LECTURE BY PROFESSOR MARK RICHARD


The French Institute looks forward to organizing another event in March 2017 as part of the annual Célébrations de la Francophonie en Nouvelle-Angleterre. Please check our website for more information as the date approaches. Au plaisir de vous recevoir à Worcester au mois de mars!

http://www.assumption.edu/academics/academic-institutes/french-institute

BOOK DONATIONS TO THE FRENCH INSTITUTE

We wish here to express our abiding gratitude to those who have recently donated books to the French Institute. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Dr. and Mrs. R. John Cournoyer, longtime supporters who gave us their French library, and to all those who contributed one or more books to enrich the French Institute collection in the past academic year.

FRENCH INSTITUTE INTERN

In Fall 2016, the French Institute welcomed Joshua Barrière, a graduate student in literature at Université Laval in Québec, as an intern at the French Institute. A Franco-American from Manchester, Joshua is doing research on Franco-American women writers, including Camille Lessard Bissonnette and Yvonne Le Maître.

Joshua received a scholarship from his university to contribute to the costs of his internship. At the French Institute, he worked on digitizing our newly acquired Hus Lemoine Family Archive, and on processing our archival holdings on Franco-American authors Félix Gatineau and Corinne Rochefeu Rouleau, on Dr. S. Adolphe Daudeclin, president of the Franco-American Medical Society, and on Martha Bossavy, a French sociologist who studied the French Canadian community of Woonsocket, Rhode Island in the 1920s.

Milles mercis de cet excellent travail, Joshua, et bonnes recherches!

Joshua Barrière
French Institute Intern

AFGS FRENCH CANADIAN HALL OF FAME

In October 2016, Dr. Leslie Choquette, Director of the French Institute, was inducted into the French Canadian Hall of Fame in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Created by the American-French Genealogical Society for its 25th Anniversary in 2003, the Hall of Fame recognizes individuals of French Canadian ancestry who have made significant contributions to their community, or who have achieved success in their life’s endeavors. In addition to Dr. Choquette, the Hall of Fame Class of 2016 includes: Paul Bourget of Bourget and Associates, Woonsocket; Lucie LeBlanc Consentino, Acadian genealogist and historian and long-time member of the French Institute; and internationally recognized blues musician Duke Robillard.

Dr. Choquette with 5-time Tour de France winner Bernard Hinault

INTERPRETER FOR BERNARD HINAUT

Dr. Leslie Choquette had the honor of serving as interpreter for the legendary French cyclist, Bernard Hinault, a five-time Tour de France winner, during his two-day visit to Worcester in October 2016. Accompanied by Serge Bodin, a French national cycling champion, M. Hinault spoke to students at two Worcester schools about the importance of hard work and determination and the value of athletics. He also led a 30-mile charity ride to raise funds for Souffles d’Espoir, a charity he founded to support research to cure cancer, and the Faine House, which provides support for your adults who age out of the foster care system.

French Canadian Hall of Fame Class of 2016 with officers of the AFGS

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**SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

The director of the French Institute, Dr. Leslie Choquette, participated in a number of national and international conferences during academic year 2015-2016. As past president of the American Council for Québec Studies, she assisted in planning the 20th Biennial Meeting of the association in Portland, Maine in November 2016, chairing two panels on Franco-American and Quebec history. In May 2016, she attended Franco-American Studies Day at the University of Maine at Orono to help determine future directions for their Franco-American Centre and Franco-American Studies program.


**NEW ARCHIVAL ACQUISITIONS**

Dr. Choquette continues to serve on the editorial boards of the scholarly journals *French Colonial History, Québec Studies, Journal of Early American History: The American Colonies, 1500-1830,* and *Recherches sociographiques,* as well as on the editorial board of the Early American History Series: *The American Colonies, 1500-1830* for Brill Academic Publishers. She also evaluated articles during the past academic year for the *Canadian Journal of History/Annales canadiennes d’histoire.*

In February 2016, Dr. Choquette served for the second time on an evaluation committee for the Fonds de recherche du Québec—Société et culture, the Québec Government’s funding agency for grants in the humanities and social sciences. She has been invited to rejoin the committee once again and will serve for a third time in 2017.

Dr. Choquette also joined the program committee for the upcoming conference, “Femmes face à l’absence de l’Antiquité à l’époque contemporaine: terre, mer, outre-mer (Europe, Amérique du Nord),” which will take place in Rochefort, France, in May 2017.

**PUBLICATIONS OF THE DIRECTOR**


**Hus Lemoine Family Archive**

The Hus Lemoine Family Archive consists of hundreds of original documents—including marriage contracts, land deeds, receipts, and some personal correspondence—collected by this family of Sorel, Québec, from the 1780s until their emigration to Southbridge, Massachusetts at the end of the 19th century. Lovingly preserved in a handmade box in the family homestead, the documents have now been scanned to provide an intimate snapshot of rural life in Québec prior to the American diaspora.

Thanks to the foresight and generosity of our donors, the French Institute has received important new archival materials in the past academic year. We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for each of these precious gifts: to Anne LaVallee, for the Hus Lemoine Family Archive, donated in memory of her late mother, Alma Lemoine Saulnier; to Dr. Jacqueline Finn for additions to the Harpin-Sansoucy Family Archive; and to John Bullard, for the donation of a 17th-century French legal document.

In addition to rare correspondence between family members who emigrated to Southbridge, Massachusetts and those remaining in Sorel, Québec, the Harpin-Sansoucy Family Archive now includes over a dozen letters from two relatives who sought their fortune during the Gold Rush in the Yukon!

**Marriage contract of Barthelemy Paul Hus Lemoine and Agathe Cartier, 16 January 1800**

French legal document from 1693, donated by John Bullard