IN MEMORIAM

Arthur L. Eno, Jr.
(1924-2014)

The French Institute has lost a loyal friend with the passing of Attorney Arthur L. Eno, Jr. of Lowell, Massachusetts. Mr. Eno was a boyhood friend of Jack Kerouac, another of Lowell’s Franco-American sons. A veteran of World War II, he attended Harvard University, the Sorbonne, and Harvard Law School before establishing his own law practice in Lowell, which he ran for over fifty years. While law was his vocation, the history of Lowell was his passion. He was an avid collector of antiquarian books and a generous donor of Franco-Americanica to the French Institute. Merci pour tout, cher ami!

Hervé B. Lemaire
(1923-2014)

Hervé B. Lemaire was born in Fall River, Massachusetts and was a cousin of Br. Armand Lemaire, A.A., who worked at Assumption for many years and continues to contribute to the College community. Mr. Lemaire hosted a French language radio program in Somerset, Massachusetts, which he ran for over thirty years. While law was his vocation, the history of Lowell was his passion. He was an avid collector of antiquarian books and a generous donor of Franco-Americanica to the French Institute. Merci pour tout, cher ami!

WHAT’S NEW?

DICTIOANNAIRE DES AUTEURS FRANCO-AMÉRICAINS DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE / DICTIONARY OF FRANCO-AMERICAN AUTHORS

The French Institute’s founding director emerita, Dr. Claire Quintal, and Dr. Armand Chartier, professor emeritus at the University of Rhode Island, are compiling a comprehensive dictionary of Franco-American authors who wrote in French. When complete, the work will contain approximately one-hundred biographical entries spanning the 19th through the 21st centuries. Each biography is accompanied by a list of the author’s works and bibliographical references where available.

We have just begun making the dictionary available for consultation through the French Institute website. To access it from our website, click on Digitized Materials on the French Institute menu to your left, then click on the link to the Dictionnaire des auteurs francophones de langue française. Please check back often to keep track of our progress. Bonne lecture!

FRENCH INSTITUTE WEBSITE

We continue working to improve the French Institute website, which includes useful links to our collections and finding aids as well as links to other special collections of Canadian and Franco-Americanica. In fall 2014, we added a new link to our menu entitled Digitized Materials. It provides links to: digitized manuscripts from the Jobin Family Archive; digitized books by Dr. Claire Quintal; and a work-in-progress, the Dictionnaire des auteurs francophones de langue française, by Dr. Claire Quintal and Dr. Armand Chartier. Please come visit us on the web!

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

CÔTÉ CHAIR OF FRENCH STUDIES

In May 2014, Dr. Leslie Choquette, professor of history and director of the French Institute, was installed as the first Côté Chair of French Studies at Assumption College by President Francesco Cesareo and Provost Francis Lazarus. The Côté Chair honors the late Vivienne F. Côté of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, a longtime teacher of French whose generous bequest to the College made the endowment of the chair possible. The installation ceremony opened with a prayer by Fr. Barry Bercier, A.A. and featured a speech on the history of endowed university chairs by Prof. Daniel Mahoney, first holder of the College’s Augustine Chair in Distinguished Scholarship. Also in attendance were Dr. Claire Quintal, founding director emerita of the French Institute, Dr. Elisabeth Howe, professor emerita of French, and Dr. Choquette’s History Department colleagues.

Installation of the new Côté Chair of French Studies in May 2014

Dr. Choquette with President Cesareo of Assumption College

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR QUÉBEC STUDIES

In 2014, the director of the French Institute, Dr. Leslie Choquette, was elected President of the American Council for Québec Studies, the premier association of Québécois in the United States. Over 200 scholars from the U.S., Canada, and Europe attended the organization’s Nineteenth Biennial Conference in Montréal in October 2014. Dr. Choquette had the honor of introducing Mme Christine St-Pierre, Québec’s Ministre des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie, who awarded the Prix du Québec for 2014 to Prof. Patrick Coleman of UCLA. Dr. Choquette was the previous winner of the Prix du Québec in 2012.

