

French

le bulletin des études françaises et italiennes

NEWS

WINTER 2011

In this issue...

Chair's Message

French Programme Update

Italian Programme Update

Current Students

Graduate Students

Department of French Publications

Alumni Profile

Donor Profile

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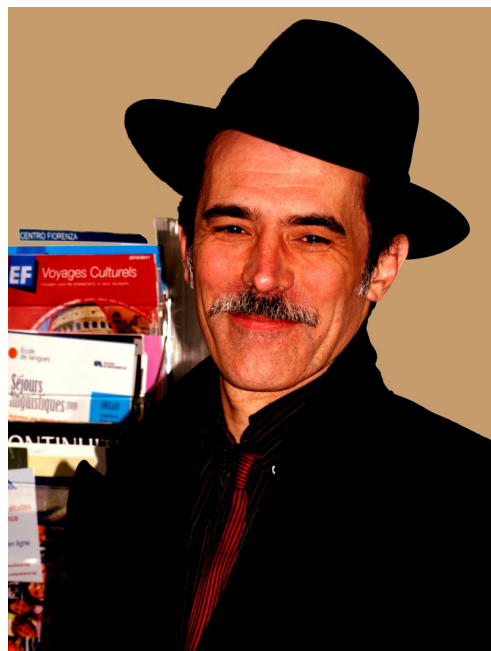
A message from the Chair

French has enjoyed a long history at Dalhousie, where it's been taught since the 1840s. During the first half of the twentieth century, French was part of the Department of Modern Languages, moving in the 1960s to the Department of Romance Languages and finally becoming an autonomous department in 1974. The first MA in French was awarded in 1946, and the PhD program – the only one in an Anglophone university east of Quebec – was created in 1985.

Needless to say, things have changed quite a bit since the early days. Today our undergraduate and graduate programmes reflect the many distinctive assets of our faculty, combining the strengths of a traditional academic curriculum with innovative approaches and an evolving awareness of the realities of our ever-changing society. In spite of a sharp decrease in complement that reflects, unfortunately, the state of French and other language departments in North America, we have been able to continue combining dynamic teaching and research activities to create unique learning opportunities for our students. We hope the coming years will see a renewed commitment on the part of the university administration to French as a national language, and as a language spoken by a sizeable Acadian population in Nova Scotia.

For more than 150 years, the department has been home to internationally respected scholars. World-renowned linguists such as Rostislav Kocourek, Paul Chavy and Terry Gordon, as well as language and literature specialists such as Ed Boyd, Ed Gesner and Jim Brown shared their time, wisdom and talents, leaving indelible impressions on the young minds of generations of students (see page 7!)

Over the last few years, we've said goodbye to some amazing colleagues and friends, including 16th century specialist, Nicole Treves, and medievalist and long-time editor of *Dalhousie French Studies*, Hans Runte. After long and fruitful careers, we recently celebrated the retirement of Karolyn Waterson, our authority on 17th century literature; Betty Bednarski, who taught Québec literature with irrepressible gusto; and internationally esteemed poetry



expert, Michael Bishop. These colleagues dedicated their lives and careers to the advancement of knowledge and the French language, and their legacy lives on in memories and careers of our alumni.

Our department has also welcomed many new faces to our team, some of which you will discover in these pages. Ours is now easily the most diverse department within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, with colleagues coming from all corners of the international Francophonie, including: Cameroon, Morocco, Switzerland, Lebanon and Congo, as well as France and Quebec. Since 2002 our department has also been home to a growing Italian Studies programme, one which has attracted a great deal of student attention and brought new linguistic flavour to our activities.

Dalhousie University has been lucky to be able to count on such a roster of sharp minds and enthusiastic teachers. We will continue to provide the best possible French programme and to reach out to the local community and to alumni all over the country and the world. Keep in touch – let us know what you are doing – and if you are in the area, do pop in for a visit!

Vittorio Frigerio
Chair, Department of French

Program Update - French

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Jean-Jacques Defert obtained his PhD from the University of Alberta in May 2009. His thesis, *Métaphores de la modernité. Archéologie des représentations et pratiques*, deals with aspects of the cultural construction of social imaginaries in nineteenth Century France and French Canada.

His research interests lie primarily in

understanding cultural dynamics at play in the articulation of collective narratives as well as individual narratives of the self.

