013 I spent at the University of Toronto. Why? Summer in Gainesville is an acquired taste, and I'm a slow learner. Also, to be on hand at the University of Toronto Press, to read page proof, to recruit an indexer, to recruit a proof reader, etc. — for my next book, *The Lily and the Thistle: The French Tradition and the Older Literature of Scotland*. This will be a big one, over 400 pages. It is scheduled for late 2013.

**Articles:** "A French Legacy in Scotland: Arthurian Romance," in *Moult a sans et vallour: Studies in Medieval French Literature in Honor of William W. Kibler*, ed. Monica L. Wright et al. (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2012), 67-98; "Reading Fabliaux: *Le povre clerc* and *The Freiris of Berwik* in *Fresch Fontanis: Studies in the Culture of Medieval and Early Modern Scotland*, ed. Janet Hadley William and J. Derrick McClure (Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013), 75-84. Also, a book review of Philippe Carrard, *The French Who Fought for Hitler: Memories from the Outcasts*, in *Contemporary French Civilization* 37.1 (2012): 113-14.

**Papers:** "On the Geographic Margin of the Arthurian Canon and World: *Le Roman de Fergus*," at the American Comparative Literature Association annual congress, Toronto, April 2013; "Scandal at the Court: Mary Queen of Scots' Libidinous French Poetry," at the Forty-eighth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2013; "The Provençal Margin Finds a Place in the Paris Center: Edmond Rostand's Play *La Princesse lointaine*," at the Twenty-eighth Conference on Medievalism, St. Norbert College, October 2013.

The Comparative Literature conference was fun. In my session a demented lady from southern California declared that Guinevere is a goddess from the old Celtic days, and that she was not respected in the medieval poems because women couldn't go out on quests and win battles. Today women can go on quests and win battles. We had better return to worshipping Guinevere or we will be in big trouble.

Fall 2013 I am teaching 4000/6000 Poetry of the Renaissance: Eight Poets from the Golden Age. Of course, I stretch the usual boundaries of the Renaissance, beginning with Charles d'Orléans and Villon and ending with La Fontaine. I hope the students don't walk out...

## Benjamin Hebblethwaite

This year, in the context of the UF-Duke NEH-funded Vodou Archive project, myself and several others (Tahiri Jean-Baptiste, Megan Raitano, Erin Zavitz, Rose-Laure Jean-Joseph, Richard Freeman, etc.) have published over 200 videos from ceremonies and interviews, many photographs, and hundreds of pages of transcribed and translated texts, including interviews and songs from Vodou music recordings (see [www.dloc.com/vodou](http://www.dloc.com/vodou)). In the summer of 2013, UF undergraduate, Rongeline François and I established the Haitian Creole Qur'an Project, and we have draft translations of several sura. This year I published or co-published the articles, "Scholarly Publishing in the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC)" (Taylor et al 2013 in *Library Publishing Toolkit*, 351-58). Mariana Past and I published an excerpt from *Ti difé boulé sou istoua Ayiti [Controversial Issues in Haitian History]*, Michel-Rolph Trouillot's (1977) Haitian Creole study of the Haitian Revolution and War of Independence (2013 *Transition*, 111, 74-89). I published an article about brain drain or human capital flight in the *Encyclopedia of Crisis Management* (2013, 56-58). In August 2013, Mariana Past (Dickinson College) and I were awarded a National Endowment of the Arts translation award of \$12,500 to fund the completion of our work on Trouillot's (1977) *Controversial Issues in Haitian History*. I gave presentations at Duke, FSU, UF, travelled twice to Haiti for fieldwork, and taught Haitian Creole at FIU for 4 weeks.

## Carol Murphy

Carol Murphy spent the month of July in Paris finishing her research on the *Jean Paulhan-Jean Fautrier Correspondence* at both the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France* and the *Institut Mémoires de l'Edition Contemporaine (IMEC)* at the Abbaye de l'Ardenne in Caen. In March 2013, she presented a paper on Julien Gracq at the annual 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century International French and Francophone Studies Colloquium organized by the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. In 2014, she will be active in celebrating the centenary of Marguerite Duras's birth. She has organized a panel, *Duras à cent ans (1914-2014): capital concerns*, for the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century French and Francophone Studies Colloquium in March 2014 in New York City where she will present a paper along with Profes-

sors Martin Crowley of the University of Cambridge and Florence de Chalonge of the Université de Lille. In addition she has been invited to participate in the week-long Cerisy-la-Salle Conference dedicated to Duras scholarship, August 16-23, 2014, in Cerisy-la-Salle, France. The title of her paper is "Ecrire à l'infinif: des territorialités durassiennes." She is also an active contributor to the *Dictionnaire Duras* to be published in 2015. Recently, she was selected as a member of the Selection Committee for the annual prize "Prix Recherche au présent" that is awarded to the best conference presentation by a graduate students at the annual 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century Colloquium. This fall, in addition to teaching an advanced French conversation class, she is offering a course that is cross-listed with Women's Studies, "Modern Families: Representations of the Family in Works by 20<sup>th</sup> French Women Writers."

## Amanda Vincent

The past academic year has been full of personal and academic events. I organized and chaired a special session at the MLA Conference in Boston this past January on "The Spatial Turn in French Studies." In February, I presented my research on the Parc du Sausset at the Disciples of Flora colloquium organized by Dr. Weltman-Aron. After taking Fall 2012 off from teaching after the birth of my daughter, I have continued to teach Commercial French, and have also taught the Corrective Phonetics course.

## Brigitte Weltman-Aron

In 2012-13, Brigitte Weltman-Aron published articles on the writings of two contemporary writers, Assia Djebar and Hélène Cixous. She also went to several conferences, including one at Toulouse devoted to the correspondence of the philosopher Denis Diderot, and another at the Sorbonne in Paris, titled "Voltaire et le sexe." In spite of the title, the conference was very serious and academic, and was an opportunity to meet or hear again several European eighteenth-century scholars from France, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. After having studied several years the stimulating books of Francophone Algerian writers, she will now concentrate on Rousseau and the eighteenth century in her next book project.



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

### CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

animated film on early traveler and artist Jacques Lemoyne, in partnership with UF's digital world institute (REVE) and the George A. Smathers Library. The film "The French in Florida 1562-1566" premiered in April. The movie showcases the historic sketches of the New World by Jacques Le Moyne, as engraved by Theodore de Bry; it is now touring the United States after

being shown at the Historic Florida Capitol museum in Tallahassee.

The Institute (FFRI) also sponsored a series of events that put the university of the map, such as the 17<sup>th</sup> international festival of women composers, organized by Dr. Miriam Zach and held at the Baughman Center and Dragan Kujundzic's film premiere "Frozen Time,

Liquid Memories (1942-2012)."

