

North Texas Chapter

LA VOIX DES PROFS



MESSAGE DE NOTRE PRÉSIDENTE

Chers amis et collègues,

Bonjour, et bienvenue à la nouvelle année scolaire! I hope your year is going well so far.

The AATF conference in Milwaukee last summer was truly outstanding. Several members from our chapter attended, including Marie-Christine Koop of the University of North Texas, DeeAnn Bullard of Sherman High School, and Ann Borshard and me from Plano Senior High School. As you probably already know, Marie-Christine Koop will assume the national presidency of the AATF before too long. We are honored to have her as part of our chapter. Although next year's convention is seemingly a long way off, now is a good time to start thinking about attending. The meeting will be held July 12-15, 2007, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Going to the national convention is a great way to recharge our batteries as professionals and to enjoy contacts with other French teachers from across the nation.

Your officers have been hard at work organizing upcoming events for our chapter. Not only are they creative and energetic, but they are lots of fun to work with. Four of us are continuing from last year and even before, but I want to welcome our new vice president, Barbara Gilbert of R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton, and our new secretary, Sally Schneider of Plano West Senior High. Thanks for all your contributions thus far. Many thanks, also, to Julie Hughes and Catherine Berryman, who have provided lots of help and much-needed information and encouragement as we made the transition.

For our new or potential members, this is a quick reminder that much important information regarding AATF may be found on the website, frenchteachers.org. Our chapter also maintains a website thanks to our webmaster, Lawrence Williams of UNT. The address is www.forl.unt.edu/aatf/, and if you ever have trouble remembering the latter address, you can still get there by going to the national website and clicking on the chapter link.

As you have probably already noticed, we will be sending out updates and reminders from time to time by e-mail. It's the fastest way to stay in contact with our members, so please be sure to keep us informed if you have a change of e-mail address. Sally and I will be the first to let you know that our e-mail addresses, along with those of all other Plano teachers, changed with the new school year (although we're told that the old ones will still work for quite some time—I'm just not sure how long that actually is!). In any case, Sally's is now Sally.Schneider@pisd.edu, and mine is Jody.Lubbers@pisd.edu. The formula is the same for all other Plano teachers—firstname.lastname@pisd.edu. Did any other districts effect a similar change? If so, please let us know.

We would love to recruit any new teachers—or teachers who have simply never joined AATF—that you may know about. In an effort to encourage new people to give us a try, we are offering a free lunch at the fall meeting to any area French teacher who is entirely new to AATF. Also, both the new person and the member who invited him/her will have their names placed in a drawing for a free one-year membership to AATF. Let's all invite colleagues from our respective districts! I look forward to seeing you all at SMU in October.

A très bientôt,
Jody Lubbers



PRESIDENT

Jody Lubbers is serving as president for 2006-2008. Her goals include increasing our chapter's membership as well as increasing the number of members who participate in the Fête Française, National French Contest, and French Business Symposium. Jody is in her 32nd year of teaching at Plano Senior High School. She has two children, both of whom are students at the University of Oklahoma (and one of whom minored in French!). She holds a B. A. in Letters from O.U. and an M.A. in French from the University of North Texas. Jody was president of the North Texas Chapter in the 1980s, and she is pleased to be serving again!



VICE PRESIDENT

Barbara Fatheree Gilbert is vice president for 2006-2008. She is starting her 35th year in education and her 30th year at Carrollton's R.L. Turner High School. She holds a B.A. in French from Oklahoma State University, an M.A. in French from Middlebury College with a year at the Sorbonne, and two years of Ph.D. work and experience as a T.A. at the University of Oklahoma. Barbara joined AATF in 1977 at the invitation of Fran Maples. She has received an AATF scholarship to Avignon and two travel grants, which took her to Québec and St. Martin. Barbara looks forward to working with this year's officers.



SECRETARY

Sally Schneider is serving as secretary and is excited to be a part of the leadership team of AATF this year. She is entering her 25th year of teaching and is currently at Plano West Senior High. Sally has taught all ages of students from 2 years old to 75 years old. She received her B.A. in French and Spanish at SMU and her M.A. degree in French at UTA. Sally studied in Tours, France, while attending SMU. She has a daughter and a son who live close by, and two grandsons who, of course, will have to learn French!



