A Note from the Chair

I welcome you to the fifth issue of our newsletter, designed once again with Sophie Capmartin’s passion and creativity. I thank my departmental colleagues for yet another year marked by productivity, collaboration, and new developments.

In the spring we were delighted to hear about Oana Sabo’s promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. Oana’s original research in contemporary migrant literature in French puts her at the top of her field. She has been a highly valued member of our department and an honor to Tulane. We look forward to welcoming Johnny in a year’s time.

Last fall we welcomed six new students to our PhD program in French Studies: Anna Cooper (U of Bath), Giorgia Cristiani (U of Tuscia), Sophie Delsaux (U de Lille 3), Cecile Lebleu (U of Arkansas), Jaclyn Maraldo (Wayne State U), and Kaitlin Sager (Seattle U). Our graduate exchange students this year were Marie Alhinho (École Normale Supérieure), Antoine de Baets (U Paris IV), and Olivia Simard (U Paris VII).

I am happy to announce that Annie Doucet, PhD recipient in the spring of 2017, will now begin work as a Lecturer and Language Coordinator at the University of Oklahoma, while Carole Trévise, who received the PhD in the summer of 2017, will begin work as a Lecturer at Princeton University. Furthermore, this spring Jacqueline Sarro and Chiara Azzaretti received the MA, while Adèle Cenier and Natalie Schmitz achieved PhD candidacy. Our warmest congratulations to all!

In November, with mixed feelings we celebrated the life and work of Hope Glidden, a vital member of our French faculty from 1981 to 2010. Hope, who left us in early fall, will be remembered with deep love and admiration. More recently, Harry Redman, member of the French faculty from 1963 to 1993, also passed. May they rest in peace.

Also with mixed feelings we recently accepted the resignations of two truly vibrant colleagues. Assistant Professor of French Toby Wikström accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor and Project Manager at the Graduate School, University of Iceland. Marky Jean-Pierre, Professor of Practice in Haitian Creole and French accepted a position as Assistant Professor at the University of the Bahamas. They will be very much missed and we wish them great success in their new endeavors.

After 15 years of devoted service as our Executive Secretary, Jeanny Keck has stepped down. In her place we are delighted to have our previous Administrative Secretary Jéda McGlothian, whom in turn we are delighted to have replaced with Leslie Ware. A big Thanks! to our wonderful stuff for their dedication, energy, humor, and warm friendship!

With my best wishes,

Michael Syrimis
Chair

Professor of Practice ELENA DANIELE, engaging in projects related to the use of new technologies in the classroom, received a grant from the Stoll Endowed Scholars Grant Committee toward the development of a blog about Italian cultural heritage in New Orleans, for her courses on Italian for Business (Fall 2017) and Advanced Italian Conversation and Composition (Spring 2018). Students explored the Italian historical and cultural heritage in the city of New Orleans and communicated their findings via a class blog. Blog-related activities included, among others: field trips to the museum on the Italian Immigration to New Orleans at the American Italian Cultural Center (AICC); a game of bocce at the Bocce Club of Greater New Orleans; and a class on Italian art in the city of New Orleans by Italian-born artist and long-time New Orleans resident Franco Alessandrini. In addition, Prof. Daniele received a grant from Tulane’s Center for Public Service to support community-engaged research. With the goal of preserving local memory, students transcribed oral archival sources from the AICC Museum’s collection, retrieving several families’ histories of life in New Orleans as Italian immigrant families. These oral documents will be integrated in the remodeling of the Museum (to be undergone in coming years). In Fall 2017 Prof. Daniele also presented her research at the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference with a talk entitled “Peter Martyr of Anghiera and the Advent of a New World: Continuity and Discontinuity with the Past.”
This past academic year, Associate Professor FAYÇAL FALAKY submitted two essays for publication: “The Cloche and its Critics: Muting the Church’s Voice in Pre-Revolutionary France” to the Journal of the History of Ideas, and “D’un déisme à l’autre: Le wahhabisme au temps des Lumières” to a volume edited by Pascale Pellerin, titled Les Lumières, l'esclavage et l'idéologie coloniale, XVIIIe-XIXe siècles. He presented two papers: “Rousseau’s and Sade’s Endogamous Borders” at the Canadian Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference in Toronto, and “Chastely Lustful: Rousseau’s Exemplary Sexuality” at the 2018 MLA Convention in New York City; and he co-organized a panel on “Modes of Play in Eighteenth-Century France” at the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference in Orlando. This year Professor Falaky also served in the executive committee for the MLA’s forum on eighteenth-century French literature and as a member of ASECS’s Srinivas Aravamudan Prize Committee. In addition, in Spring 2018, he completed his 3-year term as Director of Graduate Studies for the PhD Program in French Studies. For his service in this role as well as for his teaching at the graduate level, he received one of this year’s GSSA Faculty Awards.

In 2017 Associate Professor TOM KLINGLER published a chapter on Louisiana (“La Louisiane”) in the Manuel des francophonies (De Gruyter), a collected volume that provides an up-to-date linguistic overview of French-speaking communities throughout the world. He also led the students in his class FREN 4110/6110 Field Research on French in Louisiana on field trips to the communities of Jennings, Lake Charles, and Vacherie. The students then produced a video, titled Fleur de lys et alligators: Voyages en Louisiane francophone, based on their interviews of French and Creole speakers in each location. The video is currently available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCQeRIk9ZMc&t=18s