The newsletter allows us to continue our mission of supporting scholarly excellence, and international visibility. Our faculty members and students' contributions illustrate this commitment. We are pleased to share news from our alumni as they demonstrate the scope of French outside of the classroom.

## EMERITUS NEWS

### **Bernadette Cailler**

As announced in our previous Newsletter, **Bernadette Cailler** was invited to present papers at two international conferences held in honor of Aimé Césaire's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday: 1) "Aimé Césaire: Héritage et Hommage chez Abdourahman Waberi (*Moisson de crânes: textes pour le Rwanda*, 2000), Derek Walcott ("Elegy"—For Aimé Césaire", 2010), et Nancy Morejón ("Aimé Césaire", 2010). Sponsored by the Centre Césairien d'Etudes et de Recherches, Martinique, 24-28 June. 2) "La 'grande douloureuse douceur' (E. Glissant) d'Aimé Césaire: à propos de *Ferremets* (1960)", Cerisy-la-Salle, Normandie, 4-11 September (Paris-Sorbonne, Rennes University, and Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar). Both papers will be published in the proceedings, the text presented at Cerisy in a special issue of *Présence Africaine*, Paris.

She is scheduled to present a paper in November 2013 at the 13<sup>th</sup> international conference on Caribbean Literature (ICCL), in Panama City, Panama. Her paper is entitled: "La guerre et ses récits: richesses et problématiques du carnet/cahier dans *Shaba deux. Les carnets de Mère Marie-Gertrude* (V.Y. Mudimbe, 1989), et dans *L'archet du colonel* (R. Confiant, 1998)".

Here are some more details regarding the publications announced in the previous Newsletter: 1) "Interfaces. Whitman et Glissant", in *Francofonie* 63, Autunno 2012, Bologna, Italia: Le frémissement de la lecture. Parcours littéraires d'Edouard Glissant. Carminella Biondi, Elena Pessini (dir.), 71-91. 2) "Rêves sur les funérailles religieuses d'Edouard Glissant" in *Revue des Sciences Humaines*, France. No. 309, Janvier-Mars 2013: Entours d'Edouard Glissant, Valérie Loichot (dir.), 239-250. 3) "Pour une vie autre: Réflexions sur la vie quotidienne (1972) de Valentin Y. Mudimbe", in *Entre Inscriptions et Prescriptions*. V.Y. Mudimbe et l'engendrement de la parole. Etudes réunies par Justin K. Bisanswa (Paris: Honoré Champion Editeur), 127-138, June 2013. 4) "Interface: Aimé Césaire's 'Poésie et connaissance' and Lorand Gaspar's *Approche de la parole* Revisited". *Comparative Literature Studies* 50, no. 3 (2013): 415-29.

**In press:** 1) Review of: *Aimé Césaire. Du fond d'un pays de silence..., une édition critique de Ferremets par Lilyan Kesteloot, René Hénane et M. Souley Ba*. Paris: Orizons, "Profil d'un classique", 2012, 329 p., in *Nouvelles Etudes Franco-phones*.

**Forthcoming:** 1) Schœlcher, Briand, Mandela, ou la force de regarder demain par les voix de Césaire, Perse et Glissant"; 2) "Terre natale, terre d'accueil, terres vécues: créativité poétique et pensée complexe chez Hédi Bouraoui", The Canada-Mediterranean Centre, York University.

**Raymond Gay-Crosier** used the year commemorating Albert Camus's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday (November 7, 2013) for several final public appearances and editorial commitments. At the March 2013 international symposium held on the campus of Boise State University (Idaho), he gave the keynote presentation entitled "Exiled in a spiritual geography: Albert Camus's road to values". "Si Cerisy 1982 vous était conté", intended as his formal "discours d'adieu" to another international gathering of professional colleagues, was held at the August 2013 second Camus conference in Cerisy-la-Salle. As organizer of the 1982 *décade* in Cerisy-la-Salle and co-founder

of the *Société des Études Camusiennes*, which by now has a worldwide membership of over 450 scholars, he selected this unique location for his official farewell address. Both presentations will be published in their respective proceedings. Over the last couple of years, he has systematically relinquished to competent successors several positions held for decades: vice-president of the *Société* and coordinator of its North American section (1982-2012), founding coordinator of the online critical bibliography on Camus (1990-2013), editor-in-chief of the Camus series (1986-2013, Minard, Lettres Modernes), assistant editor for literary criticism of the *French Review* (1986-2012). Last year, for the voluminous *Cahier de l'Herne Camus*, which he was invited to direct, he secured the help of a co-editor. Published in September 2013, it has already gathered a host of good reviews. It also led to several substantial interviews with Parisian and Swiss newspapers. As before, he continues to be in charge of the corrections of periodic reprints of the four volumes of Camus's *Œuvres complètes* in Gallimard's Pléiade collection. His last work in progress is an interactive web page on the holdings of UF's special Camus collection that he assembled over several decades and that is still growing. It contains manuscripts, audio files, unpublished correspondences, first editions, and the assembly of a vast amount of documents related to ten years of preparation of the Pléiade edition.

# STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

by Dr. Hélène Blondeau

## UF in Paris: Culture and Language in Context

Fifteen UF students embarked upon a journey with Dr. Hélène Blondeau and spent the month of July exploring the city of lights. Students took part in the study abroad program *UF in Paris: Culture and Language in Context*, and, through two complementary courses, students were immersed not only in the French language but in the contemporary culture and the French art. The way the program was designed gave the students had an in-depth, on-site opportunity for intellectual growth.

In the course *French in the city: Interaction and Variation* taught by Dr. Blondeau, students used Paris as their sociolinguistic laboratory and observed language use in its social context. The course was complemented by visits of unique collections, fieldwork experiments in public places such as French cafés and public markets. Many hands-on activities were organized around neighborhood visits, cheese and pastries hunting and tastings, etc. Students also attended lectures from guest speakers such as Francoise Gadet, a sociolinguist who investigates Multicultural Parisian French, and Sophie Bailly, a specialist of language and gender.

The second course *French Art and Contemporary Culture* was taught by a Parisian instructor. Mr. Pierre de la Bâthie designed his class to spend little time in the classroom and most of the time out in the city using the cultural resources of Paris. Students went not only to well-known museums such as the Louvre, Orsay and Pompidou but also visited other collections at the Jacquemard Museum, the Palais de Tokyo, the Petit Palais, etc. They even did a scavenger hunt all over Montmartre to test their knowledge and create their own video performance.