Dr. Choquette & Coleman with Christine St-Pierre, Ministre des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie du Québec

Fall 2013-Spring 2014
PUBLICATIONS OF THE DIRECTOR


Forthcoming publications of Dr. Choquette include the essays: “1614: The View from New France,” in de Halve Maen: Magazine of the Dutch Colonial Period in America; and “Fear in New France,” in Fear and the Shaping of Early American Societies, edited by Lauric Henneron and Lou Roper (Brill).

CATHOLIC FINANCIAL LIFE

In October 2014, friends of Catholic Financial Life gathered at Assumption College to celebrate the century-old association between the Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste d’Amérique and the college. Dr. Leslie Choquette, director of the French Institute, and Doris Ann Sweet, director of the D’Alzon Library, spoke about the Society’s donation of books and manuscripts to the College. President Cesareo accepted a generous check for $5,000 from President Bill O’Toole of Catholic Financial Life for the conservation and processing of these items. The D’Alzon Library also received a grant in 2014 from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to begin digitizing important USJB documents.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

The director of the French Institute, Leslie Choquette, participated in a number of national and international conferences during the past academic year. Her scholarly and public presentations included: « Y a-t-il une mémoire de la francophonie aux États-Unis ? », at a conference entitled « La pluralité linguistique dans les Amériques françaises, du XVIᵉ au XVIIIᵉ siècle » (University of Toronto, November 2013); « Les Filles du roi de la Nouvelle-France », at the annual meeting of the Association francophone de Fall River (April 2014); “The Worlds of the Seventeenth-Century Hudson Valley,” with a book signing, at the Conference on New York State History, (Marist College, June 2014); “1614: The View from New France,” at the New Netherland Seminar (New York State Library, September 2014); and « Histoire d’une famille franco-américaine de 1890 à 1990 : les Jobin, d’après la Collection Jobin de l’Institut français », at the Club Richelieu de New Bedford (November 2014). In addition, Dr. Choquette spoke at the European Social Science History Conference in Vienna, Austria (April 2013), and she chaired panels entitled “The First French Empire and its Literary Legacies” and “Franco-American Communities in Transition” at the Ninetieth Biennial Meeting of the American Council for Quebec Studies in Montreal (October 2014).

Dr. Choquette’s other scholarly activities in academic year 2013-2014 included evaluating a book manuscript for Oxford University Press and serving on the editorial boards of French Colonial History, Québec Studies, the Journal of Early American History: The American Colonies, 1500-1830, Recherches sociographiques, the Encyclopédie du patrimoine culturel de l’Amérique française, and the Early American History Monograph Series of Brill Academic Publishers. In 2014, she was also named to a committee to evaluate grant proposals submitted to the Fonds de recherche du Québec—Société et culture.

FRENCH INSTITUTE LIBRARIAN

It is with great sadness and immense gratitude for her work that the French Institute says goodbye this winter to our wonderful librarian, Nina Tsantinis, who is retiring for reasons of health. Since coming to the French Institute in 2008, Nina has catalogued thousands of monographic items, more than doubling the French Institute holdings accessible through WorldCat. She has also organized and created finding aids for many of our archival collections, including the Jobin Family Archive, the ACA Archive, the George and Richard Christian Missionary Collection, and the Paul Chasé Collection. A graduate of Clark University, Nina received her master’s degree in library science from the University of Rhode Island while also working full time at the French Institute. Thanks to her efforts, which include bringing our website into the 21st century, the French Institute’s materials are beginning to receive the national and international recognition that they deserve. In fact, in 2013, Assumption College was named as one of “ten tiny colleges with truly impressive libraries” thanks to our French Institute collections. Merci pour tout, Nina!

UPCOMING EVENT:

Josée Vachon

MARCH 29, 2015 — 2 PM

SALON, LA MAISON FRANÇAISE

Josée Vachon, Franco-American singer and songwriter, will bring her warm, engaging humor and upbeat rhythms to the Salon of La Maison Française at Assumption College on March 29, 2015, at 2:00 PM. Everyone is invited to attend a light reception in the Foyer of La Maison Française following the performance. Marquez vos calendriers et venez nombreux pour célébrer la Francophonie au mois de mars avec la belle musique de Josée !