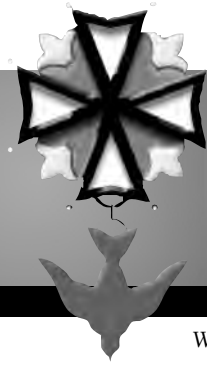


Francofiles



Calvin College
Department of French
Summer 2005

Phone: 616-526-6361 FAX: 616-526-8583 Email: rvkeulen@calvin.edu

Web Site: <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/french/>

Calvin College Semester in Grenoble, Spring 2005

Twenty-six Calvin students spent the spring semester in Grenoble, France, accompanied by myself (Professor Jolene Vos-Camy) and my family. For many, this was their first trip to Europe, and for most, this was their first time to spend an extended period of time in a foreign culture.

We started the semester with great anticipation and enthusiasm, (re)discovering the grandeur of the mountains, the aromas wafting from the pâtisseries and the boulangeries, the well-organized public transportation system, and the grey off-kilter buildings of the university campus that imitate the cliffs of the Vercors and the Chartreuse mountain ranges.

But soon came tests of endurance for the students when the city seemed less exciting, the language seemed full of endless exceptions, trams, buses and trains went on strike, the euro remained exceedingly high, and host families had their own preoccupations with little time for conversation. Home, family and friends seemed far away.

As the semester progressed, however, the students better appreciated the value of their time spent in Grenoble. Students realized that they had indeed formed solid friendships with their host families and with each other. They started to feel at home in this foreign country, with comfortable routines in place. They sensed that their language skills were indeed improving remarkably in the five months spent abroad. They had a growing desire to know



Discovering Paris in February

more about world politics and their role in it. They realized that their faith had been tested and had grown through the various conversations and opportunities for sharing with both non-believers and believers from different traditions. They developed an increasing eagerness to meet and form friendships with foreigners upon their return home. As director and professor, I was deeply gratified to see these developments. Students that had left Grand Rapids in early January with often naïve views of the world, unsure of their abilities in French, and

unaware of what it meant to spend a semester away from home, left Grenoble in late May with broader perspectives on Europe and North America, more realistic opinions of their language abilities and more mature perceptions of themselves.

These students now have a new knowledge of what it means to be a stranger in a foreign land. They are wiser and kinder for it. And the Calvin French Department is much richer with the experiences and new insights these students bring back to campus.

My Life in Grenoble *by Kathleen Schmidt (2006)*

The first thing I loved about Grenoble was the mountains. We got off the bus that first day—twenty-six students from Calvin without any clear idea of what the semester held in store for us. We were tired from the flight and trying not to be irritated and wishing so very desperately for a shower and somewhere—anywhere—to be horizontal for a few minutes. We looked around us and saw the Alps and suddenly forgot that we were all exhausted and unhappy, and I realized that the next five months were going to be extraordinary.

The first several weeks here were strange—getting used to speaking French outside of a classroom context, figuring out the transportation systems, and realizing that this was all very different from a long European vacation. But gradually we adjusted into a routine and everything became familiar.

We spent our days attending classes (or not attending classes, depending on the amount of sun and whether or not someone had discovered a new hiking trail up in the mountains), exchanging stories about our host families, and plotting weekend adventures. These excursions have been the most wonderful part of the semester—exploring tiny little towns tucked away into the mountains, running up to Paris for a few days, or maybe going to Geneva to explore our Calvinist heritage.

We became accustomed to bread and chocolate at breakfast instead of the standard dry cereal from Commons Dining Hall. We learned never to sit in the front of the bus; those seats belong to the old ladies with multicolored hair who spend the ride complaining bitterly about Chirac and vegetable prices. We figured out which kebab restaurants would mess up our orders and which ones would give us an extra order of fries if we smiled enough. We realized,



Kathleen Schmidt, Rei Rowe and Michele Ritsema



Prof. Vos-Camy and her children

eventually, that smiling in situations outside of kebab restaurants was an invitation to all kinds of sinful activities. We conquered the European rail system (no easy feat) and can successfully negotiate around stations in which signs are not posted in any recognizable language. We've become confident in our abilities to navigate around foreign cities without getting hopelessly lost.

On the off-chance that I do get lost, I find that it's best to keep an upbeat, optimistic spirit of adventure and remember that somehow, eventually,

I will make it back to America.

I came to France because I wanted to learn the language, but this semester has meant so much more. I've learned who I am outside of my life at Calvin, away from the familiarity and comfort of Grand Rapids. I've learned so much about God's compassion and faithfulness. The world has become a bigger place, and I will never again be content to learn about a place without experiencing it for myself. I'm humbled by what I've learned, because it's only made me realize how much I have left to see.