Defert is currently working on various theoretical models of complexity applied to identity dynamics in an attempt to conceptualize and describe accounts of cross-cultural experiences, both in literary texts and biographical narratives.



Vincent Masse joined the Department in Fall 2010 as tenure-track assistant professor in 15th and 16th century French literature.

Graduating in 2009 with a PhD from the University of Toronto, Masse's doctoral thesis examined processes of inclusion of various "New Worlds" –from Greenland to Peru, Ethiopia, India and Japan – in late 15th and early 16th century printed discourses. Masse has begun postdoctoral research

at the Old Sorbonne on 16th century French traveler and self-proclaimed messiah Guillaume Postel (a figure who is credited with influencing the nascent scholarly discipline of orientalism.) Other teaching and research interests include: "contact literature"; exoticism; and apocalyptic literature. Recently published articles include: early printed missionary letters (1532-1545); the fabled kingdom of Prester John; and the depiction of Muslims in contemporary American political cartoons.

KUDOS



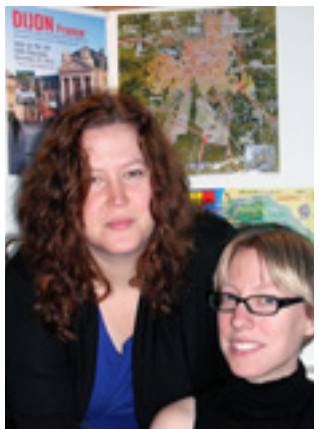
Taghrid Abou-Hassan has been honoured by Dalhousie Senate for her contributions to teaching with the 2010 Dalhousie Sessional and Part-Time Instructor Award for Teaching Excellence.

Of her role, Abou-Hassan is modest "My goal is to give students the opportunity to develop a spirit of inquiry towards the subject at hand, and then nourish that spirit."

Established in 2002, this award is presented annually to two instructors who have displayed the qualities of superior teaching, enthusiasm for the subject matter and interest in the needs of students.

Congratulations, Prof. Abou-Hassan, and thank you!

SUPPORT STAFF



Daniela Niggemeier, left, and Katherine Stratton make up our friendly and resourceful front desk team

This year has seen a shake up in the department's support staff.

Natalie Wood, our long-time undergraduate secretary, left after 15 years to follow an offer she couldn't refuse from Dalhousie Student Services. We certainly miss her patience, talents and expertise but welcome her back to our occasional wine and cheeses and pretend she's still with us.

Daniela Niggemeier, who's been with the department for two years, has adeptly moved from graduate secretary to fill the role vacated by Natalie. Daniela is an invaluable addition to our team, dealing with the usual flood of student questions

and worries with patience and quiet competence.

Newcomer to Dalhousie,

Katherine Stratton, is our new graduate secretary. While her roots hail jointly from Britain and Halifax, Katherine's French is just as impeccable as her English. She hasn't wasted any time making herself a familiar and friendly figure. Her numerous duties include overseeing our Italian Studies Programme as well as helping our MA and PhD students.

We look forward to having Daniela and Katherine with us for a long time yet. And Natalie, of course, at the parties...

Program Update - Italian Studies

In the last years, the Italian Studies Programme at Dalhousie's French Department has grown tremendously. What started as a casual summer introductory language class has expanded to offer a range of advanced language classes, seminars on Italian history, offerings in Italian literature and culture, including freshly designed courses on Italian cinema and theatre.

Since September 2005, students can add a minor in Italian or a concentration in Italian to their Arts degree. Advanced students can spend one or more semesters in Italy, through our exchange programs with the Universities of Macerata and Urbino.

Our students' enthusiasm is a vital factor in the life of the department, and our teaching philosophies reflect our commitment to encourage, foster and reinforce their interest in Italian while promoting both knowledge and scholarly thinking. Our current faculty includes Elisa Segnini (Ph.D., U. of Toronto), a specialist in Italian and comparative literature, as well as in drama and visual arts; Paolo Matteucci (Ph.D., U. of Southern California), whose interests include Renaissance culture, modern and early modern Italian literature, and Italian cinema; and Luigina Buschi (M.Ed, U. of Milan), an Italian as Second Language specialist who has extensive acting experience with renowned theatre companies in Milan.

When not engaged in class and/or research, the core faculty works closely with graduate students, who animate weekly conversation tutorials and tutoring sessions for our undergraduate students. They also partner with faculty members from French and History (among other units), whom we wish to thank for their extensive and continuous collaboration.