In addition, students did a boat tour on the Seine River and went on a day trip in Normandy, where they visited the Monet's gardens in Giverny. During their stay they had the opportunity to live with a Parisian host family and share some meals with them. Here is what Dr. Blondeau had to say when she came back from Paris:

*Having brought this wonderful group of students to Paris has reinforced my passion for the French language and culture. Sharing the study abroad experience with them has been a very rewarding aspect of my professional life and I was excited to see my students change their view during the course of the program. I believe that such a stay abroad, not only shapes the UF undergraduate experience, but is truly transformative at the individual level.*

Dr. Blondeau will repeat the experience in 2014 during Summer A. An overnight excursion outside of Paris is planned for the upcoming Summer A program. Please visit the webpage and the UFIC website to find more information about the program.



Students enjoying their time in Paris



# SCIENCES PO EXCHANGE PROGRAM: UF'S RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH L'INSTITUT D'ETUDES POLITIQUES

by Dr. Carol Murphy

UF's partnership with the internationally renowned Institut d'études politiques in Paris was established in 2002 and continues to be a vibrant study abroad program for exceptional UF students interested in pursuing their studies in Political Science, International Relations and language and cultural studies relevant to their chosen areas of expertise. UF is one of only 61 American universities to have a reciprocal exchange agreement with Sciences Po and sends annually 8 to 10 qualified students to Paris or one of the other six Sciences Po centers in France offering specialized area studies in social sciences.

At Menton, for instance, students are taught Arabic as part of their advanced studies of the Middle East, the Mediterranean and the Gulf. The campus at Poitiers offers content courses in Spanish as well as in English on Latin American affairs, Spain and Portugal. Students at Dijon focus on Central and Eastern Europe, at Le Havre they explore the links between Europe and Asia, and on the Nancy campus they examine Germany and the German-speaking world. Reims, the latest campus to be established, is a pôle of study for trans-Atlantic relations (Europe and North America). Dr. Carol Murphy is the Academic Advisor for UF students interested in studying in France, and she works with Andrea Harris of the UF International Center (UFIC) who ensures a smooth transition of credits and course equivalencies for our outgoing students. In addition, UF welcomes Sciences Po students to Gainesville, under the direction of Lyn Straka of UFIC. This year, 9 Sciences Po students are studying at UF.

Two of our students have written to us about their experiences. Brett Helms, an International Studies major with minors in French and Arabic, is in Menton for the academic year 2013-2014, and Renato Barredo, a Political Science major, has just returned to UF from a year abroad at the Sciences Po campuses in Poitiers and Menton. Their emails are a powerful testimony to the value of study abroad.

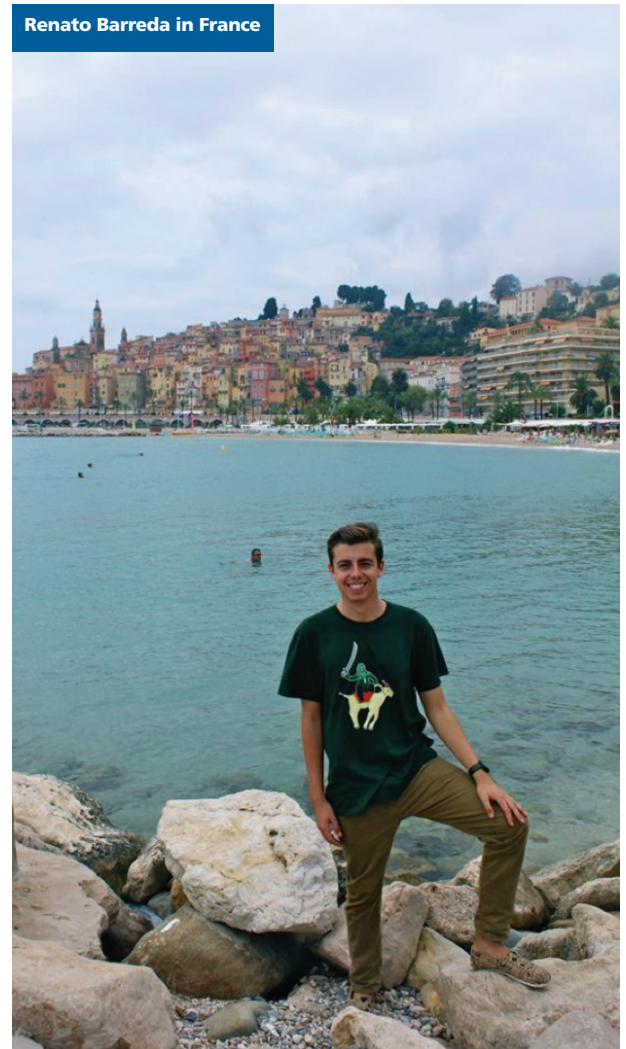
*Bonjour Dr. Murphy! It's been about a month so far that I've been settled into the Menton campus of Sciences Po. I have met so many interesting students from all around the world. There are 47 nationalities represented here in Menton this year. I'm taking 3 languages, French, Arabic, and Spanish, and two lecture courses, Arab Cinema and International Relations. I've become active in student life on campus by joining the BDE list (Bureau des*

*Élèves), as well as becoming a member of Amnesty International. My campus just hosted a "Weekend Inter-campus" the 27-29 of September with the participation of students from the campuses of Dijon, Nancy, Reims, Paris, and Europe-Afrique. It was an amazing, fun-filled weekend and it was great to see all of the hard work and planning of the BDE come to fruition. Overall my experience here has been amazing and it has exceeded my expectations. I'm looking forward to 8 more months of the French Riviera life! -Brett Helms*

*Poitiers and Menton were both very similar yet very unique Sciences Po experiences. Sciences Po allowed me to form life-long friendships as well as to learn and explore my intellectual, linguistic, cultural and even physical boundaries. I was able to take on challenging, university-level coursework in Spanish, my native language, for the first time. It allowed me to learn a whole new alphabet (Arabic) in a very stimulating setting. It pushed me to expand my cultural barriers and found me speaking "frañol" (español and français) with Italians and Brazilians. And it even allowed me to follow my hobby of cycling to a whole new level, cycling through ten major French cities, over the Pyrénées, completing nearly one thousand miles of "couchsurfing" (using the couchsurfing.org website to reduce my small budget), meeting locals, tasting local plates and specialties, even making a montage video*

*of my long trips... and of course seeing France the way even most Frenchmen I know haven't gotten to see. Overall I was fortunate to find myself in these circumstances, and I think that charming France was in a way the muse that allowed me paint my travels in ways that made the land and the Institut d'études politiques too great to ever escape yet small enough to explore through two short semesters. Best. Renato Barredo. Go Gators!*

Renato Barredo in France



# NEWS FROM OUR STUDENTS

## Current Grad Students

### Michelle Brown

What an amazing month it has been so far! Since I've started at UF in August, I've met some wonderful and genuinely dedicated people in the department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. The three classes I take, plus the beginning French course I teach five days a week, keep me busy and serve as a reminder of why I decided to pursue language as a career. It has also taken me all over the country and the globe; for example, I spent my last birthday dining at a seventh-arrondissement café near *la tour Eiffel* and climbing the steps of *Les Arènes de Nîmes* and *le Tour Magne* in Languedoc-Roussillon. This is where my career in language has taken me... so far.