Professor of Practice CHARLES A. MIGNOT has presented a paper on the impact of form-focused translation on the writing skills at the ACTFL convention in Nashville, Tennessee, and one on French argument alternations at the French in Comparison Workshop at the University of California at Berkeley. He also had two book reviews published in the French Review journal: Locative Expressions in English and French: A Multimodal Approach by Mark Tutton and La corrélation en français: étude morphosyntaxique by Audrey Roig.
In Spring 2018, Professor VAHEED RAMAZANI’s essay titled “Killer Drones, Legal Ethics, and the Inconvenient Referent” was accepted for publication in Lateral, Journal of the Cultural Studies Association, no. 7, Vol 2 (Fall 2018). The article critiques the legal and political discourses by means of which the United States government has sought to legitimate its extrajudicial policy of using weaponized drones to carry out targeted assassinations of suspected anti-U.S. combatants abroad, whether inside or outside of officially declared war zones. Prof. Ramazani’s semiological analysis of the pertinent legal and ethical principles (discrimination, necessity, proportionality, and so on) is carried out both within and against the “humanitarian” framework of just war theory. The essay is particularly critical of the government’s algorithmic calculations of “acceptable” numbers of civilian casualties—death-ratios generated by a utilitarian economy purporting rationally to weigh the value of civilians’ lives relative to incommensurable military objectives. In June 2018, Prof. Ramazani’s essay on “Exceptionalism, Metaphor, and Hybrid Warfare” was published in the journal Culture, Theory and Critique, Vol. 60 (2018): 1-22. The article argues that, in American public discourse after the attacks of 9/11, the romantic myth of World War II has been the dominant justificatory metaphor for the United States’ (already metaphorical) War on Terror, as broad-brushed analogies between the Good War and recent U.S. military adventures in Africa and the Middle East implicitly transfer the ethical values associated in national memory with America’s iconic “just war” onto our contemporary counterinsurgencies. At the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association in March 2018, Prof. Ramazani presented a paper titled “War, Simulation, and the Sacrificial Sublime.” The paper draws on Lacan, Bataille, and Baudrillard to construct a rhetorical typology of contemporary war discourses, the primary sources for which are political speeches, battlefield dispatches, and popular military memoirs.

Senior Professor of Practice AL-EXANDRA REUBER, together with two colleagues from Boston College and St. John’s University, published her research in the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Language (NECTFL) Review, December 2017. The article “Three Experiences in Video Conferencing with Native Speakers of Spanish and French” assesses the implementation of video-conferencing tools in foreign language acquisition classes at the intermediate and advanced level. Findings obtained exemplify a strong correlation between the integral use of such tools and students’ development of foreign language competency and intercultural awareness. Prof. Reuber’s portion of the article focuses on research related to her semester-long use of the online platform TalkAbroad when teaching FREN 3150. In January 2018, Prof. Reuber, together with her colleagues, Professors of Practice Amy George-Hirons and Kyle P. Williams, published her research on the implementation, execution, and evaluation of service learning at Tulane University in a special volume on Civic Engagement in the Languages: A How-to-Guide for Service-Learning Curriculum in Foreign Language Programs. The article “Transcending Classrooms, Communities, and Cultures: Service Learning as an Integral Component of Foreign Language Teaching Methods Courses,” focuses on the research the three authors conducted from 2011-2014 in Tulane’s FREN 4050/6050 and SPAN 6010 courses. In addition to her publications, she also held a one-hour seminar, entitled “Three Modes of Communication in the Foreign Language Classroom,” on campus at the Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching (CELT) at Tulane University in November 2017, and presented her newest research in the field of second language acquisition at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) in New York in February 2018. Her presentation, “Developing World Language Proficiency through Effective Use of Authentic Material” focused on research conducted over the past semesters when teaching FREN 3170: French Media and Oral Performance.
In April, Associate Professor OANA SABO’s book, *The Migrant Canon in Twenty-First-Century France* (University of Nebraska Press), was published. It explores the genre of “migrant literature” that, while marginal in 1980s France, has become central to criticism and publishing since the turn of the century. The book also explains the causes of twenty-first-century global migrations and their impact on French literature and the French literary establishment. Oana Sabo also published an article, “Clandestine Migration and the Politics of Form in Nicole Caligaris’s *Les Samothraces*,” in the May/June issue of *Studies in Twentieth & Twenty-First Century Literature*. Moreover, she presented two papers drawn from her new research project: “Clandestine Sea Crossings and the Limits of Humanitarianism,” at the American Comparative Literature Association conference at UCLA, and “Reframing Undocumented Migration in Contemporary French Fiction,” at the 20th- and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium at Brown University in April. She also organized a lecture on Mediterranean clandestine crossings by Professor Hakim Abderrazak in January.

EDWIGE TAMALET TALBAYEV, Associate Professor, published a new co-edited book with Palgrave, *Critically Mediterranean: Temporalities, Aesthetics, and Deployments of a Sea in Crisis* (2018). She contributed two pieces to the volume: a co-authored introduction to the concept of a “critical Mediterranean” and a chapter on the anachronistic time of the Mediterranean, “Afterward: Critical Mediterranean Times.” In addition, she published an article in a special issue of *Revue des Sciences Humaines* on the intersection of Mediterranean and Francophone Studies, and completed forthcoming texts on Rachid Boudjedra, Colette Fellous, and Assia Djebar. She was invited to UC Berkeley in February to give a lecture entitled “Reading Transcontinentally: Mediterranean Perspectives on Francophone Literature” and to participate in a conversation on her recent book, *The Transcontinental Maghreb*, with the Francophone Studies Working Group. At the ACLA conference, she co-led a seminar on the “Mediterranean Cemetery” and presented a paper on Maylis de Kerangal’s sepulchral poetics. She also participated in the “New Directions in Maghreb Studies” roundtable convened at UCLA by the Center for Near East Studies in March, where she spoke on the topic of deterritorializing the Maghreb through the Mediterranean. She joined the editorial board of *In Passage: The International Journal of Writing and Mobility* and the Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques.

Assistant Professor of French TOBY WIKSTRÖM published the article “Was There a Pan-European Orientalism? Icelandic and Flemish Perspectives on Captivity in Muslim North Africa (1628-1656)” in the collective volume *The Dialectics of Orientalism in Early Modern Europe* (Palgrave MacMillan 2018). He spoke on “Spectacles of Cross-Cultural Religious Conversion in the Seventeenth-Century French Atlantic World” at the interdisciplinary research symposium Performances, Archives and Repertoires in the Francophone Circum-Atlantic World (PARIFA), which was held on campus in October. A member of the Executive Committee of the MLA’s Seventeenth-Century French Forum, Wikström took part in a special roundtable on the 16th-/17th-century divide in French studies and chaired the panel “Current Trends in Seventeenth-Century French Studies” at the MLA Annual Convention in January 2018. He also gave the talk “Hin örðukta saga hnatvæðingarinnar í franskri leiklist 17. aðlar.” (“The Unknown History of Globalization in French Seventeenth-Century Theater”) at the Department of Comparative Literature of the University of Iceland in March 2018. Wikström co-organized a series of events on campus during the 2017-2018 academic year, including the fall PARIFA symposium, a February lecture by Julia Prest (St. Andrews) and, in March, the Sorbonne/CUNY-Graduate Center Franco-American Workshop on the Sixteenth Century.
Congratulations, Professor Carroll!

