La Gazette

A Newsletter from the Hamilton College Department of French

Volume XVIII, Issue 1 *Fall 2012*

Hamilton College Junior Year in France 2013-14

Sophomores, it's time to start making your plans for France next year! The Hamilton College Junior Year in France is open to sophomores currently enrolled in French 140 or above; exceptional students who complete French 140 in the Spring and who make summer plans that include some French study may also be admitted. After a two-week orientation in Biarritz on the southwest coast of France, students spend the remainder of the year in Paris, where they study a range of subjects including Arabic, Art and Art History, Biology, Comparative Literature, Economics, Government, History, Literature, Psychology, Theater, and much more at a variety of Parisian universities. (The majority of our students are not French majors to begin with, although many add a double major in French after study abroad.) The program is designed as a year-long program, since annual participation ensures the greatest fluency in French and the most meaningful integration into the social and cultural life of Paris. However, students with compelling academic obligations may be admitted for one semester only, Fall or Spring.

HCJYF students live with host families and pledge to speak only French with their families and with other group members during official HCJYF activities, including during excursions and before and after classes at our study center. Our Paris French-immersion program is a fantastic way to become fluent in French and to spend a transformative year in one of the world's great cities. Past students have found their Paris experience to be one of the most important years of their lives.

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Professor Roberta (Bonnie) Krueger, who is currently teaching French 200, will be directing the 2013-14 Hamilton College Junior Year in France. She hosted a series of informational lunches for interested students on Monday, November 5, at noon; on Tuesday, November 6, at noon; and on Wednesday, November 7, at 1pm. All lunches were held in the Browsing Room of Christian Johnson.

If you are planning to attend the HCJYF 2013-14, or if you think you might be interested, hopefully you were able to attend one of the November lunches. In addition, Professor Krueger hopes to meet with each of you individually, to find out about courses in Paris that will help you meet your major requirements and to help you make appropriate plans for courses at Hamilton. She may be reached at rkrueger@hamilton.edu or 315-859-4774.

Gena Hasburgh is the Program Coordinator. She can be reached at aysjyf@hamilton.edu or 315-859-4201. ❖

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Looking forward to HCJYF 2014-15

Professor Guyot-Bender is back from directing the 2011-12 year in France, which by all accounts was a really nice productive year. Speaking with students who just returned and now have a better perspective on last year's experience, and a few parents of returning students during parents' weekend, she continues to think that the year is the best format. Students need a semester to get accustomed to Paris and the French university system; the second semester is when they truly become part of the community and make the most of their progress. She would be more than happy to meet informally with prospective students who may have questions about new affiliations or other aspects of the program or of life in Paris.

Early in Spring, she will invite freshmen in French courses to discuss what the JYF can offer them, so that they can choose their sophomore courses wisely. ❖

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2012-13 HCJYF students on excursion in St-Jean-Pied-de-Port in the beautiful Basque country of Southwestern France, near Biarritz

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Students **Daniel O'Kelly**, **Audrey de Magalhaes**, and **Sarah Andrews** attended the Journée Internationale at the Université de Paris VII, an event where Paris VII students can find out about exchange programs in the United States. We look forward to welcoming our first Paris VII student to Hamilton next year!

Chroniques de Biarritz et de Paris par Daniel O'Kelly, HCJYF 2012-13

Avant de partir pour nos aventures en France, les autres étudiants et moi avions les mêmes soucis : comment pourrions-nous nous occuper d'une vie absolument étrangère où il y aurait des cours en français, des repas français, et la vie quotidienne en français ? Ce n'est pas comme l'Australie ou un pays en Scandinavie où c'est possible de parler anglais tous les jours. Personne ne s'était jamais engagé dans une telle aventure auparavant.

Heureusement, nous continuons à profiter d'un temps magnifique. Comme dans les années passées, le programme a commencé l'année par dix jours à Biarritz, où un homme légendaire à Biarritz qui s'appelle Monsieur Alain Puyau nous a renseignés sur la région du Pays Basque, de la ville de Biarritz, et de la ville de San Sébastian, où nous nous sommes bien amusés une soirée pendant l'orientation. Pendant dix jours, nous avons suivi des cours qui ont présenté les éléments fondamentaux du système éducatif français comme les exposés, les conférences, etc. Des après-midis à la plage, des aventures dans la région, et des repas avec nos familles d'accueil ont chère une orientation tellement géniale.