Francofiles summer 2005 issue

Funding for this newsletter was provided by the Calvin Alumni Association and the Calvin College Department of French.

French or Faux? Seeking Culture and Finding Life *by Sarah Berg (2006)*

Barbara Carvill explained once that “people far away are not strangers; they are simply unknown to us. They become strangers to us only when they enter our world and our group” (Carvill, Barbara and David Smith. *The Gift of the Stranger*. 58) Studying French in Grenoble for five months has been a lesson in being a stranger. As a stranger, or *étranger*, people only see your image and do not know your past, your experiences, or your culture.

Sometimes it is not easy living a non-existent life, but living here was an opportunity to be a fly-on-the-wall and to really observe a new culture. For me and my semester abroad, traveling provided a fresh perspective on culture, language and the richness of life.

A few visiting friends mentioned to me that France was not what they had expected. Maybe they were expecting some magnificently exotic land

where everyone rides bikes, munches on bread on the street, sings Edith Piaf songs by heart, and wears berets. To them, they were amazed to see how things were similar. You can find the local McDonalds, listen to American Hip Hop on the radio, and even watch people buy shirts that say “East Grand Rapids” on them etc. Unfortunately they did not get past the thin glaze of globalization that is affecting every developed country. The culture here in France is rich, as well as complicated. People have traditions, such as opening their shutters every morning, eating cake for breakfast and eating cheese for dessert after dinner, or saying *bonjour*

when one enters a store, even if she cannot see the sales clerk.

Traditions are odd habits that people always do for a specific reason, but as time goes on, the memory fades and the action remains. Cultural France is not just composed of traditions. I have found that history and language are key elements to a rich cultural life. For instance, it amazes me to watch my host mother joyfully volunteer go to a manifestation (demonstration). She

sive impact on French views on politics, culture and religion.

Secondly, I have found that language is at the cornerstone of culture, especially the French language. It is a guarded treasure that is free to everyone, as long as a person uses it correctly. As I slogged through the mire of detailed verb tenses, new stylistic phrases and a plethora of “exceptions,” I found that I would never be able to measure up to the French standard. The language is so beautiful

and complex, no wonder the language is regulated and protected like a Brinks truck. For example, I was in the university cafeteria one day and I asked to have a yogurt. The woman blankly stared at me and refused to give me a yogurt until I had said the word properly. Whether between French or French and foreigners, there is never hesitation to correct one



The fall 2004 Semester in France group on top of the Bastille overlooking Grenoble

will protest for a two percent raise in salary or to complain about not getting Pentecost Monday off from work. It is not that she is lacking in funds or that she is religious, she just wants to traipse around Grenoble for the afternoon with her friends and colleagues and then go to the café for a little drink. The act of protest (party involved or not), is a Frenchman’s right. I find that almost every French person has a small seed of indignant protestation nestled in their soul, probably due to history. As discontent began to brew in 1789, the barricades in the streets of Paris were put up. The French Revolution had such an impres-

another. Although it seemed rather annoying at first, it helped my language skills and encouraged a greater appreciation for language.

Living in France and being a stranger has given me an opportunity to savor the small things of life and to truly soak up the traditions, the history, the language of a new place. In doing so, I think that I was able to step out of my world to see myself in a new light. Leaving my life here and returning to a place that is familiar and unfamiliar all at the same time is a bittersweet feeling. I will always have my memories and experiences and that is the best souvenir one could ever have.

Professors at Work

Professor Glenn Fetzer

Apart from the usual French courses he teaches, Professor Fetzer taught a DCM class this spring. The topic of his section of this general education course for



first-year students was "Africa Through African Cinema." Almost every week the class viewed a film by a different African film director (many of whom were francophone). Early on in the semester the students realized that they were not screening entertainment films but rather documents that engaged issues important to Africans: identity, tradition, African values, as well as thematic issues: the colonial past, the challenges of post colonialism, polygamy, female genital mutilation, and the environment. Good discussions and reflective essays indicate that the course helped provide students with the tools to view the world from other perspectives.

In addition to publishing *Palimpsests of the Real in Recent French Poetry* and *Emmanuel Hocquard and the Poetics of Negative Modernity* this past year, Glenn presented papers on various poets at several conferences: «Du Côté de l'immanence» at the Lire Rimbaud Aujourd'hui Colloquium, at the University of Tunis (Tunisia) in December; «Claudel lecteur de Saint-John Perse,» at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association, in Philadelphia (also in December); «L'Hiatus éclaircit le passage': Making Connections in Hocquard,» at the 20th and 21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, at the University of Florida, in March.

