



FRENCH

Your Gateway to the World



VCU French Program Newsletter
March 15, 2011

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Contributors: French faculty & students

Careers and Foreign Languages

The French section and the VCU Career Services Center sponsored a Careers and Foreign Languages event on **November 12, 2010**. A business employer, a nonprofit employer, and a government employer spoke in both general terms and in employer-specific terms about careers for those with majors and minors in foreign languages.

Mondial Assistance routinely hires graduates in French and other languages to work in a variety of departments in its American headquarters in Richmond. Jason Rice, Vice President for Sales, and Whitney McCauley, Senior Recruiting Consultant, gave a presentation on the range of career opportunities for those with foreign language skills and encouraged those in the audience who will be graduating soon to apply for open positions. They especially appreciate candidates with Advanced-level language skills.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) seeks graduates in French and other languages. Those majoring in French are often given opportunities to learn new languages. The FBI sent two presenters, one serving as a recruiter for central Virginia candidates, and the other who spoke about her work in areas of national security. Both speakers had studied French and addressed the importance of language study in their own careers, and they also explored a range of opportunities for language majors in a long list of government agencies. The minimal working proficiency level for government agencies is the Advanced level, and full working proficiency requires Superior-level skills.

Child Fund International (previously known as Christian Children's Fund) is a nonprofit organization whose headquarters is located in Richmond. Jacqueline Obaru is the Director of Global People Management Strategies. As a recruiter, she identifies the knowledge of a major language as a key requirement for international assignments, and she finds a resume is somewhat incomplete without a language competency.

Employers interested in participating in next fall's event should contact us at french@vcu.edu.

French National Honor Society at VCU

VCU is establishing a chapter of Pi Delta Phi, the French National Honor Society. Current students should talk to a French faculty member about your interest in being nominated, and alumni may contact the French program at french@vcu.edu. There are two categories of membership:

Regular membership

Regular members include graduate and undergraduate students at the sponsoring institution who are nominated in recognition of their academic achievement in French. Requirements for regular membership are:

- completion of at least one course of upper-division French (i.e. beyond the intermediate-level series of courses)
- 3.0 GPA in French, 2.8 GPA overall, AND rank in the top 35% of their class
- sophomore standing or higher

Undergraduate students do not need to be French or French Studies majors or minors to be nominated for regular membership. Graduate students who are candidates for an advanced degree in French or French studies are eligible for regular membership. Students from neighboring institutions who take French courses at the sponsoring institution are not eligible for regular membership, but may be nominated for honorary membership.

Honorary members include: the French faculty of the sponsoring institution who are not already members of Pi Delta Phi; members of the faculty at large; students who do not meet the requirements for regular membership; college or university alumni who did not become members while attending the sponsoring institution; and diplomats, community and business leaders who have demonstrated support of French language, and/or of the cultures and literatures of the French-speaking world.

National dues for Regular members are \$30.00; dues for Honorary members are \$15.00; all memberships are lifetime. All members receive the official Pi Delta Phi key/pin and certificate.

We look forward to scheduling our first chapter ceremony in the next month or so in consultation with the national office. Please respond to french@vcu.edu by May 1, 2011 for our inaugural event.

News from March 2011

March 5, 2011 Congrès Français at James River High School

VCU alumna Deborah Houghton recruited VCU faculty for the March 5, 2011 Congrès Français at James River High School. Three VCU French faculty and a recent VCU alumnus gave workshops at the event for French secondary students throughout the greater Richmond area. Prof. Nirva Vernet spoke on the Francophone world, Prof.

Patricia Cummins spoke on France and the European Union, Prof. Kathryn Murphy-Judy spoke on “cloud computing” and the teaching of French with this new technology. Recent alumnus Michael Moore, now teaching at St. Gertrude’s High School, presented a workshop on the Molière play *Tartuffe* and how it is integrated in the high school classroom. Alumna Jan Beilhart presented a workshop on the musical *Notre Dame de Paris*, based on Victor Hugo’s *Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Several VCU alumni who are area French teachers have students who are participating in the competitions, which include poetry readings, skits, songs, and other activities.