Michelle Brown at the Les Arènes de Nîmes, Languedoc-Roussillon, France

Until now, I have spent the last nine years in Las Cruces, New Mexico where I obtained my honors bachelors degree in French Language with a supplemental major in Linguistics and a minor in Medieval Studies. I am currently pursuing the Linguistics track in the French department with a whole head full of interests and plenty of class options to explore. The university and the department are both very accommodating, and I am sincerely looking forward to my next three semesters at the University of Florida. Allez Gators!

### Lakhdar Choudar (ABD)

Lakhdar Choudar has accepted a lectureship in Arabic at the University of Chicago.

### Delin Deng

I am from Chengdu, China. I am new to the program. I am in the French linguistic track, and the program here is just amazing. I really enjoy the courses I am taking right now in UF. I like the chances of being able to have different opinions and ideas in class. Even though I have not been here for long, I already feel that I have made some progress. I am now working as research assistant for Dr. Blondeau in a worldwide phonetic research program. I am new to the research group but I think I will enjoy and love my work with these amazing people. Being an international student here, I encountered many problems at the beginning, but the professors and classmates here are really caring, they always ask me if everything is doing ok or if I need any help. They are just a group of nice and sweet people. I am really glad that I came here.

### Josué Olson Dimanche

Since the last newsletter, I am on the board of Alliance Française

of Gainesville, and represented them, along with Debbie Parrales, at the Alliance Française Colloquium in Paris (July 2013). I have started my thesis, which holds the tentative title of "L'élaboration du lexique agricole en créole haïtien." I have also started the project of "Diksyonè agrikòl" the monolingual dictionary (in creole) focusing on an agricultural corpora.

I am teaching Haitian Creole 1, under Dr. Hebblethwaite. I am working with Dr. Blondeau on the project "Le français à la mesure d'un continent"

### Ryant Gallant

I spent the summer in Paris on a Conner/Atkins Grant doing research for my M.A. thesis on Gender and Morphological Change in French in the 21st Century. Under the direction of Dr. Antes and Dr. Blondeau, I will be defending my thesis in February 2014. I plan on continuing on to a PhD in French Linguistics after graduation. I taught one section of FRE1131 over the summer and am currently teaching two sections of FRE1131 this semester.

### Richard Hendrie

Pendant le semestre de printemps, j'ai suivi la classe qui s'appelle Women and Fashion in French Film de docteur Blum. ma communication finale intitulée 'Coco Chanel sous l'Occupation: une accusation d'espionnage' (de 12 pages avec 14 principales sources consultées) portait sur Coco Chanel comme une femme qui s'est tournée contre sa patrie et a collaboré avec l'ennemi allemand durant l'Occupation. La liste de lecture pour l'été 2013, sous la houlette du docteur Blum, a inclus onze ouvrages et articles liés au cinéma français. A présent, je suis en Italie sur le campus de l'Université de Florence des Arts à Florence pour étudier la langue italienne.

### Elizabeth Ziffer

Elizabeth Ziffer is planning her master's thesis about a recent novel by Franco-Algerian author Leïla Marouane. This summer Ziffer read seven 20th century novels in French by Algerian writers to get a feel for some of Marouane's literary heritage. "This fall, as I study erotic poetry from the Renaissance (Dr. Calin) and women writers under the Ancien Régime (Dr. Bloom), I ponder the fact that profound self-awareness and exquisite humor is centuries old in the French literary tradition," says Ziffer. "Marouane's work, though controversial to many, may well be as important today in the 'contexte maghrébin' as Louise Labé's and Mme de Villedieu's in the 16th and 17th centuries!" Ziffer wants to thank her advisor, Dr. Weltman-Aron for setting her on this fascinating path.



# Graduate school & teaching through my perspective

by Debbie Parrales

I am fortunate to say that I did my undergrad at UF with a major in French and a minor in History. I decided that I wasn't ready to leave Gainesville and that I wanted to pursue my higher education by staying at UF and going to grad school. Of course, I chose to continue my French studies... because it really is my passion. But I never imagined how much I would enjoy Grad school. Was it only because I enjoy intensive studies into French Literature? The truth is no. Getting a chance to continue to broaden my knowledge in French Studies had a lot to do with it, but having been given the chance to teach others in French gave me a new



perspective in life. Being chosen to act as a Teacher assistant and be the primary instructor of my own class made me realize how much I enjoy motivating others on the French language and on Francophone cultures. To my surprise, I learned that teaching and learning complement each other. And even though I can still get lost in a great French lit book, I found that I was waking up every day, looking forward to standing in front of a group of students so that I could take them into a world different from their own.

But my experience as a grad student, over the course of the last year, has definitely been two-fold. I discovered two new passions; a girl named Nadja, and teaching. I've talked a little about the teaching part, let me introduce you to Nadja. Who is Nadja? Well, that can be a complicated question. But to make a

long story short, Nadja is the main character in Andre Breton's one of many famous works. "Owner" of the Surrealist movement, Nadja becomes one of the most influential creatures that will move the author and allow him to truly take surrealism to a different level. I decided that I wanted to explore "Nadja" and in a different way explore the option of doing a thesis on the subject. I applied for the Atkin Fellowship to get the opportunity of doing research in Paris. I know that the Bibliotheque Jacques Doucet houses the "Nadja" manuscript. I wanted very badly to get my hands on it. To my surprise, I was awarded the fellowship that would enable me to spend 3 weeks in Paris accessing various libraries in Paris, as well as doing something a little different that would bring me closer to the author. In his book, Breton randomly runs into Nadja on the streets of Paris and although married, Breton begins a romantic adventure that challenges his state of mind and hers. In his book, Breton allows his audience to follow the relationship as they embark on a journey that takes them throughout the city of Paris. I wanted to follow in their footsteps; I wanted to see the places they visited together and in real life. I successfully did so. Even though revisiting there areas in Paris was incredibly moving and in itself 'surreal', it was my discover-

