



Larry Vandergrift ('69) Receives Prestigious Canadian Research Grant

Larry Vandergrift graduated from Calvin with a French major in 1969, and he fondly remembers going on the first "Interim Abroad" with Professor Arthur Otten in 1967-68. He began his teaching career at Edmonton Christian High School, where he taught French for 22 years. In 1992, he obtained a doctorate in Second Language Teaching from the University of Alberta. He now teaches at the University of Ottawa where he holds a joint appointment with the Second Language Institute (where he teaches French and ESL) and the Faculty of Education (where he teaches graduate courses in Applied Linguistics).

Larry also conducts research in second/foreign language listening comprehension. His federally-funded research projects have allowed him to publish widely on second language listening processes and strategies, and his research results have led to the development of a pedagogical cycle for teaching language learners how to listen. As a result of his research profile, Larry has been invited to write 'State of the Art' articles in prestigious journals such as the *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching*, as well as the forthcoming *Handbook of Second and Foreign Language Teaching*.

In Canada, Larry works in French language education on a number of fronts. He has conducted research projects for the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers and is presently part of a research team investigating the needs of French teachers (Core and Immersion) across Canada. He has worked on curriculum writing projects for the province of Alberta, as well as projects for Canadian Parents for French. He is currently a co-editor of the *Canadian Modern Language*



Review, Canada's top-tier journal in applied linguistics.

In Spring 2005, Larry was awarded a prestigious research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Virtual Scholar-in-Residence Award, which enabled him to work with the Official Languages Support Program Branch of the Department of Canadian Heritage to research the potential of a framework for languages for Canada. A common framework, currently nonexistent in Canada, would provide an objective, coherent and transparent tool for measuring language proficiency for all sectors and for tracking progress towards the government's goal of doubling the number of high school graduates with functional proficiency in French by 2013. Competition for SSHRC grants is very keen and the *University of Ottawa Gazette* had the following article about the award in its April 28, 2005 issue:

Vandergrift, an associate professor in the Second Language Institute, has been

named a Virtual-Scholar-in-Residence, a distinction that frees him from his normal teaching responsibilities for a year and provides him with \$50,000 in support. Working closely with Canadian Heritage, Vandergrift is looking forward to taking stock of second language programs across Canada to assess what changes are needed.

Larry believes that his Calvin training was the first step in a long and productive career, which now finds him in a major leadership role in French language education in Canada. Larry writes: "The Lord has blessed my work far beyond my wildest expectations. When I graduated from Calvin, I never dreamed I would be where I am now."

Larry's research on language proficiency frameworks and consultation with framework developers at the Council of Europe resulted in a document that proposes the adoption of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages as the framework for Canada. Work has now begun in presenting this proposal to various stakeholders such as provincial ministries of Education and the Language Training Branch of the federal government. Interest so far has been high.

In addition to further dissemination of the framework proposal, plans for the future include further work in the exploration of second language listening processes. Larry's next project will focus on explaining variance in listening: that is, determining the relative contribution of different variables to success in second language listening and the implications of this knowledge for teaching.

Larry hopes that his work can serve as an inspiration to others and he would encourage other French majors, especially Canadians, to work hard and to believe that there are unlimited opportunities for Calvin grads.

10 Questions for Janel Pettes Guikema

After graduating from Calvin College in 1993 with a BA in French and English, Janel Pettes Guikema obtained an MA in French from Bowling Green State University in 1996 and completed her doctorate in French and Foreign Language Acquisition at Pennsylvania State University in 2004. She taught at Grand Valley State University (GVSU, Allendale, MI) as a visiting professor from 2003 to 2006 as well as in 2000-2001. During her graduate studies, she also taught French at Hope College and Calvin College, and spent a year as an *assistante d'anglais* in Lyon. This academic year she begins a tenure-track job as Assistant Professor of French at GVSU.



1. How did you get interested in studying French?

Like so many people, I loved the sound of the language. I began studying French when I was twelve and enjoyed it so much that I could never give it up.

2. What did you study for your Ph.D.?

I studied French and foreign language acquisition (applied linguistics), with a focus on reading and writing methodologies and research.

3. What do you teach at GVSU?

I regularly teach introductory and intermediate French, and I've also taught linguistics, phonetics, composition, and introduction to literature.

4. What is your favorite course to teach? Why?

I especially enjoy the introductory course because the students are excited to learn how to communicate in French, and the rate of acquisition is quite fast at this stage.

5. Recently, you began using iPods in your French courses. How does that work?

We used iPods in intermediate French last year (thanks to an internal grant), incorporating podcasts and a wide variety of music into the curriculum. Students created their own podcasts at the end of the semester.

6. Do the iPods help students learn French better?

Many students reported an increase in their ability to understand spo-

ken French from the podcasts and songs. They also said the iPod motivated them to spend more time on task outside the classroom (while exercising, riding the bus, etc.).

7. What does your current research focus on?

My research focuses on literacy development and learner identity in foreign language learning. I am also conducting a study on the effectiveness of the iPod as a tool for language learning.

8. Do you teach in the summer as well?

GVSU has a summer study abroad program in Nice. I'll be the director for the next 4-5 years (one week in Paris, 4 weeks in Nice).

9. A recent French movie or book you would recommend?

I'm currently reading the book *La vie extérieure* by Annie Ernaux. It consists of her reflections on observing public spaces in France from 1993-1999. The cultural references and alternative views of the ordinary are fascinating.

10. Any advice for alums on how to keep up their French?

Besides reading, I watch the news regularly on the TF1 website (www.tf1.fr). This is great for current events, human interest stories, regional pronunciations, etc. Participating in French chat rooms is also a great way to learn the latest slang.

