The 2022 Fête de la Recherche
Organized by Ania Gueye, Sylvain Chassagneux, Helen Heaton & the Class of 2022 Senior French Majors, with the help of Prof. Michael Leruth

DATE: October 21, 2022
TIME: 4:30 – 6 PM (Doors open at 4:15)
PLACE: Andrews Hall, Room 101
Refreshments will be provided!
Order of Events

Opening Remarks, Faculty Introductions, Spring 2023 Courses
Anta Gueye

Montpellier Summer 2022 Research Roundtable
Anta Gueye, Corinne Vanella, Caroline Elszy

IFE Study Abroad Research Roundtable
Mary Trimble, Lea Solomon

Student Research Presentations: French 314
Aiden McCullough, Carolyn Bonafede

Intermission

Honors Thesis Presentation
Alex Earls

Honors Thesis Presentation
Alexandra Byrne

Intermission

Alumni Speaker
Stephanie Kumah

Closing Remarks
Anta Gueye
About the Speakers

Carolyn Bonafede

Biography: Hello! My name is Carolyn Bonafede, and I am a sophomore currently planning to double major in linguistics and chemistry while taking French classes on the side. I got my start in French from my mom, who also studied French in college and introduced me to the language while homeschooling me through elementary and middle school. Since then, I’ve found I love learning to understand and speak French, and my goal is to become comfortably fluent.

Project Description: My research is about Occitan, a regional language spoken in the south of France, and I will be presenting a brief background on Occitan followed by a discussion of the role of Occitan songs in education.

Alexandra Byrne

Biography: My name is Alexandra Byrne and I’m a senior majoring in French & Francophone Studies and International Relations. I’m a proud member of the International Justice Lab on campus and spent the Spring 2022 semester at the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier, France. I was also the recipient of the French department’s McCormack-Reboussin scholarship for my thesis, for which I did field research in Paris and Marseille during the summer of 2022. I miss my host mother’s cooking a lot and hope to soon learn how to make the perfect quiche!

Project Description: Inalienable for whom?: Activism and the politics of postcolonial restitution in French museums

This thesis will interrogate the relationship between French museums, activists, and the government as it relates to postcolonial restitution of cultural heritage. I will seek to understand 1) how museums address colonialism and restitution in their public rhetoric, 2) the geopolitical barriers to restitution, and 3) the role of activists in the process.

Alex Earls

Biography: I am a head resident after two years as an RA, as well as being the head chair of recognition for NRHH. I am a senior majoring in French & Francophone Studies and Government.

Project Description: This project examines how French universalist thought impacts France’s ability to comply with the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination.
Caroline Elszy

**Biography:** My name is Caroline Elszy and I’m a senior at the college studying Government and French. On campus, I’m a Research Assistant for AidData, co-music director for the Intonations Acapella, and music ministry coordinator for the Catholic Campus Ministry. This past summer, I studied abroad in Montpellier, France, and was an intern for the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation. Upon graduation, I hope to attend graduate school for international studies or to work as a government consultant. French is incredibly near and dear to my heart, and I intend to use it in my future career!

**Project Description:** My project focuses on the character of the Écusson district that continues to attract people to live there despite Montpellier’s rapid urbanization. I chose Écusson because of its historical preservation that dates back to the Middle Ages, which does not align to the comforts of the contemporary world. I compare Écusson’s character to that of Port Marianne, a modern city that is just as popular. Why do Écusson and Port Marianne, two cities with entirely different structures and historical narratives, hold the same appeal? By walking in the streets, taking photos, and observing the world around me, I found that Écusson’s architecture and historical intention transcend time and development, as they are still appreciated today. At the same time, I observed a plasticity to the city demonstrated in its art expositions, street art, food, and style. It is a city that does not adapt but that continues to live with its time.

Anta Gueye

**Biography:** Hi! My name is Anta Gueye and I’m a senior majoring in French & Francophone Studies and Psychology. I learned to speak French while growing up in Senegal and the DRC until the end of high school. I also studied abroad in Montpellier this summer and loved every second of it, so I hope to go back soon! I’m graduating at the end of this semester and plan on taking a gap year before heading off to graduate school for Social Psychology.