Professor Irene Konyndyk

Professor Konyndyk continues to develop her Multisensory Structured French sequence that fulfills the foreign language requirement for students



with learning disabilities. She has been disseminating her knowledge at conferences in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. This summer she will be presenting at the AATF conference in Québec City, and in November at the annual ACTFL conference in Baltimore.

Most gratifying to her are the comments from students in their journals, such as the following: "one of my best experiences at Calvin thus far and BY FAR one of my most favorite classes... it was a privilege to be able to partake in such a wonderful experience;" "This year of French has been a period of academic growth for me. I have learned a lot about myself, and one of the most important things that I have learned, is that I can succeed in language." A tutor wrote: "It's awesome to see the difference in these kids who thought they'd never speak a foreign language."

In 2005-2006 Professor Konyndyk will lead a reading group, sponsored by the Kuyers Institute, called "Learning Disabilities and Pedagogy in a Christian Context."

Professor Konyndyk would love to hear from any alumni with an interest in foreign language learning and learning disabilities, or who run across something that may be of help to her. She is grateful to God for blessing her work. Soli Deo Gloria!

Professor Leslie Mathews

Professor Mathews has enjoyed working this year to create connections between the college and the community. As a board member of the local Alliance Française, she chaired a committee to initiate a series of French language classes at the beginning and intermediate levels for adults in the Grand Rapids area. Once the classes were launched, she taught two series of the intermediate level classes which were co-sponsored by the Calvin French Department. These evening classes will be back by popular demand in the fall, with last year's "graduates" requesting that an advanced level class be added as well.



Professor Mathews has worked to enrich her language classes by tapping the resources offered by francophone members of the community. French engineers from Smiths Aerospace (on assignment from Thales in France) and from Mann-Hummel spoke to her French for the Professions class in the fall. During the spring semester, Reformed missionaries to Mali on furlough in Grand Rapids gave a presentation in her core classes and she invited a Haitian pastor to speak at a French chapel.

Other links were established with the community by administering an Alliance Française scholarship award for Grand Rapids area college students, hosting the French high school principal heading up an exchange between students from his school in Strasbourg and a French class at a local high school, and interpreting for African francophone presenters at the Luke Society international conference at Calvin in August.

Professor Otto Selles

During 2004-2005, Professor Selles gave most of his time to teaching and administrative work. In addition to being department chair, he also served on the committee organizing Calvin College's Festival of Faith and Writing in April 2006. This fall he will be directing the department's Study in France program in Grenoble. Nineteen advanced students will participate in the program, beginning late August. Students first spend a week in Paris before receiving an orientation in Grenoble. (If the switch from a spring to a fall program works well, the program will be offered again in Fall 2007). Professor Selles will be accompanied by his wife, Rita Selles, who taught French 202 the past year. Their three children will attend a French elementary school in downtown Grenoble. The entire family is looking forward to spending time in the city, which they got to know and enjoy during the 2003 Study in France program.

With regard to his own projects,



Professor Selles admits that, other than participating in a conference on the biographers of Voltaire (University of Grenoble, September 2004), he has had little opportunity for writing or research. He plans to complete this summer two review essays that will examine books on French society. He will also continue work on Voltaire and a number of creative writing projects.

Professor Jolene Vos-Camy

Professor Vos-Camy led the third Calvin Study in France program this past spring. She, her husband Pierre and their two children, Julien (4 years old) and Alice (2 years old) accompanied the group of 26 students. Professor Vos-Camy takes it as a positive sign that her

two children had forgotten their English by the time they returned home in June.

This spring saw the publication of Professor Vos-Camy's article, "French Film Christianly: Cédric Klapisch's *Un Air de famille*" in the *Journal of Christianity and Foreign Languages*. The article examines issues of cross-cultural understanding and misunderstanding when using French film in the classroom and arises out of her experience in teaching the interdisciplinary *Developing a Christian Mind* course.



Professor Vos-Camy also received a McGregor Fellowship award for the summer of 2005 which paired her with McGregor scholar and French and Spanish major, Sarah Devries (class of 2006) for a summer research project focusing on the seventeenth-century writer, Catherine Bernard. In conjunction with this project, Professor Vos-Camy received a grant from the Calvin Alumni Association to pay for Sarah's trip to the North American Christian Foreign Language Association conference in the spring of 2006 where they will present their research. In addition, Professor Vos-Camy continues her work as a contributing editor to *French 17*, an annual descriptive bibliography.