Having concluded thirty-seven years of service and dedication to the Department of French & Italian, Professor Linda L. Carroll has stepped down with the completion of the 2017-2018 academic year. Professor Carroll received her PhD from Harvard University in 1977 in Italian literature and culture with emphasis in linguistics. She served first as instructor and then as assistant professor of Italian at Gonzaga University, where she also chaired the Department of Modern Languages. She taught linguistics at Whitworth College for two years.

In the course of her career, Professor Carroll has served and honored our Department, University, and profession with numerous activities in the areas of research, teaching, and service, increasing Tulane’s visibility both nationally and internationally. As a specialist on the interplay between culture and history in Renaissance Italy, she published Language and Dialect in Ruzante and Goldoni (Longo, 1981), Angelo Beolco (Il Ruzante) (Twayne, 1990), and Commerce, Peace, and the Arts in Renaissance Venice: Ruzante and the Empire at Center Stage (Routledge, 2016). She is also a co-editor of Sexualities, Textualities, Art and Music in Early Modern Italy: Playing with Boundaries (Ashgate, 2014), the translator for Venice, Città Excelentissima: Selections from the Renaissance Diaries of Marin Sanudo (Johns Hopkins, 2008), and editor and translator of Angelo Beolco (Il Ruzante), La prima orazione (Modern Humanities Research Association, 2009). She has published numerous articles in top-tier journals, including Renaissance Quarterly, Sixteenth Century Journal, MLN, Modern Language Review, Ateneo Veneto, The Psychohistory Review, the Encyclopedia of the Renaissance, and others. Despite concluding her Tulane career, she plans to continue her active research agenda, currently working on various publications on topics such as Thomas Jefferson’s Italian books, Shakespeare’s Italian influences, and more.

Her research and publications in Italian culture and history, along with her linguistics background have benefited her teaching. She significantly developed the Department’s Italian program, which she directed for over twenty years. The passion with which she directed the program, the Italian basic language sequence in particular, and the countless students whom she has successfully mentored over the years speak to her devotion to undergraduate education. Furthermore, she was one of the founders of the interdisciplinary Italian Studies Program, whose course offerings and regular functions she also administered. For her zealous services in teaching, she received important University honors, including the Undergraduate Student Government John Stibbs Award for Outstanding Faculty Member in 2007, the Suzanne and Stephen Weiss Presidential Fellowship in 2008, and others. She has been an indefatigable advocate not only for the growth of the Italian program but also for the fundamental rights of faculty within the profession at large. She has assumed crucial roles of responsibility in numerous national organizations, including the Modern Language Association and the American Association of University Professors, to name only a few.

Professor Carroll will be missed by colleagues and students. However, she will be joining us in her new status as a Professor Emerita. We congratulate her for her numerous achievements and wish her many productive years ahead!

Michael Syrimis
Chair
In response to the needs of a diverse audience in French, the Department of French and Italian has made the decision to professionalize the 4+1 program. Over the past few months, members of the Department have put various efforts into developing a program in Professional French.

Starting with the effort to redesign the Department’s website, Fayçal Falaky, Edwige Tamalet, Oana Sabo and Toby Wikstrom collaborated last June on creating a separate BA/MA page detailing the new program. The page describes the possibility for 4+1 students in French to combine their Tulane degree with a Diplôme de francais professionnel awarded by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) in three major fields (business, international relations, and tourism). Through Charles Mignot’s efforts, Tulane is now a CCI accredited test center for the upcoming academic year.

Since the beginning of the academic year 2017-2018, a number of meetings have taken place between Fayçal Falaky, Annette Sojic, local entrepreneurs, and French Consulate representatives. In the Department, two of our graduate students, Cécile Lebleu and Sophie Delsaux, have been participating in the joint effort to promote the Professional French program. They have been involved in some of the meetings and have taken on the task to advertise the new program. Their poster will soon be on display across campus.

Preparing students for the Diplôme is the next step. A new course proposal (Professional French, FREN 4060/6060), written by Annette Sojic in consultation with Fayçal Falaky, was recently accepted by SLA’s Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and Graduate Studies Committee. Annette has also designed a graduate-level Internship Studies course, complementary to FREN 6060, which is currently under review. This course will allow students to use their French in a professional setting and will further help them prepare for the Diplôme de français professionnel. To complement the course proposal, Annette has created a list of potential internship partners, who will be contacted over the summer.

A recent survey, which was run to gauge student interest in each particular diplôme, has yielded significant results: over 75% of the students surveyed have declared interest in obtaining DFP certification. We look forward to welcoming them into our new program and helping them strengthen their career readiness in French!
Thank you, Jeanny!

Last October, on a rainy Saturday afternoon, and while facing an imminent hurricane, many of our departmental members gathered at the home of Professor Klingler, who had kindly offered to host our farewell celebration for our Executive Secretary, Jeanny Keck. After fifteen years of tireless service as the main staff member of French & Italian, Jeanny decided to step down and devote more time to family. When we heard the news about her retirement, some of us were of course quite unprepared, having learned, over the years, to identify our departmental experience with Jeanny’s endearing and supportive presence.

Surely, for years we relied on Jeanny for our frequent and daily activities: flight, hotel, or classroom bookings for our numerous speakers, meetings, and all departmental events; help with the photocopier; processing our reimbursements, which she did with meticulous care; and more. But as one of our graduate students once described Jeanny, she was “everyone’s mom away-from-home.” Indeed, a warm interlocutor and attentive listener, her door always open and welcoming, Jeanny was someone with whom we shared our thoughts and impressions of all kinds—our experiences on the Tulane campus, our recent family exploits, our thoughts on the latest elections, you name it. Thanks to Jeanny, the office felt like a second home.