**Project Description:** My project focused on the contemporary artist Abdelkader Benchamma and his works as a revelation of individual and collective memory. One of the main ideas was that an understanding of art enables an understanding of history. I did this by looking at two of his exhibitions, Engramme (2019) and Rayon Fossile (2022), and how him drawing outside of the canvas made this idea possible.
Aidan McCullough

**Biography:** My name is Aidan McCullough and I'm a sophomore double majoring in European studies and French and Francophone Studies. The French language has transformed my life for the better, and I want to enrich the lives of others in the same way that the language has empowered me to enact positive change in my life.

**Project Description:** A dialectical analysis into the nuanced implications of the Franco-Prussian war for the development of French national identity — through a socio-political and cultural lens.

Lea Soloman

**Biography:** My name is Lea Solomon and I am a senior double majoring in French and Public Health. I started learning French when living overseas in Gabon and Mauritania!

**Project Description:** My research project investigated the use of oral communication (“parole”) by URACA, a community health organization that primarily serves the Sub-Saharan African immigrant population in Paris. Interviews and observations revealed oral communication is a powerful and culturally relevant tool for education, community building, and healing.

Mary Trimble

**Biography:** My name is Mary Trimble and I’m a Senior majoring in French and European Studies. In the Spring of 2022, I studied abroad in Paris with the IFE program. I can say that majoring in French at William & Mary has changed my life. Really.

**Project Description:** My research investigates the role of nationalist discourse as a tool of persuasion in French political tracts from 1945-2015 having to do with nuclear energy and weapons.

Corinne Vanella

**Biography:** Hello! My name is Corinne Vanella and I’m a junior majoring in Biology and minoring in French on the premed track. My favorite part of studying abroad was learning about the special traditions and activities of daily life in France. I loved spending time with my amazing host family, especially during the weekly extended family dinners!

**Project Description:** The main topic of my presentation was how the tramway of Montpellier acts as a microcosm of the city, and how it represents specific parts of the Montpellier culture including the city structure, art, history, and community. The tramway is not only a source of transportation for the citizens of Montpellier, but a symbolic and literal heart of the city and community.
Stephanie Kumah, Guest Speaker

Ms. Kumah is a Program Specialist at USAID's Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization. In this role, she supports peacebuilding efforts around the globe. Previously, as a Senior Program Officer at Counterpart International, she supported civic and voter education programming in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In this capacity, Ms. Kumah provided technical and programmatic assistance to local staff across seven offices. Additionally, Ms. Kumah supported Women, Peace, & Security programming in Niger and Burkina Faso.

Before this, Ms. Kumah supported education programming for at-risk children and youth in Northern Nigeria, overseeing a grants portfolio of over three dozen local partners. Specifically, she supported the technical design of education programming in conflict-affected contexts across Sub-Saharan Africa. As a member of USAID’s Education in Crisis & Conflict Network, Ms. Kumah played an instrumental role in establishing indicators to improve the measurement of safety in conflict-affected settings as part of the Safer Learning Environments Working Group.

At the Atlantic Council’s Africa Center, Ms. Kumah provided analysis on the nexus between security and governance in Sub-Saharan Africa. Published in the Journal of Development Studies, Ms. Kumah is the co-author of ‘Democracy or Accountability? Governance and Social Spending in Africa.’ She holds a BA in French and Government from the College of William and Mary (Class of 2012) and an MSc in Migration from the University of Oxford. At W&M, she was part of the African Cultural Society (ACS), served as a Teaching Assistant for the French Department, and worked at the McLeod Business Library in W&M's Mason School of Business.
French & Francophone Studies Faculty

From left to right: Brett Brehm, Kate Conley, Deborah Lee-Ferrand, Giulia Pacini, Angela Leruth, Danaé Maden, Michael Leruth, Magali Compan

Brett BREHM (brbrehm@wm.edu) specializes in literature and the visual arts of nineteenth-century France. He is the author of the forthcoming book, *Kaleidophonic Modernity*, about the intersections between literature and the invention of sound recording technology. He has recently taught courses about happiness in French and Francophone literature, histories of audiovisual media, and the bohemian artistic imagination.