Francofiles fall 2006 issue

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Faculty News

Prof. Charlotte De Jong

Prof. De Jong taught first and second year French classes this past academic year, 2005-2006, for Professor Selles and Professor Vos-Camy. During the interim, she



teamed with Professor Mathews in teaching the accelerated French class, 122. In January she was pleased to receive an adjunct appointment in the French Department for the next few years. This fall she will continue filling in as needed, this time for Prof. Fetzer.

During spring break she spent a week in Paris and in Amsterdam with her husband, who was speaking at conferences. She was privileged to see a very special exhibit depicting Christ's Passion on display in the Madeleine Church in Paris. Each large painting was accompanied by a scripture text related to Christ's suffering. The artist Marcel Hasquin was present on the day they were there. From that meeting she was able to return to Calvin with a book of prints of the Passion as depicted by this artist. A few weeks later, in a French language chapel during Holy Week, students were able to experience some of the power of Hasquin's paintings through a meditation using PowerPoint.

This past spring, Professor De Jong and her husband hosted the director of the ACCORDS Junior Wind Band, Dr. Bruno Rossero, and his wife, from the town of Lancey, about 18 kilometers from Grenoble. This fine band was composed of 66 members, ranging in age from 15 to 22, and was brought to Michigan in an exchange with the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

Keeping current in French is much easier than it used to be, thanks to the internet and exchanges with both students and adults, and Professor De Jong looks forward to renewing friendships in travels to France.

Other interests related to French that she particularly enjoys are reading a wide variety of French books and keeping up with current affairs by watching the satellite French language television station, TV5. In addition, she is a member of the local chapter of the *Alliance Française*.

Prof. Glenn Fetzer

This past year Prof. Fetzer taught two new courses:

a special topics course titled "French Cultural Identities:

Testimonial, Autobiography, History," and an off-campus interim course, "Martinique: Language and Culture in the French Antilles." In the first course—and drawing on published journals, autobiographies, novels, documentaries, propaganda films, and more—students considered questions such as what it means to be French, what challenges places, laws, attitudes, and historical events present to constructing a notion of "Frenchness". The second course represented the first time that the department arranged a homestay and language immersion interim in Martinique. The three weeks spent in a place that both is and isn't France led to a great deal of discussions, reflections, and—hopefully—inclinations to repeat the interim in a few years.

Since the last newsletter, Prof. Fetzer has seen the publication of the following articles on French poets: "*L'Élégie en jeu chez Emmanuel Hocquard*," in *B.A.B.E.L.* (2005), "Jean-Marie Gleize, Emmanuel Hocquard, and the Challenge of Lyricism," in *Studies in 20th & 21st Century Literature* (2005), "*Claudé lecteur de Saint-John Perse*," in *Paul Claudel Papers* (2005), and "*Théâtralité de l'île (Hocquard, Cadot, Fourcade)*," in *In aqua scribis. Le thème de l'eau dans la littérature* (2005).

Over the course of the past year he presented several papers at professional conferences: "*Saint-John Perse, mémorialiste*" at the Colloquium "*Saint-John Perse à Giens, 1957-1975*" (Université de Toulon et du Var); "*Claudé: l'art et le phénomène*" at the Colloquium "*Paul Claudel 2005 : Approches critiques*," (York University); "Reading Claudel with Jean-Louis Chrétien," at the NACFLA conference at Baylor University; and "*Poésie et patrie chez Edmond Rostand*" at the colloquium "*Edmond Rostand : renaissance d'une œuvre*" (Cambo les Bains, France).



The highlight of his year was the opportunity in December to be a member of an academic jury at the Sorbonne for a French colleague who had prepared her "*Habilitation à diriger des Recherches*".

In the fall 2006 semester, Prof. Fetzer will serve as the Director of the college's "Study in Hungary" program, and is looking forward to traveling and working with twenty-two students.

Prof. Irene Konyndyk

Prof. Konyndyk continues to work in the area of "Foreign Language Learning and Learning Disabilities." In July, 2005 she gave a presentation at



the AATF conference in Québec City, and in November did a workshop at the ACTFL conference in Baltimore.

She has been granted a sabbatical during the 2006-2007 academic year to begin work on a book explaining the various aspects of her Multisensory Structured French sequence. She hopes to complete several chapters of the book and will be seeking to get those published. In preparation for her sabbatical, she worked this summer with a McGregor fellow (more about that elsewhere in this newsletter) to widen her reading and research before she begins writing.

During the past academic year she led a Reading Group, sponsored by the Kuyers Institute, called "Learning Disabilities and Pedagogy in a Christian Context." This group of scholars was gathered from various departments throughout Calvin. The group read about the nature of learning disabilities (including historical and perspectival issues) and discussed how to examine learning disabilities through the lens of a Reformed and Christian worldview. In the coming year this group will continue its work, focusing on the implications for teaching and learning.

For relaxation, Prof. Konyndyk likes to head up north with her husband to spend time at their cabin on Lake Cecelia. She enjoys kayaking, swimming, going on hikes, reading, playing board games, and visiting with extended family and friends who often join them there.

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Her husband is an avid fly fisherman, who regularly “hears the fish calling to him” from the nearby lake and rivers.

Her children continue to be an important part of her life. Jeremy ('99) was married in April and he and his Irish wife, Hilary O'Connor, will be moving from W. Africa (Guinea – a French-speaking country) to E. Africa (Uganda) this summer to continue their international development work. Liesje ('01) lives in Kalamazoo, MI, where she teaches French and Math at Loy Norrix High School. Abby ('05) lives in Alexandria, VA, where she is a Social Worker, working with Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

Prof. Leslie Mathews

Prof. Mathews will see her planning for a proposed Interim course abroad come to fruition this year. She began collaborating two years ago with Prof. Cynthia Slagter of the Spanish Department on an Interim course for January 2007, which came to be titled “Mediterranean Crossings”. The issues to be explored, historic and current interactions between Spanish,



France and the Moorish/Muslim populations of North Africa, took on new timeliness with last fall's protests by Muslim youth in France over problems of assimilation for this generation of immigrants from former French colonies such as Morocco and Algeria.