In addition to her essential role as staff member and friend in the Department, Jeanny regularly volunteered for different kinds of service to the University. This led to her extensive networking with other departments and offices across campus, which needless to say proved beneficial to our own needs and operations. Also, one of her especially admirable qualities is her continuous desire to learn and grow. Being fluent in Arabic, English, and French, she also attended courses in Spanish, English Creative Writing, Criminology, Teaching French, and more. And while working at Tulane, she completed her BA in French Studies. What is more, as the giving person that she is, she is also eager to share her knowledge. For many years she faithfully participated in the Department’s Pause-café adulte, which provided faculty and staff from all over campus an opportunity to meet regularly and practice French conversation in an informal setting.

While we miss Jeanny greatly, we are pleased that she lives in the area and we still get to see her occasionally, either at one of our departmental functions, or for a more intimate conversation over lunch somewhere in the neighborhood. Thank you, Jeanny!

Michael Syrimis
Chair
On October 16, Dr. LAURA ATRAN-FRESCO of Oberlin College presented research from her new book *Les Cadiens au présent: Revendication d’une francophonie en Amérique du Nord*. Her talk was sponsored by the Richard V. and Seola Arnaud Edwards Professorship in French.

On October 19-20, the interdisciplinary research group “Performances, Archives and Repertories in the Francophone Circum-Atlantic World” (PARIFA) held its second symposium at Tulane, organized by FELICIA MccARREN, TOBY WIKSTRÖM and EMILY CLARK (History). Scholars from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the University of South Carolina and Tulane gave talks on the performance of race, gender and religious conversion in the French-speaking Atlantic. The conference concluded with a graduate student/faculty workshop on archival sources. PARIFA was generously sponsored by the Kathryn B. Gore Chair in French studies.

On October 26, CLAUDIA ESPOSITO from the University of Massachusetts-Boston presented her recent work on Algerian artist Kader Attia’s visual representations of the migrant crisis besetting the Mediterranean. The event was sponsored by the Katherine B. Gore Chair in French studies.

On November 17, MARK DANNER, James Clarke Chace Professor of Foreign Affairs and the Humanities at Bard College and Chancellor’s Professor of Journalism, English, and Politics at the University of California, Berkeley, delivered a talk titled “Making America Great: Nationalism, Terror and Forever War.” The talk was sponsored by the Kathryn B. Gore Chair in French Studies. Professor Ramazani’s synopsis of the event was published in the December 13, 2017 issue of the *SLA Newsletter* and is available at [http://www2.tulane.edu/liberal-arts/newsletter/danner-lecture-dec2017.cfm](http://www2.tulane.edu/liberal-arts/newsletter/danner-lecture-dec2017.cfm).

On December 4, Dr. FRANCINE GIRARD LOMHEIM of the University of Agder in Kristiansand, Norway gave a presentation on “Le pronom dans le français de Louisiane: Trois siècles de cheminement,” based on her recently published book by the same name. Dr. Girard Lomheim’s talk was sponsored by the Richard V. and Seola Arnaud Edwards Professorship in French.

On January 25, Professor HAKIM ABDERREZAK (University of Minnesota) gave a lecture titled “The Mediterranean Sea on Fire: Clandestine Crossings in Contemporary Art and Literature.” He examined literary, cinematic, and artistic representations of clandestine migration produced in Morocco, Algeria, France, Spain and Italy. The event was sponsored by the Department of French and Italian and the Katherine B. Gore Chair in French studies.

On December 5, JULIA PREST of St. Andrews University gave a talk entitled “Neither Villains nor Minstrels: Blackface Performance in the Theatres of Saint-Domingue” with Jeffrey Leischman (LSU) as discussant. The talk was part of the ongoing series of PARIFA events and was made possible by the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South and the Kathryn B. Gore Chair in French Studies.
On March 21, the department hosted the annual Franco-American Workshop on the Sixteenth Century organized by the CUNY Graduate Center and the Sorbonne, with distinguished speakers from Yale, the University of Paris, NYU, Indiana University, and Tulane, among other institutions. The Kathryn B. Gore Chair in French Studies, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, and the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library made the event possible. The event was organized by Assistant Professor Toby Wikström.

On March 23, JEAN-ALEXANDRE PERRAS (Jesus College, Oxford University) spoke on the uses of the figure of the bubble in the early modern culture. His lecture was titled, “Man is but a ‘bubble’: Transience and Value in Early Modern Thinking” and was generously sponsored by the Kathryn B. Gore Chair in French Studies.

On March 25, NEIL ROBERTS (Williams College) gave a lecture titled, “Why Marronage Still Matters.” His talk was sponsored by the Kathryn B. Gore Chair in French Studies.

Moroccan master guitarist and composer MAHMOUD “MOOD” CHOUKI brought his spellbinding mix of world music and jazz to campus on April 9, playing a solo set for students of French and Arabic and then a full concert with The Mahmoud “Mood” Chouki Quartet in Dixon Hall. Their concert “Marrakesh-New Orleans: A Musical Journey” was organized by our programs in Arabic and French and sponsored by the Kathryn B. Gore Chair in French Studies.

Thanks to support from the Undergraduate Activities Fund, students in Professor Elena Daniele’s Italian classes cooked pasta in the Greenbaum Demo Kitchen.

Italian students cooking and eating Pasta in the Greenbaum Demo Kitchen.

Thanks to support from the Undergraduate Activities Fund, students in Professor Elena Daniele’s Italian classes cooked pasta in the Greenbaum Demo Kitchen.

Queer Reading Group

Begun in 2015, the Queer Theory Reading Group at Tulane University aims to promote a dynamic, intellectual community for students interested in queer studies and theory. The group engages in monthly scholarly discussions focused on canonical and contemporary scholarship in queer theory. Readings are pre-circulated and selected by doctoral student Ryan Joyce in consultation with group members to offer both new and established scholars in queer theory a focused point for discussion and debate. Past theorists examined include Simone de Beauvoir, Cathy Cohen, Michel Foucault, E. Patrick Johnson, Gayle Rubin, Eve Sedgwick, Jafari S. Allen, and Jack Halberstam.