Introducing our Department Administrative Assistants: Good day, Bonjour, and Guten Tag

Judith St. Louis

My name is Judith St. Louis and I live in Grand Rapids together with my husband Roland, my son Calvin (15) and my daughter Edna (7).



I have worked as department assistant at the Calvin College French Department (or, to be more precise, for the French, German and Asian Languages department) for close to two years now. Since then, I have also enrolled in the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction here at Calvin.

I always enjoyed foreign languages. As a native Austrian, I was able to study English from third grade on; I took six years of Latin and four years of French during my college prep school years. Later on, I studied to become an elementary school teacher in my home town Linz.

Since I moved to the US, I have held a variety of education related jobs—pre-school assistant teacher, elementary school German teacher, community education German instructor and tutor. I have also taught German at Muskegon

Community College and Grand Valley State University (where I earned a B.A.).

Since I started working at Calvin, I have taken a (much needed) "refresher" French class (French 123) with Prof. Mathews. I am planning on taking up Spanish either this fall or next spring. Calvin College has very much made an impact on the way I look at learning as well as teaching. My professors as well as my colleagues are truly remarkable and inspiring people.

Renee VanKeulen

After spending my first 9 years in British Columbia and Alberta, my family moved to the Netherlands in 1980. We lived there for 6 years before moving



back to Grand Rapids where I attended high school. After graduation, I decided to return to the Netherlands to study at Hoger Economisch Administratief Onderwijs Enschede where I received an MBA in International Business and Languages. Among other things, I studied French and Spanish, as well as English and

Dutch. As part of my degree, I moved back to Grand Rapids for a semester to complete an internship at Amway in International Sales. After completing my degree in 1995, I found a position with a company called Shimano in the city of Nunspeet where I worked in the International Sales Department.

In 1995 I married my Dutch boyfriend Teun and in 1996 we decided to move back to Grand Rapids. I first found a job at Witte Travel where I worked as a receptionist for a little over a year. And in 1997 I came to the Calvin College French and Germanic/Asian Languages department where I find that my language skills come in very handy!!

My husband Teun is a software developer for a company in Grand Rapids. We have a 5 year old son, Duncan, and a 2 year old daughter, Amber. They keep us very happy and very busy. I am also an avid U2 fan and enjoy going to their concerts around the country. As a family, we enjoy returning to the Netherlands to visit our family and friends, and frequently have Dutch visitors staying with us. Studying a language opens up so many possibilities.

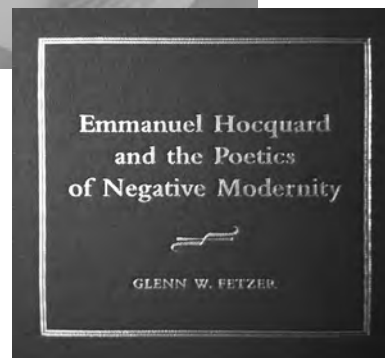
Professor Fetzer publishes two books in 2004



Professor Fetzer speaks at his book reception

account of his personal encounter with Emmanuel Hocquard, whose poetry is the subject of one of his new books. Following are two reviews of these publications.

In light of the close link between poetry and philosophy in France, *Palimpsests of the Real in Recent French Poetry* (Rodopi: 2004) presents discussions of six French poets (Jacques Dupin, André du Bouchet, Jean-Louis Chrétien, Eugène Guillevic, Céline Zins, and Emmanuel Hocquard) through the lens of philosophical thought, especially that of ancient thinkers such as Parmenides, Heraclitus, Anaximander, Anaximenes, and poet-philosophers Lucretius and Plotinus. Each of the poets studied struggles to understand the Real. *Palimpsests of the Real* aspires to bring to light the fleeting tracings and rewritings of the real and, in so doing, underscores the permanence and promise of poetry in our time.



Emmanuel Hocquard and the Poetics of Negative Modernity (Summa Publications, 2004) is the first book-length study on the work of the poet-writer (born in

1940) and is organized around the main centers of interest in the work—grammar, visual perception, cartography, lyricism, and everyday life. More specifically, this book explores Hocquard's understanding of “negative

modernity” and studies Hocquard's project of literality--writing that prefers the axis of combination and contiguity rather than that of analogy, and

metaphor. The book also discusses the importance for Hocquard of philosophers such as Clément Rosset, Wittgenstein, and Deleuze and presents features of the model of what Hocquard refers to as the “discontinuous organization of language”.