Outside the classroom, and in synergy with the Dalhousie Italian Student's Society, the program has contributed to the life of Halifax's intellectual community by promoting a variety of extracurricular events, ranging from dinners and galas to film screenings and conferences.

In registering the departure of Francesco Ciabattini this year, we wish to thank him for having significantly contributed to the shape of the Program in the last years.

Studying abroad - what students are saying...

"I have travelled quite a bit, but never on my own. I see this exchange as a wonderful opportunity to learn about a different culture, learn a different language, and learn more about myself."

*Lesley d'Apollonia
will spend the winter 2011 term at
the University of Macerata*

"Dalhousie offers a great variety of interesting classes. Halifax is a welcoming city and it is the ideal place for an exchange program. I highly recommend to apply for the exchange program: it is a truly enriching experience."

*Eleonora Giampieri,
from the Macerata University,
spent the Winter 2010
studying at Dalhousie.*

For more information on the Italian Studies programme at Dalhousie, visit:
<http://italian.dal.ca>



Franco-Italian Roundtable

In February 2009, a number of faculty and students from both the French and the Italian components of our department met at the First Annual Franco-Italian roundtable, a scholarly event aimed at fostering intellectual exchange within an interdisciplinary framework.

The first year's theme was Futurism, and the discussion considered the various aspects of this avant-garde, both within and beyond the linguistic and cultural specificities of Italy and France of the time.

In 2010, our round-table explored Garibaldi, the 19th century French-born Italian military hero, as an enduring image in Italian and French literature and art. In the light of the encouraging results achieved in the first two years, including the lively participation of the public, we plan to organize another roundtable in 2011.

Undergraduate Students

Study Abroad Program - Senegal

Charlotte Sachs left her family in Montreal with butterflies in her stomach. As her plane taxied down the runway heading for Western Africa, the magnitude of her decision set in. "Oh my God! I was so scared!"

Sachs is one of three Dalhousie students who, in January 2010, traveled 5500 kms to Dakar, Senegal for the semester-abroad program offered by the Department of French. This program runs January – April and is open to students at all levels of proficiency in French. A native of Montréal, Sachs is fully bilingual.

Sachs says her first few days at Université Cheikh Anta Diop and the West African Research Centre went by in a blur. However, it didn't take long for the socially-conscious city girl to make friends, find classes and settle in with her host family. When she wasn't attending classes, Sachs and other international students – some with whom she's still in contact – explored the city and the country, taking in historic and religious capitals and relaxing on breathtaking beaches.

Currently in her 4th year, the IDS major and co-president of Dalhousie Amnesty International Society says the study abroad program was an important step in realizing her life goals in international development. She says the country is a cultural meeting place, attracting people from all over Africa. French

fluency is imperative to making a real difference in a continent where its estimated 115 million people spread across 31 Francophone African countries can speak French as either a first or a second language.*

Sachs describes Dakar as "noisy, dusty, bright, colourful, friendly, happy." Everything was a learning experience, from haggling for shoes at the local market to adapting to her minority status as a red-haired white woman in an African country. One of the best learning experiences she had was the Senegalese culture of community. "If there's a bag of cookies, that's everyone's cookies." This culture of community and family, she says, is one of the most beautiful and amazing things she took from her experience abroad. She also came by a strengthened belief in herself. "You don't realize how strong you are and how adaptable you are until you put yourself into a [completely foreign] situation."

Despite cold showers and frequent power outages, Sachs is eager to return to Africa and will be pursuing overseas internship opportunities after graduation this Spring. She plans to pursue an MA in International Development Studies and do field work in developing countries. Sachs says she chose IDS at Dalhousie because it's important to her to make a difference and that French is

an important component in doing this. "I want to do something for the world I live in."

To learn more about the Dakar, Senegal semester abroad programme, visit <http://french.dal.ca>



Charlotte, right, is still in touch with fellow exchange student Betsy Vant Hul and her host family.