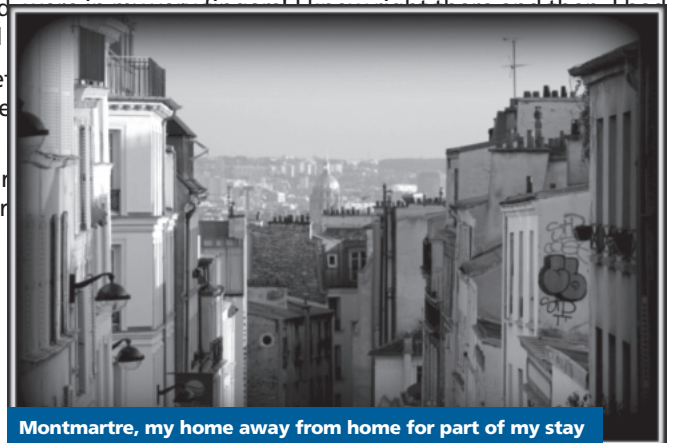


ies on what was supposed to be my last day at the Bibliotheque Jacques-Doucet that really left me in a state of shock. It was the last binder, and the one that I almost did not open. You see, it was a binder that I had not requested, purely because I was not aware of its existence. I opened it out of curiosity. What I found, were a collection of 27 letters and 3 additional drawings that Nadja sent to the author; 27 letters and 3 drawings that were not included in the original manuscript; 27 letters and 3 drawings that brought me closer to the Nadja character and showed me a side that was different than that of the author. Holding these letters in my very hands, reading her words, seeing her handwriting, these letters that were 96 years old found a treasure and

stayed with will be with me forever.

I cannot say that my last year as a graduate student has not been a r... can't forget to mention all of my professors and the entire LLC depart... support! I am thankful!

~Photography by Debbie Parrales





# ALUMNI NEWS

## Undergraduate Majors

### **Alex de Paula (B.A. 2003)**

Upon moving to São Paulo two years ago, I founded EncomendeUSA, a luxury goods and service provider focused on the Brazilian female professional. Visitors are received by appointment only, as every item displayed in the showroom is preselected according to the guest's body profile and tastes. Our e-commerce just launched this summer and EncomendeUSA is now looking to expand its physical locations in the next two years. I just got back from attending my first New York Fashion Week.

### **Ana Gonzalez (B.A. Honors 2012)**

Since graduating in May 2012, I moved to Washington D.C. and am currently a second-year student at The George Washington University Law School. Central to securing a spot in one of the nation's most prestigious International Law programs was my success in the French and Francophone Studies program at the University of Florida. While at UF, I seized various opportunities offered by the French curriculum, for example: studying abroad at L'Institut Catholique de Paris in 2010, gaining certification in Professional French from the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry with honorable mentions, writing a Senior Honors thesis in French film and literature, receiving a University Scholars Program grant for my thesis project to conduct research at the United States Holocaust Museum, as well as being awarded The Michael Hauptman Gold Medal for an outstanding graduating Senior in French Studies. My Undergraduate Honors thesis « Demystifying the Past : The Evolution of Jewish Memory in French Film » appears in the University of Florida *Journal of Undergraduate Research*, vol. 14, issue 2, Spring 2013.

All of these wonderful experiences were key factors in setting me apart from others competing for acceptance to one of the country's top law schools. The quality instruction I received from the faculty in French language, Francophone cultural studies, and French business customs will be indispensable for what I hope is an enriching career in international corpo-

rate transactions. In summer 2014, I will join the elite global law firm, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, in New York City. In addition to working on high-end, cross-border M&As for the Latin America Group, I will also spend six weeks at S&C's Paris office. There, I will work on finance matters involving clients such as Electricité de France, Suez Environnement S.A., and the French Government as a corporate shareholder. Looking to the future, I hope to split my practice between New York and France, becoming licensed in the Paris Bar within the next five years.

### **Sixtine Gurrey (B.A. 2012)**

Sixtine Gurrey wrote an honors thesis on 'Les femmes candidates de la présidentielle française' and graduated with the Highest Honors, December 2012. It was directed by Héloïse Seailles.

### **Sara Leslie (B.A. 2011)**

Après avoir enseigné le français dans un lycée en Caroline du Nord pendant un an, je me suis installée à Bloomington, IN où je poursuis des études avancées en linguistique française à Indiana University. J'espère obtenir mon diplôme de maîtrise en 2015 et continuer mes études en faisant un doctorat. J'adore la ville de Bloomington et le programme que j'effectue actuellement. Je vous encourage tous et toutes à me contacter si vous voudriez de plus amples informations: [saleslie@indiana.edu](mailto:saleslie@indiana.edu).

### **Kalin Linsberg (B.A. 2003)**

Kalin left for France in 2004, taught English for two years before heading to Paris where he ran an MBA program for 6 years. He's now working in film development producing micro budget features in Paris where he resides.

### **Erika Marcus (B.A. 2013)**

Erika is currently embarking on her teaching abroad program in the town of Niort, France and will teach in a primary school (2013-2014)

### **Jenna Nichols (B.A. 2011)**

Après avoir terminé mes études de premier cycle à UF en 2011 avec des spécialisations en français et en linguistique, je commence maintenant ma troisième année du programme doctoral en linguistique

française à l'Université du Texas à Austin. Pendant les deux dernières années, j'ai eu la chance de suivre des cours avancés dans divers domaines et départements au sein de ma nouvelle université, ce qui m'a permis d'obtenir mon MA en français en mai 2013. Mes intérêts de recherche ciblent surtout la sociophonétique et le bilinguisme avec une concentration particulière sur le français québécois et je suis très contente d'avoir pu faire des présentations à des conférences dans des destinations éloignées comme Chicago et Montréal. En ce moment, je continue à suivre des cours mais je commence aussi à enseigner le français aux débutants, ce qui me fait grand plaisir. Je prévois de passer un an au Québec pour mes recherches doctorales et je suis toujours reconnaissante à mes profs à UF qui m'ont toujours encouragée au début de ma carrière académique.

### **Lane Nieset (B.A. French, B.S. Journalism 2010)**

After graduating from UF and completing a six-month fellowship program at Time Inc., I accepted a position to teach English in France as part of the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) for the 2011-2012 school year. While I had no prior experience in teaching, this was an incredible opportunity that allowed me to learn more about French culture



Erika Marcus in Niort, France

*continued on page 10*

and the public school system, as well as share my culture with the high school students I worked with. I spent 12 hours a week at a lycée, teaching students of all levels (including post-bac) from ages 15-22. I worked with a great group of students and teachers who were curious about American culture and excited to welcome me to their school and town. I was also lucky enough to be placed in a school in the center of Nice, so in my spare time I explored the South of France and Monaco.