March 10, 2011 French Embassy’s K-16 Teacher Workshop at VCU

VCU hosted a 3-hour workshop for 24 participants. Highly published author and creative writing expert Gérard Gréverand provided hands-on experiences for high school and college faculty who teach writing in the French classroom. This special educational opportunity was made available to VCU and Richmond-area faculty thanks to the French Embassy and Helen Small, our Department of Education Foreign Language Specialist. Prof. Kathryn Murphy-Judy provided local arrangements, French coordinator Patricia Cummins provided the institutional welcome, and VCU French faculty Cinzia Corubolo, Karim Halty, Brahim Kone, and My Guidarelli joined Professors Cummins and Murphy-Judy to take part in the event.

March 11, 2011. VCU lecture on Picasso exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Héloïse B. (Ginger) Levit, art critic and private art gallery owner, provided an overview of the Picasso exhibit that is showing at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts through May 15. Community members joined VCU French and Spanish students and faculty at this event. To learn more about our speaker go to <http://www.gingerlevit.com/>. The lecture was videotaped and is available through the School of World Studies home page at <http://www.has.vcu.edu/wld/>.

Upcoming Events for Late March and Early April, 2011 Open to the Public

March 24-27, 2011 Nineteenth French Film Festival at the Byrd Theatre

Please consult the French Film Festival website for details on another exciting festival. <http://frenchfilmfestival.us/>)

April 4, 2011 *Table ronde sur les événements au Moyen Orient et en Afrique.*

French program panel will discuss the events in North Africa that have led to political, socio-economic, and cultural changes. Both the Maghreb (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya) and Egypt will be addressed, as well as the Ivory Coast, on April 4 when faculty panelists Halty (Morocco), Kone (Ivory Coast) and Sheibany (Libya and Egypt) and members of the French for International Relations class will trace the events that began at the end of December and continued through April 4. Handouts will be provided in English and in French. The event will begin at **7 PM in the VCU Student Commons in Richmond Salon II.** (in French)

April 4, 2011. *Réception pour les étudiants de français, les anciens élèves, et le public*

Following the *Table Ronde* at **8 PM in the VCU Student Commons Richmond Salon II**, there will be a reception for students in French to meet with VCU faculty and to mingle with our alumni and other members of Richmond's French-speaking community. Information on summer and fall courses will be available, and flyers will be distributed to anyone with questions about majoring in French, minoring in French, and / or participating in the French track of the Certificate for International Management Studies.

VCU Summer Courses: Getting Ahead on Completing a Major or Minor or Certificate Program

Summer study abroad—Registration open until April 1, 2011

Study Abroad in LaRoche June 26-July 30

Those graduating from high school in June are welcome to begin your college study of French early through study abroad in VCU's program in LaRoche.

<http://www.global.vcu.edu/abroad/programs/vcu/programdetail/p95.aspx>

For serious students now finishing your junior year of high school, you are invited to enroll in VCU summer study in LaRoche with your parents' permission. Deadline for registration is April 1, 2011.

Registration for Summer French courses on campus -- web information beginning March 18, 2011 (<http://www.summer.vcu.edu/>)

This year VCU is offering a wider selection of summer courses, and these courses are open to incoming freshmen and to students who will be high school seniors in the fall. Register before first day of class. Courses offered have equivalents at most universities:

June 28-July 29 (daytime)

FREN 102 (second-semester French)
FREN 201 (third-semester French)
FREN 202 (fourth-semester French)

May 23-July 14 (evening)

FREN 300 (fifth-semester French) --
level comparable to AP

Online courses (require permission)

June 13-July 21

FREN 102 (second-semester French)

May 23-June 23

FREN 201 (third-semester French)

If you would like us to send you a follow-up e-mail with a list of French courses with times and places, please specify summer or fall and contact pcummins@vcu.edu.