* Source: *La Francophonie dans le monde 2006-2007*

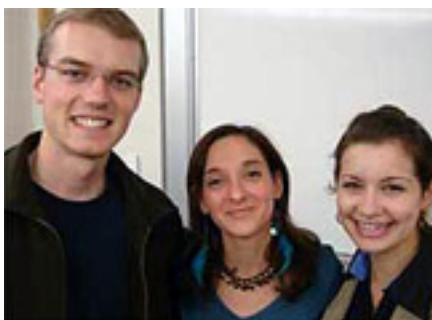
Club Life

The Amici Miei Italian Society is a student-run society, which works closely with the profs to provide a forum for all Dalhousie and King's students to explore Italian culture and language. We are pleased this year to present one of our largest society executive teams yet.

Our goal is to expand our reach to include students outside of the Italian department who may have a yet to be realized love for Italian culture. To do this, we will be presenting a number of events throughout the year, including Italian movie screenings, Italian food events and various opportunities for Italian students of every level to practice the language.

We hope you'll join us this year for good

food, good films and good conversation! If you have any questions, feel free to contact the President at clare.funston@mac.com.



The Amici Miei Italian Society was the recipient of the university-wide prize for best new student's organization in 2009.

La Société Française is a student society for members of the Dalhousie community who are interested in French language and culture. The society has a diverse group of students coming from various departments of study.

Our goal is for students to practice speaking French outside of the classroom in a culturally appropriate setting. Once a month, the society holds a wine and cheese in the department lounge. These events generally have a large student turnout and they are a great way for students to interact with their professors in a social environment as well as to meet others with similar interests.

Other events include French film nights, multicultural food nights and a field trip to the Grand-Pré winery.

Focus on: Alexandra Tsedryk

Paraphrasing – or communicating the same thought using different words – comes naturally for native speakers of a language but can be tricky for those who study it. Alexandra Tsedryk, a PhD French student, may have found a solution.

Paraphrasing is an important tool for any communicator. By offering a variety of ways to transmit thoughts, it allows us to present an idea more clearly to an intended audience. Paraphrasing becomes even more important in the case of a language learner.

For instance, the sentence *Natalie a correctement analysé cette phrase difficile* 'Natalie has correctly analysed this difficult sentence' can be reformulated as: *Malgré le fait que cette phrase soit difficile, Natalie a su l'analyser correctement* 'Even though this sentence was difficult, Natalie knew how to analyze it correctly. *Natalie a analysé cette phrase tordue de la bonne façon* 'Natalie has analysed well this twisted sentence'. *Cette phrase était dif-*

ficile, mais Natalie l'a analysée correctement 'This sentence was difficult but Natalie has analyzed it correctly'.

While paraphrasing is an essential tool, it is not something that comes easily outside of one's mother tongue. Working with Dr. Jasmina Milicevic, Alexandra Tsedryk is applying linguistic theory to create user-friendly rules for paraphrasing by non-native French speakers. This theory, known as Meaning-Text, places emphasis on lexical relations, such as synonymy, antonymy, intensification and nominalization. These relations provide the building blocks for paraphrasing.

If Tsedryk can successfully identify and analyse difficulties in paraphrasing encountered by advanced learners of French, she can create learner-friendly rules for users.

This work has important implications for bridging language gaps for *all* language learners. She hopes to test her work in classrooms as the final stage of her project.



L->R: Stephanie Doyle, Dr. Jasmina Milićević, Alexandra Tsedryk

Focus on: Stephanie Doyle, *Le Morpheur*

Dalhousie Masters' student Stephanie Doyle brings the *Bescherelle* to the electronic age.

Doyle, working with Dr. Jasmina Milićević, has created an online language learning resource for French students: a conjugator called *Le Morpheur* (www.lemorpheur.fr). The concept is simple: a user selects a verb and grammemes (i.e.: singular or plural, past or present, etc.) and is presented with the corresponding conjugated verb.

Doyle's research addresses difficulties French language learners have with verb conjugation. Specifically, she is interested in assisting these learners understand and master the system of meanings which must be expressed through French verb conjugation.

The website, available in both French and English, includes detailed information about inflectional categories and grammemes as well as prototypes of training exercises based on this approach. It is being tested now with first-year university French students to determine its effectiveness and their appreciation of this resource.

POST-GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

Many students who received a PhD from our Department in the last few years have gone on to rewarding academic and professional careers. Amongst these:

Peter Dorrington: Assistant Professor, University of Regina, specializing in contemporary and 20th century French literature.

Melanie Farrimond: Instructor in the Transition Year Programme and Coordinator of the Studying for Success Program, Dalhousie University.