Living in France for an extended period of time really helped me improve my French—one of my main reasons for wanting to participate in the program—and experience a way of life completely different from what I was used to in the States. In the South of France, everyone went at a much slower pace and took the time to enjoy coffee, lunch, or even a beautiful, sunny day (I heard the term *profiter* a lot).

While in France and traveling throughout Europe in my spare time, I had the opportunity to freelance for a variety of publications and websites, including *The Riviera Times* in Nice and *HostelWorld*. When I returned to Miami after completing the program, I found a position working at a travel magazine, continuing doing what I love—traveling and writing—and I still spend my holidays in Nice.

## **Sara Zahler (B.A. French/Spanish 2010)**

I graduated with a B.A. in French and Spanish in 2010 from the University of Florida. Though I have taken the Spanish route by completing a M.A. in Hispanic Linguistics from the University of Florida and am currently completing a PhD in Hispanic Linguistics at Indiana University, I have nevertheless continued my French studies and research (and love doing so). My undergraduate honors thesis compared past tense aspect in Spanish and French (a project which earned me the distinction of *summa cum laude*), I completed an independent research project on French during my Master's under the supervision of Dr. Blondeau (which I have since presented at two conferences and will be published shortly), and I am cur-

rently planning on earning a PhD minor in French. Furthermore, I have a new project on French in its beginning stages. I attribute my graduate career success in French linguistics research to the collaborative and open nature of both the French department and Spanish and Portuguese department who allowed me to tailor my research interests to include Spanish and French, both in my undergraduate thesis research and during my Master's.

## Graduate Students

### **Christian Ahihou (Ph.D. 2012)**

His book *Ken Bugul – La langue littéraire* (Paris: L'Harmattan) has been published late May 2013. He also presented a paper on the reading of modern poetry at the "20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium" which was held in the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center, Atlanta, GA — March 28–30. The paper was entitled "Dans le langage poétique, le Mot, les traces et le reste: lecture de quelques poèmes d'Alcools de Guillaume Apollinaire." His article: "Littérature africaine et mobilités en Afrique: migrations et nouvelles approches de l'espace romanesque" is in submission for publication in December 2013. Still on the job market, Christian is currently enrolled in an LL.M. in Comparative Law Program where he enjoys the opportunity to enrich his interdisciplinary background in Social Sciences and Humanities.

### **Kathleen Kervin Diamond (M.A. 1969) Winchester, VA, October 1 2013**

The last few years have been active ones for those of us passionate about language learning, language studies and language services. Since my quasi retirement in 2011, I have stayed very involved with two important, newly formed organizations whose missions are centered on the enhancement of the profession of language experts.

First, I am a founding Commissioner on the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) which was formed in 2009 for the purpose of creating a national, valid, credible, vendor-neutral certification program for

interpreters in the healthcare field. This month we reached the mile marker of having 1000 holders of CCHI credentials. Currently, the certification program is available to interpreters in Spanish, Arabic and Mandarin; Russian and Vietnamese will be added in 2014.

Second, in 2011, a group of stakeholders gathered in Washington Dc and announced the formation of a new ASTM International Committee: F43 Language Services and Products. I was elected to the executive committee as Membership Secretary. We are working on revising standards for quality in the full range of language services including instruction, testing, translation, and interpreting. We represent a balanced constituency of government, academe, private companies and individuals who are engaged in the production or the purchase of language services.

This Fall I have been invited to join colleagues from the Public and Private Sectors to examine a topic near and dear to us: *Languages for ALL? The Anglophone Challenge*. We believe that the time is right for the United States to make learning a second language a critical part of the education system, beginning as early as pre-kindergarten. This will be a big initiative requiring a huge public awareness campaign. I think I will continue to be engaged in language learning, studies and services for a long time to come! I wish all of the students, faculty and staff of my beloved University of Florida a very productive school year...and may it be multilingual.

Go Gators!

### **Eve Hershberger (Ph.D. 1975)**

I continue to enjoy combining my interests in languages, culture and literary criticism with theoretical and clinical psychiatry. Two trips of several weeks each to Paris with side ventures to Rome, London, Nice, Salzburg and Vienna were interwoven with reopening my small private practice in Gainesville. A poster on the use of commercial movies for psychotherapy groups was accepted for the European Psychiatric Association annual conference in Nice. Two more presentations followed at the International Academic Conferences in Vienna and Paris. The first, "Dungeons of the Heart: How Freud Taught Us to Read" featured a re-





Eve Hershberger at Pompidou with Chagall in Paris

prise of a fascination with Henry James's "The Turn of the Screw" introduced to me in 1970 by Professor J. Wayne Conner, the first Chair of the UF Language Department. An article of the same title is pending publication. The third presentation in Paris on cultural, psychological and historical aspects of Sophie Gay's *Ellénore* in Paris showed distinct influences from professor Al Smith's Romanticism courses and from my auditing 2013 spring UF courses by professors Zachmann and Blum. I am eagerly developing this presentation into a full length article. In my last contribution to the newsletter I hoped for updates from my graduate classmates. We were the first UF graduate students in language and literature. Reading about our careers would be a lot of fun or if not via the Newsletter, I would really enjoy emails at [evh347@aol.com](mailto:evh347@aol.com).

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

Joe continues to serve as the chair of the Department of Humanities at Clayton State University in Metro Atlanta. This past spring, he completed his two-year term as the president of the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. Last April, at the annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Cleveland, Ohio, he was a roundtable participant for the session on "Editors and Editing of Eighteenth-Century Authors," and in

October 2013, he will give a talk on "Adolescent friendship and racial prejudice: Camille Lebrun's *Amitié et dévouement, ou Trois mois à la Louisiane* (1845)." Joe will publish more than a score of translations in 2013 and is close to completing a classroom edition of the 18th-century novel *Paul et Virginie* by Bernardin de Saint-Pierre for the Molière & Co. Press, which will appear in early 2014.