One of the most interesting aspects of planning this Interim, which is designed for 25-30 students, was setting up a network of local experts in Europe who have expertise in working with Muslim immigrants and who could make presentations in English on various aspects of their work. A number of Americans and North Africans affiliated with Arab World Ministries gladly agreed to give seminars providing background information on the issues facing both the immigrants and the French government. The talks will be followed by onsite visits to the schools, markets and mosques of the neighborhoods (the high-rise *cités*) where the populations they work with live.

“Mediterranean Crossings” begins in Madrid, proceeding to the southern cities of Cordoba and Granada, before crossing by ferry to Tangier in Morocco to visit the homeland of the *Maghrébins* (the French term for North Africans). Barcelona will be one of the next stops in Spain as the group works its way

along the Mediterranean coast to the port of Marseilles and up the Rhone River to Lyon and then Paris, all major points of immigrant settlement in France. Profs. Mathews and Slagter hope that the Interim course will be as rewarding for the students as the planning has been for them.

Prof. Otto Selles

From mid-August to the end of December 2005, Prof. Selles, his wife Rita, and their three children were in Grenoble with the Study in France program (see related article). Upon returning to Grand Rapids, Prof. Selles spent the month of January mourning the loss of mountain vistas and the poor ski conditions in Michigan. But he got over his Alpine malady once he got back into teaching French language classes and dealing with administrative work.

In addition to returning to his functions as department chair, he served again on the faculty steering committee for the Festival of Faith in Writing, held at Calvin in April 2006. During the Festival, he chaired a number of



Where are They Now?

Dr. Claude-Marie Baldwin-Vos celebrates her tenth-year anniversary of retirement from Calvin. She writes the following:

“I continue to keep in touch with some of my students and delight in doing so. Phil Brondsema (student of French in 1978) has moved to Houston and attends our church, Hope Church, CRC. We are enjoying reconnecting after all these years.

I continue to thoroughly enjoy teaching - though the subject has changed. For the past ten years, I have been teaching adults how to have a richer and more effective prayer life. This teaching has taken me abroad to countries such as Brazil and England as

well as to Canada and various states in the US and to many churches in Texas.

I also continue to be passionate about art. My husband, Ken, and I have traveled to many museums in the US and abroad, including in China and Sweden. In August 2006, we will spend several days in St. Petersburg, Russia, exploring the Hermitage Museum and its fabulous collections. We will also visit the impressive art collections in Moscow.

It is such a blessing to be able to continue to do the things I most like doing even though I have been “retired” for ten years.”

Dr. Jim Wilkins has just completed his ninth year at Lee University, in

Cleveland, TN, where he is Professor of French. Those who remember his work at Calvin will not be surprised to learn that in 2003 he was awarded his university's Excellence in Teaching Award. At Lee University he has been active in oral proficiency testing and is a certified ACTFL Oral Proficiency Tester and Tester Trainer. He notes that he is anticipating a shift from teaching French to TESOL, effective in the fall of 2007. In addition to training in OPI workshops for ACTFL, he also trains in LPI Workshops for the Peace Corps (2005 in Chad and Cameroon; 2006 in Senegal and Niger). In the summer of 2006 he also spent time in oral proficiency training in Thailand.

sessions, entertained a number of authors, and listened to some marvelous readings and presentations.

During the year, he also tried to keep up, to a small degree, his own creative writing endeavors. In the context of a Psalm contest organized by the chapel, Prof. Selles and his sister Geraldine Ysselstein won in the collaborative category for a combination of poems and oils tied to Psalms 110-113. In June, his poem "Memento" received an honorable mention as part of the Kent County Poetry Competition put on by the Dyer-Ives Foundation.

As a member of a research group studying the topic "Voltaire, justice and toleration," he attended meetings in Geneva (December, 2005) and Northern Ireland (May, 2006). In March, he also attended in Montreal the annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. Once the spring term was over, he completed a review essay on how French culture is portrayed in English-language books, particularly those written by expatriates living in France.

Over the summer, his main research project was a paper for a Voltaire conference organized in Edinburgh by the director of his research group (September, 2006). Vacation time included camping and travel in Michigan with his wife and kids as well as family events in Ontario.

Prof. Jolene Vos-Camy

Prof. Vos-Camy greatly enjoyed teaching a new version of the course, Francophone Literature of Africa and the African Diaspora in the fall of 2005. One of the books that proved to be most intriguing was *Allah n'est pas obligé* by Ahmadou Kourouma. This fictional novel is set against the backdrop of events of the late 1990s in West Africa and depicts the plight of child-soldiers in a funny yet terrifying narrative.

In the Interim and spring, Prof. Vos-Camy was on sabbatical and moved to a hidden office at the back of the Calvin Meeter Center. The change of scenery was pleasant and conducive to making very good progress on her project, "Catherine Bernard: Faith, Love and Heroism". Catherine Bernard, though relatively obscure today, was well-known in the late 17th century as an author of short novels, poetry and theater. Over the course of the spring, Prof. Vos-Camy gave three papers relating to this project. The first, "Faith and Love in Catherine Bernard's *Les Malheurs de l'amour*" at the North American Christian Foreign Language Association [NACFLA] (Baylor University, Waco Texas), was a joint presentation with Prof. Vos-Camy's summer 2005 McGregor scholar Sarah



DeVries. Two other related papers were: "Perspectives on Love in the Novels of Catherine Bernard (1663-1712)" at the Foreign Language Forum of Calvin College; and "*Linfluence dévote dans Les Malheurs de l'amour de Catherine Bernard*" at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference (University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky). Prof. Vos-Camy continued her sabbatical research on Catherine Bernard in the summer of 2006 with another talented McGregor scholar, Paula Kielstra.