Mais nous savions que Paris allait être une ville passionnante. Après être restés plus d'un mois ici, je peux constater qu'il y a quelque chose de remarquable dans les journées parisiennes. Le plus évident : les universités parisiennes ne commencent qu'à la fin du mois de septembre/début octobre, et il y a moins de devoir chaque soir. Les examens et les exposés à travers le semestre constituent la note complète. La deuxième chose (que j'avais déjà imaginé) : la vie est chère. Ce n'est pas comme Clinton où l'on dépense de l'argent deux fois par mois à Hannafords ou au cinéma. C'est tellement facile de dépenser plus de quinze ou vingt euros par jour. Mais, ce n'est pas difficile de trouver des repas pas chers. Par exemple, je mange une pâtisserie, une pomme, et un sandwich chaque déjeuner et chaque fois, je dépense moins de €6. Bref, les choses bon prix sont là si tu trouves le temps de les découvrir. La troisième chose: promenez-vous à pied pour voir la ville. Oui, le système du métro en est un des plus remarquables du monde mais en même temps, on peut voir les beaux coins de la ville et trouver de petites boutiques et des secrets cachés seulement à pied. J'ai hâte de découvrir plus de cette ville.

Pour certains étudiants, il ne reste pas beaucoup de temps pour l'exploration. Je sais que ceux qui vont partir dans deux mois veulent rester ici toute l'année. Malheureusement, tout le monde a des obligations. Les étudiants qui ne viennent que pour le premier semestre vont nous manquer mais je suis sûr que nous serons occupés par nos excursions, la vie quotidienne, nos obligations, et notre passion pour Paris. Et il y aura un nouveau groupe d'amis au deuxième semestre à accueillir—les étudiants HCJYF du semestre de printemps! ❖

Daniel O'Kelly's article titled "4 study abroad hurdles" appeared on the USA Today College site on Aug. 6.

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Spring Courses for Advanced Students

Following is a description of courses offered for advanced students in Spring 2013, including updates and additional information not in the Course Catalogue.

If you haven't yet reached the 200-level, we very enthusiastically encourage you to continue in the language sequence, taking French every semester until you reach French 200. This is the best way to build a solid foundation in French and to prepare for study abroad. Once you reach 200, it's fine to take a semester "off" if you must, but bear in mind that if you stay away too long, you will lose fluency….and will lose out on taking the great courses below.

Students preparing to study abroad should make every effort to be in a French class the semester before their department. For questions about any of the following classes, please contact the instructor. We look forward to seeing you in our classes.

200S Introduction to French Studies.

An intensive course to improve all language skills, focusing on oral and written argumentation, proper nuanced expression, grammar and vocabulary-building strategies through the analysis of contemporary literary and cultural texts. Students will read 19th-century tales from Daudet and Maupassant along with a play by Molière.

This is a necessary course for study abroad and French culture and literature courses. Mandatory discussion session TBA. (Writing-intensive.) (Oral Presentations.) Prerequisite, 140 or placement exam. Regular class meetings plus a weekly discussion session with a teaching assistant. Maximum enrollment, 20. O'Neal.

212S Introduction to French Literature II: Fictions of Desire.

Study of the representation of love in its many guises in a range of genres from the Middle Ages to the eighteenth century. Works studied will include *Aucassin et Nicolette;* poetry of the troubadours and *trouvères;* sonnets by Ronsard and Louise Labé; Marguerite de Navarre's *Heptaméron;* Molière's *L'Ecole des femmes;* Mme de Lafayette's *La Princesse de Montpensier;* Prévost's *Manon Lescaut;* and *Le Jeu de l'amour et du hazard* by Marivaux.

Emphasis on the methods and techniques of literary analysis as taught in the French university, including redaction of the *commentaire composé* and the *dissertation.* Class discussion, oral presentations and papers. Taught in French. (Writing-intensive.) Although not a requirement, 200 is strongly recommended. Maximum enrollment, 20. Krueger.

Either French 211 or 212 is required for the French major; one (or both) of these courses is (are) excellent preparation for the Junior Year in France!

255S A Gaze from across the Atlantic: The US As Seen by the French.

In this course, we will look at different ways in which American culture has been depicted in French art, media and popular culture from the nineteenth century to the present. Among the topics discussed, we will explore what each representation reveals about the history and culture of France and the U.S., as well as the state of the Franco-American relationship. Documents studied will range from French intellectuals' observations (de Tocqueville, de Beauvoir) to comic strips. They will also include newspaper articles, films, ads and pop songs. (Oral Presentations.) Prerequisite, French 200. Van de Wiele.

374S Special Topics: African Cinema.