Laura Suzanne Hayman: Instructor of French, Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton.

Raoudha Kallel, instructor at Grande Prairie Regional College, Alberta.

Kelly-Anne Maddox: Assistant Professor, Contemporary Quebec literature and cinema, Thompson Rivers University

Jean Guy Mboudjeke Nzale: Assistant Professor of linguistics, Windsor University.

Muriel Peguret: Assistant Professor of French at Glendon College, York University.

Béatrice Vernier-Larochette: Assoc. Professor in the Department of Languages, Lakehead University.

MA students who have begun rewarding careers where French has proved to be a major asset:

Wendy Fisher: teacher at Elk Lake Junior Senior High School, Nfld.

Jane Gesner: elementary school teacher at Sacred Heart school in Halifax.

Pamela Johanson: Language Laboratory Coordinator at the Department of Languages of Mount Saint-Vincent University.

Staci Kentish: Director for the Youth as Facilitative Leaders programme, ICA Canada, Toronto.

Anika Marcotte: On assignment at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trades, as senior project manager, Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs Division.

Adam Robertson: Admissions and Recruitment Officer for St. Thomas University

Department Publications

Ten years of studies on popular fiction through e-journal *Belphégor*

What do the fearsome pirates of the Caribbean, love story magazines and *Astérix* have in common? In their own way, each is part of that multi-headed monster known as modern mass culture. And each has found a common home in *Belphégor*, Dalhousie University's first electronic journal, published by the French Department.

Belphégor, a journal dedicated to the examination of modern popular culture in all its



manifestations, was created by an international group of academics in 2001. Where traditional academia eschews the contemporary culture of movies, magazines, music and comic books, this group celebrates it as a reflection of our times and a mirror of ourselves. They aren't the only ones.

More and more, academics such as sociologists, historians and literary critics are descending from their ivory towers to apply analytical tools traditionally reserved for canonical literature and serious study to mass culture. Their goal isn't to elevate these works to the level of Shakespeare or Atwood; rather, they want to better understand who we are, how we came to be and how we see ourselves.

What makes *Belphégor* truly unique is the breadth of its creators and audience. Contributors, well-known specialists in diverse fields from France, Belgium, Italy, the UK, Germany, Brazil and Canada, bring a variety of expertise and viewpoints to issues which affect us all.

Since the middle of the 19th century, popular culture has been present and closely interwoven with every major societal movement. It has become difficult to determine whether the imaginings of popular authors reflect or anticipate the changes we live through. Man first made it to the moon traveling aboard Wells' or Verne's famous fictional spaceships more than sixty-five years before Neil Armstrong's famed walk. And cheap supermarket romances, for all of their passionate rhetoric, have reflected every shift in perception relating to the major changes in women's role within society since the days of our grandparents. These are but two examples...

This international collaboration has given researchers reason to go beyond the borders of individual discipline and language and to explore the thousands of interactions among the different strands of popular culture within the Western world. The results have been surprising. Since *Belphégor* first began publication, creators and readers have learned about 19th century French melodrama, turn of the century Italian adventure novels, contemporary science-fiction and its implications for how humans see themselves and what they might become. We've discovered the unknown world of female romance authors and the myriad ways in which political ideologies have strived to use fiction as a vehicle for their projects. We got to appreciate how text and images have worked in tandem since the beginning of mass publishing, when it was first discovered that if you can't judge a book by its cover, you sure can sell one on it. In short, *Belphégor* offers an inside look on how dreams are built – on the story behind the stories we like to read and watch.

Belphégor is freely available on the web in six languages: French, Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese and German. All carry on their dialogue through the initiative of Dalhousie University's French Department and with the support of the university's Electronic Text Centre.

And oh, by the way, what does that strange title mean? You're going to have to figure it out yourself by reading the introduction to the first issue: <http://www.dal.ca/~etc/belphegor>

Dalhousie French Studies – French and Francophone literature through a Haligonian lens

In 1979, a group of professors from Dalhousie's French Department decided the time had come to create a new kind of journal: one which would be open to articles concerning all time periods, present vigorous and varied critical appraisals, emphasize detailed textual analysis and foster the publication of extensive essays.