#### Paul Selçuk Merter (M.A. 1992)

Après avoir terminé ma maîtrise en 1992 à l'Université de Floride, je suis rentré en France où j'enseigne l'anglais dans une institution catholique à Angers. J'ai obtenu le Capes privé qui me permet d'être titulaire de mon poste. Mon épouse Véronique Winiarski Merter qui était assistante au Département de Français en 1990-1991 est également professeur d'anglais (certifiée et bi-admissible à l'agrégation) dans un collège privé d'Angers. Ce collègue proposant un projet pilote concernant le cerveau et l'apprentissage, elle fait partie de l'équipe qui est partie se former au Canada et en Finlande. Elle vient de rejoindre le groupe de recherches de l'Université Catholique d'Angers ayant pour but de diffuser plus largement cette expérience. Notre fille Ysé, âgée de 13 ans a eu la chance de découvrir UF et de rencontrer le Dr. C. Murphy en 2012. Elle est en troisième (9<sup>ème</sup> aux USA) et suit également des cours de piano au conservatoire d'Angers. En dehors de l'enseignement, depuis quelques années je pratique la poterie dans un atelier sous la direction de M. Vienney, maître-céramiste. J'ai présenté mon travail en céramique dans plusieurs expositions collectives au niveau international.

#### Robyn Novak (M.A. 2013)

I finished my Master's classes in Spring 2013, but opted to take the summer to complete and defend my thesis, which focused on analyzing the usage of discourse markers in interviews of student spokespeople related to the student

strikes of 2012 in Quebec. I defended my thesis, which was entitled "Youth language meets political discourse: usage of French discourse markers in Quebec's *Printemps érable*," in June and graduated in August. Immediately after graduation, I started a position at Gainesville High School, where I teach French I, French II, French III, and AP French. I am also the sponsor of the GHS French Club.

#### Giovanna Summerfield (Ph.D. 2004)

I am, as you can see, the Associate Dean for Educational Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts I also serve in the Executive Committee of the SAMLA

As far as scholarly publications, here are some of the most recent titles and details:

*Scholarship in Action: Communities, Leaders and Citizens* (Co-editor and Contributor). Champaign, IL: Common Ground Publishing (forthcoming)

"Interview with Costanza Quatriglio" in *The Italian Filmmakers and the Gendered Screen*. Palgrave, 2013.

The Politics of Poetics: Poetry and Social Activism in Early-Modern through *Contemporary Italy* (Co-editor and Introduction). Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013.

"(R)evolution of Man, Pinocchio: From Wooden Puppet to Real Boy" in *Charles Darwin: A Celebration of His Life and Legacy*. Montgomery, AL: NewSouth Publishing, 2012.

*Le Siciliane: Così sono se vi pare*. (Editor and Contributor). Alessandria, Italy: Puntoacapo, 2011.

"Paris through the Lenses of Italian Directors (Bertolucci et al)" in *Film Locations: Cities of the Imagination, Paris*. Bristol, UK: Intellect, 2011

*New Perspectives on the European Bildungsroman* (co-authored with Lisa Downward) London, UK: Continuum, 2010.

#### Audrey Viguié (Ph.D. 2012)

Audrey Viguié has accepted a lectureship in French at the University of Virginia; she spent the summer teaching at the Alliance Française of Tijuana, Mexico.

# BUSINESS FRENCH

*by Dr. Amanda Vincent*

Students in Commercial French have the option of taking the **Diplôme du Français Professionnel (DFP)** Affaires exams at the B2 level. These exams, developed and graded by the education branch of the Paris-Ile de France Chamber of Commerce and Industry, certify students' competency in French at the Advanced Intermediate (B2) level according to the European language standards. All of the students who took the exam in Spring 2013 passed and earned their certificates. Congratulations to the following students on their achievement:

Ann-Kathrin Agreda  
Simona Altshuler  
Natalie Amgott — Mention Bien  
Allison Casteel — Mention Bien  
Sophia de Groen — Mention Très Bien  
Francis Duffy — Mention Bien  
Sylvia Greco — Mention Bien  
Anh-Thu Nguyen — Mention Bien  
Ana Perez-Olave  
Margeling Santiago

Amanda thanks the faculty judges who volunteer their time to evaluate the oral portion of the exam.

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## French Ambassador François Delattre's visit in pictures



French Ambassador François Delattre



Dr. Antes, Dr. Raymond Gay-Crosier, and Dr. Murphy at the reception



Attachée culturelle speaks with Dr. Raymond Gay-Crosier



# WINDS OF CHANGE IN THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE GAINESVILLE

by Debbie Parrales

The Alliance Française de Gainesville started its debut a little under a decade ago. It began with a group of Francophone people that wanted to share the French culture with the city of Gainesville through various social, cultural and conversational events. But the founding group needed some help and sought for some assistance within its membership. After working with several presidents, Marie-Joelle Thatcher was asked to step forward and be their leader. Mrs. Thatcher brought with her extensive organizational skills, planning skills, and a mission to transform an AF chapter to that of the Fondation Alliance Française in Paris. Ideally, all AF chapters should represent the same core values across the globe. She brought to the table a week long program of events centering on “la gastronomie” and included reputable organizations and vendors from the city of Gainesville. But her vision was not a vision shared amongst all AFG members. As a result, a division began splitting the membership into two.



Debbie Parrales with Josue Dimanche, AF PARIS, 2013

With the help of the “délégué” during a visit in May, Mme. Muriel Piquet addressed the membership, where she explained that the AF name is given to very

few cities in hopes that they will carry the name with the same representation and vision as all of the other AF’s world-wide. Mme. Piquet also met with the LLC department chair, Dr. Mary Watt to explain the importance of having the support of the University of Florida. Mme. Piquet explained to everyone, the idea that a person should be able to go to any AF and get not only the same treatment, but be given the same product, regardless of the city. It was further explained that in order to keep the AF name, our chapter could not just hold social, cultural, or conversational events, but must also teach the language. As a result, over the course of the last few months, our Gainesville chapter has been trying to restructure our organization in order to follow along the footsteps set for us by the Fondation Alliance Française.

This past summer, two of the AF board members, Debbie Parrales and Josue Dimanche, attended the AF “colloque” in Paris in order to represent our AFG chapter as well as to learn more about the vision and culture that AF chapters are supposed to share. The idea was to bring back to our little city of Gainesville strength and perspective. The

experience of attending the conference in Paris was extraordinary. Debbie and Josue listened to experts speak about a variety of topics. Amongst the intellectual and prestigious speakers, our favorites were Mme. Aurélie Filippetti, (ministre de la Culture), Fatou Diome, (écrivain de “Le ventre de l’Atlantique”), Sylvie Goulard (députée Européenne), Bernard Cerquiglini (linguiste), et Princesse Zata Shah Idris (Princesse de Kuala Lumpur). In addition, they met with language company experts to review materials for the creation of our very own AFG French Language Institute (scheduled to debut in 2014). The AFG will be hosting an event in the near future where Debbie Parrales and Josue Dimanche will be speaking to the membership in detail about their experiences during the Colloque in Paris.