During the Fall 2017 semester, the group met and discussed the relationship between queerness and utopias through the work of José Muñoz and Lee Edleman and examined queer themes in the work of French feminist thinkers Hélène Cixous and Monique Wittig.

For more information about the group and their meetings, visit https://queertheoryreadinggroup.wordpress.com or contact Ryan Joyce at: rjoyce1@tulane.edu.
Expressions maghrébines

Expressions maghrébines is the leading peer-reviewed journal of the Coordination Internationale des Chercheurs sur les Littératures maghrébines (CICLIM) housed in our Department and available through Project MUSE’s Premium Collection, Johns Hopkins University Press’s online journal database.

The winter 2017 issue “Cultures du Mysticisme,” coordinated by yasser elhariry (Dartmouth College), reflects on the dialectics of continuity and rupture that have marked the contemporary turn towards mysticism in the Maghreb. The contributions examine mystical expressions in Christianity and Islam through studies of literature, poetics, philosophy, and the social history of Maghrebi sufi orders. The volume proposes original literary contributions by Lebanese writer Salah Stétié, Algerian poet Habib Tengour, as well as studies on Abdelwahab Meddeb, Ibn Arabi, Malek Ouary, Ahmed Toufiq, Rajae Benchensmi, and Jalel El Gharbi. In addition, the volume’s varia section features a noted article by Nicole Horne, a graduate student in Tulane’s Department of French & Italian, entitled “Sur les traces du mythe: Nationalisme et trauma dans ‘Un seul héros, le-peuple … mon père’ (2012) de Mustapha Sedjal.” The essay examines how the Algerian artist’s installation refraames the nationalist myth touted at Independence in terms of loss and trauma.

The Summer 2018 issue “Tahar Djaout, 25 ans après,” coordinated by Corbin Treacy (Florida State University) and Megan MacDonald (Koç University), examines the legacy of the Algerian writer and journalist 25 years after his assassination. Contributions address the influence of Djaout’s work over the following generations of Algerian authors, the role of literary aesthetics in times of political conflict, the evolution of Algerian writers’ political commitment since Djaout’s death, the importance of journalism in Algerian public life, the status of francophone intellectuals in Algeria since 1993, and the culture of elegies in Algeria. The volume includes an unpublished poem by Tahar Djaout, two homages by Algerian writer and playwright Mustapha Benfodil and fellow journalist Ameziane Ferhani, as well as essays on Djaout’s reception on both shores of the sea, his role as a public intellectual in 1990s Algeria, his legacy among contemporary writers, the role of humor in Djaout’s political writings, and the formation of an alternate poetics of justice in today’s Algerian literature. Adèle Cénier, a graduate student in Tulane’s Department of French & Italian, contributed as a translator.

Table of contents and abstracts may be accessed here:
www.ub.edu/adhuc/ca/publicaciones/reviste-expressions-maghrebines/expressions-maghrebines-vol-16-no-2-hiver-2017
www.ub.edu/adhuc/ca/publicaciones/reviste-expressions-maghrebines/expressions-maghrebines-vol-17-no-1-ete-2018
The French conversation club Pause-café is an opportunity for students of all levels to practice speaking French outside the classroom. We are particularly thankful to our exchange student ANTOINE DE BAETS who has led Pause-café for the 2017-2018 academic year and has kindly helped students improve their French conversation skills.

CINÉ-CLUBS

French and francophone Ciné-club

The French and Francophone ciné club once a month organizes screenings of French and Francophone movies in French with English subtitles. We would like to thank our exchange student MARIE ALINHO who, with the help of another exchange student, OLIVIA SIMARD, was in charge of the selection for the 2017-2018 academic year and showed a variety of movies, including dramas, comedies, and animation movies.

Italian Movie Nights

The Italian Program sponsored two Italian Movie Nights per semester (in Italian with English subtitles), organized by Professor ELENA DANIELE. Screenings are free and open to all students of Italian and the entire Tulane community, and are held in Newcomb Hall on weekday evenings (check Tulane Calendar for exact dates and times). A snack of Italian prosciutto, cheese, and bread is offered thanks to support from the Undergraduate Activities Fund.

Keep up with all our News and Events!
Follow us on Social Media.
Facebook: French At Tulane
Facebook: Italian At Tulane
Twitter: @FrenchTulane
GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Graduate Student Achievements

In May LESLIE ANDERSON, PhD Candidate, organized a popular and successful panel on queer identity and othering in the Lais of Marie de France at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI. This fall she will begin teaching French language at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY.

Graduate students CHIARA AZZARETTI and JACLYN MARALDO, together with French Adjunct Faculty and recent Department PhD graduate ANNIE DOUCET, collaborated on a four-month translation internship at the Beauregard-Keyes House, a historic house and museum in the French Quarter. The project consisted of translating French documents from the mid-1800s pertaining to the enslaved inhabitants of the house, about whom very little information had previously been available. The translated documents will be used in a future exhibition intended to provide a more complete narrative of the house’s history.

PhD Candidate SOPHIE CAPMAR-TIN continues working on her dissertation entitled “Curieux Sauvages: Cultural Representations of Louisiana Indians in 18th century France.” In August 2017, She joined École Bilingue de la Nouvelle-Orléans as a resource coordinator. In this position, she initiated an archival digital project in partnership with the Historic New Orleans Collection focusing on New Orleans founding era. The digital exhibit will be available on the Tulane Digital Library Website in November 2018. In March, she presented at the inaugural Foreign Language Pedagogy Symposium at Tulane University. Her paper was entitled “Cajun Tales: engaging French language students through a creative writing community-based project.”