VICE PRESIDENT OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Megan Diercks is currently serving as vice president of special events. She teaches French at Flower Mound High School, where she also sponsors French Club and leads student trips to France. Megan holds a B.A. in French, German, and Secondary Education from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and an M.A. in French from UNT. Some of her goals for this year include increasing participation at the French Business Symposium and adding new and exciting events to the Fête Française. Megan, her husband Dave, and their three fish live happily in Flower Mound.



TREASURER

Becky Lee is serving as treasurer. She currently teaches at Marcus High School in Flower Mound. She holds a B.A. in French from Oberlin College and an M.A. in French from the University of North Texas where she was a teaching fellow mentored by Dr. Vidrine. Becky enjoys accompanying students to France which she has done through school and through the Children's International Summer Villages program. Her goals as Treasurer are to encourage colleagues to join the AATF, to participate in AATF events, and to facilitate these processes.



WEBMASTER AND NFC ADMINISTRATOR

Lawrence Williams is serving as webmaster and NFC administrator. He is currently an assistant professor of French in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of North Texas. Before moving here, Lawrence was at Penn State working on his doctorate in French. Among his many experiences, he studied abroad in Germany, worked as a travel guide in Corsica, and taught translation and English phonetics at a French Army officer training academy. His goal for this year is to gather input from chapter members and incorporate suggestions into the website's design and organization in order to make the site even more useful and accessible.

Mentorship for new teachers.

Pauline Sinnamon from Plano East Senior High has graciously agreed to head up a mentorship program for beginning French teachers. Many new teachers are the only French teacher on campus and could use friendly advice and encouragement. Please contact Pauline if you know of someone in this situation or you yourself are in this situation at Pauline.Sinnamon@pisd.edu Un grand merci, Pauline! Tu es super!

FALL MEETING, OCTOBER 7th

Our Fall Meeting will take place Saturday October 7th on the SMU Campus. The topic of discussion is College Connections—How SMU can help local teachers promote French and enrich their curriculum. Please invite a new member to join us. Lunch will be free for a new teacher visiting an AATF meeting for the first time. Just indicate new member, first time visitor on the RSVP slip to Becky Lee. There will be a drawing for a free AATF membership at this meeting also so don't fail to attend!



8:30 a.m. Breakfast (provided)

9:00 a.m. Business Meeting

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Program

12:00 –1:00 p.m. Luncheon



OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

National French Week Essay and Poster contest entries must be postmarked by Oct. 15.

The theme this year is “*La Musique francophone: tout un monde à découvrir!* Francophone Music: A Whole World to Discover. See details in the April National bulletin (p.24) or at www.frenchteachers.org/nfw/nfwcontests.htm.

TFLA: weekend of October 12th, Austin, TX

National French Week: November 2-8

French Business Symposium: Saturday, Nov. 4 at UTD

Dorothy S. Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Award deadline: February 1

Nominate outstanding teachers in your chapter for this teaching award. See September National Bulletin or www.frenchteachers.org/hq/teacherawards.htm for information.

Fête Française: Saturday, February 17, 2007

National French Contest, FLES: February 19-28; Secondary: February 28-March 24, 2007

AATF Summer scholarship deadline is March 1

AATF membership is required. Preliminary information will be in the November *Bulletin*.

Texas French Symposium: March 30-31, 2007 in The Woodlands, TX

Visit www.texasfrenchsymposium.org for further information.

Book Review

Sixty Million Frenchmen Can't be Wrong

By Jean-Benoît Nadeau & Julie Barlow

Sourcebooks, Inc.

Naperville, Illinois

ISBN 1-4022-0045-5 \$16.95 (and definitely worth it!)

Two Québécois writers take off for France on a cultural mission and investigation funded by the Institute of Current World Affairs. They spend two wonderful years dedicated to discovering the French heart, mind, and soul. The French smoke, drink and eat more fat than anyone in the world, yet live longer and have fewer heart problems than Americans. The French work 35-hour weeks, and take seven weeks of paid holidays per year, but are still the world's fourth-biggest economic power. Why is this so?