This year also saw the publication of an article, "Theatrical Intersections in the Novel: Scarron's Roman comique" in *Intersections*, Actes du 35e congrès annuel de la North American Society for Seventeenth-Century French Literature, Dartmouth College.

At the NACFLA conference in Waco, Texas, Prof. Vos-Camy also participated in a panel discussion with a presentation titled "Study-Abroad Programs in the Christian College: Challenges and Rewards of the Host Family Experience." She based her presentation on her experiences in twice directing the Calvin Study in France program (spring 2001 and spring 2005) as well as memories of her own experiences as a high school exchange student in Pau in 1985-86. Following this summer Prof. Vos-Camy expects to have new insights into the host family experience as she and her family hosted two French students in June and July.

McGregor Summer Research Fellowship Program

Two French Department professors worked with McGregor Fellows during the summer of 2006. Prof. Jolene Vos-Camy worked with Paula Kielstra on the topic: "Love and Friendship in Catherine Bernard's *Les Malheurs de l'Amour* (1687-1689)." Prof. Irene Konyndyk worked with Christina Vanden Bosch on the topic: "How Can Students with Learning Disabilities Learn a Foreign Language?" One other upper-level French student, Kathleen Schmidt, worked as a McGregor Fellow with Professor Debra Freeberg in the CAS Department.

The McGregor Summer Research Fellowships focus on connecting undergraduate students with faculty partners in

the Humanities and the Social Sciences. Now in their 6th year, the Fellowships continue to solicit and support Calvin's "best and brightest" students and faculty in collaborative research projects. The program was begun in 1998 and the original 3-year grant from the Detroit-based McGregor Fund is now being funded primarily by the generosity of private donors.

McGregor Fellows earn a stipend of \$3,300 for nine weeks of full-time work during the summer months in partnership with a faculty member. They also participate in a weekly colloquium with other McGregor Fellows, and present research results at a professional presentation determined by the faculty mentor and student fellow.

Study in France, Fall 2005 *by Prof. Otto Selles*

At the end of August 2005, a group of nineteen students traveled to France to take part in the French Department's semester abroad program. The semester represented the fourth time the department ran its own program since the first group went to Grenoble during Spring 2001.

The students began the semester with a one-week orientation in Paris, before taking the TGV down to Grenoble. Once in Grenoble, they lived with host families and took French courses at the *Centre universitaire d'études françaises* at the Université de Grenoble 3 Stendhal.

Only advanced students took part in the program this time (no core students). As program director, I taught the group a French literature course and led another course involving

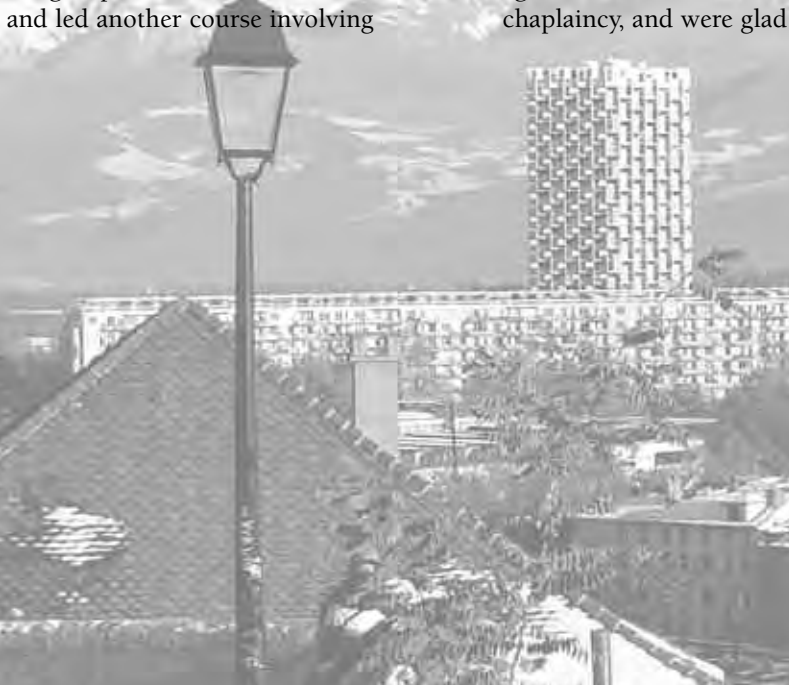
excursions and discussions on French culture. In addition to the week in Paris, the group went on weekend trips to Chamrousse (a mountain hike), Lyon (the Resistance and Deportation museum), Geneva (the Reformation museum), Taizé (a retreat), and Alpe d'Huez (downhill skiing).

I directed the program in 2003 and was very glad to be back in Grenoble. My wife Rita and I with our three children, Anna, Isabelle and Luc (at the time 10, 8 and 6 years old) lived in a downtown apartment. The children attended a local French school and made great progress in their French. They were always glad to be with the group and often wondered when the students would stop by. We attended again St. Marc's Church, an Anglican chaplaincy, and were glad to return to

that community. The fall weather was gorgeous and we discovered a family interest in hiking. After the Calvin group left Grenoble mid-December, we stayed on until the end of the month, enjoying Christmas in the city and some skiing at Chamrousse.

For the students and my children, the challenges of studying abroad for a semester were certainly great. I am very thankful, however, how much everyone progressed not only linguistically but also personally.

The program will not be offered during Fall 2006 but will return in Fall 2007, with Prof. Glenn Fetzer as director. (From that point, the department plans on running the program again in Fall 2008 and taking a break in Fall 2009, to follow a pattern of offering the program two years out of every three.)