An introduction to the cinema of Africa. This course is a study of major cultural and socio-political issues as well as of techniques, and the crucial question of "language(s)" in African cinema, from the colonial to the post-colonial era. African filmmakers include Raoul Peck, Ngangura Mweze, Ousmane Sembene, Assia Djebar, Amadou Saalum Seck, Raymond Rajaonarivelo, Kwaw Ansah, Djibril Diop Mambety, as well as some non-African director such as Thierry Michel and Tristan Boulard. Taught in French. Prerequisite, One 200-level course or above, or consent of the instructor. Mwantuali.

406S Comic Visions in French Literature from the Middle Ages to Molière

From bawdy tales in the Middle Ages to comic theater written for the court of Louis XIV, this course examines the comedy of social relations, gender, sexuality, the body, language, and social institutions through the lens of theories of laughter and the comic. Theorists include Aristotle; Joubert; Baudelaire; Freud; Bergson; and Bakhtin. Literary works and authors include *Aucassin et Nicolette*; Adam de la Halle's *Le Jeu de la feuillée;* selected fabliaux; the *Farce de Maistre Pathelin*; Marguerite de Navarre; Rabelais; and Molière. Taught in the original French or in modern French translation when appropriate. There will be oral presentations and–with group effort—a comic performance to conclude end the semester in laughter.
Seniors will write their "*mini-thèse*" based on class materials; other students will write a 5-8 pp. final paper, in addition to 2 short papers. Prerequisite, 211 or above, or consent of instructor. Maximum enrollment, 16. Krueger.

428S Post-War Cinematographic Memory

Fr 428: Professor Guyot-Bender's course, Cinematographic Memory, is an interdisciplinary course on the place of cinema in national identity in France. It includes fiction and documentary films, film theory, various national agencies that support film (i.e.: La Cinémathèque française; the Institut National de l'Audiovisuel etc..), but also novels that focus on the presence of film in characters' evolution. The span three historical periods: World War II (and the Nazi Occupation in France), the Algerian Revolution, The course is cross-listed as CNMS. Majors in French will write their senior project on some aspect of the course; together, the class will attempt to compose a common body of work that can be displayed in some way. Prerequisite, one course at the 300-level or above. Maximum enrollment, 16. Guyot-Bender.

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Faculty News

Professor Joan Hinde Stewart

In an essay titled "What Would Jean Valjean Do?" and published on the *Huffington Post*, President Joan Hinde Stewart discussed "the transforming potential of individual example and community action" and "the redeeming value of great models, whether literary or historical." Stewart employed Victor Hugo's Les Misérables and the author's protagonist, Jean Valjean, as examples to illustrate these themes and to demonstrate how literary works from centuries past have relevance in today's society.

"They teach us what our society so needs to know about compassion, understanding and forgiveness," wrote Stewart. "They teach us what it means to be -- like Jean Valjean -- human beings with all our foibles and our immeasurable potential."

The essay was published on the publication's *College* site on July 27. ❖

Professor John O'Neal

Professor John C. O'Neal has been busy this year with the events organized for the tercentenary of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's birth, which was celebrated on the actual day of June 28, 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. O'Neal was there to participate fully in the events and even made the traditional *cortège* along with the mayor of the city, the cultural attaché, men and women bedecked in 18th-century formal attire, acrobats, and drumming jesters. He has put together a photographic essay of the day on the French Bulletin Board in CJ. He penned his observations of the celebrations for a major Geneva newspaper, *Le Temps*, and for *La Gazette des Délices*, the electronic review of the Institut et Musée Voltaire in Geneva. For the *Gazette* of the American Society of the French Academic Palms he described in detail the colorful pageantry of the day itself. He traveled in October to Grenoble, France for another commemorative event, a colloquium to which he was invited to present a paper titled "Rousseau à l'âge de Facebook: l'authenticité et le défi de l'opinion publique dans les *Dialogues*. ❖

Professor Joseph Mwantuali

Professor Joseph Mwantuali published an article titled "Michel Leiris: Poésie et '*mystique du language*' " ("Poetry and the '*mysticism of language*'") in *Cahier Leiris*, the June issue of the French journal *Les Cahiers*.

A French surrealist writer, Michel Leiris (1901-1990) is considered to have revolutionized the art of autobiography by not only writing in different genres (including literary criticism), but also by scattering information about his life and beliefs or principles throughout his work, in a technique that has been called "Easter egg hiding."

During one of his "hunts" for Leiris' "Easter eggs," Mwantuali contends to have found two of the "eggs" – the name that Leiris gave to his writing art, "*The mysticism of language*," and a poem titled "L'Avare" (the "miser" – an economical use of words as sacred "rosary beads") that Leiris may have written as an illustration of this theory. In his article, Mwantuali demonstrated how this theory was put in place by Leiris, and analysed its application in the poem in question.