Colleagues, students and other invited guests gathered at a book reception at the Meeter Center on March 24, 2005 to celebrate the publication of two books written by Professor Glenn Fetzer. His presentation reviewed the content of his books and the research-publication process. In the question and answer period that followed his talk, he gave an amusing

French Theater at Calvin: Fall 2004

On the occasion of the bicentennial of the birth of writer George Sand (Aurore Dupin), the “Inter-Europe Spectacles / Compagnie Claude Beauclair” presented “George Sand et Gustave Flaubert: Echanges épistolaires” before an audience of about 150 in the Fine Arts Center on Thursday, October 14.

George Sand (1804-1876) and Gustave Flaubert (1821-1880) met in

Paris in 1857 and thereafter exchanged letters for close to twenty years. Under the direction of Catherine Masson, the Compagnie Claude Beauclair, with Claude Beauclair and Françoise Mojeret, brought to life the meetings and the letters exchanged between the two writers in a performance that was carefully choreographed, and moving.

The choice to stage the edited correspondence between the two literary

giants was occasioned by the bicentennial of George Sand, celebrated in 2004 all over France (and throughout the world) by readings, performances, and exhibitions.

For alumni in the area: on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 (7:30 pm in the Gezon Auditorium), the Compagnie Claude Beauclair will present Jean-Paul Sartre's *Huis clos*. We'd love it if you could join us for that event.

Breakfast honors French Department 2005 graduates

As is the tradition, French Department majors and minors graduating in Spring 2005 and their professors gathered at the Cherie Inn on May 20 to honor their achievements, to reminisce and to bid “au revoir” to one other. Following breakfast, the graduates shared their plans for the near and not-so-near future. Each student was presented with a French Bible and encouraged to stay in contact with the French Department.

This year’s graduating French majors and minors included Laura Berends, Amanda Cavender, Melia Fast, Kristin Hoff, Sarah Huisman, Carol Irvin, Joo Eun Kim, Shannon Marcus, Carolyn Oudman, Bethany Pasma, Zara Rix, Melissa Semplonius, Rob, VanderBerg, Rebekah Waasenaar and Taryn Wassink. Félicitaitons à tous!



Graduates and professors at French Department breakfast

French Students win honors as McGregor Fellows

Of the fourteen Calvin students chosen as 2005 summer McGregor Fellows, three were students in upper-level French courses in the spring of 2005: Sarah DeVries, Deborah Kwak and Elisabeth Osinga.

McGregor Fellowships are highly competitive. Fellows earn \$3,300 for nine weeks of full-time work with

selected faculty mentors from the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Sarah DeVries will be working with Prof. Jolene Vos-Camy on a project titled “Catherine Bernard: faith, love, and heroism in late 17th century France”, and will be using French in researching secondary sources. Debbie Kwak will be working with Prof. Corwin Smidt of

the Political Science Department on a project titled “The Role of Religion in Fostering Civic Responsibility”. Elisabeth Osinga will work with Prof. Bert de Vries from History on “Religion and Society in the transition from Arabia Petraea to Roman Arabia”. Congratulations to you, Sarah, Debbie, and Elisabeth!

Calvin French Department Student wins local Alliance Française scholarship

Junior Deborah Kwak, a French and Political Science major, is the 2005 recipient of the \$750 scholarship awarded by the Alliance Française de Grand Rapids in its initiative to promote the study of French language and culture. Debbie competed against students from four other area colleges.

In her application, she expressed her plans to use her knowledge of the French language and culture in her

future career as follows: “Both learning the French language and gaining knowledge of French culture is an important part of making my future aspirations a reality because they are essential tools for competence in an international setting. Today, French is an internationally recognized language spoken by millions in all continents of the world. Evolving quickly, the French culture continues to extend much influence in African and

European nations. The culture asserts its power in the world’s increasingly interdependent politics and economy. Because of this broad impact of the French language and culture, by having a strong command of French, I will be able to carry on peacekeeping and human rights works within and in partnership with a wide range of international organizations and French-speaking governments.”

French Alumni Updates

Due to the wonderful response to our requests for alumni updates, we are not able to feature all of your news in this year's newsletter. All updates not appearing in this edition will be published in next summer's newsletter. Thanks again for keeping in touch.

Joyce (Peuler) Herrema ('62)

I taught elementary and middle school for 30 years, most of which were in Abington School District in Clarks Summit, PA. I began my teaching career in Bloomington, IN. I taught French for two years in an extra-curricular setting. My husband is Robert D. Herrema, music professor at Marywood University, Scranton, PA. I have 3 children—Rob, Christi and Kevin, all married, 9 grandchildren ages 1-8.