The Study in France 2005 Group in Paris



The group's first lunch in Paris



My Little Black Speedo *by Ryan Poling ('07)*

I've heard that people do some pretty stupid stuff on semesters abroad, but I never thought one of those people would be me. I have vivid memories of standing outside Grenoble's public pool in a tiny little black Speedo and pink swim cap and deciding that this attire alone should net me my Cross-Cultural Engagement Core. I remember trying to descend a black-diamond slope two hours after receiving my very first ski lesson (and carving a series of human-shaped trenches in the snow), or twice in one day jumping into the Mediterranean in nary but my boxers. Then there was the time I hopped on a train to northern France to see the beaches of Normandy with no idea where I would sleep that night...

Essentially, this is what going on a semester abroad is like. I boarded the Air France flight to Paris not knowing a soul. I lost everything familiar, right down to the very language I was speaking. Being abroad has certainly taught me to be more resourceful than I had ever been before. I have figured out transport maps in English, German, Italian and French, found my way around five different countries, survived riots, tear gas, mountain falls, rock climbing, spelunking, hiking, and skiing accidents. Whenever my parents coddle me when giving me directions, I simply state, "Mom, I can find my way to Italy and back; I think I can make it to the grocery store." My semester abroad has also brought out my adventurous side, as evidenced by a phone call I recently made to my parents while planning my Fall schedule:

Ryan: "Hey Mom, two things: first, I'm going skydiving on Sunday, and second, can I spend Interim in the Amazon?"

Mom: (Silence)

Not a day goes by that I don't think about France. I feel like a piece of me will always stay there, and in exchange, I've taken a piece of France with me. I am still whole, but it is a different kind of whole. It is a whole with a piece that shows snowy mountains and rolling countryside, fresh wine and thousand-year-old architecture, long dinners over hours of laughter and the sun setting in the Alps outside my window. This piece shows a fateful trip to the community pool, a weekend of traveling with no idea of a destination, and a few nights of perhaps being a little bit too responsibly free. As I wrote in my journal a few weeks before I left, "Those memories are an unfinished mosaic, waiting eagerly to be completed, but once finished, they will be cemented into my being, sewn into my consciousness, and weaved into my mind for the rest of the time I spend on this earth."

A Remarkable Mélange

by Paula Kielstra ('08)

Before arriving in Europe, I knew I was bound for a culture different than my own. I understood that the French crush their grapes to a different rhythm than North Americans, that they are not in the habit of pasteurizing their milk and that they watch their bread rise with the same anticipation we experience watching the microwave count down. But I did not expect that when my host parents and I bent over the atlas after dinner to look at the geographical details of places like Israel, North Korea or Somalia, I would see something so different than what they saw. This experience reminded me that people can see the world in many different ways.

Over the course of the next four months, I came to realize the beauty, terror and strangeness of ethnicity and culture. At the university, I met a native African couple and delighted in the lilting, musical way that they rolled familiar French syllables off their tongues. I learned the story of my Lebanese host-father, Amoudé, and how he had dropped his Arabic name, accent and dress in order to assimilate into French society as Alain, the educated chemist. During one of my Contemporary French History classes, I listened to a Muscovite tell her version of Napoleon's disastrous Russian campaign. And I watched the grandchildren color their geography homework—black and white maps of the world that outlined the French nation a little larger than I remembered from my days of map coloring.

In addition, I saw the friction and chafing that can occur between different cultures in close contact—the racism that makes little tears in the human fabric tying us together. Our semester in France witnessed car bombings and the racial anxiety of a frustrated generation of French citizens. But it also witnessed the subtle signs of a Europe growing closer and becoming a more accepting community.

Returning to North America was a positive experience for me. Becoming aware of the subtleties of French culture allowed me to pick out similar details in my own life, seeing my everyday customs, and those of people around me, in a new light. I hope that in the future, I am blessed with many more opportunities to travel and see the world from different points of view.



Paula Kielstra (2nd from right)

Alumni News

Margaret (Van den Berge) Boelkins ('65)

I retired from public school teaching in June of 2004. I taught secondary French/English and later special education. I am the mother of two and grandmother of three. My husband, Dave, is also a Calvin graduate and a recently retired social worker. I keep busy with the grandchildren, volunteer work and some part-time teaching. We also enjoy traveling when we have the opportunity.

Mary (Vanderveen) Romence ('65)

Finally, in the fall of 2003, after all these years, I was able to go to France! The trip was organized by a perennial gardening association to which I belong (my long-term career is with Romence Gardens & Greenhouses in Grand Rapids) and so of course highlighted gardens but wonderfully included Monet's *Les Jardins de Giverny*. Since I had plenty of opportunity to venture off on my own I could practice my French which I had not spoken in over 30 years! I was amazed at how the words came back, and was unexpectedly pleased to even have our French tour guide compliment me on my speaking. That compliment is a tribute to Arthur Otten, head of the French Department and one of my great professors at Calvin when I was a student there.

Joanne Heerema ('66)

In 2005, Joanne reported the following:

I have been retired for 18 years and have traveled the world. I had an artificial knee put in and am ready to travel again. I still administer achievement and field tests in grades 3, 6, 9, and 12 for Alberta Learning – mostly in French or bilingual schools. My family lives in California and we visit each other regularly.

Of course, I became a French high school teacher and taught some courses at the U of C. My school was one of the first ones to present the International Baccalaureate Program in Canada and the French part was set up by me.

Louise (Posthumus) Lise ('68)

In 2005, Louise reported the following:

I am presently teaching French to grades 4-8 at Timothy Christian School in Barrie, Ontario, Canada. I live with my husband Henry in Holland Landing just north of Newmarket. I am the mother of 3 children and have 2 grandchildren—Taevyn Skyriver and Aurora-Shea. When I am not working at teaching French, I am a homemaker, bird-watcher and gardener. I attend Bethel CRC in Newmarket and serve on the Worship Committee and in the library.