What's New in the French Program This Summer and Fall

Certificate for International Management Studies. Fall French courses for students in the program of the Certificate for International Management Studies include FREN 440 Commercial French, FREN 300 Advanced Grammar and Writing. For a program description go to

http://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/bulletins/prog_search/?did=20396. Contact person in French is Dr. Patricia Cummins at pcummins@vcu.edu.

VCU online initiative. This academic year Dr. Murphy-Judy developed courses for VCU's online initiative. As a result of her efforts, online versions of FREN 101 (first-semester French) and FREN 102 (second-semester French), and FREN 201 will be taught by Dr. Murphy-Judy and Prof. Nirva Vernet this summer and this fall. Dr. Murphy-Judy also developed an online version of the general education class WRLD 203. A complete program of online foreign language courses is anticipated as part of the VCU online initiative. The ideal online student has good study habits and already has had experience studying a foreign language. For questions about French online courses, contact Dr. Murphy-Judy at kmj10@comcast.net.

VCU dual enrollment opportunities. VCU is encouraging units to develop dual enrollment opportunities for seniors in high school and for students enrolled in community colleges. Both online and traditional class settings will be promoted in French next fall and spring to increase opportunities for students to complete college degrees both faster and with better learning outcomes than has been possible in the past. For schools and teachers interested in dual enrollment in French, contact Dr. Patricia Cummins at pcummins@vcu.edu.

B.A. in World Cultures and Languages – coming soon. Currently the concentration in French is one of three language concentrations in the Foreign Languages Major. A proposal has been forwarded to the university level that will combine four concentrations in world cultures and the three existing concentrations in world languages into a single degree beginning next academic year. Concentrations will include French, German, Spanish, European Studies, Latin American Studies, International Social Justice Studies, and World Cinema. The concentration in French will continue to require Advanced language skills that qualify students for positions in teaching, for government jobs requiring “minimal language proficiency” (government level 2 equates to “Advanced” on the academic scale), and for business and nonprofit assignments where the ability to speak and write in a foreign language at an Advanced level are important. The School of World Studies Advising Office helps students combine French with other disciplines.

French Faculty Connections to Interdisciplinary Programs

French faculty members and students are involved in a variety of interdisciplinary programs, and faculty research is often focused on interdisciplinary activities.

DR. PATRICIA CUMMINS, Professor of French, promotes language and business and language and international studies. As Co-Project Director of a Business and International Education grant with Dr. Van R. Wood in the School of Business. (\$176,000 from 2008-10), she and her business colleague sent 10 students were sent to Egypt, and provided 12 travel stipends and summer research stipends to School of World Studies faculty over the past three years.

In Summer 2010 **all five VCU student candidates from Dr. Cummins' Commercial French class who opted to take Paris Chamber of Commerce exams were awarded diplomas** at either the B2 level (Advanced or Advanced High on the American rating scale) or the C1 level (Advanced High or Superior on the American scale). VCU is a testing center for the Paris Chamber of Commerce, and VCU administers the exams that are graded in Paris. Dr. Cummins' web page is at <http://www.has.vcu.edu/wld/faculty/cummins.html>.

DR. PETER KIRKPATRICK, Associate Professor of French, promotes both French and world film studies. He is the co-founder of the French Film Festival together with his wife Dr. Françoise Rivaux Kirkpatrick of the U. of Richmond. (See website <http://frenchfilmfestival.us/>)

Dr. Kirkpatrick played a leadership role in the development of the World Film Studies Program in the School of World Studies together with his German colleague Dr. Oliver Speck. They are also developing a graduate program in film studies funded by an Atlantis Grant of the European Union and by the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. Dr. Kirkpatrick's website is at <http://www.has.vcu.edu/wld/faculty/kirkpatrick.html>.

DR. KATHRYN MURPHY-JUDY, Associate Professor of French, is coordinator of lower-division language and an expert in second language acquisition and faculty development, new media, and medieval literature. She oversees online courses in French, and she teaches all levels of French language, literature, and culture. She plays a leadership role in local, state, and national language organizations and collaborative social media.