Ronald H. Goodyke ('64)

After 34 years of teaching high school French and directing children's summer camp, I retired to start a six-year career in sales. I have been active in local politics in our community of Cascade, serving on various boards and two terms as an elected Trustee. In 2004 I ran successfully for the position of Township Clerk and now spend my time thorough enjoying my "new" office. My wife, Sherry, and I have been married for 42 years. We have four grown children who all completed college and are now married. Our family is further blessed with two grandsons and one granddaughter.

Bert Block Jr. ('65)

I spent most of my career in missions, 22 years in Mexico, 4 years in Romania. I am living in California (widowed) taking care of my aged mother and working as much as I can in outreach ministry. Someday I plan to return to the mission field when I am free of family responsibilities. I married Elinor Monsma who passed away Jan. 1999. We have four children, Bert, Marion, Bruce, David – all are married and live in the Grand Rapids area. I have 8 grandchildren.

Carole Monsma ('68)

Just retired from teaching and counseling! I would like to encourage all Calvin students to learn another language and travel the world. Not only is it great fun to translate and speak with people in their own language, it is an opportunity to experience the beauty of our planet and all her people that God created.

Hennie (Diemer) Schat ('70)

I taught French at Durham Christian High School in Bowmanville, Ontario, spent many wonderful years at home raising our 5 children and then taught French at Chatham Christian Elementary School (grades kindergarten – 8). I am presently employed as a Personal Support Worker in a long term care facility (Shalom Manor, Grimsby). Our own family has grown with an additional 3 daughters-in-law and 6 young grandchildren.

My own Christian Worldview was further developed at Calvin College through professors such as French professor Mme. Baldwin.

Jim Zeyl ('70)

I have worked as a Compliance Verification Officer with Canada Border Services Agency for 33 years. Alice and I have been blessed from God with 30 years of marriage recently. Currently I'm studying and learning basic Spanish.

Naomi Mensink ('73)

I have been working in healthcare since I graduated from Calvin. I started in Chicago in a hospital Personnel Department, went on to work in hospitals in Edmonton Alberta in personnel work and moving quickly into human resource development. Since moving to Halifax I have been an education consultant to the hospitals and nursing homes in the province and have been assisting multi-hospital systems as well as individual provider groups to do long-range strategic planning. I have just earned a Master of Adult Education (M.Ad.Ed) from St. Francis Xavier in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

I have three lovely daughters, and I

take great pleasure in singing in my church choir.

Mary Blydorp ('75)

I am teaching grade 4 at John Calvin Christian School in Guelph. I am also on the board of Beginnings Pregnancy Care Centre. Presently, I'm serving as a ministry elder in my church. I very much enjoyed my French classes at Calvin. I have taught classroom French for several years, and am also teaching French to another grade level.

Anne (VanderMale) Tuuk ('75)

I am married to Steve Tuuk; we have three teenagers. Our daughters love French in high-school. We live in Grand Rapids and are glad our sons picked Calvin for College! We were involved with a terrific group of interesting people in the local Alliance Française for a while. I visit France sometimes and marvel at the truth in "Plus ça change plus c'est la même chose!"

Sylvia (Van Eyk) van Wyngaarden ('77)

I have been employed at Redeemer University College for almost 10 years. I am now the assistant manager in the bookstore and love it!

Karen (Overzet) Playford ('84)

What a blessing to raise 4 precious boys to grow up to love and serve our wonderful Savior. They are now ages 13, almost 11, 9 and 7. My youngest is an extra special gift in that he has Down Syndrome. What a joy he is to the entire family.

Renée (Bill) Nieuwsma ('85)

After Calvin, I taught one year in Woodstock, Ontario and then married Randy and moved back to Grand Rapids. I have taught 3rd and now 2nd grade since then, with several years off raising my 4 children. They are now 15, 13, and twins 11. During that time I got a Masters at Calvin. Currently, I am job-sharing a second grade at Dutton Christian School with a fellow Canadian.

Paul Steenstra ('86)

My wife Jen and I are about to celebrate our 12th anniversary, this year with a special trip to Hawaii. Joining us will be our son Willem, 8, and foster daughter Isabella, 6. Exposing myself to other languages and cultures has had a profound impact on how I view the world and other people and cultures. And it has furthered a love of language and trying new things. Some day I hope to live abroad with my family, not simply travel.