Magali COMPAN (mxcomp@wm.edu) works on Francophone Literatures and Cultures with a focus on the Indian Ocean. She teaches Francophone studies. Her book *Îles Intimes: Expression de l'iléïté dans l'Océan Indien francophone* came out last year. Her book examines representation of the insular spaces and more particularly how islanders themselves write their own space.

Kate CONLEY (kconley@wm.edu) served as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences from 2012 to 2020. She holds a Ph.D. in French from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on post-World War I surrealism. She is currently working on a book tentatively entitled *Surrealism Collects the World*. Her husband, Richard Stamelman, is also a scholar of French.

Deborah LEE-FERRAND (deleeferrand@wm.edu) is currently teaching classes on Ecocriticism and Transnational Maghrebi and Beur cinemas. She is conducting research on the ongoing hegemony of French cuisine in the world and how literatures translate, reassert, reject, or redefine the relationship between French culture and the symbolic economy of food. She is a native of the Aveyron region of France.
Angela LERUTH (axleru@wm.edu) is a native of the Alsace region of France. She teaches French language courses, including a version of French 210 with a focus on existentialism. She collaborates with the international nonprofit Narrative 4 and works on applications of empathy-building storytelling exchanges in the foreign language classroom. Her outside interests include global cinema and cooking.

Michael LERUTH (mfleru@wm.edu) teaches courses and does research on contemporary French politics, cultural identity, social trends, and contemporary art and literature. In Fall 2022, he is piloting a new COLL 100 course called “Murder, French-Style.” He is the author of the forthcoming volume Modern France for the series “Understanding Modern Nations.” He loves Bob Dylan, the Detroit Tigers, and MTV’s Ridiculousness.

Danaé MADEN (demaden@wm.edu) is a native of the French department and region of Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean. She studied Anglophone and Reunionese creole literature, civilization, and language for her undergraduate studies and would like to continue in that field culminating with a PhD. She is the William & Mary French House International Fellow for AY 2022-23. She loves sharing Reunionese cuisine with her friends.

Giulia PACINI (gxpaci@wm.edu) specializes in the political and environmental history of early modern France. A long-standing interest in trees and concerns over the side-effects of deforestation inform her current research on the climate literature of the Revolution and Bourbon Restoration. She spends as much time as she can outdoors.
Spring 2023 Courses in French
(COLL, upper-intermediate, and advanced levels)

FREN 150-01 (26814) – Slow Living, ou L'Art de Végéter – Giulia PACINI
TR 1400-1520
*Might vegetating help us flourish? Let's delve into some fantastic French & Francophone literature, explore a local forest, and discover what an encounter with plant life offers in this age of acceleration and environmental crisis. A COLL 150; counts for our major and minor. Cross-listed as ENSP 150. TAUGHT IN FRENCH.*

FREN 210-01 (20072) – Introduction to Reading & Writing – Angela LERUTH
MWF 1000-1050
*Study of L'Étranger by Albert Camus and Meursault, contre-enquête by Kamel Daoud as the core readings to explore existentialism in a variety of literary excerpts and films. Other topics include the current French social, political, and cultural environment. The course also features a selective review of key grammatical structures and their application to the writing of compositions designed to bring students up to a more sophisticated level of written discourse in French. TAUGHT IN FRENCH.*
FREN 212-01 (25770) – Cross-Cultural Perspectives – Deborah LEE-FERRAND
MWF 0900-0950
This course provides an introduction to Francophone studies through an examination of the colonial and postcolonial francophone world, all the while reinforcing essential grammar concepts. TAUGHT IN FRENCH.