The AFG chapter is looking to transform into a new organization and with the help of our partners and the University of Florida, they cannot wait to share with you what the future has in store. Learn more about the AFG organization by visiting our newly created website at [www.afgainesville.wix.com/home](http://www.afgainesville.wix.com/home).

# UF FRENCH CLUB: LE CERCLE FRANÇAIS & FRANCOPHONE

*by Robert Swanson-UF French Club Public Relations Officer & Angelique Talmor-UF French Club President*

The University of Florida French Club is a student-run organization which is focused not only on France but also on all the French-speaking countries and parts of the world. The club is open to anyone with an interest in the francophone cultures, at all French fluency levels. In fact, French Club actively assists its members in the French language learning experience by providing conversation sessions designed to enhance their language learning experience. The mission behind the sessions is to give support to the French Section at UF so as to enhance the classroom experience. French Club's other primary focus is to expand its members' francophone knowledge and experiences through fun events and socials that are conducted both in French and English, providing the possibility for both non-speakers and those wishing to advance their speaking skills to enjoy club activities.

Representative activities include (but are not limited to): general body meetings, conversation sessions (from beginner to advanced), creative workshops, special events, potlucks, excursions, socials and cinema nights. Learn more about the UF French Club on our new enhanced website at: <http://ufcerclefrancais.wix.com/home>.

If you have any questions we are also available by email at [ufcerclefrancais@gmail.com](mailto:ufcerclefrancais@gmail.com). This will be a great year so don't miss out!





# SPOTLIGHT ON A STUDENT

by Dr. Sylvie Blum-Reid



**Ana Curta is an Honors Senior student, majoring in neurobiology and minoring in French.** I have followed her trajectory for the past three years in the different classes she took from French composition, to music and women in film. Her final research for literature and music dealt with Maurice Ravel and health (2012). In spring 2013, she enrolled in the *Women and Fashion in French Film* class, and unveiled her recent project, which was created outside of class. The focus on Ana is designed to share news regarding the research she undertook this past year with a fellow student Jayeon Choi, which shows a superb creative integration of sciences and art. Ana is scheduled to graduate in spring 2014.

## **La langue-les études, les intérêts:**

-Je suis née à Bucarest, en Roumanie. Mes parents ont étudié le français à l'école, et le parlent encore. On m'a fait connaître la langue à un très jeune âge. Cependant, je n'ai commencé à l'étudier formellement (c'est-à-dire à l'école) qu'à l'âge de 14 ans.

Ma spécialisation ("major") est en neurobiologie, mais j'ai aussi une concentration ("minor") en français. Mes études en neurologie portent sur le comportement humain. J'ai suivi beaucoup de cours en sciences neurologiques, comme la psychobiologie du comportement anormal ou la neurobiologie de la toxicomanie. Je veux devenir un médecin spécialiste en neurologie pédiatrique. Je me passionne pour la médecine, la mode et la musique.

## **Le projet de recherche (2012)**

-Au cours du dernier semestre j'ai pris part au colloque annuel de la HHMI-UF Creativity in the Arts and Sciences event (CASE) avec un projet réalisé en coopération avec une étudiante en Beaux-Arts. Nous voulions présenter l'essence de la recherche scientifique à l'aide d'une œuvre d'art. Il s'agit d'une sculpture entièrement réalisée de grues en papier, car nous partageons un intérêt particulier pour l'art japonais. Notre sculpture, dont le nom est « Ascend », est une robe symbolisant l'état actuel de la recherche scientifique sur les migraines. (voir photo) Nous avons choisi des grues en papier, parce qu'elles évoquent l'espoir. Dans nombreuses cultures autour du monde elles sont un symbole traditionnel du bonheur, de la santé et de la longévité. Pour nous, les grues de papier avaient au moins deux caractères symboliques. Elles ont sans doute une forme sereine, mais en totalité ou groupées sur la surface de notre sculpture, leur aspect apparemment tranquille disparaît pour donner lieu à une apparence déchiquetée et douloureuse. Pour nous, cette dernière qualité est une visualisation de la douleur, donc de la migraine. La forme de la robe n'est que la ligne de ce nuage de grues, auquel nous avons choisi d'attribuer la signification de la recherche scientifique qui se dessine à peu près, mais doit encore explorer tant d'aspects de l'activité du cerveau.

## **La mode et le projet.**

-J'ai une fascination pour la mode depuis mon enfance. La mode est pour moi le paragon de tous les arts, car elle les emploie presque tous. Comme l'architecture, la mode est intimement liée à la vie quotidienne. Elle en dépend pour toutes ses transformations. D'une manière plus forte que tous les autres arts, la mode est une réflexion des changements de la vie quotidienne, des évolutions politiques et culturelles—donc de l'histoire. C'est en effet Chanel qui l'a dit: "la mode n'est pas quelque chose qui existe seulement dans les vêtements. La mode est dans le ciel, dans la rue, la mode doit se faire avec des idées, la manière dont nous vivons, ce qui se passe." A partir de cette idée, il me paraît que la meilleure modalité pour expliquer la physiopathologie de la migraine est à travers la mode. Pour ceux qui souffrent tous les jours de migraines chroniques, la qualité de la vie est diminuée d'une manière considérable. J'ai donc choisi une robe, car beaucoup de femmes sont affectées par cette maladie invalidante.

Mon projet a été réalisé en collaboration avec Jayeon Choi, qui étudie l'art graphique. Nous avons passé beaucoup de temps à confectionner la robe, environ une cinquantaine d'heures. La robe a été bien accueillie par la critique et a eu beaucoup de succès. Nous avons remporté la 2e place au CASE et la 1ère place à North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Art Contest. On nous a invitées à présenter notre sculpture à la conférence de TEDxUF 2013 et à la soirée d'ouverture de la Fashion Week de Gainesville. La robe a été récemment mise en vedette dans un blog, *HelloPerfect*.

## **Les Projets de fin d'études 2013-2014.**

-L'année dernière, on m'a accordé une bourse de recherche, le Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science for Life Scholarship. Dans le cadre de la subvention SFL, je devais présenter une affiche ou un projet de collaboration à CASE. J'ai toujours été captivée par l'intégration de l'art et de la science et je crois qu'on peut parfois mieux expliquer des idées ou des théories scientifiques à l'aide de l'art. CASE m'a offert une occasion unique pour accomplir cet idéal. Je me suis donc décidée de représenter visuellement la migraine à travers la sculpture origami. Mon art mis à part, je vais écrire une thèse d'honneur et deux articles sur ma recherche scientifique.



Photo of "the dress" by Jayeon Choi

Present Activities: \_\_\_\_\_