In November, RYAN JOYCE served on the Local Organizing Committee and helped organize the 29th annual meeting of the Haitian Studies Association held in New Orleans. In addition, he presented a paper there on the work of queer Haitian-American poet and activist Assotto Saint, entitled, “Dare Stand Brave: Assotto Saint’s Queer Marronage.” Moreover, he co-organized the plenary session, “Haiti & New Orleans: Making Cultural Connections in the Local Community.” In November, he attended and presented a paper at the Society for Utopian Studies conference in Memphis, Tennessee where he was the recipient of their “Nicole LaRose Graduate Student Award.” In the Spring, Ryan was invited to present his research on the 19th-century Francophone Renaissance in Louisiana as part of the “Fridays at Newcomb” colloquia series sponsored by the Newcomb College Institute. During the 2017-2018 academic year, Ryan served as the graduate student representative to the Gender and Sexuality Studies program and organized a queer theory reading group. This summer, he co-chaired an interdisciplinary panel on “Queer and Female Kinship Networks in the Caribbean” at the Caribbean Studies Association conference in Cuba.

ERIKA MANDARINO is completing her dissertation titled “Heavenly Bodies: The Interplanetary Voyage of the French Enlightenment.” She presented a paper derived from her first chapter called “M. de Listonai’s Moon Men, or, The Sixth Sense of Selenopolis,” at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies conference in Orlando, FL, in March 2018. She published her first article, “Le mythe comme patrie littéraire de l’écrivain migrant” in the journal Vernacular: New Connections in Language, Literature, & Culture in April 2018. A second article, “Uncanny Metaphysics and the Empiricist Fetish in Les bijoux indiscrets” is forthcoming in Chimères in December 2018. As she finishes her thesis, she will serve as an assistant editor for the journal Culture and Dialogue and continue to participate in the French History group of Boston, MA.

Graduate Student Events

MA FRANCOPHONIE NOLA

The Ma Francophone NOLA Digital Storytelling Contest took place on April 20, 2018. Students from Haynes Academy, Audubon Charter School, Lycée Français, École Bilingue, Tulane University and l’Université d’Orléans submitted video responses to the question, “what does it mean to learn French in New Orleans?” This event was attended by the Consul General of France in Louisiana, Vincent Sciama, and representatives from the City of Orléans, and members of the university and local community.
French Undergraduate Awards

This year the Department recognized some of our most talented, diligent, and creative French majors whose exceptional dedication to Francophone language and culture is an inspiration to us all. We are very proud of them and applaud their achievements. Here are this year’s recipients:

The Jonathan Edgar Lorino Memorial Prize is the most prestigious prize awarded in the Department. It is given to the one student who best shares the exceptional talent, generosity of spirit, strong work ethic, and passion for the French language that Jonathan Lorino embodied. This year’s recipient is MARIA GOMEZ.

The Henry Award recognizes excellence in the study of French and is awarded to the most deserving sophomore. In 2018 the award went to ROBIN BOCH. The Alcée Fortier Memorial Prize is named in honor of one of Tulane’s most renowned language professors. This year’s recipient was JALEN DIFFIN. The Louis Bush Medal was awarded to NICOLE POPOWSKI in recognition of her passion for the French language. The Oscar Maas Prize, which recognizes exceptional essays written in French, was awarded to four students this year: DARBY LANSDOWNE, for her essay on the inherent difficulty to translate the concept of ‘fake news’ into French; CLARA BEAUMONT, for her analysis of resilience as a way of life in survival narratives; ERIN CHANDLER, for her study of how narrating trauma helps or hinder the process of resilience; and ANGELICA NAHALKA, for her research paper on resilience and war.

The Professor Beth Poe Travel Fund in French Immersion Studies is a competitive grant open to declared French majors who have studied at least one year at Tulane. It is designed to fund a short summer French-immersion language program in France. This year’s awardee is DARIA HOFMANN, who will participate in a four-week intensive program in Montpellier.

We wish our students success in their careers and we look forward to hearing wonderful news about them in the future. Congratulations to all!

Oana Sabo
Undergraduate Advisor, French

Italian Undergraduate Awards

This year, the Italian Program awarded the Italian Government Prize to graduating senior REGAN MANAYAN. Regan completed his Italian major with impressive results, all the while excelling in Premed. He has a genuine passion for things Italian and has demonstrated constant engagement and maturity as a major. His Honors Thesis, entitled “The Futurists Take Flight: The Significance of Aeropainting as an Art Expression of the Italian Futurist Movement,” is distinguished by its original insights, extensive research, and lucid writing. Congratulations, Regan!

Michael Syrimis
Undergraduate Advisor, Italian
French Graduate Awards

Following a tradition that began two years ago, the Department of French & Italian recognized the accomplishments of our graduate students with Excellence Awards in Research, Teaching, and Service. This year, the Department presented three awards, one for each category.

The Graduate Student Excellence in Service Award was bestowed to ADÈLE CENIER. This award recognizes students who have exhibited collegiality, camaraderie as well as outstanding service to the PhD program; and thanks to all the work she did as President of the French Graduate Student Association, Adèle embodied the energy and passion that our graduate students bring to the Department.

The Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching award also went to ADÈLE CENIER. This award recognizes the student who has exhibited outstanding teaching ability, and Adèle stood out for her dynamic and enthusiastic presence in the classroom, her excellent rapport with the students, her professionalism, integrity, creativity, and acute sense of pedagogy.

Finally, the Graduate Student Excellence in Research Award was bestowed to ERIKA MANDARINO. This award recognizes students who have exhibited outstanding research work and Erika has demonstrated significant progress toward completing a dissertation that promises to be a valuable contribution to the field of eighteenth-century studies. She has also taken the time to work on articles to publish and to present her work at national conferences.