FREN 305-01 (20074) – The Modern Horizon – Brett BREHM
MWF 1300-1350
FREN 305-02 (26812) – The Modern Horizon – Brett BREHM
MW 1530-1650
What kinds of horizons can we imagine? How might we seek to go beyond those horizons? These questions will serve as our points of departure in this seminar emphasizing frequent writing and applied grammar. With attention to films, podcasts, music videos, song lyrics, artworks, and literature among other materials, we will explore modern and contemporary landscapes, cityscapes, and soundscapes in French and Francophone culture. From the city to the countryside, among other topics, we will read and write about Paris, the environmental imagination, migration, politics, and the place of writing in an endangered world. TAUGHT IN FRENCH.

FREN 314-01 (20780) – Intro to French Cultural Studies – Michael LERUTH
TR 0930-1050
This course will introduce students to interdisciplinary approaches to the study of French and Francophone cultures with a particular focus on the notion of French national identity. Specific examples will include national mythology and collective memory, the cultural production of nineteenth-century Paris, and the contemporary issues of immigration and multiculturalism as they relate to the history of colonialism. TAUGHT IN FRENCH.

FREN 315-01 (20075) – Provocative Texts in French Literature – Giulia PACINI
TR 1700-1820
What can literature do? This course will test the powers of fiction by studying provocative masterpieces of French & Francophone literature. In the process, we will also consider the material, social, legal, economic, and ideological forces that shaped French & Francophone literary culture over the centuries. TAUGHT IN FRENCH.

FREN 316-01 (26815) – French Presidents: Politics & Culture – Michael LERUTH
TR 1100-1220
In this course, we will get to know the eight presidents of France since 1958, from Charles de Gaulle to Emmanuel Macron. We will consider the French presidency within the constitutional and institutional framework of the Fifth Republic as well as in the broader political and popular culture of contemporary France. We will look in detail at the French presidential election of 2022. In addition to scholarly sources, we will consider feature films and the first volume (2012) of Sabri Louatah’s series of novels Les Sauvages, about France’s fictional first Muslim president. TAUGHT IN FRENCH.
This course examines the ways in which literature and other creative responses (film, graphic novels, music, plastic art, painting) articulate resistance against hegemonic forces of oppression and create new spaces for public discourse and collective memory. How do artists tell stories of suffering, loss, social abandonment, and resilience? What are the formal properties of texts attempting to uncover unspoken reserves of rage? Is the rage of the oppressed similar to the rage of privileged? Students will examine the forms and uses of violence in francophone cultures via historically contextualized examples of cultural production from France, Algeria, Haiti, Guadeloupe, Senegal, Mayotte, Madagascar, and Mauritius island. Both 390 and 450 versions TAUGHT IN FRENCH.
MONTPELLIER
Summer 2023 Study Abroad
Resident Director: Prof. Michael Leruth
mfleru@wm.edu

- End May – End June (five weeks)
- $7,500 (2022) – does not include air fare
- Earn nine (9) W&M credits (FREN) for major/minor
- Prerequisite: FREN 210 or 212 or equivalent
- Homestays with local families
- Independent research option for advanced students or courses at IFE (Univ. Paul Valéry)
- Cultural excursions in Montpellier and surrounding region

APP. DEADLINE: DEC. 1

Second information session: November 15
5:00 – 6:00 pm in Washington 315 + on Zoom
https://cwm.zoom.us/j/28052155110

McCormack-Reboussin Scholarship in French

The French and Francophone Studies program is proud to share this invitation to apply for the 2023-2024 McCormack-Reboussin Memorial Scholarship. This generous scholarship, awarded annually to a rising Senior in French and Francophone Studies, includes $4,000 to fund research in France or another Francophone country or region during the summer between the Junior and Senior years and $8,000 towards tuition and fees during the Senior Year.

If you are thinking about applying, make sure to attend the Information session that will take place on zoom on Friday 28 October from 4:00 to 5:00pm.

During that zoom session, students will hear about the application process, the expectations for the scholarship, examples from previous recipients, and will be able to ask questions to the French faculty about the Scholarship.

https://cwm.zoom.us/j/26151188909

You can find more information regarding this unique scholarship in French and Francophone Studies program on the following link:
https://www.wm.edu/as/modernlanguages/french/resources-for-students/mccormack_reboussin_scholarship/index.php