Deb (Wyangarden) VanderWoude ('73)

I have been a member of the Executive Council of AATF Chicago/Northern IL

for two years. I will be starting a second two-year term in the fall. I am currently the prize coordinator for our chapter's participation in the National French Contest. We have thousands of students taking the test and over 800 national and chapter winners this year.

This past year I taught a middle-school exploratory course in French for 8th graders; next year I'll be doing 7th and 8th grade Spanish!

This summer I am enrolled in a two-week immersion institute offered jointly by the University of Chicago and AATF. This will take place at Dominican University in River Forest, IL.

Janet (Couzens) Pickel ('79)

I taught French for six years in Ann Arbor, MI at a Christian school. During that time, I got married. After three years, my husband Larry and I had our first son Stephen. Four and ½ years later Mark was born to complete our family. I am taking classes at Washtenaw Community College in business office systems.

I really enjoyed my experience as a French student at Calvin and in the Paris junior year abroad program. My time at Calvin and in Paris made me a more accepting and well-rounded person.

Tamara (Bootsma) Messersmith ('88)

After literally years of waiting and paperwork, we have moved to Canada

Alliance française Scholarship Winner 2006

Congratulations to Melody Joachim, who was awarded a \$1000 scholarship by the *Alliance Française de Grand Rapids* this past April. Melody, a French major who will be a senior this fall, has studied with the French Department programs in Grenoble and Martinique. In her application, she wrote of one of her experiences as a language student: "This past January I spent three weeks in Martinique with the French Department Interim class. By talking and living with Martiniquans, I came to see the contemporary significance of Martinique's

history as a slave colony of France, and I could feel the lingering tensions between the two cultures. This experience expanded my perception of what constitutes 'French' culture and gave me a glimpse of some difficulties facing both France and the Francophone world. Yet, at the same time, I feel a renewed zeal for the French language and a special connection with this colorful people and culture."

Melody is currently pursuing minors in International Development Studies and African Studies and hopes to combine these disciplines with her French studies to do faith-based development

work in a French-speaking African country. "In the meantime," she notes, "I look for any opportunity to improve my French, including French literature, newspapers, music, emailing, and working as a French tutor."

The scholarship, which aims to promote and support the study of French language and culture, is awarded annually to an outstanding French major or minor in the greater Grand Rapids area, who may apply the award to any related academic program or purpose. Melody will be honored at the Fall Reception of the *Alliance Française*.

(my home country). We've bought an older house full of character and needing lots of work. I stay at home to home school our two daughters - teaching them French too, of course! - while my husband works as an epidemiologist at McMaster University.

Cheryl VanWynen ('89)

I lived in Toulouse, France for 7 years where I did documentary, portrait and studio photography and taught English lessons to adults working for French companies. I moved back to the U.S. in the fall of October 1998. I lived in Chicago for 5 years and completed a Masters of Education at the University of Illinois in Chicago in December 2002. I just finished my 3rd year teaching High School French. I am currently employed at Crystal Lake South High School in Crystal Lake, IL. I love it!

Karen (Boersma)Wood ('90)

I live in Alamo, California and I am a stay-at-home mom. I have three kids: Jacob, a 2nd grader, and 4 year-old twins Aidan and Ethan. I am married to Kevin and he is a general contractor. We are active in our local Presbyterian church where Jacob attends school and the twins attend pre-school. Right now my life consists of park days and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches! When I can, I love to go and see French films.

Kimberly (Tiesma) Schenk ('91)

The first four years after graduating from Calvin, I taught English and French to middle schoolers and high schoolers in the Toronto area. My final year of teaching I was the founding Director of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at a large Christian high school in Toronto. While I thought my career was just taking off, the Lord had other plans for us. We soon discovered that I was pregnant with twins. When they were one year old, we moved to West Michigan and my husband Bill took a job at JCI. We had two more kids and I took a total of nine years off to raise our four children.

Now I am a part-time writer/editor for Family Research Council (www.frc.org), at their support office in Holland, MI. I miss the different French exposures that I had in Canada and I feel that I have lost a lot

of the language. There isn't too much of it around here in every day life, and I'm thinking about taking up Spanish!

Laura VanderHart ('91)

I taught high school French in Atlanta, GA from 1993-2003, then I taught middle school French in Cambridge, MA for one year. My husband and 2-year-old son and I moved to Zaragoza, Spain a year ago, where I have been studying Spanish and tutoring French.

I kept up with French in college simply because I enjoyed it. I was a double major in French and English.

Naomi (Vanderlaan) VanWinkle ('91)

After graduation I taught from '92-'98, first in Hudsonville, Michigan, then at one of the Chicago public high schools on the south side of the city. Then babies arrived - Caleb in '98, Faith in '00, Claudia in '04, and a new one expected this October.

We live in Indianapolis, Indiana, although for the summer of '06 have been living in North Waltham, Hampshire, England as my husband is working at his company's European sites. I've been using French again on our travels through Europe.

At home I'm keeping busy with children, church education, playing viola, and the occasional translation job.

I have very fond memories of Calvin

and its wonderful French Department - thank you not only for your stellar teaching but also for your solid Christian worldview and witness.

Mike Wagenfeld ('91)

My wife Sue and I, and three kids live in Escondido, CA just north of San Diego. I teach French and Spanish at a local public high school and I volunteer coach track at Calvin Christian School. I was awarded a Fulbright Teacher exchange to Argentina last year for six months. I also finished my masters in Ed. last year.

I have fond memories of the French program and in particular the insightful poetry classes with Dr. Fetzer. My love for French and Spanish literature was sparked at Calvin.