Catherine (Ristola) Bass ('89)

I am currently a full-fledged sandwich generation person, simultaneously caring for my children and grandmother. I love how my overall French experience has made me feel more a citizen of the world, rather than a person who lives only Holland, MI. It has formed how I read the newspaper, how I understand the post- Cold War era, and how I can expand my children's comprehension of art, language, literature – culture overall.

Tish (Kozub) Mary ('89)

I've been living in the east of France (Alsace) for the past 14 years. My husband, who is French, and I have two fun and active boys -10 and 8. I am currently working on a Ph.D. in education and working at the teacher's training college where I teach English, didactics and pedagogy of early language learning. I was especially influenced by Claude-Marie Baldwin. It was her influence as a professor (among others at Calvin) that sparked a desire in me to become a professor myself.

Dan Hoang ('90)

I live in Paris, France and I am the founder/director of "La Compagnie des Actes," a professional Christian company that presents Christian values through theater, songs and media productions in France, Switzerland and Belgium. I have also directed "Le Prix de la Vérité," a 100 actors, singers and dancers musical. In September of this year, I will get married to Myriam de Beaurepaire, who has worked with me since 1998.

Dana M. (Sculley) Chase ('92)

In fall 2003 my husband, Phillip, and I moved from NYC to Lowell, MI. We now live in a renovated duplex and own an additional rental property in Big Rapids. Phillip works at Godfrey Lee Middle School as an ESL teacher to a largely Hispanic community. I manage the two properties and manage our two boys, Auden (5) and Avery (4)!

I took my French degree all the way to the finish line of a PhD!

Jennifer (Schuham) Groenewold ('93)

I married Ken Groenewold and we have two children, Calvin and Abigail, 2-1/2 year old twins. I work in the family owned business, Schuham Builder's Supply. I am the vice president. Outside of work, I volunteer my time to serve on a Camp Oversight and Development Committee for the Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck, MI. I take time out of my schedule to council the Sr. High campers.

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Life as an assistant d'anglais *by Reuben Vyn (2004)*

This past school year I worked as an English Assistant in three primary schools in a small town called St. Marcellin, situated at the foot of the Alps in southeastern France. Over the course of my stay I was able to significantly improve my French language skills, gain new experiences in teaching, and travel across Europe during the numerous vacations.

My arrival was a relatively easy transition as I was offered to be housed by the family of the Academic Advisor. Being in a family setting from day one, with two little brothers, helped me quickly feel at home in a new environment, and assisted me in rapidly improving my French comprehension and conversation skills.

Before beginning the contract I was given a one week crash course on teaching foreign languages to children, which proved to be rather helpful since I had

never taught a day in my life before accepting this position. I worked a grand total of 12 hours in the classroom each week, plus a couple of hours of prep time. It was still challenging at the beginning getting adjusted to working with 8-11 year olds—young kids can certainly be a handful at times! In the end I felt much more confident in my teaching capabilities, and was proud to see the improvements they made in English.

Working only 12 hours a week, combined with periodic two week holidays, I had a fair amount of free time to enjoy. I joined a badminton club in the fall, and picked up cycling in the spring in true French fashion! I also took advantage of every possibility to travel both within France, and to several other European destinations.

This program enabled me to discover new opportunities, while reflecting on what my future might hold...

Cycling in the Alps



French Alumni Updates

Shana Kamper ('93)

I currently teach French levels 1-3 and Advanced Placement. For the past two summers I have done graduate studies in Angers, France with the University of Northern Iowa's summer abroad program.

Lisa (VanderWilp) Gallo ('94)

After teaching French for 6 years in a middle school and high school south of Detroit, I resigned in June 2000 to be able to raise our children. Lydia is now 5 and Charys is 2. I haven't used much French since quitting and sometimes feel like teaching, traveling, and absorbing all things French was a lifetime ago. We now live outside of Indianapolis after moving here in June of 2003. I often wish I had more time to do those things now and to reinvest my efforts in language study (someday...!)

Helen (Golub) Hekman ('94)

I am married to Nate Hekman, and moved to Calgary from my native Chicago a week after our wedding, now seven years ago. In March I became a Canadian Citizen, so now our whole family is dual. We have two beautiful children, Shana Martina, age 3 ?, and Kenan Thomas, born in June of 2004.

Scott Vandenberg ('94)

I am currently teaching French to the Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6 classes at Beacon Christian School in Nanoose Bay, B.C. Amy and I have three beautiful children: Allison, Ryan, and Brendan. While Amy teaches 11 students piano, I am taking my masters in Administration and Curriculum through Gonzaga University. At Calvin I audited an intermediate level French course one spring and got hooked and finished my minor in 2 years. It wasn't easy but I really enjoyed the professors (Wilkins & Baldwin) and made some good friendships.