Nadeau and Barlow enter into all aspects of French daily living and weave together the threads of French society – from centralization and the Napoleonic Code to *élite* education and even street protests – giving us a *complete* and often humorous picture of the French. The book is divided into three parts: Spirit, Structure, and Change with a very large range of topics covered. Some of my favorite chapters were “Grandeur is better”, “Until-the-bitter-endism”, “The Choreography of Protest”, and “The World According to France”. This is a book to read and read again. I thoroughly enjoyed it!

Sally Schneider

Culture Flash! Read All About It!

The French-American Chamber of Commerce of Dallas-Fort Worth is offering a special package deal to FACC members and all AATF teachers and students for the Lyon Opera Ballet. For \$52.00, you get priority seating in Orchestra 1 for the program, an intermission reception in the Donor Lounge with light hors-d'oeuvre and soft drinks, and a question-and-answer session with the artists following the performance. To make your reservation, please contact the FACC at 972-241-0111 by Friday, September 29.

Visit www.titas.org for further details.

Also, don't forget the annual Beaujolais Wine Festival on Friday, November 17, at the World Trade Center, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Finally, the Dallas Museum of Art will be offering *Van Gogh: Sheaves of Wheat* from October 22, 2006, to January 7, 2007. This exhibition will feature nearly fifty works of art by Van Gogh as it explores his personal obsession with the theme of sheaves of wheat in his paintings and drawings.

Activités Importantes à noter . . .

French Business Symposium Saturday, November 4, 2006

11:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

information about using French in careers, plus essay contest, food, and more! Watch your e-mail for further information and sign-up forms.

**The Fête Française--Saturday, February 17, 2007, at
Creekview High School**

**Scheduling session at Creekview to be held Saturday, January
27, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

**Be sure to attend the fall meeting to learn about the NEW
EVENTS for the 2007 Fête. If you can't make the meeting,
check out our website for all the details as they become
available. Watch your e-mail for reminders and updates.**

AATF North Texas Fall Meeting Reservation Form

Date: *Saturday, October 7, 2006*

Location: *SMU Campus
Hughes-Trigg Ballroom, Student Center*
3140 Dyer Street
Dallas, Texas 75275*

**The Ballroom is on the lower level of this building. Enter on the main floor and take the stairs down to the lower level or take the elevator to floor 1. For directions to SMU and printable SMU campus maps, please visit www.smu.edu/maps. AATF may park in any area designated AUP (All University Parking), or in metered spaces. AUP parking convenient to Hughes-Trigg is available on Binkley Avenue behind Moody Garage and on SMU Boulevard. Please do not park in spaces marked "Reserved".*

*Luncheon reservation form
Cost: \$12.00, (Check made out to North Texas AATF)*

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please check the blank if you are a first time visitor today ____ or brought someone new with you today ____

Lunch will include sandwich, salad, cookie, chips, and bottled water.

*Please indicate your choice of sandwich below:
Vegetarian ____ Ham ____ Turkey ____*

Mail your check and reservation form to:

*Becky Lee
c/o Marcus High School
5707 Morriss Road
Flower Mound, TX 75028*

Email address: leeb@lisd.net



Chapter Officers

President

Jody Lubbers

jody.lubbers@pisd.edu

Vice-President

Barbara Gilbert

gilbertb@cfbisd.edu

Vice-President of Special Events

Megan Diercks

diercksm@lisd.net

Treasurer

Becky Lee

leeb@lisd.net

Webmaster

Lawrence Williams

lfw@unt.edu

Secretary

Sally Schneider

sally.schneider@pisd.edu

We welcome all contributions, teaching ideas, travel tales, announcements, suggestions and comments from our members. As space permits, we will include items of general interest in upcoming editions of the newsletter.

Please send your news and ideas to:

Sally Schneider
sally.schneider@pisd.edu

Please keep us up to date on change of address or email. We want to keep you informed of all our events and activities! Merci !

AATF North Texas Chapter
c/o Sally Schneider
2409 Plateau Dr.
Plano, TX. 75075

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.forl.unt.edu/aatf