Fayçal Falaky
Director of Graduate Studies

Annie Gosserand, first recipient of the Beth Poe Travel Grant for French Immersion Studies, Summer 2017

As the 2017 recipient of the Beth Poe Travel Grant, I was awarded the unique experience to spend a month studying French language and culture in Tours, France. I spent 20 hours weekly improving my comprehension, speaking, and writing at a school called Tours Langues, nestled in Place Plumereau. Every day, after eating breakfast with my host family, Monsieur and Madame Guilloux, I would head to classes, where I was surrounded by students from all over the world. I remember feeling very lost my first week, and a little discouraged. I was not very confident in my French, so I remained quiet most of the time out of fear of being pitied by the professors and other students. However, I quickly learned that everyone was in the same boat at Tours Langues. No one was looking to the left or right in comparison. We were all just looking to improve in our own ways and return home better than we were before. This specific program presented a unique opportunity because the only common language available was French. If I wanted to converse with another person, there was no using English to convey my point. The experience was not always easy. I had days when I felt like I was improving so much only to return the next day to feel like I was back at square one. However, the frustration was easily forgotten because of how much I was enjoying myself. I got the chance to visit places that I never thought I would see, like Chateau de Villandry and Chateau d’Amboise. I had the opportunity to grow in my French and become more confident in my abilities. I was able to build lasting relationships with people from all over the world, rooted in a love for the French language. I grew as an independent person, capable of problem solving and genuine introspection. After watching people at Tulane leave to go abroad and return speaking in a way that they did not even think they were capable of, I was a firm believer in the power of immersion. However, I never thought that the growth that they experienced transcended their language abilities and infiltrated every crevice of their lives. Thank you, Professor Poe, for giving me this opportunity. I will forever be grateful that your love and support provided me with the chance to become the French student and person that I have always wanted to be.

Annie Gosserand
Class of 2019, French & Philosophy
TARA BURKE FEENANE  
'83 BA French and Communication

I was in Paris JYA 1981-82. I graduated from Newcomb College in 1983. I am an attorney in Philadelphia and would love to connect with fellow JYA grads. Thank you.

LILLIAN DEVALCOURT-AYALA  
'95 BA Italian & International Relations

In August 2017, Lillian deValcourt-Ayala began serving as Spokesperson for the U.S. Embassy in Rome in a three-year appointment. A Lafayette, LA native, she earned a BA in Italian and International Relations from Tulane and joined the State Department in 1999. This is her second assignment to Rome; she has also served in Guatemala, Brazil, and Angola.

ROBERTA GORDON  
'61 BA French

I went to Yale Graduate School for French from 1961-1964, then left ABD. I have an MA from Yale in Romance Languages and Literatures. I taught at Northeastern and Tufts, and then was granted tenure at Salem State University, where I taught French for many years. My husband, Jeffrey Goldstone (Ph.D., Cambridge U) is an emeritus professor of physics at MIT. We live in Cambridge, MA. We have a new grand-daughter, Helen Ruth Goldstone, born Dec. 10, 2017 in Metuchen, N.J. She looks French. I would love to hear from the other French majors and especially the JYAs of 1959-1960. We are a long way from Dr. Woods, Mme Alvergne, Paris and the Sorbonne, but I remember every minute of it with fondness, even Mlle Drouot and her hairpins. I still have the notebooks I wrote in the Sorbonne in greasy early BIC pens on quadrillé notepaper. Best wishes, looking forward to reading the newsletter!

MELANIE HACKNEY  
'03 BA French

Melanie Hackney has been appointed the Director of Language Programs at NYU Shanghai, beginning in September 2018. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in French from Tulane in 2003. Inspired by professors Beth Poe and John Moran, she went on to pursue a Ph.D. in medieval French literature at LSU, which she completed in 2013. For the past five years, she has worked as a Language Lecturer at New York University, alongside her former Tulane professor, John Moran. Together, the two created a Louisiana Immersion course that brought students to Louisiana, including a visit to their alma mater, where they attended a talk by Professor Thomas Klingler.

PAUL KIRCHER  
'82 BA French

Paul Kircher graduated with a BA in French in 1982. He went Junior Year Abroad in Paris in 1980-81. Paul is now Assistant Dean of Students at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, located in Berkeley, California. He oversees student affairs and school community life. Over 40% of the students at the Jesuit School are from other countries, including many from francophone countries in West Africa. Paul enjoys speaking French with them occasionally. Paul is also singing with a choral group, Cantare Con Vivo. He lives with spouse, Mel Bricker, and their dog, Toby, in Walnut Creek, CA. He sends his greetings to all!

LARRY M. LOEB  
'62 BA French & Political Science

After my definitive retirement from The Hearst Corporation at the end of January 2018, I have joined a reading group of about 10 people to read and discuss on a bi-weekly basis Proust’s A la Recherche du Temps Perdu. This is my 2nd read of the œuvre because I had previously participated in a series of lectures on the work in the context of a committee of a social club I belong to in New York. It’s better the second time around. We are now in the middle of “Jeunes Filles en Fleurs”. Of the 10 participants there are two of us reading the French version. It is an interesting and varied group: a couple of retired lawyers (like me), a psychiatrist, a PhD in French (but the symbolist poets, not Proust), a Brazilian actress, a theology graduate, and a high school guidance counselor. I find the exercise interesting particularly because I understand that Proust has been eliminated from the French Lycée normal curriculum. My first contact with Proust was my sophomore year at Tulane when we read “Un Amour de Swann”.

LIZ MEYER  
'93 BA French

Liz Meyer is the Associate Dean of Students and an Associate Professor of Educational Foundations, Policy and Practice in the School of Education at the University of Colorado Boulder. She taught high school French for 4 years and spent a semester in Caen, France as an English teacher at a college (middle school) as part of the Fulbright Teacher Exchange program in 2001. She completed her Ph.D. at McGill University in Montreal to study bullying and harassment and issues of gender and sexual diversity in schools. She met and married her spouse, Veronika Lesiuk in Montreal, and they have a 7-year old son named Cartier.
MADINA PAPADOPOULOS '06 BA French and Italian

Madina graduated from Tulane in 2006 with a BA in French and Italian, and from UCLA in 2009 with an MFA in Screenwriting. In the summer of 2017, she published her debut novel, *The Step-Spinisters*, through Kindle Press. The book, which follows the lives of Cinderella's stepsisters, is set in Medieval France.

DYLAN K. ROGERS '08 BA Italian

Dylan K. Rogers still serves as the Assistant Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (Greece). In April, his first book, *Water Culture in Roman Society* appeared in Brill’s new series, *Research Perspectives in Ancient History*. One of his current research projects focuses on Venetian-era fountains on the island of Crete.