Editions Les Cahiers is a publishing company that devotes special issues to different major French authors. ❖

In August 2012, Dean of Faculty Patrick Reynolds announced that Professor Mwantuali had been promoted from the rank of associate professor to full professor. Congratulations! ❖

Bienvenue à Teaching Fellow Camille Hanuise

Un peu plus de deux mois se sont écoulés depuis mon arrivée aux Etats-Unis et mon installation sur le campus, où je suis Teaching Fellow jusqu'à la fin de cette année universitaire. Il est donc grand temps de faire officiellement connaissance ! Je m'appelle Camille, j'ai 22 ans, et je suis à l'origine étudiante à Paris III – Sorbonne Nouvelle, où je poursuis mes études en Master (ma spécialité est la traduction de l'anglais). Je souhaitais venir vivre un an aux USA depuis plusieurs années, et Hamilton m'a offert cette opportunité exceptionnelle. En deux mots, mon rôle ici est tout d'abord d'animer des sessions de langue avec les étudiants de français 200, que je rencontre individuellement chaque semaine. Je suis également présente à la Table Française, où je serai ravie de vous rencontrer, et vous pouvez également m'entendre sur les ondes tous les jeudis à 18h, en compagnie de Lily Johnston et Andy Chen, pour une émission 100% culture et musique française.

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Faculty News *(continued)*

Teaching Fellow Camille Hanuise *(continued)*

C'est ma toute première visite sur le sol américain, et malgré le relatif isolement de notre colline, je ne regrette pas du tout la vie parisienne. En France, mon université se résume à un seul grand bâtiment impersonnel coincé au milieu d'autres barres d'immeubles toutes aussi peu accueillantes. Quel contraste lorsque je suis arrivée ici ! Même dépouillé de ses couleurs automnales, le campus est spacieux, hospitalier, fonctionnel… et, cerise sur le gâteau, pas besoin de prendre les transports en commun tous les matins. Hamilton est une vraie petite bulle hors du temps.

J'attends malgré tout avec impatience de parcourir davantage le pays. Après avoir expérimenté l'Amérique sauvage dans les Adirondacks pendant le Fall Recess, je voudrais visiter les villes de la côte Est, en espérant y rencontrer un accueil aussi chaleureux qu'ailleurs. A Old Forge, notre pied-à-terre dans les montagnes, mes *housemates* et moi avons fait d'incroyables rencontres qui ont rendu notre excursion inoubliable. L'année s'annonce riche en découvertes.

Je serais ravie de rencontrer davantage de francophiles sur le campus – n'hésitez pas à rejoindre les déjeuners et dîners francophones, ou même à venir frapper à la porte de mon bureau, Christian Johnson 408. A bientôt ! ❖

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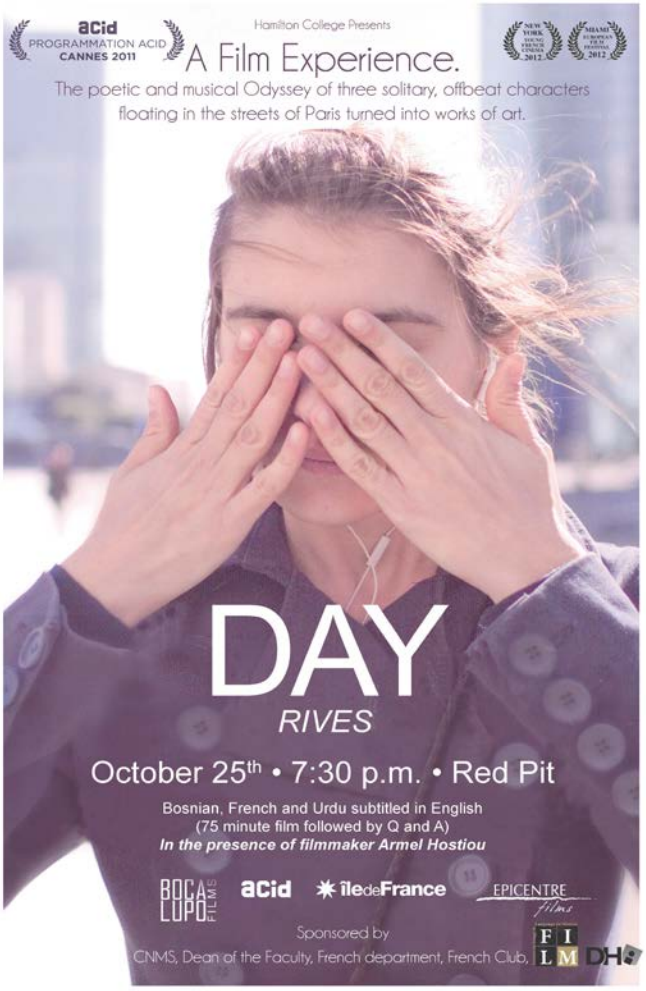
Activités Francophones