Thirty-one years after that fateful meeting, *Dalhousie French Studies* has published hundreds of articles from French-speaking novelists and poets from around the world. The publications, sometimes thematic, explore topics such as: "Mythes et exotismes à l'ère de la mondialisation", "Prégnance et polyvalence du modèle rhétorique sous l'Ancien Régime", "Representations of Trauma in French and Francophone Literature" and "Littérature et histoire au XVIIe siècle". With the passing years, the journal has become a well-respected reference in its field.

Dalhousie French Studies is produced quarter-annually and is currently funded solely from income from subscriptions. Despite a reduced departmental complement, the editorial team remains keen, working on a long list of exciting new issues. In the next couple of years, thematic issues are expected on subjects as varied as "Indian and Pacific Ocean women writers", "L'étude des rapports texte(s)-image(s) au Canada", and collection of studies on celebrated authors such as Marguerite Duras and Marie Darrieussecq. The creation of a newer and better website is envisioned, as well as the possible development of an electronic version of the paper.

New in 2010, *Dalhousie French Studies* signed a contract with JSTOR, a major provider of high-quality content for libraries worldwide, who will be scanning and putting online all DFS issues from day one. Visit the journal's site to discover a sample article: <http://french.dal.ca/Publications/DFS.php>.

Subscriptions are \$80 a year for four issues, and can be requested by writing to dfs.subscriptions@dal.ca or simply coming by the Department for a friendly chat with the editors.

Nancy Wickwire Fraser, Dal alumna and author of three successful books, never planned to be a writer. "It was imposed on me by fate." Of course, she'd never planned on being an advocate for French language education either, but fate has a funny way of finding you in the strangest of places.

In 1992, Wickwire Fraser reached into a bureau at her parents' Halifax home and pulled out a stack of history. There, written in tight cursive and tied with a ribbon, sat a young Canadian woman's account of 1950's Paris. She removed 38-year-old letters from their airmail envelopes and, holding the soft onion paper in her hands, was transported back to a time when "governments fell with regularity, refrigerators were viewed with suspicion...and yet the cultural life was richer than anything [she'd] ever imagined."

Wickwire Fraser was only 20 years old when she traveled by boat to France as a recent Dalhousie graduate to become a French teacher. Confident and articulate – both then and now – she sent regular letters to her family, detailing people, fashion, politics and events with wit and candor. These letters are transcribed with original pictures and documents in her book *Letters from Paris: A Halifax Lass Tackles the Sorbonne...1954/55*

Neither France nor French language was on Wickwire Fraser's mind when she entered Dalhousie as an undergraduate student; she'd planned to study English and History. That all changed the fateful day she walked into Prof. Paul Chavy's compulsory French class.

She says Prof. Chavy "made people come alive." He taught every class in French. For the first time, Wickwire Fraser says she was able to use all of the French verbs she'd memorized by rote in highschool. She joined un Cercle Français, where she performed French skits with the group and first heard Edith Piaf records. "I was enraptured!" After a year under his tutelage, Wickwire Fraser switched her major; in 1954, she graduated with a BA in French. It was M. Chavy who recommended Wickwire Fraser for a French Government Bursary, which took her to Paris and set her on a path to French language educator, advocate and eventual author.

Wickwire Fraser took in all Paris had to offer, indulging in food, culture and lifestyle. In addition to a much coveted Parisian accent and lifelong friendships, she earned two certificates from l'Université de Paris: "Certificat de Français Littéraire" et "Certificat d'études pratiques de prononciation française." She taught French first in her native Halifax, and then in Eastern Ontario, before becoming a French consultant for their Board of Education. During this time, she initiated the French Immersion program for Leeds & Grenville County, an accomplishment she calls her "greatest professional achievement." More recently, she has worked as an adjunct professor in French for Queen's University and has penned two more books: *Mysterious Brockville* and *Mysterious Brockville 2*.

Wickwire Fraser returned to her alma mater – literally 'soul's mother', she says – for the



Nancy Wickwire Fraser, right, signs books for members of the Canadian Women in Paris Society, May 2010

launch of "Letters from Paris" in 2008. The page-turner, which intersperses historical events with personal experience, has enjoyed much success, sending Wickwire Fraser to readings and speaking engagements at home and abroad. In May 2010, she was invited France to present passages from her book to members of the Canadian Women in Paris Society, including to the wife of Canada's Ambassador to France, Madame Lortie.

Wickwire Fraser recalls her time at Dalhousie fondly, saying her liberal arts education was "absolutely critical" to her professional accomplishments. When asked what impact Dalhousie experience had on her life, she is quick to respond. "I owe Dalhousie everything."