As President of the Foreign Language Association of Virginia (FLAVA) 2011-13, she will launch FLAVA development of online graduate courses delivered by graduate faculty at several institutions. Recent publications focus on foreign language education and teaching with technology, and she engages in collaborative online research with colleagues nationally. Dr. Murphy-Judy's website is at <http://www.has.vcu.edu/wld/faculty/murphyjudy.html>.

DR. ANGELINA OVERVOLD, Associate Professor of French, is chair of the School of World Studies Curriculum Committee and led the initiative to create a new interdisciplinary B.A. in World Cultures and Languages in 2011. Her research focuses on women writers in the Francophone world.

Dr. Overvold teaches Advanced Grammar & Composition, Language & Identity in the Francophone World, 19th century French literature, Francophone literature, the literature of violence and genocide, child-soldiers in literature, and interpretations of madness in the works of Francophone women writers. Her website is <http://www.has.vcu.edu/wld/faculty/overvold.html>.

PROF. MARGARET OZIERSKI, Instructor of World Film Studies & French. Prof. Ozierski is doing a Ph.D. in French at Duke University and runs the 2011 VCU French Summer Study Abroad program. She taught film courses in English and advanced French in 2010-11.

PROF. SALWA SHEIBANY, Instructor of Arabic & French. Prof. Sheibany took doctoral course work at the University of Virginia. She teaches film studies in French and Arabic. She developed much of the Arabic program and often teaches upper-level courses in French.

For added information on our part-time and full-time faculty, their websites, and their publications, go to <http://www.has.vcu.edu/wld/academics/majors/french/faculty.html>.

Recent Faculty & Student Recognitions

VCU French faculty are actively involved in local, regional, national, and international organizations, as you can see from their websites. VCU French faculty also go out of their way to provide world-class experiences for their students. Here are three recent recognitions:

Best of conference designation. Dr. Kathryn **Murphy-Judy** was recognized in Fall 2010 with "Best of FLAVA" recognition because among the nearly 200 presentations, those who attended

the annual meeting of the Foreign Language Association of Virginia (FLAVA) gave her presentation "I teach therefore iGoogle" higher ratings than any other during the conference last fall. As the state conference winner, she will be sent on to give the same presentation at the Northeast Conference on Foreign Language Teaching (NECTFL) in Baltimore in April 2011.

Congratulations to students. VCU students **Alex IMPORT** and **Carter TUTTLE**, and recent alumna **Mamy YAZONGIA**, demonstrated Advanced language skills by passing the Paris Chamber of Commerce exams at the B2 level with a designation of "Bien." Student **Latifa LAGHRANI** earned one of the highest possible scores at the B2 level and was awarded a designation of "Très bien." **Kimberly WHATLEY** took the *Diplôme de français des affaires professionnel C1*. It requires as a minimum Advanced High and sometimes Superior skills on the American rating scale. Kim earned a score higher than the minimum needed and was awarded a designation of "Bien." All of these students deserve our congratulations.

Honorary Membership in Golden Key International Honour Society. Prof. Salwa **Sheibany** was recognized at a March 5, 2011 ceremony of the VCU chapter of Golden Key for her outstanding contributions in the encouragement of superior scholarship by undergraduate and graduate students. VCU students in the top 15% of their class were also inducted for regular membership at the same ceremony.

Special Message to Alumni, Parents, and Friends

Alumni are invited to send us news for our next newsletter, and we will add your name to the list of those wishing to receive future newsletters when you complete the form below. Send us news at french@vcu.edu. If you wish to visit campus or speak with our French coordinator, Patricia Cummins' telephone is (804) 827-0958.

VCU President Michael Rao is taking VCU to the next level of excellence. The French program applauds his initiatives and seeks support for students who major or minor in French. We want students to **study abroad**, engage in **service learning** opportunities, and do **research with faculty**. We also wish to establish a **French scholarship fund**. Financial help is needed. To make a tax deductible contribution to the French program, make out checks to VCU Foundation.

Please add me to your mailing list for future newsletters.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

EMPLOYER _____

(Do you know if your employer has a matching gift program?)

AMOUNT: \$25 ___ \$35 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ \$150 ___ \$200 ___ Other _____

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