RIVES

On October 25th, the French department and French Club, with the sponsorship of Cinema and New Media Studies, FILM and the dean of the Faculty, hosted independent filmmaker Armel Houstiou who presented his film RIVES (Day) in a crowded Red Pit. The film was a wonderful rendition of Paris through the eyes of three very different characters battling with solitude. After the film, Hostiou spoke to students, faculty and parents about choices he made for his film: in particular, non-professional characters who played roles close to their real life. He also explained the importance of the mix of reality and fiction, and his deliberate choice to build a narrative, which each spectator could transform according to his or her experience. RIVES has been supported by independent producer Les films de l'Acid. It was chosen to showcase independent cinema at Cannes in 2011 and received several awards in various festivals including in Rio de Janeiro, Munich and Sand Francisco. ❖

Activités Francophones *(continued)*

French 211 students visit the Munson Williams Proctor Institute

On October 31st, students in Fr. 211 visited the Munson Williams Proctor Art Institute exhibition on Egypt. What is the link between a French literature course and Egypt? The students found out as they are reading, *Nefertiti ou le rêve d'Akhnaton* (1986) by French Egyptian novelist Andrée Chédid.

The exhibit contains many examples of French so-called orientalist paintings (Gustave Doré, Jean-Léon Gérôme…); representations of Napoleon and his scientific teams discovering Egypt during the Egyptian campaign; beautiful plates of the *Description de l'Égypte*, a multi volume encyclopedia written during the campaign. ❖

Montréal

Looking ahead! The French department is looking into organizing once again its week-end field trip to Montreal, which **Professor Guyot-Bender** will lead. Tentative dates are April 12-13. In the past, the Dean of the Faculty sponsored portions of the trip, and students were responsible for part of the cost (in the $50 range for a two night trip). ❖

Club Français

Elaheh Nozari '13 is this year's president.
Faculty Advisor: **Professor A. Van de Wiele** ❖

Comment publies dans la Gazette?

If you would like to submit an essay, poem, picture, and/or news for publication in the next issue, please contact **Prof. Bonnie Krueger** at rkrueger@hamilton.edu or 315-859-4774. Her office is located in Christian A. Johnson, 209. ❖

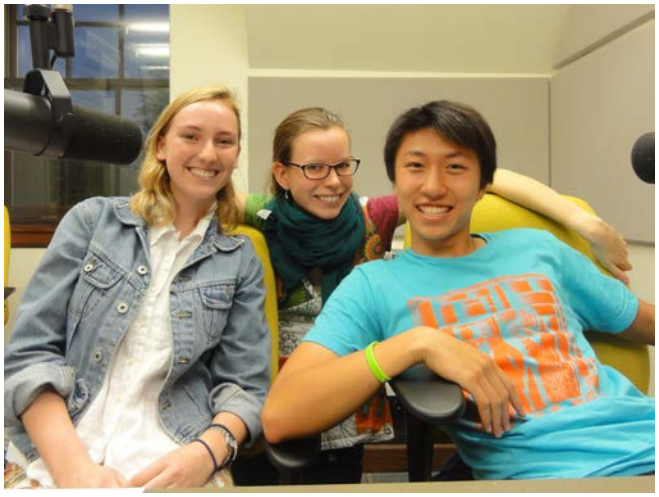
La Table Française

Students and faculty have been convening at French Table in the Hamilton Dining Halls at least since the 1970s, when a glass of wine at table was legal. But even *sans vin*, our twice-weekly meals together *en français* are congenial and convivial. Whatever your level of French, please come! We meet on **Tuesdays from 6-7pm** and on **Fridays from 12-1pm** on the Front Mezzanine of Commons, where we have tables reserved. ❖

« Le Monde Francophone » on WHCL 88.7FM

Une émission de radio mêlant musique et culture francophone, organisée autour d'un thème hebdomadaire. Nous vous préparons cette semaine une émission spéciale "Élection Présidentielle" pour redécouvrir la politique à travers la chanson.

Thursdays 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.



Hosted by **Camille Hanuise**
Co-hosted by **Lily Johnston '16** and **Andy Chen '16**
Faculty Advisor: **Professor J.E. Mwantuali** ❖

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