Stephanie Posthumus ('95)

I was just recently offered a position at the Département de français at McMaster University, Hamilton, ON. My husband is francophone, also a professor teaching in the Department of Multimedia. Our daughter Naomie is 1? years old.

Shannon L. (Hytinen) Rop ('95)

After graduating from Calvin I got married and moved to Mansfield, Ohio where I taught French and U.S. history for 2 years at Mansfield Christian School. I then quit to become a stay-at-home mom and have been doing that ever since. We have 5 kids, 3 girls and 2 boys, ranging in age from 7? down to 5 months. My husband, Jason, is an attorney and practices in Louisville, Kentucky.

Sarah Vanderhill ('96)

I had the privilege of living in Paris for a year while studying for my MA in French from Middlebury College, which I received in 2000. I've actually had two jobs using French—first at a healthcare consulting company (that worked mainly in North Africa) and then as an operations manager at a hospital research lab—working for a French MD!

Beverly Ryskamp ('00)

I married Nathan Jonker in August 2004. I am a graduate student in law and social work at the University of Michigan. I will begin working for Warner, Norcross & Judd (law firm) in Grand Rapids, Michigan in September 2005.

Janet (Kuyvenhoven) Bannerman ('01)

I have been living in Leeds, England for the past two years, working in a primary school teaching year 4 (8-9 year olds). I married Shane Bannerman in the summer of 2003. I will be returning to Canada to live and work in Toronto, Ontario in the summer of 2005.

While at Calvin, as part of my French minor, I spent a semester abroad in Paris, France. This part of my education has had a huge impact on my life. The impact of my French studies at Calvin has led me to where I am now and has allowed me to have opportunities I never dreamed of having.

Alicia K. DeGroot ('01)

I recently graduated with my Master's degree in international relations with concentrations in intelligence and diplomacy from the University of Kentucky. I am currently working as an assessor for the Kentucky Community Preparedness

Program, conducting vulnerability assessments throughout the state.

Liesje Konyndyk ('01)

I'm finishing my M.A. in French (Middlebury College) in Paris. I'll be done in late June and will graduate in August. In August I plan to go back to teaching at Loy Norrix High School in Kalamazoo, MI. I don't know yet whether I'll be teaching math or French.

Jessica Bratt ('02)

On May 14 I will be graduating from the Master of Divinity program at the Princeton Theological Seminary, where I have been studying since graduating from Calvin. I worked part-time at an RCA congregation in Brooklyn, NY last year, and next year I will be doing a hospital chaplaincy residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, CT.

Sarah Kramer ('02)

I'm about halfway through my Masters of Library and Information Science program at Simmons College in Boston. I'm also working at the Pollard Memorial Library in Lowell, MA, which brings me into contact with a lot of interesting and strange characters. As part of my studies I will be taking a course in Prague this summer, which I am looking forward to.

Jennifer (Peterson) Manieson ('02)

I married Pepi Manieson (Moody Bible Institute Graduate) in Chambaircy, France in August 2003. We are expecting our first child in April 2005. I'm a bilingual (English/Spanish) paralegal secretary and I am contemplating law school.

Susan (Lyon) Roustan ('03)

I have recently been accepted to the Graduate Teacher Certification program at GVSU. I will go to school for a year. I feel I did better on my teacher's exams because of the education I received at Calvin. We are expecting our first child at the end of April!

Shirley Tom ('03)

Starting med school at MSU in August.

Catherine Boersma ('05)

In 2003 I transferred from Calvin to the University of British Columbia and in 2005, I completed a bachelor of science in math. Next year I hope to get a teacher's certificate in secondary math and French at UBC.

The semester I spent in Grenoble was the highlight of my life (so far)!

Marjan de Ruiter-Schrikkema

During the school year '81-'82 I was a sophomore student at Calvin where I took a very nice literature-course taught by Prof. Claude-Marie Baldwin. Back in The Netherlands I continued studying French at the University of Leiden and at the Free University of Amsterdam (teacher's degree). I've been teaching French at several High Schools, at the "Alliciance française" and at the Agricultural University of Wageningen. I am also a free-lance interpreter/translator for the Court of Justice.

*The Compagnie Claude
Beauclair presents:*

HUIS CLOS

by Jean-Paul Sartre

*November 15, 2005
at 7:30 p.m.
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*Tickets available at
the box office this fall.*



Justin Wassink, Melody Joachim and Stephanie Hogendoorn on the Grenoble campus.

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