NATHAN RABALAIS '15 PhD French

I received my Ph.D. in French in 2015 in joint direction with Université de Poitiers in France. I just passed my third-year review as Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies at the College of William and Mary. My book of original poetry (in French) *Le Hantage: un ouvrage de souvenance* is published this year with Éditions Tintamarre at Centenary College, and my documentary film Finding Cajun will be released this summer. I also was just awarded a 12-month NEH Fellowship to complete my monograph project Folklore Figures of French and Creole Louisiana. I’ll be moving back to Louisiana for the fellowship period and would love to catch up with friends at Tulane!

TIFFINI THEISEN '92 BA French

Tiffini Theisen earned a bachelor's in French from Newcomb College in 1992 and a master's in journalism from the University of Florida in 1997. She has worked for newspapers in Florida for two decades, as a reporter, editor, and web/digital and social media editor. She also spent two years as a full-time visiting assistant professor of journalism at the University of Tampa, where she was awarded the J. Richard Piper Outstanding Advisor of the Year Award for her work advising the student newspaper, *The Minaret*. She loves yoga and lives in St. Petersburg, Florida, with her Chiuahua, Twinky.

MAY GWIN WAGGONER '63 BA French

After 15 years of preparation, I am very proud to announce the publication of the definitive anthology of French literature in francophone Louisiana, published this past fall. Here is the information: *Anthologie de la littérature louisianaise d’expression française de 1682 à nos jours* edição par Mathé Allain, Barry Jean Ancelet, Tamarra Lindner, and May Rush Gwin Waggoner. Lafayette, Louisiana: U. of Louisiana Press, Fall 2018.

Cette anthologie propose une vue d’ensemble de la littérature d’expression française en Louisiane, depuis les écrits historiques du début de la colonie jusqu’à la réémergence d’une tradition littéraire dans la deuxième partie du XXe siècle et à l’orée du XXIe siècle, suite au rétablissement de l’enseignement du français. Le corpus ici abordé inclut par ailleurs, entre ces deux pôles historiques, l’émergence d’une tradition littéraire aux XVIIIe et XIXe siècles, ainsi qu’une transcription de la riche tradition orale des Cadiens et Créoles. I continue my involvement with the francophone community of Lafayette as Vice-President of France-Louisiane; French language docent at the Alexandre Mouton house, our historical museum; and volunteer and guide in the Healers’ Garden (le jardin du traiteur) at Vermilionville, our historic village, and I am reworking and organizing my poetry for possible publication.
NELL NOLAN YOUNG
’70 MA French
’70 MA Italian

Nell Nolan Young teaches an AP seminar in French poetry on an annual basis at Country Day School. She also offers private lessons in French. She is an active member of Les Causseries du Lundi, and of Alliance Francaise, including le Club de lecture, and she was honored by Alliance Francaise on March 3, 2018, as the honoree at the gala. She is a board member of the French American Chamber of Commerce - Gulf Coast, where she is also a former Distinguished Member. She is a yearly attendee at France-Louisiane Congres in France. With her husband Robert E. Young, she entertained 40 members of France-Louisiana on April 15, when they visited Louisiana for the tricentennial.

WE NEED YOU!
The Department of French and Italian relies heavily on the support of our alumni and friends to fulfill our mission of fostering and promoting innovative scholarship, transformative research, and inspiring teaching with a focus on the languages and cultures of France and the francophone world, Italy, the Arab world, and Haiti. Through your donations, we are able to recruit and retain outstanding faculty, supply sources for travel and research, endow named professorships and chairs, bestow scholarships and awards on worthy students, bring renowned speakers and conferences to campus, and provide facilities for cutting-edge research and teaching.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Please keep in touch with the Department of French and Italian by sending your news to Jeda McGlothan at jmcglothan@tulane.edu.

“TULANE IN PARIS” SUMMER PROGRAM

Tulane’s four week summer program “Tulane in Paris,” sponsored by The Office of Study Abroad and directed by Senior Professor of Practice Alexandra Reuber, gives students the opportunity to take two 3-credit-hour courses involving the history, art, literature, and culture of the city of Paris. In the summer of 2017, course offerings included the following: Une Promenade sur les lieux de l’histoire (FREN 3250), Flavors of Paris: Food, Film, and Fiction (FREN 3330), Impressionism in Paris Museums (ARHS 3911), Art, Montmartre, and the Pleasures of Paris (ARHS 3913), Photographing Paris (ARST 3020), The Flaneur: A Creative Writing Workshop Focused on the Writer in the City (ENLS 3620/4660), and American Expatriates in Paris: Fiction and Reality (ENLS 3010/4010). All courses had periodic field trips to sites and museums in Paris and its surrounding area to complete the academic curriculum. A four-day excursion to Normandy, where students visited cities and sites related to WWII and the Impressionist movement, were also part of this program.

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Please consider supporting the Department of French and Italian by visiting https://tulaneuniversity.ejoinme.org/?tabid=295528 and designating the Department of French and Italian, or one of the programs it hosts, as the target of your gift.

If you have any questions about our giving priorities, please contact Michael Syrimis at msyrimis@tulane.edu or 504-865-5115. For questions about how to give to your specified allocation, please contact Kassie Cosgrove, Director of Development in the School of Liberal Arts, at kcosgrove@tulane.edu or 504-247-1375.
About the Department of French & Italian

The Department of French and Italian at Tulane University offers a comprehensive program of study that reflects our commitment to cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approaches. Our Department builds on the historical identity of New Orleans as a center of Francophone and Caribbean culture and as the hub of one of America's oldest Italian communities.

Michael Syrimis, Chair
Fayçal Falaky, Director of Graduate Studies
Alexandra Reuber, Undergraduate Adviser, French
Charles Mignot, Director, French Language Program
Michael Syrimis, Undergraduate Adviser, Italian
Bouchaib Gadir, Undergraduate Adviser, Arabic
Jéda McGlothan, Executive Secretary
Leslie Ware, Administrative Secretary