Danielle (DeJong) Walton ('91)

I am presently working as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Oakland County. Though I don't have the opportunity to use French in my occupation, I was inspired by the interim in France with Prof. Baldwin and have returned to France on a number of occasions. In fact in 2004 I spent my honeymoon in Paris and Normandy. This summer my husband and I spent some time in the French-speaking region of Switzerland.

~ continued on page 10

Outstanding Senior Award

At the senior breakfast, held the day before the May 2006 commencement, the French department presented its first Outstanding Senior award to Sarah DeVries and Matthew Sandefer. Both Sarah and Matthew will be working in France during 2006-2007 as assistants (see related article on p. 11).



Alexander Eric Rietema ('93)

Greetings from the Garden State. Special thanks to Professor Robert 'semi-otics' Chumbley. Much love goes out to Marcel Duchamp-Villon and Marcel Ophuls; also to Marcel in 'Belle du Jour.'

Megan (Bush) Diercks ('98)

This year (2005-2006) has been a very rewarding one for me professionally. I continue my duties as Vice-President of Special Events for the North Texas chapter of AATE. In October I was the runner-up for our chapter's Excellence in Teaching award, and in November I helped organize the French Business Symposium, where over \$2000 worth of scholarships were awarded to local high-school and college students. In February, our *Fête Française* (French competition) was a huge success, with over 400 students in attendance (and my school coming in second place!) In May, I was honored to receive the Shining Star Award from my principal.

Last summer (2005) I co-led a student trip to England and France, but this summer my husband Dave and I went to Paris with just his parents (no students!). In July I will attend the Richardson Foreign Language Institute at Austin College to spend a week with other French teachers in an immersion environment.

Calvin has done an excellent job of

preparing me as a French teacher. I truly appreciate all my professors have taught me and I hope I make them proud of me!

Brian Blankespoor ('00)

In 2005, while I was working as a Conservation Geographic Information Scientist at World Wildlife Fund-US (Washington, DC), I participated in the "*Atelier Régional sur la Cartographie de la biodiversité et des sites prioritaires pour la sécurité alimentaire dans le bassin du Niger*" in Niamey, Niger, for data and atlas development of a French/English Niger River Basin Atlas (in print). Currently, I work at a consulting company in the DC metro area. For fun, I've attended a few events at the French Embassy in DC (just a short walk from my apartment).

Laura Black ('01)

I am teaching French to 7th and 8th graders and English to 6th graders. It is a fun job (on most days) with new things to learn and do all the time! I have drawn on my experiences with professors because they are models for me of caring teachers who push their students to think and grow.

Gretchen Zahn ('02)

I'm working as a biller for Faith Hospice and find it a great place for me. I've been with the organization

almost three years now. My husband and I have a Beagle/Doberman mix named Buddy, who keeps us very entertained. We've been spending a fair amount of free time working on our house, doing home improvement type projects and such. We also enjoy traveling whenever we get the chance. I'm actually hoping we can plan a trip to Quebec sometime this year and I can have a chance to use my French!

Jeannette Moes ('03)

I married Daniel Moes on July 19, 2003. I am thoroughly enjoying teaching at King's Christian Collegiate in Oakville, Ontario, where I've been teaching English and French for three years. I have my provisional Ontario Teacher's Certificate, and am currently working on a French course through Western University of Ontario. I will begin my fourth year of teaching in September, and look forward to it!

Deborah Anema ('04)

I've been working on my Masters in Information and Library Science at Indiana University. I will be done in August after which I hope to start my career in digital librarianship. I've also recently become engaged to another Calvin grad (Daniel Mouw, '04). We will be getting married in August as well.

My semester in France with the French department was one of the best experiences of my college career. Studying abroad was important to help me broaden my horizons and teach me independence.

Patricia Borloz (French Assistant 1990-1991)

In 2005, Patricia reported the following:

Après l'an à Calvin College, je suis rentrée en Suisse avec d'inoubliables souvenirs. Depuis lors, j'ai terminé mes études en Sciences Economiques et je travaille actuellement pour une PME suisse qui fabrique des sécateurs et les commercialisent dans une centaine de pays. Mon activité professionnelle m'amène à voyager, notamment en Chine, en Inde, en Europe et aux USA dans ces prochains mois. Ceci me permet de découvrir d'autres cultures et enrichit ma vie.

Honors Student

On February 15, 2006, Hyun Jin (Debbie) Kwak gave a public defense of her honors thesis before a group composed of French department faculty, French students, family, and friends. In her paper, entitled, *Les élections présidentielles de 2007: le meilleur choix pour la France*, Debbie examined the social, political, and economic problems France faces. By describing the careers of President Chirac, Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, and Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, she also analyzed the directions their political party (the UMP) could take in the upcoming presidential elections. Later in April, Debbie was selected to give the student address at the annual honors convocation.



Calvin Assistants d'anglais in France

This year, the French department is again sending several of its graduates to be assistants d'anglais in France. Heather van Mouwerik will be in the Nantes area, Matt Sandefer near Besançon, Dani Peterson will be going to the Amiens area, and Sarah DeVries will be in the south near Aix and Marseilles.

Each year the French Ministry of Education offers between 1,000 and 1,700 teaching assistant positions in French primary and secondary schools. American and Canadian citizens between the ages of 20 and 34 who have had at least three semesters of French are eligible. Assistants spend between 6-9 months in France with a monthly stipend of about 900 euros and are expected to teach 12 hours of English conversation classes per week. (For more information about the program, please consult www.frenchculture.org.)

A little known fact about the Calvin French Department is that three of its members were assistants too. Glenn Fetzer was an assistant in 1985-86, at

the *Lycée Jacques Decour* in Paris. He was fortunate to be able to work with students preparing to take the concours for the *Grande Ecole*, *Hautes Etudes commerciales* in addition to the regular lycée students. He lived in the 9th arrondissement, about a five-minute walk from the lycée, and being able to discover Paris—especially the non-touristy aspects—made the year a highlight. It was his first extended time in France, and he appreciated getting to know some French people, especially the teachers with whom he worked.