"*Letters from Paris: A Halifax Lass Tackles the Sorbonne...1954/55*" is available for \$24.95 from the Dalhousie University Bookstore. To obtain a copy, call 902.494.2460.

Other books by faculty, alumni and friends



Dr. **Betty Bednarski**, Professor Emeritus, has published a specially revised and expanded translation of Jacques Ferron's *Tales from the uncertain country and other stories* in an original New Canadian Library collection.

Ferron writes metaphysical fables, political satire, portraits of individuals in all walks of life, and wry comedies with great originality and a profound sympathy for the human condition. These 41 sparkling classics are among the most celebrated works in modern Quebec literature. In these fantastic tall tales, a bull turns into a lawyer, a lonely Alberta cow's ghost longs for Quebec, and Ulysses comes back to Ithaca Corner, Ontario.

Available: Chapters, Dal Bookstore and Bookmark Bookstore (Spring Garden Rd.)

Department of French Chair and novelist, **Vittorio Frigerio**, seeks to disprove the commonplace assertion that literary critics criticize because they can't write.

In 2009 he published his novel *La cathédrale sur l'océan*, which has been described in the journal Canadian Literature as "un roman remarquable qui se lit d'un trait, tant on est pris dans l'intrigue". The novel was amongst the finalists for the "Prix des lecteurs de Radio Canada".

La cathédrale sur l'océan is available in libraries or directly through the publisher (http://www.livres-disques.ca/prise_parole/products/product_detail.cfm?id=6750).

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

Do you have an interesting story to share?

Know of a former classmate who is doing something exciting and newsworthy?

Comments on this issue?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please send all comments, suggestions, ideas or inquiries to fassalum@dal.ca

French News is published periodically by the Department of French at Dalhousie University in cooperation with FASS Alumni Relations, Dalhousie University.

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Medical doctor **Brooke Nofle** says his BA from Dalhousie University helps him to think creatively and articulate clearly, an advantage when working with patients, family members and health professionals, particularly those from other countries.

Nofle says he owes a "tremendous amount" to Dalhousie and honours his education by giving back to the French Department via Dalhousie's Annual Fund.

A true polymath, Nofle has three degrees from three faculties at Dalhousie University: A Bachelor of Science (Math) '81, a Bachelor of Arts (French, Minor German) '83 and a Doctor of Medicine '88. In 1990, Nofle completed Family Medicine residency training at the University of Western Ontario, earning certification in Family Medicine.

The Halifax native studied French at Dalhousie because he dreamt of practicing medicine overseas. French, he reasoned, would allow him to work and live in French-speaking Africa.

However, in 1994 a local addictionist physician, who has since been a mentor, got him involved in methadone treatment for patients who are addicted to opiates such as heroin, codeine and Oxycontin. Nofle, who calls this work fascinating and challenging, currently splits his time between two methadone clinics in the London, Ontario area.

When not working with addicted patients, Nofle works as a family practitioner at the London InterCommunity Health Centre, where he treats newcomers to Canada and those with issues accessing regular health care. His French training allows him to communicate with French-speaking Canadian patients, and patients from France and francophone African countries. He uses his German, too, with Bosnian and Somali refugees who lived in Germany before settling in London. "Never did I dream that one day I



French alumnus Dr. Brooke Nofle, BA, BSc, MD, CCFP, FCFP shows his festive side at a staff Christmas party, Dec. 2010.

would be practicing medicine in a city quite far from where I grew up, speaking German which I only first began to learn at age 21, with someone from Somalia!"

He also supervises University of Western Ontario medical students and foreign medical graduates who want to certify in Canada.

Nofle says the ability to interact with people of other backgrounds and cultures is what draws him to his work. His interests in travel and multiculturalism are ones which have carried over from his days as a young man studying at Dalhousie.

As for why he gives to French instead of Science or Medicine, Nofle says it's important to be generous to the sometimes forgotten areas of the university. He believes strongly in the calibre of Dalhousie's French program, the educational value of exchange and study-abroad programs and the experience he had as a student.

The faculty members in the French and German Departments were excellent, he says, providing a step-wise and well-rounded approach to education. Not to say that his time as an undergraduate was all work.

"I had a blast!"

Giving funds goes a long way.

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