Otto Selles was a *lecteur* (the equivalent of an assistant but at a university instead of a lycée) for two years, 1988-1990, at the University of Paris X-Nanterre. (His wife Rita was also a *lectrice* at Nanterre for two years, from 1991-1993.) He enjoyed the opportunity of being in France with a connection to the university but without the pressures of student life. He also enjoyed discovering Paris as a resident instead of as a tourist. One of those discoveries, which everyone has to make at one

time or another, was how to survive a period of extensive French strikes.

Jolene Vos-Camy was an assistante in 1994-1995 at the *Collège and Lycée International Victor Hugo* in Colomiers, a town just outside Toulouse. She lived in downtown Toulouse and caught rides with teachers to the school. She became close friends with many of those teachers and spent quite a bit of time with them outside the classroom. A very enjoyable aspect of her year was her short workweek starting Monday morning at 8 a.m. and ending Wednesday at noon, leaving her with much time for exploring the region and visiting friends around France. She later met her husband Pierre when he came to the U.S. in 1996-1997 as a French assistant at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Everyone who has participated in the French program agrees that it is an excellent way to spend a year abroad and to get to know France and its people in ways not possible as a student or tourist.

French-African Film Festival, Fall 2005

The Department of French and the Calvin Film Forum sponsored a Festival of French-African Films over the course of three weeks in September 2005. Thanks to a grant obtained by Prof. Selles from *Tourneés*, a program of the French American Cultural Exchange, all films were open to the public and free of charge. The five films shown were *Le Grand Voyage* (France/Morocco, 2004), *Le Hop* (Belgium, 2000), *Raja* (France/Morocco, 2003), *Inch'Allah Dimanche* (France/Algeria, 2001), and *Abouna* (France/Chad, 2002). Each of the films was introduced by a Calvin professor with a student-led discussion following. Five students from the French department were involved with the

organization of the festival and especially with the post-film discussions: Zach Campbell (2005), Josh Ankerberg (2007), Nana Yaa Dodi (2007), Eric Hanson (2006), and Nunana Nyomi (2007). The films, all shown in the Bytwerk Video Theater on Calvin's campus, were well-attended by people from the Calvin community as well as the greater Grand Rapids area. Following the success of this initial film festival, the French department is planning a second film festival for the spring of 2007 on a different theme. Please stay posted for dates and titles!

A Festival of French-African Films
All screenings at 7:30 p.m. in Bytwerk Video Theater. All films with English subtitles.

Sept. 15 Le Grand Voyage
A film that follows the migration of a young boy from Morocco to France. He is a student in a French school and is struggling to adjust to the new environment. He is also a member of a soccer team and is trying to make a name for himself. Directed by Ghazi Elmeurouci, Professor of French.

Sept. 16 The Hop
A film about a young boy who is living in a slum in Belgium. He is a member of a soccer team and is trying to make a name for himself. Directed by Ghazi Elmeurouci, Professor of French.

Sept. 22 Raja
A film about a young boy who is living in a slum in Morocco. He is a member of a soccer team and is trying to make a name for himself. Directed by Ghazi Elmeurouci, Professor of French.

Sept. 23 Inch'Allah Dimanche
A film about a young boy who is living in a slum in Algeria. He is a member of a soccer team and is trying to make a name for himself. Directed by Ghazi Elmeurouci, Professor of French.

Sept. 30 Abouna
A film about a young boy who is living in a slum in Chad. He is a member of a soccer team and is trying to make a name for himself. Directed by Ghazi Elmeurouci, Professor of French.

Co-sponsored by the Department of French and the Calvin Film Forum. Made possible by a grant from Tourneés, a program of the French American Cultural Exchange.

CALVIN Free Admission Film Forum

Claude Beauclair presents Beckett's *La Dernière Bande*

This fall, Claude Beauclair's *Inter-Europe Spectacles* returns to West Michigan to present Samuel Beckett's *La Dernière Bande*.

The Irish playwright, novelist, and poet Samuel Beckett is known for his minimalist work that is often laced with humorous threads.

Despite its perceived pessimism, his work is read by many as conveying the sense that however tedious and confining life may be, the journey—although difficult—is ultimately worth living. *La Dernière Bande* (*Krapp's Last Tape*) was written in 1958 and, set on the East Pier in Dún Laoghaire on a winter's night, dramatizes Krapp's artistic revelation.

Beckett was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969.

This year is Samuel Beckett's centenary, and so the performance of the Beckett play at Calvin joins remembrances, colloquia, lectures, and readings of Beckett's work throughout the world.

The presentation will take place on Monday, November 13, 2006 at 7:30 pm in the Gezon Auditorium. Tickets will be available from the Calvin College Box Office in October. Alumni in the area are heartily welcome to attend! We'd love to see you.



Playwright Samuel Beckett

CALL Film Courses at Calvin

For those living in the Grand Rapids area, please note that the French Department will be offering fall and spring, four-session film courses through the Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning (CALL), a continuing education program for the 50+ set. All films will be shown with subtitles on the big screen of the Bytwerk Theater (Lower Level of the DeVos Communications Center, just east of the Beltline) and will be followed by a discussion. For more information, see <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/call/> or contact CALL at 616-977-1792.

Redemption and Social Criticism in Four Films by Robert Bresson

(7:00-10:00 pm, 4 Tuesdays: September 19, September 26, October 3, October 10, Prof. Otto Selles, discussion leader)

Africa through African Cinema

(7:00-10:00 pm, 4 Tuesdays: February 20, February 27, March 6, March 13, Prof. Glenn Fetzer, discussion leader)

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